

## **Attachment-8 Recommendation for Listing Cultural Heritage Resources within the GID**

### **Reformatory Railway Bridge – recommendation for listing**

The Reformatory railway bridge on the Eramosa River (just west of the Cargill plant) has been determined to have cultural heritage value. This wooden trestle bridge was built in 1911 for the Ontario Reformatory using prison labour and carried a spur line from the Guelph Junction Railway on the west side of the river to the Reformatory quarry and powerhouse. A 1936 topographical map shows the trestle bridge crossing west of the quarry area (see image below). The bridge is identified as a non-listed cultural heritage resource in GID Appendix A (Attachment 4) and as "G" in Attachment 7. The bridge is between GID Block Plan Areas 2 and 4 (Attachment 6) and is a feature seen from the area trail system and when canoeing or kayaking on the Eramosa River. The objectives of the GID states an intention to connect related cultural heritage resources, provide opportunities for compatible recreational uses and to ensure that significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes are conserved.

The Reformatory Railway bridge has design value or physical value because it is a representative example of a bridge construction method now rare in the City of Guelph. The railway bridge has historical value or associative value because it has direct association with the theme of the Ontario Reformatory as an institution that is significant to the Guelph community. The bridge also has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area and is functionally and historically linked to the Reformatory quarry operation and the Ontario Reformatory cultural heritage landscape to the north.

The heritage attributes associated with the Reformatory railway bridge are: its original flat deck form of wooden ties and beams supported by vertical posts with cross bracing and all original wooden timbers.

Staff recommend that the Reformatory wooden trestle railway bridge be listed (as non-designated) on the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties.



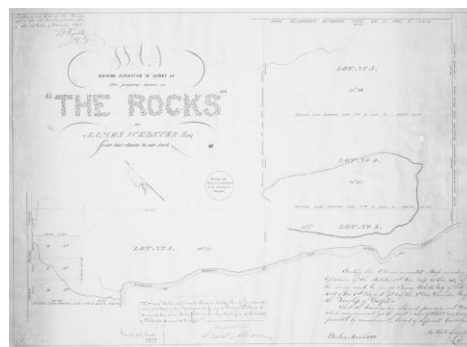
## Reformatory Quarry Area – recommendation for listing

The Reformatory quarry area is located on the east side of the Eramosa River just north of the Stone Road Bridge and is part of City-owned property at 110 Dunlop Drive. Three limestone quarry faces and floors in this area have been determined to have cultural heritage value.

The oldest of the three quarry walls faces south to Stone Road East and was established and active in the mid to late-19<sup>th</sup> century under the ownership of former Guelph Mayor James Webster and then William and David Allan. Webster's 1861 reference plan for the property (shown below) is titled "The Rocks" and shows the cliff face in the south portion of the property. According to David Allan's diaries many prominent buildings and structures in Guelph's downtown were built with stone from this quarry face. Once the Province purchased the quarry as part of the lands for the Reformatory, by 1910 the two west-facing quarries were established and supplied limestone for many of the buildings, structure and landscape features within the Reformatory facility and grounds. The quarry area is identified as a non-listed cultural heritage resource in GID Appendix A and as "H" in Attachment 7.

The Reformatory quarry area is a key feature of the Provincially Significant Earth Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) in this area (see Attachment 6). The ANSI is designated within the Natural Heritage System land use designation of the Official Plan. The objectives of the GID states an intention to connect related cultural heritage resources, provide opportunities for compatible recreational uses and to ensure that significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes are conserved.

The Reformatory quarry area has historical value or associative value because it has direct association with the theme of the Ontario Reformatory as an institution that is significant to the Guelph community. The quarry also has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area and is functionally and historically linked to the Reformatory operation and the Ontario Reformatory cultural heritage landscape to the north. The heritage attributes associated with the Reformatory quarry area are the extant quarry face (walls) and floors and the prominent profile the rockfaces have within views of and from the quarry.



## **G. M. Frost Centre – recommendation for listing**

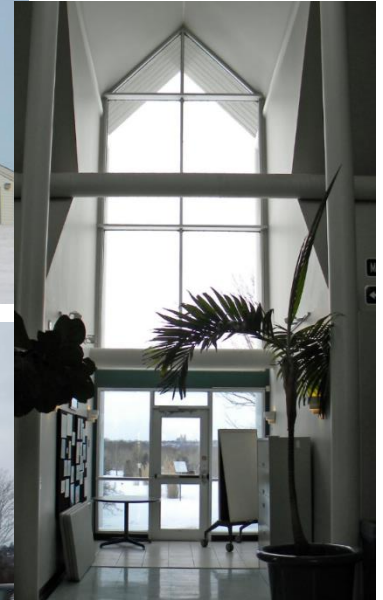
Through discussion with Heritage Guelph about built heritage resources located within the Guelph Innovation District, the G. M. Frost Centre (part of the Turfgrass Institute site at 328 Victoria Road South) has been determined to have cultural heritage value. The building is identified as the Turfgrass Institute (a non-listed cultural heritage resource) in GID Appendix A (Attachment 6), is within GID Block Plan Area 1 (Attachment 6) and has become a prominent landmark on the west side of the Eramosa River. GID policy 11.2.2.2 (10) states that the retention and integration of the Turfgrass Institute Building (G. M. Frost Centre) into the GID community is encouraged.

Although not associated with the development of the Ontario Reformatory, this later 20<sup>th</sup> century building is an excellent example of the work of Guelph modernist architect Karl Briestensky (1935-2004). The building was built in 1990-1992 as a joint venture of the University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a turfgrass research facility and meeting rooms. In his 2005 article titled "Karl Briestensky and the Look of Modern Guelph" architectural historian Gil Stelter described the architect's desire to have the building's dormers and barn-like look to evoke the spirit of traditional agricultural buildings in the area and his intentional orientation of the building's main hallway to look toward the city's major landmark - Basilica of Our Lady. Stelter concluded that the imposing setting and the architectural form of the building have become fitting symbols of Guelph's historic close connection with a progressive and advanced form of agriculture.

The G. M. Frost Centre has historical and associative value in that it demonstrates the work and ideas of an architect who is significant to the Guelph community. The building also has contextual value as it has become a landmark in the GID area.

The heritage attributes associated with the Frost Centre are its original exterior form, long entrance porch, exposed exterior metal support structure and the large windows facing the downtown and the Basilica of Our Lady.

At their meeting of April 12, 2021 Heritage Guelph made the following recommendation "Heritage Guelph recommends to Council that, due to development pressures, the G. M. Frost Building at the former Turfgrass Institute be added as soon as possible to the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties at their June 2021 meeting."



G. M. Frost Centre (328 Victoria Road South)