

School Section #11 “Pinkerton”

c. 1900

3775 Sideroad 5

Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

October 2026

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Municipal Heritage Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, or CHER, is to determine if the subject property merits designation under Part IV, section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report provides an overview of the property based on primary and secondary research and visual inspection of the property. Please note that all visual inspections of the property were taken from the public right of way and no site visits were made. It also includes an evaluation against the prescribed criteria of Ontario Regulation 9/06, including design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value. This CHER also includes a draft Statement of Significance and identification of heritage attributes.

The designation of heritage properties is legislated by the OHA and is supported at a provincial level by the Provincial Policy Statement (2024). The conservation of cultural heritage resources is also supported by the County of Simcoe Official Plan, and the 2023 Official Plan for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Based on the contents of this report, the property located at 3775 Sideroad 5 meets the criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Property Name	School Section #11 “Pinkerton”
Municipal Address	3775 Sideroad 5
Legal Description	Lot 6, Concession 11
Property Size	0.344 hectares
Date of Construction	1900
Heritage Recognition	Listed on Municipal List of Heritage Properties
Lead Researcher	Thomas Dysart, MCIP, RPP, CAHP Senior Planner, Town of BWG

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SUBJECT PROPERTY

The subject property is located on the east side of Sideroad 5, north of Line 11. The property is in Lot 6, Concession 11 and municipally addressed as 3775 Sideroad 5.



Figure 1: Subject Property (2025)

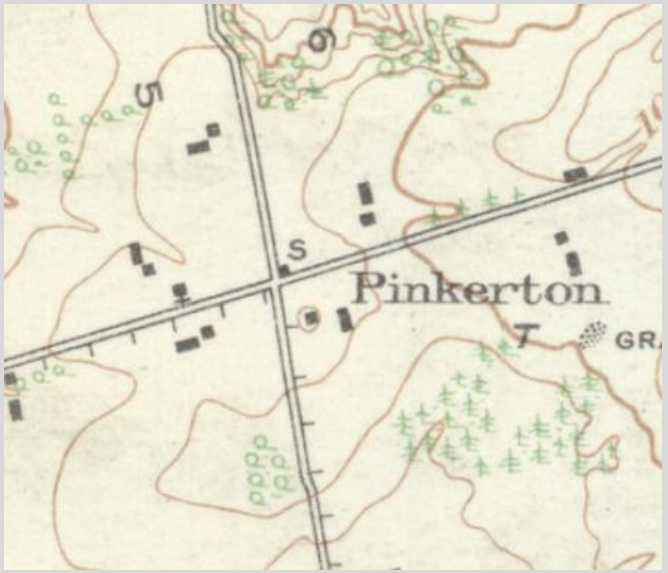


Figure 2: Topographic Map of property (1928)

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Design and Physical Value

The subject property, being a former schoolhouse is designed in the Ontario Vernacular architectural style and follows the standards of a typical one room Ontario schoolhouse.

Ontario Vernacular and Ontario One-Room School House

The Vernacular architectural styles makes use of local forms and material. The vernacular style can very from region to region. The Ontario Vernacular style is known for its largely conservative and simple rectangular design. Most of the Ontario Vernacular homes are either one to one and half or two stories, constructed of either rubble, brick or stucco. The architectural style is also known for gable roofs and end chimney designs with irregular window placement. Ontario Vernacular architectural styles can also borrow from other architectural styles, particularly the Georgian or Gothic Revival Architectural style.

Ontario Schoolhouses

In 1866, the Canada Farmer magazine published the design and floor plans for a “Cheap Country School House.” The article describes the specifications for upright posts, ceiling joists, rafters etc. The article must have been popular, as many Ontario Schoolhouses follow this design, including the subject property. The subject property is an exemplary example of Ontario one room schoolhouse. The home features dichromatic brick details, a steep gable roof, rectangular window openings, and a marker in the roof denoting the school section number. Despite being converted to a residential home, the schoolhouse retains many of the original details.

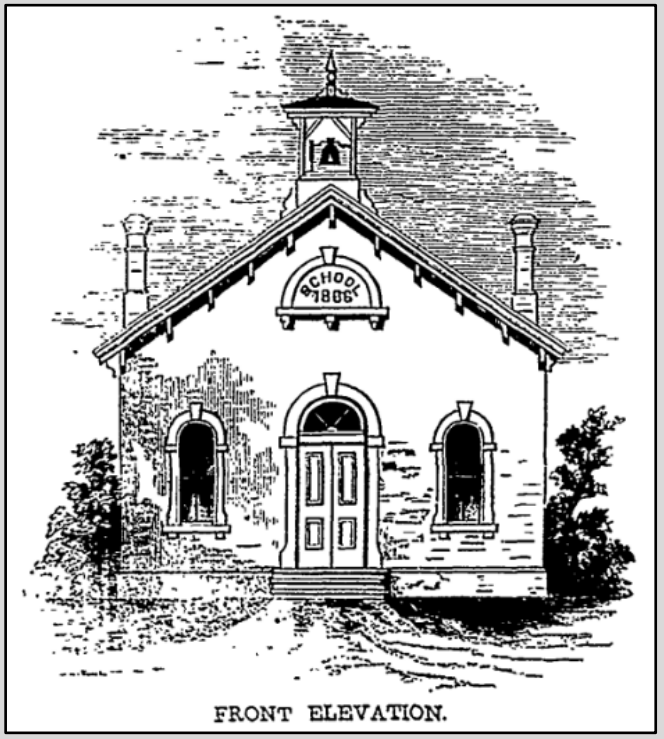


Figure 3: An elevation for an Ontario Schoolhouse



Figure 3: Subject Property

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Historical and Associative Value

Pre Contact History

The subject property is in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek Nation, which includes Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nation, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy and that the Huron-Wendat, Chippewa and Haudenosaunee Nations have also been associated with lands. The subject lands were part of the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasgaa Treaty No.18 of 1818, where in exchange for 1,592,000 acres, the Chippewas were paid a yearly sum of 1200 pounds.

Land Ownership

Early schools were in the homes of people of local villages. In 1816, the Government of Upper Canada passed the “Common School Act” which allowed local residents to establish a school, providing there were at least 20 schoolchildren. The Government would pay the teachers salary. The Common School Act of 1846 established the role of superintendents and made them responsible for dividing a Township into School Sections. Bradford West Gwillimbury had at least 16 school sections.

A log schoolhouse was built in the Pinkerton around 1837, on the property of Matthew Pinkerton (Lot 6, Concession 10). The log structure remained until 1895. Thomas Sleigh of West Gwillimbury sold the S/W corner of his lands to the Trustees of the School Section of West Gwillimbury in 1873. In 1873, a new school was built of brick in the location of the subject property. However, another brick school was built in 1908, which featured a bell tower and two side entrances. The brick school builds were some of the first brick school in the area. The school would close around 1960 and today is a private residence.

Pinkertown was founded by surveyor Matthew Pinkerton. The Hamlet had a school, at one point three churches and a hotel.

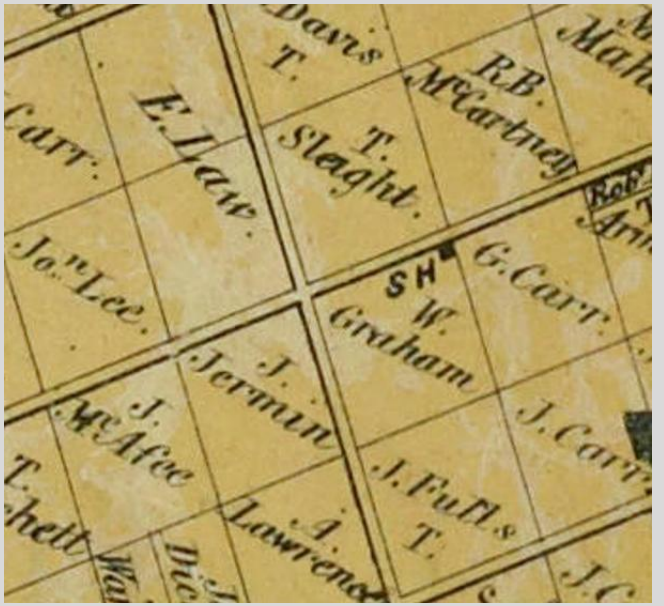


Figure 6: Map of West Gwillimbury

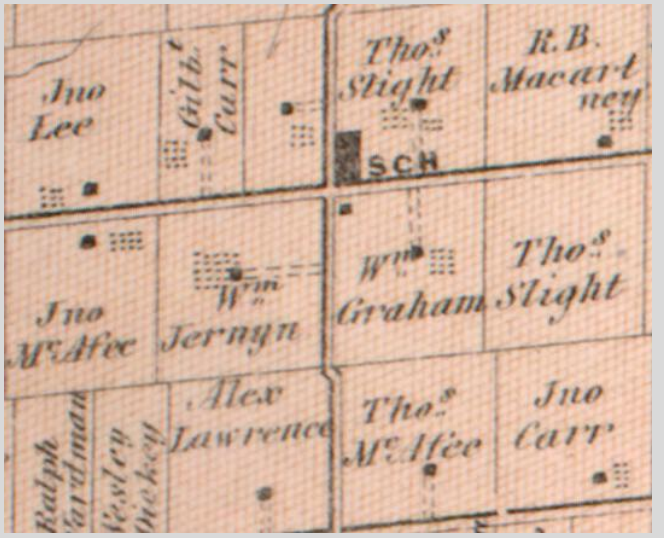


Figure 5: Map of West Gwillimbury

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Contextual Value

The subject property is situated in a rural area of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury in the community referred to as Pinkerton. The schoolhouse is one of the reminders of the community that once existed and the schoolhouse was the center of the community as it hosted dances, community events and church services.

The property is an excellent example of an early 19th century Ontario schoolhouse in a rural area of West Gwillimbury. The property remains linked to its surroundings, physically, visually and historically. The property contributes to the village street streetscape.

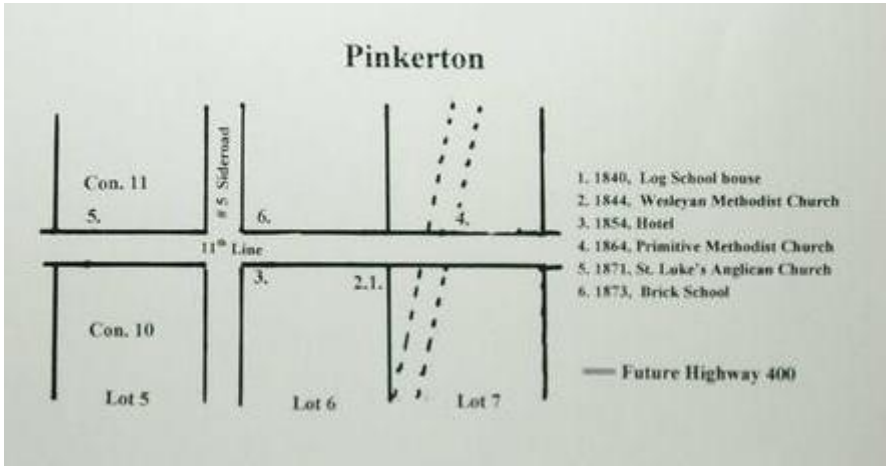


Figure 6: Village of Pinkerton

EVALUATION UNDER ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06

	Ontario Regulation 9/06 Criteria	Evaluation	Criteria met (Y/N)
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 19th century Ontario schoolhouse. The building is a representative example of a Ontario Vernacular schoolhouse, that was made popular through the publishing of an article in the Canada Farmer magazine in 1866.	Y
ii	displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit;		N
Iii	demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.		N
iv	has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community;	The property is known as School Section #11 and served as the schoolhouse for the local schoolchildren.	Y
v	yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture;		N
vi	demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.		N
vii	is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area;	The property is a reminder of the community of the Pinkerton that existed in the area.	Y
viii	is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings;		N
ix	is a landmark.		N

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton) c. 1908

The subject property has been researched and evaluated to determine its cultural heritage significance according to Ontario Regulation 9/06. This Regulation, defined in the *Ontario Heritage Act*, outlines several criteria for determining whether a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. For a property to be designated under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act,* it must meet two or more of these criteria, which are outlined below. By using these criteria, staff can determine if the property's cultural heritage value or interest merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Description of Property

The property at 3775 Sideroad 5 is located on the north side of Line 11. The property contains a Ontartio Vernacular, 1908 former school house. Due to its association with being an old school house, it is known as the School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton)
Its legal address is:
3775 Sideroad 5; South Part of Lot 6, Conession 11

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design/ Physical Value

The School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton) has design and physical value as representative example of a Ontartio Vernacular, 1908 property. The house was built around 1908 and has the following characteristics: Gable End Roof, Rear Brick Chimney, School Section Number on gable roof.

Historical/ Associative Value

The School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton) has historic/associative value for its direct association with the School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton). School Section #11 was an early school house where many children of West Gwillimbury were taught.

Contextual Value

The School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton) has contextual value because it defines and supports and maintains the character of the agricultural routes of the community as a rural school.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes of the School Section (S.S) #11 (Pinkerton) that exemplify its heritage value as a Ontartio Vernacular, 1908 house as it relates to the property include:

- Gable End Roof
- School Section Number on Gable Roof
- Rectangular Window Openings
- Any remaining evidence of original brick construction

SOURCES

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We Grew Up In or Live in Bradford West Gwillimbury Facebook Group. Facebook.com

SOURCES

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http://archives.bradford.library.on.ca/index.php/pinkerton-school-4

http://archives.bradford.library.on.ca/index.php/pinkerton-school

http://archives.bradford.library.on.ca/index.php/teachers-of-west-gwillimbury

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Figure 4: Retrieved from BWG Public Library Archives

Figure 5: Hoggs Map of Simcoe County (1871)

Figure 6: Map of West Gwillimbury Retrieved from https://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/searchmapframes.php

Figure 7: Retrieved from BWG Public Library Archives