

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT FORMER MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL HOUSE, PICKERING, ON

FHBRO Number: **05-016**
DFRP Number: **09820**
Resource Name: **Former Mount Pleasant School House**
Address: **1503 Concession 7 Road, Pickering, Ontario**
FHBRO Status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1858**
Designer: **Unknown**
Original Function: **Schoolhouse**
Current Function: **Private residence**
Modifications: **Addition of a frame shed to the northwest corner (ca. 1935); installation of a furnace and electrical wiring (1946 and 1947); interior alterations including partitions for conversion to a private residence (post-1964); eastern front door converted to a window, storm-porch added to western entrance, and southern-most window along the eastern elevation converted to a door (post-1968).**
Custodian: **Transport Canada**

Description of Historic Place

The former Mount Pleasant School House consists of a solid, one-storey, rectangular red brick building with a frame shed addition on the main elevation, a broad, low gable roof featuring returned roof eaves and a small, arched bell tower. The building also features two doors on the front, gable-end elevation (one for each gender), a date stone lunette between the doors, and symmetrical rows of large, multi-paned windows with stone sills on both side elevations. The former Mount Pleasant School House is located in the midst of rural Pickering Township, on the south side of the 7th concession road, at the southern end of 20th Side Road. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The former Mount Pleasant School House is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

The former Mount Pleasant School House is a very good example of the historical theme of the on-going development of a publicly funded system of education in Ontario, following the Common School Acts of 1846 and 1850. The building is also associated with local artist, designer, sculptor, and award winning filmmaker, William Lishman, who lived in the former Mount Pleasant School House between 1964 and 1974, and was well known in the community as an activist. The former Mount Pleasant School House is one of the best early examples of a public institutional presence in Pickering Township, illustrating a significant phase of cultural development for the community in both recognizing the importance of education and supporting its funding through taxation.

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5
Telephone: 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146 / Web Site: www.parkscanada.gc.ca/federalhb

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT FORMER MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL HOUSE, PICKERING, ON

Architectural value:

The former Mount Pleasant School House is a good example of the simple and adaptable functional design of the open, well-lit, one-room layout of schoolhouses from this period, which was subdivided into several rooms to serve as a residence. Constructed of good quality materials and craftsmanship, the former Mount Pleasant School House is an early example of the use of plain, solid brickwork in Pickering Township.

Environmental value:

The former Mount Pleasant School House is compatible with the rural character of the setting, which is predominantly composed of large cultivated fields. As one of the few public buildings in the neighbourhood, the former Mount Pleasant School House has always been a familiar landmark for the community. However, the building gained wider fame when artist William Lishman constructed an exact full-scale replica of the first lunar module on the property in 1972.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the former Mount Pleasant School House should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the historical theme of the development of a publicly funded system of education in Ontario, following the Common School Acts of 1846 and 1850 is reflected in:

- its simple aesthetic design, scale, and solid, well-built appearance which illustrate the influence of the provincial education department's efforts in the 1850s to encourage "modern" school design and are evidence of local support for formal publicly supported education.

Its good functional design, and its good quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the simple and adaptable design of the open, one-room layout which was easily converted to serve as a private residence;
- the extant raised teaching platform and blackboard located at the southern end of the former classroom, which are presently concealed under modern finishes;
- the effective provision of natural light by means of the large, multi-paned windows lining both sides of the former classroom; and,
- the use of plain, solid brickwork which provides the character of permanence generally associated with institutional buildings.

The manner in which the building is compatible with the rural character of the area and its landmark value as evidenced in:

- its small scale, simple form and massing, and the choice of materials used for its construction; and,
- its familiarity to the community as a public building.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic*

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5
Telephone: 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146 / Web Site: www.parkscanada.gc.ca/federalhb

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
FORMER MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL HOUSE, PICKERING, ON**

Places in Canada. For further information contact FHBRO.

August 2006

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5
Telephone: 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146 / Web Site: www.parkscanada.gc.ca/federalhb