



## LOCATION MAP

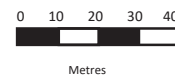
LOCATION: 86 John West Way

Petch Log House

Attachment 1



**SUBJECT LANDS**



## **Heritage Designation Brief**



### **“The Petch Log House”**

**Built c. 1844**

**86 John West Way**

**Aurora, ON**

(originally located at 15395 Leslie Street)

**October 2013**

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## 1.0 HERITAGE PROPERTY STATUS SHEET:

Street address:	86 Wellington Street East
Roll number:	TBA
Short Legal description:	TBA
Year built:	c. 1844
Original Owner(s):	Petch family
Current Owner(s):	Whitwell Developments (II) Limited
House name:	Petch Log House
Builder:	The Petch Family
Owner's concurrence:	Yes
Original use:	Residential
Current use:	TBD by Council
Heritage status:	Not included on the Register
Reasons for report:	Designation  Agreement between Whitwell Developments (II) Limited and The Corporation of the Town of Aurora
Heritage Brief Completion Date:	October 2013
Prepared by:	Vanessa Hicks Program Manager, Heritage Planning
Historical research:	Fayle Associates (July, 2000)
Submission date:	October 7, 2013
Report number:	HAC13-024

## 2.0 DESIGNATION POLICY:

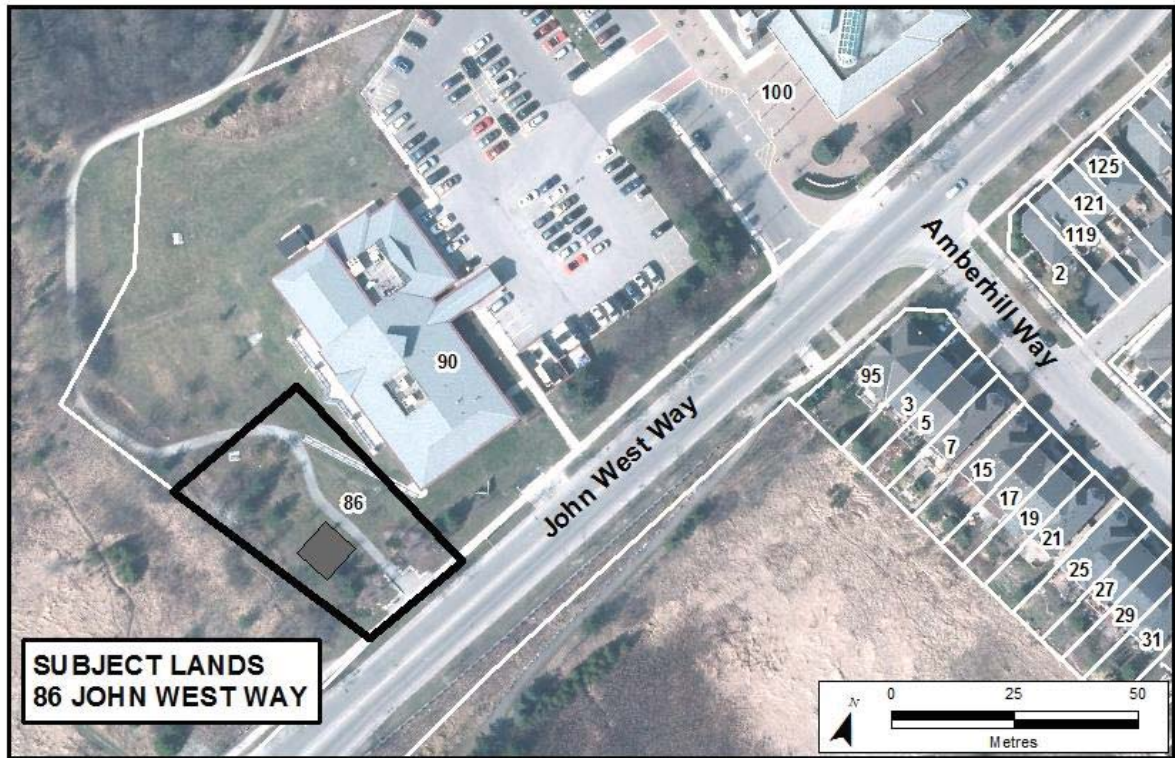
### Ontario Regulation 9/06

According to Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Section (2) outlines that, “*A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.*” The criteria is described as being related to the following:

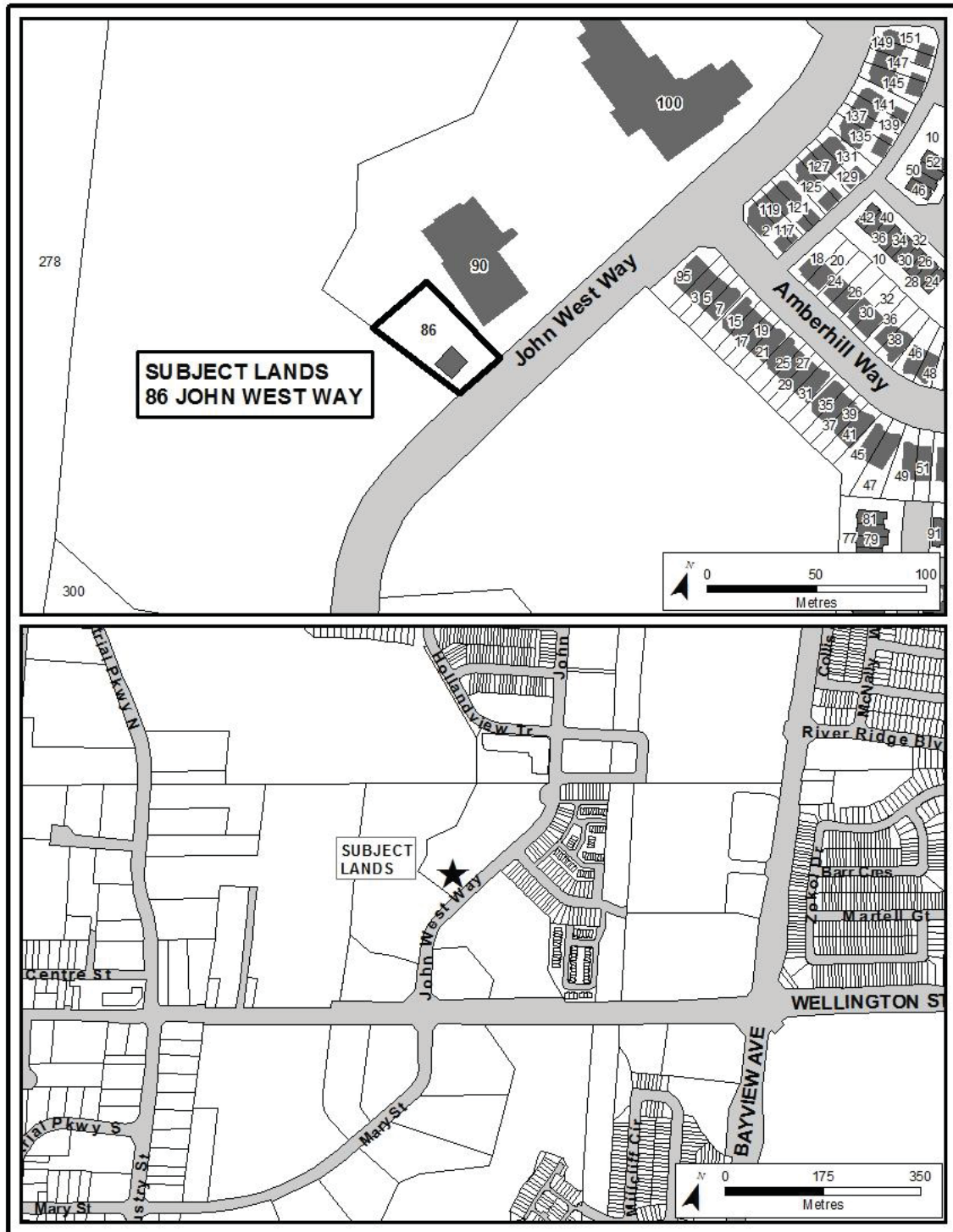
1. The property has design value or physical value because it,
  - i. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
  - ii. Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
  - iii. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it,
  - i. Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community
  - ii. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
  - iii. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
3. The property has contextual value because it,
  - i. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
  - ii. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
  - ii. Is a landmark. O.Reg 9/06, s. 1 (2).

### 3.0 PROPERTY LOCATION:

The Petch Log House located at 86 John West Way, Town of Aurora, is situated on the west side of John West Way, between Aurora Town Hall and the Aurora Seniors Centre.



Map 1: Aerial photo of 86 John West Way, Aurora. Source: Town of Aurora  
Approximate location of the Petch Log House as shown above.



Map 2: Location Map, 86 John West Way

#### 4.0 HISTORY:

The following passages are extracted from the report, *Petch Log House*, prepared by Fayle Associates (July, 2000) as well as information from the 1861 Census and documents kept by the Aurora Historical Society including an article in the Aurora Banner by Marjorie Richardson (February 8, 1967).

Clergy Reserve lands were set apart by the Constitutional Act in 1791. Families could rent this land for \$2 per annum until land began being sold to settling families between 1827 and 1854. In 1840, Jonathan Petch received his land deed from the Crown for 200 acres in the amount of one hundred and seventy pounds. The Petch family went on to own this property located at Lot 21, Concession 3 (previously in Whitchurch Township, now the Town of Aurora) until 1904.

According to Marjorie Richardson, a family bible brought by the Petch family to Canada in 1817 gives insight to the early history of the Petch family. They may have been Hussites leaving Hungary for England seeking refuge. Reaching England, it is possible that they may have changed the original spelling of their family name from Petsch to Petch.

Jonathan Petch Sr. (deceased in 1793 at the age of 55 years) was presumably father to William, Sarah, Ann, John, Hannah, Elizabeth, Jonathan and Rachel. His two youngest children, Jonathan Jr. and Rachel, were the only descendants of Jonathan Petch Sr. who immigrated to Canada in 1817 from Whitby, Yorkshire, England with their spouses and children.

Jonathan Jr. (born May 13, 1778) had married Sarah Gale (born August 24, 1782) and had four children at the time. Jonathan Petch was a ship's carpenter who lost his leg falling off a cliff and walked with a wooden leg. He served with Lord Nelson on the battleship "Victory" at Trafalgar. Jonathan and Sarah eventually had seven children, those being Jonathan (1814 – 1887), Ann (1816 – 1886), Rachel (1819 – 1934), Isaac (1821 – 1899), John (1825 – 1902), Ella Jane may (1864 – 1942), and George Wellington (1868 – 1925).

John (1825 – 1902) married Anne Elizabeth Lloyd (died 1906) of White Rose on December 15, 1847. John and Elizabeth gave birth to Charles Albert on September 11, 1851. Charles Albert came to play an important role in the Town of Aurora. He became the chief constable of the village and became town clerk in 1914. He lived at 3 Catherine Avenue until his death in April 1926.

Rachel Petch (born July 1, 1781) married William Wells (born September 4, 1788) and had two children.

Members of the Petch family attempted to provide additional religious services to their community. At the time, "saddlebag preachers" or "circuit riders" (religious men travelling by horseback) were the only religious instructors available. When



Jonathan Petch bought his land in 1840, he promptly gave land for the building of a church.

When Jonathan died, John and Isaac inherited the property. Family history as recorded by Mrs. Richardson for the Vandorf Women's Institute suggests that Isaac Petch (1821 – 1899) built the The Petch Log House in 1844 and lived on the north half of Lot 21, Concession 3. This would have been about the time that he married Emma Hacking. However, the historic record cannot confirm as to whether it was Jonathan or Isaac Petch who built the log house.

The 1861 Census states that both John and Isaac lived in log houses.

Isaac's house left the Petch family in 1903, when it was sold to Matthew and Mary Ann Homer. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house belonged to the Crawford Family, then in 1946 it was sold to Clayton and Lillian Ada Pogue. Gordon Russell acquired the property in 1970 and four years later sold it to Chair-Man Mills Ltd.

## **5.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR DESIGNATION BY-LAW**

The following information outlines the Statement of Significance to be used in the creation of the heritage designation By-law under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### **5.1 Statement of Significance**

The Petch Log House is significant for its historical association with the Petch family, immigrating to Canada in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and owning their land in Whitchurch Township (now Aurora) in 1840. The home was constructed c. 1844 by members of the Petch family, most likely Jonathan or Isaac. The building was originally located at 15395 Leslie Street in the Town of Aurora (historically the Township of Whitchurch). The building was relocated to 86 John West Way and fully restored, respecting the original built heritage attributes and construction methods. The building also has design/physical value as a rare and well-preserved example of the first European residential construction methods brought to Canada in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **5.2 Historical or Associative Value**

The building is significant for its historical associations with the Petch Family. The Petch family was a significant early settlement family. Jonathan Petch and his family emigrated to Canada in 1817. In 1840, Jonathan Petch acquired title to 200 acres of land described as Lot 21 Concession 3.

### **5.3 Architectural Value**

The Petch Log House was constructed in the log cabin style. The building has been restored to reflect its original log cabin construction. The building is therefore representative of the first building style erected by European settlers in Ontario. The building style also represents building construction methods of early historic settlers in Whitchurch Township (now the Town of Aurora) in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The restoration of the Petch Log House enabled the preservation of the historic one-and-a-half storey building with 3-bay façade using structural materials original to the building respecting historic construction methods.

### **5.4 Contextual Value**

The Petch Log House, while losing its original rural context, has been relocated to a site which has the potential to be integrated into public realm and serve as a physical reminder of Aurora's early settlement history.

### **5.5 Heritage Attributes**

The Designation of the Petch Log House will include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all entrances, windows, trim, together with historic construction materials and techniques.

#### **Exterior Elements**

- shallow pitched roof with end gables, soffits, eaves and wooden fascia;
- three-bay facade;
- all window openings;
- Reconstructed 6 over 6 sliding sash wood windows on north-east, south-west, and south-east elevations;
- Reconstructed 3 over 3 sliding sash windows on north-west and south-east elevations;
- centered front door opening;
- off-set door openings and doors on north-west elevation and north-east elevation;
- Lap key joints and hand hewn squared log construction;
- Roof cladding with cedar shakes;

- Wood trim around all windows and doors on all elevations.

### **Interior Elements**

- Exposed hand hewn squared logs;
- Chinking between logs;
- Exposed structural beams;
- Mezzanine;
- Exposed roof cladding.

## 6.0 PHOTOGRAPHS



**BEFORE:** Petch Log House prior to relocation (Photo Credit: unknown)





**BEFORE:** Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora, November, 2009)



**AFTER:** North-West Elevation, Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora, September, 2013)



**BEFORE:** Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora)



**AFTER:** South-West (rear) Elevation, Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora, September, 2013)





**BEFORE:** Petch Log House (Photo Credit, Town of Aurora)



**AFTER:** North-East (front) Elevation, Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora, September, 2013)



**BEFORE:** Petch Log House (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora)



**AFTER:** View of Petch House looking South-East (Photo Credit: Town of Aurora, September, 2013)





**BEFORE:** View of Interior showing modern replacement window, overhead floor joists, and exposed hand hewn logs with chinking



**AFTER:** View of Interior showing overhead floor joists, and exposed hand hewn logs with chinking.



**BEFORE:** Interior view of hand hewn logs and ceiling joists (mezzanine).



**AFTER:** Interior view of hand hewn logs and ceiling joists (mezzanine).