



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Planning
Date: February 16, 2021
Prepared by: Corinne Chiasson, Assistant Planner
Report Number: PLANNING 2021-02
Subject: Heritage Listing: Ferriss and Huffman Cemeteries
Number of Pages: 9

Recommendation(s)

That Planning Report 2021-02 entitled Heritage Listing: Ferriss & Huffman Cemeteries prepared by Corinne Chiasson, Assistant Planner, dated February 16, 2021 be received, and

That the properties known municipally as the Ferriss Cemetery and the Huffman Cemetery be listed on the Essex Municipal Heritage Register pursuant to subsection 27 (1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Purpose

To inform Council of the cultural heritage value of the Ferriss and Huffman Cemeteries and make recommendation to list the cemeteries on the Essex Municipal Heritage Register, pursuant to subsection 27 (1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Background and Discussion

Listing is a mechanism instituted under subsection 27 (1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act to formally identify properties that may have cultural heritage value. By providing a measure of interim protection from demolition, listing also serves as an important tool for the conservation of non-designated properties, as owners of a listed property must provide the Council of a municipality with at least 60 days' notice of their intention to demolish or remove a listed building or structure.

Normally given by resolution, Council's approval is required before formally listing a property on the Register. Council must also consult with its Heritage Committee before listing a property on the Register. At their regular meeting on November 26, 2020, the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee (EMHC) recommended the listing of the Ferriss Cemetery (located on the East side of Ferriss Road, just North of the Essex Public Works Yard at 2100 Ferriss Road) and the Huffman Cemetery at 687 County Road 50 East for the reasons outlined below:

Ferriss Cemetery

The Ferriss cemetery has associative and contextual value. Pioneers, Joseph and Catherine Ferriss, chose to settle in Colchester South at Lot 12, Concession 2 (just East of Harrow) around 1794. The Ferriss family is the first recorded family to have settled in this area around the Second Concession. The Ferriss Cemetery remains on the site in memory of some of the municipality's earliest pioneers. Both pioneers, Joseph and Catherine Ferriss, are buried at the cemetery. Joseph (born 1758) died in 1823 and Catherine (born 1768) died in 1853. The cemetery is plotted using a cross layout.

Huffman Cemetery

The Huffman Cemetery has associative and contextual value. After the American Revolution, Rudolph Huffman, a United Empire Loyalist, came to this part of Canada from Virginia on May 4, 1792. He obtained 400 acres along the shores of Lake Erie. On October 9, 1820, he

purchased another 200 acres. This cemetery lies on a part of that original 600 acre family farm. Many of the Huffman family descendants still live in the Colchester area. In 2005, a ceremony was hosted at the cemetery to dedicate a new stone in honour of the family lineage and for those who are buried at the site without markers.

Throughout the early years of the New Settlement in the Colchester area, volatile storms on Lake Erie wreaked havoc on numerous ships. Victims of ship wrecks washed up along the shores, and were respectfully buried within local burial grounds. The Huffman Cemetery contains a stone marker that memorializes the burial place of unknown shipwrecked sailors that were buried by the Huffman family.

A location map of the cemeteries is provided in Figure 1.

Photos of the Ferriss and Huffman cemeteries are attached in Figure 2 and 3, respectively.

Although a municipality is not presently required under the Act to consult with property owners before listing property on the Register, the registered owners of both the Ferriss and Huffman Cemeteries were invited to attend the EMHC's meeting on November 26, 2020 to voice any concerns or support on the listing, and ask questions to EMHC members and Administration. The owners did not attend the meeting, nor sent questions or comments in advance of the meeting.

Should Council choose to list the cemeteries, notice will be sent out again to the owners informing them of the decision. An owner of a listed property may approach Council with a request to remove the reference from the Register at any time. Any proposal to remove reference to a listed property, however, must be reviewed by the EMHC.

TOWN OF ESSEX
Ferriss & Huffman Cemeteries



Figure 1:

Figure 2: Ferriss Cemetery Photos



Photo credit: Image capture - June 2014, 2021 Google Street View



Town of Essex – GIS air photo





Figure 3: Huffman Cemetery Photos





Financial Impact

None.

Consultations

Consultation with the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee took place at their regular meeting on November 26, 2020, where the listing of the Ferriss Cemetery and the Huffman Cemetery was recommended.

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PLANNING 2021-02.docx
Attachments:	- Ferriss Cemetery Property Analysis.docx - Huffman Cemetery Property Analysis.docx
Final Approval Date:	Feb 11, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services - Feb 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM



Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services - Feb 9, 2021 - 4:33 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer was completed by workflow administrator Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services

Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 11, 2021 - 11:11 AM