

**City of Kingston By-Law Number 2024-XX**

**A By-Law to Designate the property at 2965-2973 Orser Road to be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest Pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act***

**Passed:** [insert date]

**Whereas:**

Subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 (the "*Ontario Heritage Act*") authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate property within the municipality, including buildings and structures on the property, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

The *property* was listed on the register established pursuant to Section 27 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2016;

On September 17, 2024, Council of the City of Kingston ("*Council*") consulted with its municipal heritage committee regarding the designation of the property municipally at 2965-2973 Orser Road (the "*property*") in accordance with subsection 29(2) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

On [XXX, 2024], *Council* caused notice of its intention to designate the *property* to be given to the owner of the *property* and to the Ontario Heritage Trust (the "*Trust*"), and on [XXX, 2024], notice of the intent to designate the *property* was published in The Kingston Whig-Standard, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Kingston; and

No notice of objection to the proposed designation was served on the municipal Clerk (the "*Clerk*") of the Corporation of the City of Kingston (the "*City*") within the time prescribed by subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**Therefore, *Council* enacts:**

1. The *property* is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest, as more particularly described in Schedule "A" of this by-law.
2. A copy of this by-law will be registered against the *property* in the appropriate land registry office. The *Clerk* is authorized to serve a copy of this by-law on the owner of the *property* and the *Trust*, and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in The Kingston Whig-Standard.

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3. The *City* reserves the right to install a designation recognition plaque on the *property*, in a location and style determined by the *City* in consultation with the owner.
4. This by-law will come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

Given First and Second Readings XXX, 2024

Given Third Reading and Passed XXX, 2024

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**Janet Jaynes**  
**City Clerk**

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**Bryan Paterson**  
**Mayor**

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**Schedule “A”**  
**Description and Criteria for Designation**  
**Orser Farmstead**

Civic Address: 2965-2973 Orser Road  
Legal Description: Part Lot 5 Con 7 Kingston lying north of FR572022; S/T  
TKY17494; City of Kingston, County of Frontenac  
Property Roll Number: 1011 080 230 12350

**Introduction and Description of Property**

The subject property, located at 2965-2973 Orser Road, is situated on the south side of the road, west of Babcock Road, in the former Township of Kingston, now the City of Kingston. The approximately 60-hectare rural property contains a one-and-a-half storey limestone farmhouse, built in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for farmers Emanuel and Anna Maria Orser. A larger rear addition has been added to the dwelling. A second dwelling (at 2965 Orser Road), with no heritage value, is also included on the property, as are several modern detached agricultural buildings.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value/Statement of Significance**

*The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.*

*The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.*

The Orser Farmstead is a representative example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century limestone farmhouse with Georgian influences. The house’s simple vernacular architecture is expressed by its restrained profile with regular plan, constructed from limestone laid in regular courses. Common for the Georgian-influenced Ontario vernacular style of house is the medium-pitched side gable roof with twin brick chimneys that are located at the gable ends of the main house, and a central main entrance, flanked by large rectangular window openings. Window openings currently feature six-over-six sash windows, stone sills and limestone voussoirs.

Various embellishments point to a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic effort that are somewhat unusual in a vernacular farmhouse of this era. The oversized main entranceway features a decorative door surround with sidelights and a transom. Turned posts, turned columns and spindles support a balcony over the entranceway. The balcony, located under the dormer, features an entranceway with a double sash window in the door, and limestone voussoirs, turned posts and spindles.

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*The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.*

*The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.*

The Orser Farmstead is associated with the Orser family. Who were United Empire Loyalists and early settlers of the Township of Kingston and whom Orser Road is named after.

Anna Orser received the crown patent for Lot 5, Concession 7 in 1801. Anna Orser, her husband Joseph Orser, and their family were United Empire Loyalists who, under the leadership of Captain Michael Grass, immigrated and settled in the Kingston area at the end of the 18th century. The Orsers were descendants of Dutch colonists who settled in New York City when it was still referred to as New Amsterdam. The Orsers established a prosperous farm near the North River at Philips Manor in Westchester County, New York. They were committed loyalists, apart from their eldest son John who sided with the rebels. The remaining four Orser sons fought in the service of Britain. Joseph Orser was well into his fifties at this time and was not able to take up arms; he instead supported the loyalist cause by supplying provisions to spies and loyalist soldiers. In 1782, neighbours attacked the Orsers, brutally beating Joseph Orser and burned down the farm, forcing the family to take refuge within the British lines. While most loyalists travelled overland to Canada, the Orsers embarked by evacuation ships under the leadership of Michael Grass, leaving New York City for Quebec City in July of 1783. Unfortunately, Joseph Orser did not survive the journey, likely succumbing to the injuries sustained by the severe beating by his patriot neighbours. In 1787-1788, Anna Orser testified before a loyalist compensation board in Montreal. The board, upon hearing of the family's loyalty to the crown and their sufferings, concluded that the Orsers were "a very good family to be allowed what we can". Anna Orser and several of her children settled in the Kingston area. In her 1812 will, Anna Orser bequeathed the property to her son or grandson Gabriel Orser.

In 1845, Emanuel Orser purchased the lot for £500. Emanuel Orser was a Canadian-born Episcopalian Methodist farmer who lived on the property for 55 years until his death in 1900. He lived with his wife Anna Maria and their children: Isaiah, Nancy, Mary, Ordella, Emanuel Jr., Kenneth, Ann, Irena, Newton and Candice. The family originally lived in a one storey log house, but by 1878 the Orsers had constructed the stone house and an ashery (a factory creating potash and lye from hardwood ashes). Both buildings were established on the creek on the northwest corner of the lot. Newton Orser, the son of Emanuel and Anna Maria, inherited the house and lot in 1900. The farm remained in the Orser family into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

*The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.*

*The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.*

The Orser Farmstead has contextual value as its simple vernacular design, integrity, limestone construction, unpaved circulation routes, rural fencing and mature trees various the proximity of these features to the road, support and maintain the scenic and rural character of the road.

With its Ontario vernacular style and limestone construction, the Orser Farmstead shares a visual and historical relationship with its surroundings and is an important part of the historical rural context of the area.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior elements that contribute to the property's cultural heritage value include its:

- One-and-a-half storey farmhouse constructed of limestone laid in even courses with a second storey constructed in a different colour and sized limestones;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with two brick chimneys at the gable ends, with central medium-pitched gable over a central entranceway with decorative surround, sidelights and transom;
- Porch and balcony with turned posts, turned columns and spindles and limestone voussoirs;
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern of window and door openings with stone voussoirs and stone sills; and
- Long driveway framed by mature trees and rural fencing.

### **Non-Heritage Attributes**

Elements that are not included in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of the property include:

- Later rear addition to stone house;
- Detached outbuildings; and
- Detached dwelling at 2965 Orser Road.