



## **MOFFAT SCHOOLHOUSE**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The one acre parcel of land within Lot 26, Concession 1, Albion Township, known municipally as 6500 Patterson Sideroad, was purchased in 1900 by the School Trustees of S.S. 7, Albion, as the new location for the S.S. 7, Albion school, also known as Moffat Public School. As the third school location within a short geographic distance serving the youth attending S.S. 7, this site has a direct association with an institution that is significant to the community. The school was closed in 1963 following the introduction of centralized schooling, and the site converted to residential use.

The brick schoolhouse built in 1900 is representative of the type of one room, rural schoolhouse built in Ontario in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its one storey form, massing, north/south orientation, rectangular plan, and steeply pitched gable roof are typical of the purpose built school design. The large window openings with their 6x6 panes sash are particularly important to the historic integrity of this building as a former schoolhouse. The masonry displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Overall, this structure retains most of the architectural elements making it representative of a schoolhouse of this period.

This property with its 1900 schoolhouse is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. It is within its original one acre setting, enclosed on three sides by a row of spruce trees said to have been planted by former pupils and their teacher, possibly in commemoration of the 1939 Canadian Royal Tour of Their Royal Highnesses King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. This schoolhouse and its site is a local landmark.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes of this property are the exterior only of the 1900 schoolhouse; the "S.S. No. 7 Albion, AD. 1900" datestone relocated from the exterior to the interior; and the row of spruce trees planted on the west, north, and south perimeters by former pupils and their teacher.

Not included is the schoolhouse interior or any part of the 1988 north abutting addition. Architectural elements installed after the use of the property for educational purposes ended in 1963 are noted where exempt in the following description.

The following elements of the 1900 schoolhouse and its setting are important to the cultural heritage value or interest of this property:

- one storey massing and rectangular form
- above grade, exposed rubblestone, west foundation wall

- steeply pitched gable roof
- all original components of the south entry doorcase, notably the segmental (slight arch) shape of the opening, single door width, and accommodation for an upper rectangular transom, but not including the existing replacement door and transom area cladding
- the existence of a roof mounted belfry at the south end, recognizing that the existing bell, mechanism, and belfry are post 1964 replacements
- the six, rectangular, double hung, 6x6 panes, wood window sashes set within segmental (slight arch) openings on the west and east walls; and the matching storm windows
- the multipaned sash of the south window opening of the west foundation wall
- rubblestone foundation with tooled mortar mimicking cut stone blocks
- all components of the masonry, including the red-orange brick laid in common bond with cream colour mortar; decorative corbelling at the eaves of the west and east facades; radiating voussoirs over each door and window opening; raised, flat pilasters on the west and east walls; stepped treatment at the base of the brick west wall where it meets the rubblestone foundation
- the stone "S.S. No. 7 Albion, AD 1900" building datestone relocated from the south gable and mounted on the 1970s interior fireplace
- centre door opening of the west foundation wall
- small opening at the north end of the west foundation wall, if evidence concludes it was related to the heating system installed in 1934
- north and south window openings of the west foundation wall, recognizing that the north opening was infilled with fieldstone after 1964
- the row of mature spruce trees along the south, west, and north perimeter of the property
- the carved graffiti with initials and names of former pupils on the exterior brick
- all pre 1964 exterior elements that may be discovered to have a direct association to the use of the building as a school, if and where these exist
- all pre 1963 cultural heritage landscape features that may be discovered to have a direct association to the use of the property as a school, if and where these exist