

# 3740 Highway 7, Geographic Township of Emily (Woodlawn/Seven Gables)

## Heritage Designation Evaluation

Emily Township

PT LT 3 CON 3 EMILY AS IN R405693

2024



## Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The subject property has been researched and evaluated in order to determine its cultural heritage significance under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets any two of the nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Act. Staff have determined that 3740 Highway 7 has cultural heritage value or interest and merits designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

### 1. The property has design value or physical value because it:

#### i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method:

The property is a representative example of a Victorian farmhouse in Emily Township. Built in the pervasive Gothic Revival style, the house, constructed in about 1865, demonstrates key features of Victorian rural domestic architecture in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. It includes key features that were popular around this time including decorative bargeboard, steeply pitched gables and a projecting front entrance bay with a central door including a transom and sidelights. It is a particularly large example of this domestic architectural type in the township.

#### ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:

The property displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit through its surviving wooden decorative elements, particularly its decorative bargeboard. When it was originally constructed, the house was a highly ornate example of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture and, although many of its decorative elements have been removed, key decorative features remain that demonstrate a high degree of craftsmanship present in this property.

#### iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:

There are no specific technical or scientific achievements associated with this property.

### 2. The property has historical or associative value because it:

#### i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to the community:

The property has direct associations with two major figures in the political history of Emily Township and the Village of Omemee: William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade. Cottingham, one of Emily Township's early settlers and the first owner of the house, was one of the major landholders in the township and served as the Reeve of Emily, the first Reeve of Omemee after its incorporation, and Warden of the United

Counties of Peterborough and Victoria. McQuade, the second owner of the house, also served in local politics and as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Victoria South between 1874 and 1882.

ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture:

The property yields information regard the political culture and history of Emily Township, the Village of Omemee, and southern Victoria County through its first two occupants, William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade.

iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to the community:

The designer or builder of the house is not known.

3. The property has contextual value because it:

i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area:

The property supports and maintains the historic rural character of the surrounding area of Emily Township just outside of Omemee. The area in which the property is located includes a large number of nineteenth and early twentieth century residential properties that reflect the area's agricultural history and character and the property supports that broader character.

ii. is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings:

The property is historically and visually linked to its surroundings as part of the historic nineteenth century development of both Omemee and of southern Emily Township. Constructed as part of a period of development of this area when early settlement was giving way to established villages and farms, its forms part of this broader historic development and its architecture broadly supports the wider character of the region and is visually related to other houses in the area built during the same period. It is also historically linked to the adjacent village of Omemee through its original occupants who were key figures in the nineteenth century development of the community.

iii. is a landmark.

The property is a well-known local landmark. The property, known locally as Seven Gables or Woodlawn, is a prominent local residence that is well-known in Omemee and the surrounding area due to its history, prominent architecture and location at the western gateway to the village along Highway 7.

## Design and Physical Value

3740 Highway 7 has design and physical value as representative example of Victorian rural residential architecture in Emily Township, that is also unique due to its size and ornateness. Built in the pervasive Gothic Revival style, the house, constructed in about 1865, demonstrates key features of Victorian rural domestic architecture in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. It includes key features that were popular around this time including decorative bargeboard, steeply pitched gables and a projecting front entrance bay with a central door including a transom and sidelights. It is a particularly large example of this domestic architectural type in the township and includes decorative elements, including its surviving gingerbread, that demonstrate the high degree of craftsmanship in the building.

The beginnings of the Gothic Revival style came in the second half of the eighteenth century in English architecture. As part of the Romantic movement, which sought to push back at rationalism and reintroduce emotion and a glorification of the domestic past, there was an increased interest in the medieval past as architects and their clients sought to break from the rational Classical forms of the Enlightenment and began to look more to the Middle Ages for inspiration. This shift, which occurred not just in architecture but also art, music, and literature, emphasized aesthetic experience, but also pushed back at modern social changes including urbanization and industrialization as it looked to the past for authentic modes of cultural expression.

The application of Romantic principles to architecture was underpinned by aesthetic theory, specifically that of the picturesque. The picturesque took its cues from the natural world and rejected formal symmetry and precision in favour of asymmetry, variety and irregularity. The picturesque was understood as a counter balance to the two other primary aesthetic expressions of the period: the sublime, which was viewed as the terrifying, awesome, and vast, and the beautiful, characterized by beauty, smoothness and regularity. In contrast to these, the picturesque was the counterbalance between the two, irregular without being extreme and gentle without being highly rationalized. The picturesque was more frequently expressed through landscape painting depicting pastoral scenes and ruins, but the aesthetic theory was well-embedded in other types of visual expression. In architecture in the English-speaking world, the picturesque was strongly associated with what were seen as rustic and natural forms, specifically medieval and Tudor-era architecture which was seen as embodying a naturalistic built form and traditional artistic expression.

The Gothic Revival emerged in relation to these two broader trends in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century thought as a medieval revival style. The earliest example of medieval forms integrated into architecture of this period came in domestic architecture, with early examples such as Inverary Castle in

Argyle (1746) and Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham (1749) applying medieval decorative features onto heavy eighteenth century forms. The trend continued throughout the Georgian period, even as Classical forms retained their predominance.

The style rose to prominence in the 1840s with its wholesale adoption as the preferred mode of design for ecclesiastical architecture. The Romantic view of the medieval past had, by this period, spread to theological circles where the question of what architectural style was most appropriate for Christian worship was hotly debated. However, under the direction of architects such as A.W.N. Pugin, church architecture firmly turned to medieval style as it was seen being distinctly Christian and overwhelming more suited to the promotion of belief than Classical forms. Although a specific ecclesiastical style for church architecture developed separately from domestic design, its application to ecclesiastical forms helped cement its popularity from the 1840s throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century; in church design, this style was used well into the twentieth century as the preferred style for the majority of new Christian worship spaces. Although originating in Europe, the style quickly spread to North America, and other parts of the world, with the expansion of colonial empires and the patterns of immigration throughout the nineteenth century.

In parallel, domestic Gothic Revival architecture also flourished in the middle decades of the nineteenth century with the increased awareness of the style and a strong preference for Romantic architecture throughout this period. Domestic Gothic Revival shared many of the same theoretical bases of its ecclesiastical counterpart, such as its Romantic underpinnings and allegiance to pre-Renaissance stylistic forms, but was visually different; whereas ecclesiastical Gothic generally hewed closely to historic precedent and tended to replicate medieval forms more closely, domestic Gothic was a freer interpretation of medieval architecture, mixing architectural forms and decorative elements to create pleasing and eclectic compositions that sat comfortably within the broader picturesque aesthetic.

One of the largest influences in the spread of the Gothic Revival style in domestic architecture was the pattern book. Although pattern books existed from at least the eighteenth century, the most influential of these with regard to domestic Gothic architecture was Scottish landscape architect J.C. Loudon's 1833 text, *Encyclopedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture* which provided patterns for domestic architecture in a range of popular architectural styles of the late Regency era. Loudon was, however, particularly influenced by the picturesque and included a large number of designs in early Gothic Revival styles and included a range of features that would become firmly associated with domestic Gothic design including: asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched roofs, decorative bargeboard, finials, bay windows, double and stacked



chimneys, decorative window hoods, and pointed and rounded arches in doors and windows.

Louden's text was particularly influential in North America which, in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, was undergoing a period of substantial growth with increased immigration and the expansion of non-indigenous settler communities away from the areas of late eighteenth century settlement. Other influential texts, such as *Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850) by American architect and theorist Andrew Jackson Downing, contributed to its spread throughout North America.

Although the Gothic Revival style was readily adopted in urban settings, the majority of pattern books that promoted Gothic architecture were aimed primarily at rural settings. There were several reasons for this. On one hand, there was a strong rural association with the picturesque aesthetic movement and the Romantic movement which often strongly rejected urbanization and tended to romanticize the rural English countryside; as a result, there was a tendency to focus on rural bucolic locations and the placement of architecture within them. As both of these movements also had a strong associated landscape architecture tradition, architectural design often incorporated buildings, their decorative features and massing, and their location in picturesque landscapes that were generally either rural agricultural areas or designed estates. Parallel to this aesthetic focus was a significant focus in English, and by extension North American, thought regarding the improvement of the dwellings of agricultural workers as part of the broader nineteenth century social improvement movements. As a result of these two parallel trends in western thought and the significant expansion of rural settlement in mid-nineteenth century North America, the domestic Gothic style became particularly popular in rural areas for farmhouses and dwellings in smaller villages and hamlets.

The first Gothic Revival houses appeared in Ontario in the 1830s. Most of these early Gothic Revival houses were large estates, but, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the style gained substantial popularity as the go-to style for small and mid-sized farmhouses as farmers looked to pattern books and architectural precedent from their country of origin to design their new homes; while most settlers originally constructed small log cabins as their first dwelling, these were usually quickly replaced with larger and more permanent homes, overwhelmingly in the domestic Gothic style. The style was even promoted by the publication *The Canadian Farmer* as the most appropriate architectural style for farmhouses and this periodical even provided elevations and designs for farmers to copy throughout the 1860s.

By the time the style reached its peak in the 1860s, the core elements of the style in Ontario had been established. Generally constructed on rectangular or L-shaped plan with a gable roof, the front façade of these houses generally features one or more steeply pitched gables and a wide verandah. The massing and layout of the front elevation of the property largely depended on its size. The smallest examples, known as Ontario Gothic cottages, were rectangular in massing with a single central gable while large examples often employed an L-shaped or other asymmetrical plan and often incorporated additional gables and elements such as bay windows. While the majority of windows were rectangular sash windows, most Gothic homes also contained a feature window, such as windows with pointed or rounded arches. The other primary decorative motif was generally in the form of decorative bargeboard along the gables of the house with pierced or applied moulding in a variety of motifs and often incorporating a finial or drop finial at the peak of the gables. Ornate woodwork of this type was also incorporated into verandahs for additional visual interest. However, the style was, at its core, a very flexible style, accommodating buildings of a range of different sizes and varying degrees of decoration where larger homes for more wealthy owners could be constructed in a much larger size with a greater degree of decorative details than for property owners with less money to spend on their homes.

The mid-nineteenth century also saw the introduction of brick as the material of choice for new farmhouses. Most early pattern books advocated for the use of either stone or wood for Gothic farmhouses but, by the 1850s, brick was readily available and relatively inexpensive in most agricultural areas in southern Ontario and it was quickly adopted as the preferred construction material. Cheaper and easier to work with than stone and seen as more permanent than wood, brick also had a specific decorative appeal through the addition of structural polychromy to the architectural vocabulary, alongside different patterns of coursing. Through combinations of red and buff brick, decorative features such as bold coursing, contrasting window hoods and quoins, and geometric motifs were quickly integrated into the vocabulary of domestic Gothic across the province.

The extensive use of the Gothic Revival style in domestic architecture continued across Ontario – and particularly rural Ontario – well into the late nineteenth century, although its popularity was at its height in the third quarter of the century. Despite its declining popularity after this time, examples continued to be erected until around 1890s when it was supplanted by the Queen Anne style as the Romantic style of choice; this also marked a period of decreasing settlement in rural areas and, in many places, a gradual rural exodus for larger urban centres meaning less construction on farms and in smaller communities where the style was at its most popular. Nevertheless, the style's impact on the provincial architectural landscape was immense and,

particularly in rural Ontario, the Gothic house was a ubiquitous part of the nineteenth century landscape.

When understood within this wider architectural context, 3740 Highway 7 is highly representative of a large farmhouse constructed as part of the broader Gothic Revival tradition, displaying its key characteristics and features. It was built around 1865 at the height of the domestic Gothic style in Ontario and exemplifies how this style was used in larger farmhouses at this time. The house is constructed on a T-shaped plan with a projecting central bay on the front elevation of the house; the front elevation does not face Highway 7, but rather faces east towards Omemee. It is two-storey, buff brick with a cross gable roof. Known locally as Seven Gables, the pervasiveness of gables in this house demonstrates the centrality of this roofline within Gothic Revival domestic architecture. In addition to the three gables in the T-shaped plan, there are four additional gables in the building in the projecting entrance bay, two smaller gables above windows flanking the entrance bay on the second storey and a final gable on the north elevation.

The house is particularly notable for its decorative elements, including its ornate bargeboard which is particularly well-executed on this property. This bargeboard is found along the gables of the house and includes a drop finial along the largest gable on the north elevation of the house. Other decorative features include the ornate hoods above both the windows and front entrance, decorative key stones, oculus windows on the projecting bay, and the main entrance with sidelights and rounded transom. These elements are all typical of the Gothic Revival style and help define the architectural character of this building and place it firmly within the Gothic Revival tradition.

The subject property has been modified since it was originally constructed in the mid-1860s, although the brick portion of the structure has remained intact and with its original profile and massing. What has been modified are the decorative elements, some of which have been removed, mostly in the second half of the nineteenth century. This includes the large wraparound verandah which originally was located on the north and east elevations of the house. This verandah was highly ornate, including chamfered columns and decorative brackets. A portion of this verandah, on the north elevation of the building, has been replaced with a new verandah of a more simplified design. The house originally had large ornate finials and cresting along the ridge of the gable. These have also been removed, at some point in the twentieth century. Nevertheless, its core character defining features remain extant and the property continues to retain its overall character as a Gothic Revival farmhouse from the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

Although the property typifies the Gothic Revival style, it is unique in Emily Township because of its size and level of ornateness, both as it was originally



constructed and in its current form. The majority of Gothic Revival farmhouses constructed in the 1860s were much smaller than the subject property; the most common example is the Ontario Gothic cottage, a much smaller version of the Gothic Revival style, but which is commonly found both throughout Ontario and in Emily Township. This size and ornateness reflects the original owner of the property, Omemee businessman and politician William Cottingham. Cottingham was a wealthy man as Omemee's original mill owner. The ability to pay for a house of this size and decorative detail was directly related to Cottingham's role in the community. Although prosperity was rapidly increasing in Omemee's agricultural community throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century with lands cleared and under cultivation and the arrival of the railway opening up new opportunities, most farmers still did not have the resources to build a house like this and, as a result, it is one of the largest and most ornate Gothic Revival farmhouses in Emily Township and one of the largest farmhouses constructed in the middle decades of the nineteenth century still extant in the township.

Overall, the property is a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival farmhouse in Emily Township, although its large size and level of ornateness sets it apart from other examples of this style constructed in the area in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. It displays and has retained key features of this style, which was extremely popular in rural domestic architecture in the mid-nineteenth century, despite the removal of the majority of the verandah in the twentieth century; these key features include the multiple gables, decorative bargeboard and projecting front entrance bay.

### Historical and Associative Value

3740 Highway 7 has historical and associative value through its association with two prominent political figures in nineteenth century Emily Township and Omemee: William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade. Cottingham, one of Emily Township's early settlers and the first owner of the house, was one of the major landholders in the township and served as the Reeve of Emily, the first Reeve of Omemee after its incorporation, and Warden of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria. McQuade, the second owner of the house, also served in local politics and as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Victoria South between 1874 and 1882. Through these two figures, who dominated the political landscape of the area in the second half of the nineteenth century, the property yields information regarding the political culture of Emily Township, the Village of Omemee and southern Victoria County more broadly during this period.

Emily Township was first surveyed for non-Indigenous settlement between October and December 1818 by government surveyor Samuel Wilmot as part of a broader survey effort in the Newcastle District to layout lots for

settlement in Emily, Manvers, Cavan, Monaghan and Smith Townships. It is notable that this surveying, alongside that in adjacent townships, was initiated prior to the signing of the Rice Lake Treaty, signed by colonial officials and Michi Saagigg chiefs in Port Hope with the colonial goal of removing the Michi Saagiig claim to the land and instead support the transition of the environment into an agricultural landscape settled by non-Indigenous Europeans.

The township was formally opened for settlement in 1821. and, in the same year, large numbers of primarily Protestant Irish settlers arrived in the area and took up land in the southern part of Emily as well as in Cavan Township to the east. The area around what is now the village was acquired by the Cottingham family, Maurice and Mary Cottingham of County Cavan and their sons Samuel and William, who established a shanty near the river, alongside the Laidley and English families who travelled with them. By about 1825, the mill was established by William Cottingham, Maurice and Mary's younger son, eventually becoming the commercial and industrial nucleus of the village; this was also the first grist mill established in what would later become Victoria County. There is some question about this date, as it may have been established slightly later than is generally believed.

It was this William Cottingham who was the first owner of the subject property. Cottingham was born around 1807 and came with his family to Emily Township as a young teenager. His inclination towards business and leadership in the community came early; his establishment of the new mill occurred when he was just 18 in 1825. Several years later, he married his first wife, Jane Huston of Cavan Township, who was just 15 years old and the daughter of provincial surveyor John Huston who had come to Cavan Township from Ireland via New York at some point in the mid-1810s. Little is known about his marriage to Jane, but she died in 1830, leaving an infant son, Charles Anthony. Little is known about the eldest Cottingham child and it is possible that he died around this time as well.

Within three years, William married again, this time to Mary Hughes, also of Cavan Township and the eldest daughter of George Hughes, as reported on in the *Port Hope Warder and Constitutional Advocate*. William and Mary together had seven children. The eldest four children, Letitia, Henry, George and Charles, were killed in a devastating house fire, in 1843, from which both parents and their youngest child, Olivia then a baby, survived. An adopted child, whose identity is not known, and a servant were also killed in the fire. Two more sons, William and Richard, were born in the subsequent years, although the younger died in 1854. Mary herself died in 1852 at the age of 36.

Cottingham married a third time in 1853, this time to Lucy Jellett, the daughter of Morgan and Sophia Jellett of Cobourg, born in 1835 and nearly thirty years his junior. It is likely that Cottingham was introduced to Jellett through her

father, the County Clerk of Northumberland and likely an acquaintance of Cottingham's in political circles. Together, William and Lucy had nine children between 1854 and 1867, of whom at least seven appear to have survived to early adulthood. It was during his marriage to Lucy that William built the house on the subject property, on land just outside of Omemee where his business and political life was based.

As his family grew, so too did Cottingham's business and political exploits. The opening of the grist mill in 1825 proved the early makings of Cottingham's fortune. Mills were a vital service to early settler communities and the erection of the mill in Omemee meant that settlers in Emily no longer had to travel to Deyell's Mill, now Millbrook to have their grain ground into flour, a staple product in nineteenth century diets. Cottingham's milling operation soon grew to include a saw mill and, by 1858, the Cottingham mills in Omemee were significant local producers. The grist mill, one of only five operational flour mills in what would eventually become Victoria County, was the second largest producer of the five, after only the mill in Lindsay, grinding 250 bushels of wheat per day, around 15,000 pounds of whole wheat flour; the other, smaller millers were located in Ops at Feir's Mill, at Alma Mills in Mariposa just east of Little Britain, and in Oakwood. This mill was both large itself but also served a large and prosperous agricultural area in Emily Township which, by the middle of the nineteenth century, was a substantial agricultural producer and an exporter, particularly with the arrival of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway in 1857 which allowed for easy transport of wheat and flour out of the community. In the 1842 census for the District of Colborne, which included the portions of Peterborough and Victoria Counties settled at that time, Emily Township was producing 13,781 bushels of wheat annually and was one of the district's highest agricultural producers, alongside other fertile townships including Mariposa, Ops, Smith and Otonabee. By 1852, that production had risen to 56,045 bushels annually as more land was cleared and farms became increasingly prosperous and producing and, by 1861, Emily Township was the second highest wheat producer in Victoria County after Mariposa, not including townships that would later be absorbed into other municipalities or Manvers Township which was then part of Durham County. The 1861 census records a fall (winter) wheat yield of 33,510 bushels in the township and 99,950 bushels of spring wheat, much of which would have been ground into flour at Cottingham's mill, alongside a substantial oat harvest and minimal yields of barley and rye. Cottingham's seminal role in the development of the mill earned him the title as the founder of Omemee and it also made him a wealthy and influential man in the village which was originally named Williamstown in his honour.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Omemee had grown into a prosperous village and the economic centre for Emily Township. The 1858 Peterborough and Victoria Counties directory shows the progress of the

village, just over thirty years from the establishment of Cottingham's mill, when its population had reached around 500 people. Of Omemee, the authors of the directory wrote:

The principle village in the township of Emily is situated on Pigeon River, which, beside supplying it with Hydraulic power, promises to be an important inlet for the produce and lumber of the northern townships. It has one excellent flouring and grist mill, with three run of stones; a very good saw mill, and a carding and fulling mill, all worked by water power. It contains two churches – an Episcopalian and Wesleyan; a grammar school; fifteen stores – some of them are good ones; two bakeries and groceries; two taverns, and a temperance hotel; three saloons; and blacksmiths, coopers, waggon makers, show makers, tailors, carpenters, harness makers, and dress makers, in fair numbers. Omemee boasts a very excellent newspaper the “Warder” published by Mr. Joseph Cooper. It is on the line, and is one of the most important stations, of the Port Hope, Lindsay Beaverton and Railroad; and should the inhabitants be successful in procuring Government assistance to dredge and improve the navigation of Pigeon River – now capable, when the water is high, of floating a steamer to the village – there is little doubt that it will become a town of very great importance.<sup>1</sup>

Cottingham's prosperity had grown alongside the growth of the village and the agricultural prosperity of Emily Township to which Omemee remained administratively attached until 1874. From the grist mill, he had expanded his operations and built a sawmill attached to the existing grist mill, processing lumber from the surrounding region as lands were cleared for settlement and cutting about 2,000 board feet of lumber in a day on a single saw by the end of the 1850s. Of the mills in Victoria County, it was one of the smaller mills, particularly compared with mills in Lindsay and Bobcaygeon cutting upwards of 20,000 board feet per day across multiple saws. However, this is reflective of the state of the lumber industry in southern Kawartha Lakes when compared with the north where the latter was a major economic driver employing huge numbers of people in the timber stands and mills to harvest and process lumber for export, while in the former lumbering was more of a local concern secondary to agriculture. It was, nevertheless, still a key local industrial facility and a money maker for Cottingham.

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<sup>1</sup> Directory of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria for 1858 (Peterborough: T&R White, 1858), 38.

Emily Township was also a large wool producer in the middle of the nineteenth century and, to support this aspect of Emily's agricultural economy, Cottingham added a carding and fulling mill to his operation at some point before 1850. In 1852, alongside Mariposa, Smith and Otonabee, Emily was one of the largest wool producers in the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria, reporting 10,341 pounds of wool produced in the census return. By 1861, 12,233 pounds of wool were produced in the township, second only to Mariposa Township in production. The 1861 census, however, also provides more granular information noting that, in the township, there were 4,078 sheep being raised for both meat and wool, more than any other type of livestock, not including poultry which was not reported on. This included pigs, however, the most commonly consumed farm animal throughout the nineteenth century but which were still outnumbered by sheep in mid-nineteenth century Emily. From these sheep and the wool they produced, the census records the production of 2,521 yards of fulled cloth and 6,651 yards of flannel which was, at the time, made from wool. Cottingham's mill did not fully produce this fabric. Most wool fabric at this time, particularly in rural Ontario, was actually made through domestic production and woven by women in their own homes; although the 1861 census does not identify where this cloth was being manufactured, the 1871 census does and shows that the majority of cloth production in Victoria County was still homemade, even that which was sold at market as opposed to being used by the family who made it. However, the work done by women was augmented by carding and fulling mills such as Cottingham's which undertook a significant amount of the preparatory work for weaving and were vital to decreasing production time for wool products. These products were used in every day life by every person living in the township. Despite the increasingly availability of other textiles made from cotton imported from abroad, wool garments, including pants, jackets and skirts, and textiles, including blankets and rugs, were used in every home, and were particularly vital in winter.

The profit from these business ventures, heavily reliant on the region's increasing agricultural production, provided Cottingham with the funds required to build the subject property, a substantial and fashionable home on a large acreage, purchasing the full 200 acres of Lot 3 in Concession 3 in 1844 as part of his broader portfolio of land holdings and then building the home just over twenty years later having amassed a large fortune from his businesses.

At the same time, Cottingham also immersed himself in local politics, rising to one of the most influential political men in the township, serving from the early days of municipal governance in the region, until the late nineteenth century, through the periods of the Newcastle District, the Colborne District, the creation of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria, the creation of lower tier municipal governance in Emily Township and the creation of the Village of Omemee as a separate municipal entity.

When Emily Township was opened for settlement in 1820, it was part of the Newcastle District, one of the administrative and judicial districts formed in Upper Canada in the late eighteen and early nineteenth century. There were originally four of these districts – Hesse (Western), Nassau (Home), Mecklenburg (Midland) and Lunenburg (Eastern) – and they were created to form basic municipal functions, including maintenance of the peace, regulation of domestic animals, tavern licensing, appointment of officials, and regulation of transportation routes. New districts were formed as the population increased to create additional local governments in areas that were slowly being settled in the early nineteenth century. The Newcastle District, headquartered at Cobourg, was formed in 1802 from the Home District and comprised of what would eventually become Northumberland County, Durham County, Peterborough County and Victoria County. In 1841, the Newcastle District was split to create the Colborne District which included present-day Peterborough and Victoria Counties and the yet-surveyed lands to the north that would in time form parts of Haliburton and Muskoka, with its administrative headquarters in Peterborough.

With the creation of a new district government in Peterborough, elections were held in local townships to elect District Councillors and local officials to administer municipal business. A meeting was held in Omemee on January 2, 1843 to undertake these elections and William Cottingham and Josiah Hughes were acclaimed as Councillors and took up their place as representatives for the area at the District in Peterborough. Little is known about Cottingham's work as a Councillor although, in general, the District Councillors guided local municipal works, mostly around roads, schools and livestock regulation. This was his first foray into politics and was an occupation he would continue to pursue for the rest of his life.

The Newcastle District existed for only a short time until its dissolution in 1849 with the passage of the Municipal Act which paved the way for the creation of lower tier township and upper tier county governments. Emily Township became its own municipal entity under the auspices of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria until 1861 with the creation of the Provisional County of Victoria. When the township's first municipal government was formed, Cottingham was elected as its first Reeve, a position he held from 1850 to 1866 and again from 1868 to 1873. Cottingham's rise to municipal leadership in the community was a natural progression from his activities in the preceding several decades as a business leader as well as the Lieutenant-Colonel of the local militia and a leader in local agricultural boards and societies.

Under Cottingham's leadership, the foundations of municipal government were established in Emily Township. The early by-laws and actions of Council show their priorities and concerns in the middle of the nineteenth century, including the construction of roads and the provision of statute labour for infrastructure



construction throughout the township, the provision of schools, the regulation of livestock, and the regulation and licensing of taverns and inns, as well as the collection of taxes to fund these measures. These were in alignment of with the broad priorities of rural municipal governments during this time. The provision of infrastructure in particular, was a primary municipal concern, particularly with the continuing settlement in the township where new and better roads and bridges were needed for the growing population in its rural areas and growing hamlets in Omemee and Downeyville. Building and funding schools was also a key concern, as schooling became more widespread and the local school system began to develop around the same time period. Cottingham's early years as reeve also saw the erection of a new town hall and court house for the township, funded through the 1855 tax levy and erected the following year in Omemee. Cottingham also served as the Warden of the United Counties from 1852 to 1858. With the creation of Provisional County of Victoria in 1861, Cottingham was also elected from the township reeves to serve as the County Warden in 1861 and again in 1865.

Cottingham's tenure as the Reeve of Emily ended with the creation of the Village of Omemee as a separate municipal entity in 1874. Around this time, village and towns began to separate from the rural townships in which they were located. The earliest municipalities separate from the legislative districts had actually been towns and villages, with Brockville becoming Upper Canada's first municipally incorporated town in 1832. The 1849 Municipal Act had allowed for the incorporation of villages, towns and cities in areas with larger populations and the last quarter of the nineteenth century saw communities across central Ontario begin to incorporate as villages as the population of the province steadily increased and industrial development lead to new industries and businesses that attracted to new residents to these communities. Both Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon incorporated around the same period, in 1874 and 1876 respectively.

With the creation of the new Omemee village Council, Cottingham was once again elected Reeve but stepped down the next year to run for the seat for Victoria South in provincial parliament, a race he lost to Samuel Wood of Mariposa and later of Lindsay, a rare loss in a very successful political career. Just a few months later in May 1875, Cottingham died suddenly, at the age of about sixty-eight. His obituary, which ran in the Peterborough Review, highlighted his political accomplishments, a defining feature of his impact on Emily Township and on Omemee throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

At the time of his death, Cottingham still owned the subject property but had primarily removed himself to Lindsay. In 1877, his family sold the northern 125 acres of property to Arthur McQuade, another one of Omemee's major political figures of the mid- to late-nineteenth century. McQuade and

Cottingham knew each other and had worked together for several decades: they were both central figures in the area's political scene in the middle of the nineteenth century and also worked together on other business and community projects, including the foundation of the Metcalf Warder newspaper, later the Omemee Warder, and as directors of the Victoria County Agricultural Society.

Like Cottingham, McQuade was of Protestant Irish descent. McQuade was born in Cavan, Ireland in 1817 to Henry McQuade and Mary Curran. His father died in Ireland, likely in the early 1830s, and in 1833 Mary Curran arrived in New York with at least four of her children, George, John, Arthur and Mary. In 1837, the family came to Emily Township where Arthur was hired as a farmer's hand for several years, slowly saving money to purchase 100 acres of land for himself, likely the north half of lot 11 in concession 4, which he is shown as occupying in the 1861 census. In 1841, McQuade married Susannah Trotter, the daughter of early Irish immigrants Thomas Trotter and Ellen Fee who owned property in close proximity to McQuade's. Trotter himself was involved politically, serving on the Emily Township Council between 1856 and 1858.

McQuade first became involved in politics in 1850 when he was appointed township tax collector by the first municipal government in Emily, a position he held for twenty years. In 1862, he was elected for the first time to township Council and rose to the position of Deputy Reeve, with Cottingham as the Reeve, in 1863, a position he held until 1874 when he was elected Reeve after Cottingham's departure for the Omemee Council. Alongside Cottingham, McQuade helped shape the early municipal history of the township, but was also heavily involved in its agricultural community. Himself a farmer and, by the late 1870s the owner of nearly 1,000 acres of land, he became a director of the Victoria County Agricultural Society and was likely also heavily involved in the Emily Society, which Cottingham had formed in the early 1840s. He was widely recognized for his work in agricultural societies, including in Nicholas Davin's 1877 book, *The Irishman in Canada*, which profiled McQuade alongside other prominent men in Atlantic Canada, Ontario and Quebec of Irish descent. A long-time member of Christ Church Anglican, McQuade was also the County Master of the Loyal Orange Lodge, an interesting position for a municipal politician in a township with a large number of Catholic settlers in the northern portion of Emily. McQuade was also, like Cottingham, a very wealthy man, but his fortune lay primarily in land acquisitions and stocks, as opposed to Cottingham's active involvement in several businesses, and he was estimated to have a worth of around \$100,000 in the late 1870s, a huge sum at the time. McQuade also worked as a teacher in Emily for about fifteen years, a career that was not lucrative.

In 1874, McQuade took the leap from local to federal politics, taking the seat of Victoria South in the 1874 general election. The Victoria South riding was

created in 1867 and included the townships of Ops, Mariposa, Emily and Verulam, along with the Town of Lindsay. In the 1867 election was won by Lindsay businessman and local politician George Kempt, a Liberal, but was won in 1872 by Conservative George Dormer, a lawyer who had served as Mayor of Lindsay between 1870 and 1872. The riding returned Conservatives until the 1896 when the Liberals took power federally, but the riding quickly switched back to the Conservatives in the 1900 election. It continued to return Conservatives even after 1904 when it was merged with Victoria North and the portion of the Peterborough East riding in Haliburton to form the single riding of Victoria. This riding existing until 1968 and returned non-Conservative candidates for only 12 of the 64 years of its existence. McQuade ran and served in Parliament as a Conservative under Sir John A. MacDonald, first in opposition between 1874 and 1878 and then in government between 1878 and 1882.

The domination of the Conservatives in Victoria South's federal politics was specifically related to its religious, cultural and ethnic demographics. Throughout the nineteenth century after Confederation and into the early twentieth century, votes for the Liberal and Conservative parties were broadly, but not entirely, divided along religious and linguistic lines with English and Protestant men, until the introduction of female suffrage in 1918, tending to vote conservative while French and Catholic men tended to vote Liberal. These voting blocks broadly aligned with the priorities and beliefs of the two parties over issues of language, religion and the British Empire. In particular, the Conservative party had a strong and vocal attachment to British imperial initiatives and the maintenance of the British Empire, and Canada at this time, although a separate nation, remained closely aligned with the broader British global community.

For Canada's Protestants at this time, most of whom were of British background, the alignment of the Conservatives with the politics and identity markers of the British Empire made the party their natural political home. This British imperial vision aimed to broadly align Canadian policy with that of Britain and privilege, sometimes implicit and sometimes explicit, for Protestant churches, particularly the Church of England but, in time extending to other Protestant denominations. By contrast, the Liberal Party found its strongest bastion of strength in Quebec where its tendency towards continentalism found favour amongst French Catholics who were not enamoured of the Conservative's imperialist approach and had been alienated by the Conservative's approach to French language rights and the Northwest Rebellion in the early 1880s and its sometimes anti-Catholic views. Other Catholics outside Quebec, notably the large numbers of Irish Catholics in Ontario, also often gravitated towards Liberal candidates, in large part due to their anti-imperial positions.

The Victoria South riding, and its successor Victoria, was by no means a homogenous riding and included blocks of both Catholic and Protestant voters. Large numbers of Irish Catholics had settled in northern Emily Township and in Lindsay and formed a substantial Catholic minority, alongside a smaller French Catholic population that was primary centred in lumbering communities, such as Bobcaygeon and Lindsay. It was, however, a majority Protestant riding, with a largely homogenous Protestant population of British descent across Mariposa and southern Emily, alongside large numbers in Lindsay itself, many of whom occupied prominent positions in business and government. This naturally led to a strong Conservative preference throughout the area in its choices for federal representation; provincially, the issues were different and the correlation between Protestantism and the Conservative party was less marked.

McQuade was a picture of Canadian Conservatism in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. Born in Ireland, he was a committed Protestant, a member of Christ Church Anglican in Omemee, and a leader in the local militia, but he was also an Orangeman and, for a time, was the county master of the Loyal Orange Lodge in Victoria County. The Orange Order, in particular, was strongly tied to the Conservative party though this period because of its Protestant and imperial underpinnings, as well as its active involvement in politics on a municipal, provincial and federal level. Deeply loyal to the British Empire, Orangemen and the Conservative Party were natural allies, with many leaders in the party, including Sir John A. MacDonald, active members of the order. McQuade's views on the British Empire and loyalty to the Crown were well known, alongside his involvement in Emily's Protestant community. McQuade, however, is also unique as it is known that a substantial number of men who voted for him were, in fact, Catholics from Emily Township, likely in large part due to his historic leadership roles in the community, as a farmer, a politician, a tax collector and a teacher.

McQuade died in January 1894 at the age of 76 from a stroke. By this time, he had largely retired from political life, and his oldest son Thomas had followed in his footsteps, becoming Reeve of Emily in 1885. McQuade nevertheless remained a prominent local figure in the municipal sphere and in the Orange Lodge. He also continued to live on and farm the subject property until his death. A lengthy article about his life appeared in the *Lindsay Warder* the following February, extolling his virtues and citing his influence locally. The newspaper wrote:

The late Arthur McQuade was widely known throughout this district, as an enterprising farmer, a prominent figure in municipal matters and a leading spirit in Provincial and Dominion politics and a steadfast Orangeman. He was stricken with paralysis and died at his home in Omemee on

the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 1894. The remains were interred in the Emily cemetery by the members of the Orange order and were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of relatives and friends, including Judge Dean and the county officials, the municipal councils of the county and township, thus full attesting their appreciation of the esteem in which he had been held by the whole county, for which he had done so much in a public way.<sup>2</sup>

With McQuade's death, the property passed to his daughter Eliza McQuade and her son Arthur Wallace McQuade, who held the property until 1901 when it passed out of the family.

Through its first two inhabitants, the subject property is an important window into the political landscape of nineteenth century Emily Township and Omemee. Cottingham and McQuade, two men who knew each other and worked together throughout their political careers, exemplify the political landscape of the area at the time, one that was broadly Conservative and aligned with Protestant and imperial values present in many rural majority Protestant communities in Ontario at this time. Both men were major figures in the history of Emily Township and of the Village of Omemee and significant to the development of the community in the nineteenth century as major figures in the political, business, and agricultural life of the local area.

### Contextual Value

3740 Highway 7 has contextual value as part of the historic rural landscape of Emily Township just outside of Omemee. The property is located in an area contained a wide array of historic residential properties dating from a similar period that reflect the rural agricultural character of the township. It is historically and visually linked to its surroundings as part of the historic nineteenth century development of both Emily Township and Omemee. It is also specifically historically linked to the adjacent village of Omemee through its original occupants. It is widely considered a landmark locally, for its distinct architecture, prominent position along Highway 7 at the western gateway to Omemee, and its association with prominent local figures in the community.

The subject property is located on the south side of Highway 7, just to the west of the limits of the village of Omemee. The house, the most recognizable feature of the property, was constructed in 1865 when the property was a 200 acres parcel and used for agricultural purposes. It was first severed into a smaller 125 acre parcel, including the house, in 1876 and is currently about 10 acres including the historic house. The property, which was originally a farm but has since been converted to primarily residential use, originally also

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<sup>2</sup> "The Late Arthur McQuade," *The Watchman*, February 14, 1895, 14.

contained a large nineteenth century barn, which came down in a storm in the late twentieth century and is no longer extant.

Although the property is addressed as Omemee, it is actually located within the rural geographic township of Emily which surrounds the village and from which the village was incorporated as its own separate entity in 1874. The area of the township in the immediate vicinity of the subject property and of the village developed as an agricultural area beginning in the early nineteenth century and continues in this capacity in the present day. An examination of the parcel fabric of the immediate area of the subject property along both Highway 7 and Mount Horeb Road shows the continuing presence of the 100- and 200-acre parcels that characterized this area from the first half of the nineteenth century although, as has been the case with the subject property, later severances have also created a patchwork of sizeable rural lots within the landscape. Although the subject property has been drastically reduced from its original size when the house was built in 1865, the still-large size of the lot and the continued vegetated surroundings of the house retain and supports this rural agricultural character, although the property is no longer used for agricultural purposes as it was in the second half of the nineteenth century. It also remains linked to this nineteenth century pattern of development with the creation of farmsteads throughout southern Emily Township, as it was settled and cleared for non-Indigenous use beginning in 1821.

Architecturally, the property is one of the most distinct properties in this area of rural Emily, largely due to its size and architectural style, but it nevertheless supports the wider pattern of late nineteenth century rural architecture found in the immediate area on other agricultural properties. A survey of properties in the surrounding area shows, amongst some newer builds, a range of late nineteenth and early twentieth century farmhouses built in popular architectural styles of the day, including two large Edwardian Classical farmhouses from the early twentieth century on the north side of Highway 7. These properties are visually linked as large historic farmhouses that help contribute to the broader agricultural and rural character of the area, but are also historically linked as part of the development of rural Emily Township in the second half of the nineteenth century and into the early decades of the twentieth. The township was settled beginning in the 1820s and most early farmsteads would have been rudimentary with log homes and outbuildings to shelter early non-Indigenous settlers as they worked to clear their land and establish their farms in a new country. However, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the landscape had drastically changed: the land was mostly cleared, a prosperous village – Omemee – had emerged as a local service centre with a railway to connect the area with the larger region, and farms were becoming more productive and affluent. As a result, the second half of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century saw the reconstruction of many residential farm buildings in larger, more



stylish and more permanent modes, using brick and stone in buildings denoting the firm establishment of the area as a prosperous agricultural township. The subject property and many of those in the surrounding area, denote this period of development in Emily Township and are historically linked together as part of this period of growth and prosperity for the township's agricultural areas.

The property is also specifically historically linked to the adjacent village through its original owner. The property was built for local businessman and politician William Cottingham, who lived there from 1865 to his death in 1874. Cottingham is widely considered to be the founder of Omemee and this property is specifically associated with him and his role in the village. Cottingham opened the original grist mill in the village, believed to be around 1825, and quickly became one of the village's leading businessmen, expanding his operations to include a lumber mill and carding and fulling mill. He quickly entered politics and served as the Reeve of Emily for over twenty years, before becoming the first Reeve of the newly incorporated Village of Omemee in 1874. This house is historically linked to the village as a whole through this key historical connection. This historic connection is well-known locally and the house is recognized for its specific historic linkage with the history of the village in the nineteenth century.

In addition to its role within the broader local landscape, the property is also a well-known local landmark. Known locally as Seven Gables, or less frequently as Woodlawn, the house is located at the western gateway of Omemee in a prominent position along Highway 7. The property is located directly along the south side of the highway, although its primary entrance faces to the east, and is viewed by residents and visitors entering and exiting the community along the highway from Lindsay. Its large size and distinct architecture makes it visually recognizable and it is also historically recognized for its historic nineteenth century occupants, local political heavyweights, William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade. It is a well-known historic residence in both Omemee and in southern Kawartha Lakes more broadly.

## Summary of Reasons for Designation

The short statement of reasons for designation and the description of the heritage attributes of the property, along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Brief, constitute the Reasons for Designation required under the Ontario Heritage Act.

### Short Statement of Reasons for Designation

#### **Design and Physical Value**

3740 Highway 7 has design and physical value as representative example of Victorian rural residential architecture in Emily Township, that is also unique due to its size and ornateness. Built in the pervasive Gothic Revival style, the house, constructed in about 1865, demonstrates key features of Victorian rural domestic architecture in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. It includes key features that were popular around this time including decorative bargeboard, steeply pitched gables and a projecting front entrance bay with a central door including a transom and sidelights. It is a particularly large example of this domestic architectural type in the township and includes decorative elements, including its surviving gingerbread, that demonstrate the high degree of craftsmanship in the building.

#### **Historical and Associative Value**

3740 Highway 7 has historical and associative value through its association with two prominent political figures in nineteenth century Emily Township and Omemee: William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade. Cottingham, one of Emily Township's early settlers and the first owner of the house, was one of the major landholders in the township and served as the Reeve of Emily, the first Reeve of Omemee after its incorporation, and Warden of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria. McQuade, the second owner of the house, also served in local politics and as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Victoria South between 1874 and 1882. Through these two figures, who dominated the political landscape of the area in the second half of the nineteenth century, the property yields information regarding the political culture of Emily Township, the Village of Omemee and southern Victoria County more broadly during this period.

#### **Contextual Value**

3740 Highway 7 has contextual value as part of the historic rural landscape of Emily Township just outside of Omemee. The property is located in an area contained a wide array of historic residential properties dating from a similar period that reflect the rural agricultural character of the township. It is historically and visually linked to its surroundings as part of the historic nineteenth century development of both Emily Township and Omemee. It is also specifically historically linked to the adjacent village of Omemee through its original occupants. It is widely considered a landmark locally, for its distinct

architecture, prominent position along Highway 7 at the western gateway to Omemee, and its association with prominent local figures in the community.

### Summary of Heritage Attributes to be Designated

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations, unless otherwise specified, and the roof including: all façades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, stucco, concrete, plaster parging, metal, glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features.

#### Design and Physical Attributes

The design and physical attributes of the property support its value as a representative, but large and ornate, example of rural Gothic Revival domestic architecture in Emily Township.

- Two storey buff brick construction
- T-shaped plan
- Cross gable roof
- Gables
- Decorative bargeboard
- Projecting front bay
- Primary entrance including:
  - Entrance
  - Sidelights
  - Transom
  - Moulded hood
- Fenestration including:
  - Sash windows
  - Voussoirs
  - Moulded window hoods
  - Oculus windows with raised surrounds
- Chimneys

#### Historical and Associative Attributes

The historical and associative attributes of the property support its important historic relationship with William Cottingham and Arthur McQuade.

- Association with William Cottingham
- Association with Arthur McQuade
- Association with the history of politics in Omemee and Emily Township

#### Contextual Attributes

The contextual attributes of the property support its value in supporting the historic agricultural character of Emily Township and as a local landmark.

- Location of the property in rural Emily Township on the west side of Omemee
- Location of the property on the south side of Highway 7
- Relationship to the rural agricultural landscape of Emily Township
- Views of the property from Highway 7 and Mount Horeb Road
- Views of Highway 7 and surrounding rural properties from the property

## Images















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