

# STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

## DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 2920 King Road

Legal Description: Parts 1-4 on Plan 65R38646; Part of Lot 6, Concession 4, Township of King

## OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 2920 King Road meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.



## HERITAGE STRUCTURES ON SITE

- Name: Laskay Hall  
Date Built: c. 1859  
Condition: Good
- Name: King Christian Church  
Date Built: c. 1851  
Condition: Good
- Name: King Station  
Date Built: c. 1853  
Condition: Good

## DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

The King Township Community and Culture Centre (KHCC) located at 2920 King Road on the north side of King Road, east of Jane Street in the Village of King City contains three (3) buildings worthy of designation. The 2.53 acre property is comprised of the Laskay Hall, King Immanuel Baptist Church, and the King Train Station, the subjects of this statement. The property also contains the former Kinghorn School (School Section #23) – now King Township Museum. The following is an analysis of the design and physical value of each of the subject structures:

### Laskay Hall

The building known as the Laskay Hall was constructed in 1859 on Part Lot 20 of Plan 167, formerly Part Lot 4, of Concession 6. One of the few remaining Temperance Halls in York Region, it has a simple, serviceable style that was typical of many Temperance Halls of the era.

The structure is a single-storey wooden building with a yellow board and batten cladding that replaced its original asphalt sheathing. There is a front centre entrance, and either side has three windows. The plan consists of a symmetrical rectangular design with a back extension and small wings to either side. The back extension contains a stage, and the wings to either side were historically used as dressing rooms/washrooms. The symmetry of the building's design, as well as its returning cornices, are elements of the Neo-Classical architectural style. A large symbolic triangle with the words "Love, Purity, Fidelity" is affixed to the structure above the main entrance. These words represent the core principles of the Temperance movement, echoing the structure's history.

### **King Christian Church (Immanuel Baptist Church)**

Originally built in 1851, on Lot 32, Concession 5, Township of King, as the King Christian Church for an offshoot of the Children of Peace, the King Emmanuel Baptist Church's simple scale, layout, construction and use of material is a rare, early, and well-maintained example of vernacular church architecture designed to meet the minimal functional requirements of its congregation.

The King Christian Church at 2920 King Road is a representative example of the Loyalist Cottage style and as an early representative of a rural church building. The simple rectangular and mirrored design of the Church is represented by the one storey elevation with an attached vestibule. Both the vestibule and the main church building feature gable roofs. The attached vestibule has a transom window over the wooden door, finial in the gable roof and, gingerbread bargeboard trim on its roof line. The building is symmetrical and has wooden ship-lap board cladding on its exterior walls. The six (6) double hung windows with 3 on each of the east and west elevations of the building with single sash in a 12 by 12 glass pane configuration. The design of the Church is representative of the small-scale rural church buildings found throughout Ontario which were built to meet the needs of the local population. They were significant to the community in the 19th century and help to contribute to our understanding of how the building functioned as an early spiritual gathering place for many in the community.

The interior has pine flooring, four-foot high beaded pine wainscotting with matching trim over the doors and windows, with plastered arching walls.

### **King Station**

The King Station was built in 1853 in Springhill, Ontario (now King City) in part, of the east half of Lot 3, Concession 4, on the Northern Railway and is reputed to be the oldest surviving railway station in Canada. The King Station was moved to the Boyd Conservation Area in the Township of Vaughan on March 6, 1968. In the Fall of 1999, the King Township Historical Society had the King Station returned to the Township of King and placed it on a permanent foundation located on the subject site in part of the west half of Lot 6, Concession 4.

The King Station is of architectural significance with its vertical board and batten exterior sheathed frame construction, decorative and functional barge boards, roof overhang supports, and arched windows and doors. The interior flooring is tongue-and-groove pine, and the walls are patterned tongue-and-groove pine panelling ornately laid to complement massive arches and interior trim.

As the oldest extant Canadian station, built in 1852, the King Railway Station is a rare example of the railway station style built in mid 1800s Upper Canada to serve communities. This is characterised by its original, restored and replicated features including platform, frame

construction of vertical board and batten siding, bargeboards, arched roof and windows, and its interior layout of ticket office, passenger room and baggage room. The Station was designed by F.W. Cumberland, Architect, Engineer of York County, and later Managing Director of the Northern Railway Company, member of the Ontario Legislature and the Dominion Parliament.

## **HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE**

### **Laskay Hall**

Constructed in 1859 by the local Temperance Division on Part Lot 4, of Concession 6, better known as Part Lot 20 of Plan 167 on land donated by Senator David Reesor. The Temperance Division eventually went dormant but was reorganized about 1888 and flourished under the energetic work of its members. Around this time, the local option came into force, and the sale of alcohol was banned in the Township of King. As a result of succeeding in its mission, the local Temperance Division was disbanded, and the Hall and property were turned over to the Laskay Branch of the Women's Institute.

Having long served as a gathering place for meetings, events, and social functions, the Hall represents an important element of the Township's social and cultural history. In 1910, the Laskay Women's Institute formally assumed responsibility for the Hall, continuing its role as a focal point for community life and extending its legacy as a place of assembly, education, and civic engagement. The building was designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1986 in recognition of its cultural heritage value.

On August 30, 2017, the Hall was relocated from its original site in the Hamlet of Laskay to the King Heritage & Cultural Centre at 2920 King Road. The relocation was undertaken by the Township of King to ensure the long-term conservation and continued public use of the structure, following structural assessments and community consultation. The building was transported along Weston Road and King Road to its new location, where it now forms part of the Township's heritage campus and continues to serve as an important community resource. For over 160 years, and to the time of writing this statement, the Hall has been continuously used as a community hub.

### **King Christian Church (Immanuel Baptist Church)**

The structure's historical/associative value lies in its early establishment as an early church in King Township. The King Christian Church was built on Lot 31, Concession 5 (now Jane Street) in King Township, just outside Kettleby. The land had been purchased in 1850 for 17 pounds and 10 shillings from Thomas Ramsden. The first trustees were three local men with Quaker backgrounds: John Tatton, Martin Bogart, and William Hilbourn. Over the next 80 years, the church thrived as members held an annual Strawberry Supper in the spring and a Fowl Supper in the fall.

On the first Sunday of July was a "Grove Meeting" during which members would gather in Ramsden's Orchard adjoining the church to listen to a speaker, and on the last Saturday of each month, host "Monthly Meetings" for an hour of "fellowship, prayer, and testimony." By 1931, the congregation of the church had reduced, and those remaining were no longer able to maintain the building. On December 17, it was sold to the Emanuel Baptist Church. The Baptist Church saw the addition of the platform and altar at the front, the pews, and the organ. However, by 1978, the Baptist Church congregation had reduced significantly, and the building was given to the Township of King under the care of the King Township Historical Society (KTHS) at the request

of the last congregant, Edna Little (1914-1978).

In 1982, the church was lifted onto a flatbed truck and moved to the King Township Museum site at 2920 King Road, where the King Township Historical Society would be better able to care for it. In 2000, the care and operation of the structure was transferred to the Township of King.

### **King Station**

The first train arrived in King on May 16<sup>th</sup> of the same year. The OS&H was reorganized as the Northern Railway of Canada in 1859. Following this reorganization, the station changed hands several times. In 1879, the Northern Railway merged with the Hamilton & North-Western Railway to form the Northern & North Western Railway, with a total of five trains stopping at King Station on a daily basis. Seven years later, in 1888, the North & North Western was purchased by the Grand Trunk Railway, which made slight modifications to the station in 1900. In 1923, the Grand Trunk Railway Company merged once again, this time with Canadian National (CN).

Associated with the earliest era of railway travel in Ontario, the King Station was a stop on the May 16, 1853 inaugural run of the first steam train in Upper Canada on the OS&H from Toronto to Machell's Corners (now Aurora) pulled by the *Toronto Number 2 Locomotive*, the first railroad engine built in Canada.

The King Station closed to passengers in 1964, after which it sat abandoned for several years. It was relocated to the Kortright Centre for Conservation in 1968, but was neglected and began to deteriorate. In 1989, the King Station was returned to King Township and was relocated to 2920 King Road, the King Heritage and Cultural Centre, where it presently resides. The King Station was designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1990 under by-law 90-80.

### **CONTEXTUAL VALUE**

While the Laskay Hall, King Christian Church, and the King Station are not original to the subject property, together they form a coherent grouping of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century rural community / institutional buildings that contribute to the historic rural character of King Road. The buildings serve as a reflection of early settlement structures that support an understanding of the Township's unique cultural heritage identity and provide an interpretive link to the Township's early development and community activities.

### **LIST OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

Laskay Hall

- vertical board and batten pattern;
- door with side and top transoms;
- gable roofs on north, south, east and west façade
- side door on the west façade
- returned eaves on north, south, east and west façade
- 3 by 3 pane windows on east and west façade

### King Christian Church

- single, centred doorway from vestibule to interior
- raised platform opposite front doorway
- pulpit on platform
- horizontal board and batten exterior
- frame construction
- gable roof
- returned eaves
- vestibule with gable on front façade
- wood door and bay centred on front of vestibule
- bargeboard and finial on vestibule
- horizontal single pane window above front door
- three vertical 12 over 12 pane windows and bays on end façades
- brick chimney
- pine floors
- beaded pine wainscoting
- beaded pine trim over interior door and window bays
- plaster wall and ceiling

### King Station

- vertical board and batten exterior
- frame construction
- decorative and functional bargeboards and roof overhang supports
- arched window and door bays
- brick chimney
- two doors with 9 pane windows on front façade
- two vertical 6-over-6 and one vertical 9-over-9 pane window on front façade
- two vertical 6-over-6 pane windows on each end façade
- wood platform
- wood horizontal sign displaying KING on front façade
- tongue and groove pine floors
- patterned tongue and groove pine panelling and ceiling
- front and end gables
- wood soffit
- three-room layout and adjoining doorways