

6278 Kingston Road - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

Date: June 15, 2026

To: Toronto Preservation Board

From: Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning

Ward: 25 - Scarborough-Rouge Park

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 6278 Kingston Road under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value according to the Statement of Significance which includes a description of heritage attributes found in Attachment 1.

The subject property at 6278 Kingston Road, known historically as the John Morrish House, is located on the north side of Kingston Road west of Meadowvale Road in the Highland Creek neighbourhood of Scarborough. It contains a 1-storey detached house form building fronting onto Kingston Road. A location map and current photograph of the heritage property are included in Attachment 2.

The property contains a single-storey vernacular Ontario Cottage style house, with a front porch featuring a gable dormer added in 2002. Built c. 1850, the subject property has served as a single-family residence from its construction to the present day and was home to the Morrish family from 1855 until 1984. Since their arrival into the region in 1855, the Morrish family have set deep roots in Scarborough, being the namesake for Morrish Road, which includes the W.D. Morrish Store at 215 Morrish Road (listed), as well as the family's historic connection to a small but significant collection of listed and Part IV designated properties within Scarborough. Standing adjacent to the Part IV designated W.J. Morrish General Store at 6282 Kingston Road, the subject property stands as historical reminder of Highland Creek and Scarborough's agricultural past.

The subject property at 6278 Kingston Road was listed on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on September 27, 2006.

This property is one of eighteen pre-1870 listed properties citywide that have been identified as candidates for designation through the City's implementation of Bill 23 amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and its ongoing prioritization strategy for listed properties. Properties listed on the City's Heritage Register prior to January 1, 2023 will

be deemed removed from the Heritage Register unless they are designated by January 1, 2027.

Part of the City's strategy for the review of listed properties on the Heritage Register includes the procurement of qualified heritage consultants to research, evaluate, and prepare heritage evaluation reports for a subset of listed properties prioritized for designation. City Planning retained the services of Alex Corey Heritage Consulting ("the Consultant") to research and evaluate a citywide group of eighteen pre-1870 listed properties which includes the subject property at 6278 Kingston Road. The Consultant evaluated the subject property and determined that it meets the provincial criteria.

The Consultant's research on the subject property is included in Attachment 3 of this report. The research, analysis, and evaluation contained within Attachment 3 reflect the Consultant's professional expertise and opinion. Staff have independently reviewed the Consultant's research and heritage evaluation and concur with the determination that the property at 6278 Kingston Road has cultural heritage value and meets three of the Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, if it meets two or more of the nine criteria.

Designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the property and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning recommends:

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 6278 Kingston Road under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance for 6278 Kingston Road (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1, to the report (June 15, 2026) from the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning.
2. If there are no objections to the designation, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the Bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council included the subject property at 6278 Kingston Road on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on September 27, 2006.

On October 30, 2024, the Planning and Housing Committee received for information the item 2024.PH16.9 - Updates on Implementation of Bill 23 Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act regarding phase two of the City's response to Bills 23 and 200. This report outlined the citywide prioritization framework developed to prioritize subsets of listed properties located within areas where growth is anticipated for designation under the Act and described the proactive strategy under development that will be used to monitor the listed properties that are deemed removed from the Register after January 1, 2027.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.PH16.9>

POLICY AND REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Provincial Plans and Policies

The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of good planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy and equitable communities. Heritage conservation in Ontario is identified as a provincial interest under the Planning Act. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>

Further, the policies and definitions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) identify the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage evaluation and heritage conservation will be implemented.

[Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/government/planning-development/provincial-planning-statement)

Ontario Regulation 9/06 sets out the criteria for evaluating properties to be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The criteria are based on an evaluation of design/physical value, historical and associative value and contextual value. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>

Official Plan

The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime and provides policies to guide decision making within the City. It contains a number of policies related to properties on the City's Heritage Register and properties adjacent to them, as well as the protection of areas of archaeological potential. The Official Plan should be read as a whole to understand its comprehensive and integrative intent as a policy framework for priority setting and decision making. The Official Plan can be found here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>

Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act and Bill 200, the Homeowner Protection Act

Through Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 ("Bill 23") and again through Bill 200, the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 ("Bill 200"), the Province of Ontario made amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act. These amendments have had implications for non-designated ("listed") properties included on the City's Heritage Register. Listed properties may now only remain on the Register for two years. Properties that were listed prior to January 1, 2023, must be either designated or will be deemed removed from the Register by January 1, 2027. Once removed, Council may not relist a property for five years. Further, Council is prohibited from designating a property that is subject to specified Planning Act applications once the Clerk has provided notice that the City has received a complete application.

The City is currently implementing the Bill 23 and Bill 200 changes to the Act and an update on implementation was provided to the Planning and Housing Committee at their October 30, 2024, meeting.

COMMENTS

Evaluation Analysis

The following evaluation analysis is based on the comprehensive research conducted by the Consultant on the property at 6278 Kingston Road (Attachment 3). The research and heritage evaluation was reviewed by staff, who concur with the Consultant's determinations of cultural heritage value that provide the rationale for the recommendations found in this report.

The property at 6278 Kingston Road meets the following three out of nine criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** the property has design and physical value because it is a representative example of a style and type.
- **Criterion 4:** the property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a person that is significant to a community.
- **Criterion 8:** the property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

For more detailed explanations of how each criterion is met, see Attachments 1-3 for the Statement of Significance; Location Map and Current Photograph; and Research, Evaluation, and Visual Resources for the property at 6278 Kingston Road, as these documents are integral to the recommendations made in this staff report.

CONCLUSION

Staff have independently reviewed the research and heritage evaluations prepared by the Consultant and agree with the determination that the property at 6278 Kingston

Road has cultural heritage value and meets three of the nine criteria as outlined by Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Therefore, the property merits designation and staff recommend that Council designate this property.

The Statement of Significance: 6278 Kingston Road (Reasons for Designation) included as Attachment 1 to this report comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate.

CONTACT

Adrian Gamble, Heritage Planner, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning 416-338-5623; Adrian.Gamble@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mary L. MacDonald, MA, CAHP
Senior Manager, Heritage Planning
Urban Design, City Planning

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation)
Attachment 2 – Location Map and Current Photograph
Attachment 3 – Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)**

The property at 6278 Kingston Road is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value and meets Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria for municipal designation.

Description

The subject property at 6278 Kingston Road is located on the north side of Kingston Road, west of Meadowvale Road, within the Highland Creek neighbourhood of Scarborough. Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the property contains a single-storey vernacular Ontario Cottage style house, with a front porch featuring a gable dormer added in 2002. The subject property has served as a single-family residence from its period of construction to the present day and was home to the Morrish family from 1855 until 1984. The subject property, which was included on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on September 27, 2006, is adjacent to the Part IV designated W.J. Morrish General Store at 6282 Kingston Road.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**Design and Physical Value**

The property at 6278 Kingston Road has design and physical value as it is a representative example of the vernacular Ontario Cottage style within the former village of Highland Creek. The Ontario Cottage style was a Regency-inspired vernacular style prevalent throughout Southern Ontario in the nineteenth century. Features of the style represented at 6278 Kingston Road include its single-storey form, the side-gable roof, and the symmetrical front façade comprising a single door flanked by windows. The cladding (wood board) has been altered but is appropriate for the style, along with the wood window and door trim work.

Historical and Associative Value

The property at 6278 Kingston Road has historical and associative value owing to its direct associations with the Morrish family of Highland Creek and Scarborough, who through multiple generations have had a lasting impact on the development of the local community. John Morrish immigrated to Scarborough Township from Ohio in 1855, settling in Scarborough Township where subsequent generations of the family would operate the Morrish General Store out of the neighbouring property at 6282 Kingston Road. Members of the Morrish family would in subsequent generations expand into surrounding communities and become prominent figures in local businesses and politics. Decedents of John Morrish owned the subject property at 6278 Kingston Road and the neighbouring store at 6282 Kingston Road into the 1980s and were well-known figures within the community.

Contextual Value

Contextually, the property at 6278 Kingston Road is physically, functionally, and visually linked to the adjacent property at 6282 Kingston Road, collectively forming a significant historical tie to Highland Creek and Scarborough's agricultural past. The property's placement on Kingston Road, the primary east-west corridor between Toronto and eastern settlements, is integrally connected to its history and its role as the residence for shopkeepers at the adjacent Morrish General Store, a role it served through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The subject property remains visually linked through its siting and placement to the adjacent property at 6282 Kingston Road, creating a recognizable collection of historic properties at the corner of Kingston Road and Meadowvale Road.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to 6278 Kingston Road being a representative example of the vernacular Ontario Cottage style:

- The scale, form, and massing of the subject property, which contains a single-storey rectangular house form building with rear extension and side-gable roof
- The placement, setback, and orientation of the subject property, which is set-back from the sidewalk on Kingston Road and the side property lines
- The low-pitched side gable roof, with a brick chimney rising from the west façade of the house and protruding above the roof gable ridgeline
- The symmetrical arrangement of the primary (south) façade and pattern of its two segmental arched window openings (two-over-two configuration) on either side of a centered single front door
- The asymmetrical arrangement and pattern of the segmental arched windows on the east and west facades, and the deep eaves

* The front porch addition and cross-gable roof with round window are not identified as heritage attributes.

Contextual Value

Attributes that contribute to 6278 Kingston Road being visually, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings:

- The placement, set-back and orientation of the structure on the north side of Kingston Road west of Meadowvale Road
- The single-storey scale of the primary (south) facade and the visible portions of the secondary (east and west) facades
- The placement in relation to the adjacent Part IV-designated property at 6282 Kingston Road (W.J. Morrish General Store), which together create an important connection to the early settlement history of the Highland Creek community

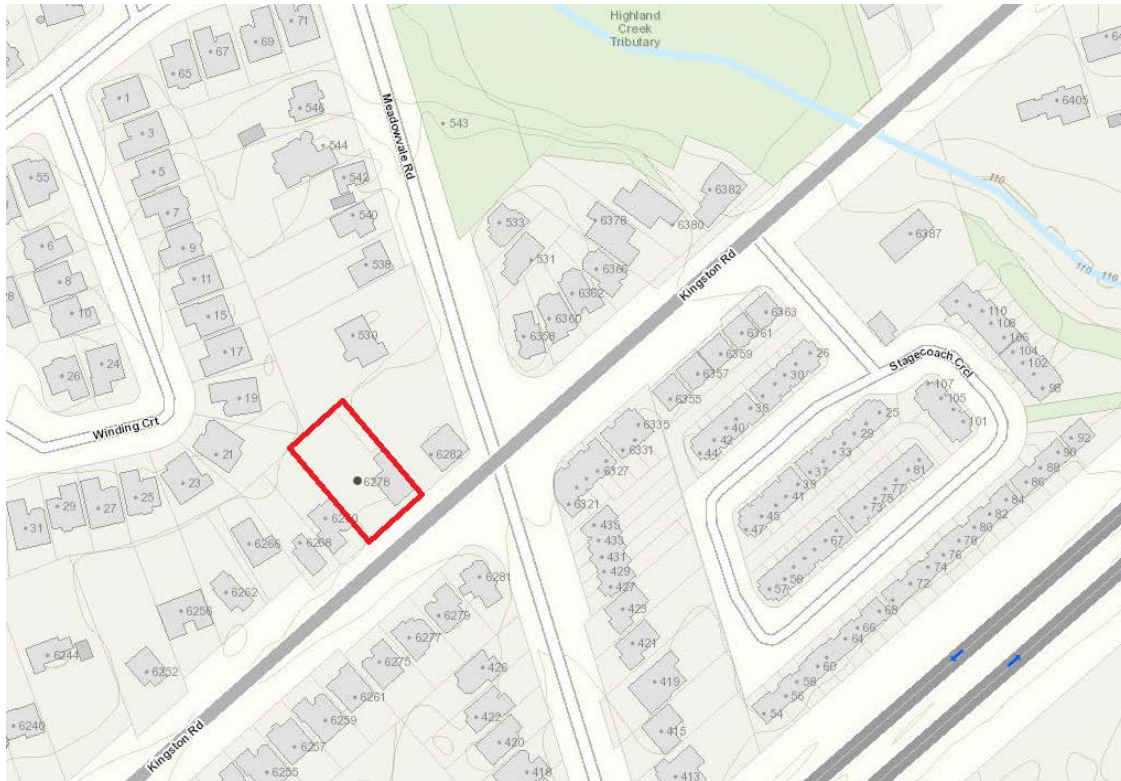
6278 Kingston Road

Figure 1. This location map is for information purposes only. The exact boundaries of the property are not shown. The red outline depicts the location of the subject property (City of Toronto iView Mapping, 2025).



Figure 2. 6278 Kingston Road, looking northeast (Alex Corey, August 2025).

6278 Kingston Road

In undertaking this research and evaluation, we recognize that the area now known as the City of Toronto is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit (1805), and the Williams Treaties (1923) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Figure 3. 6278 Kingston Road, looking north (Alex Corey, August 2025).

1. DESCRIPTION

6278 KINGSTON ROAD (JOHN MORRISH HOUSE)	
ADDRESS	6278 Kingston Road
WARD	25 - Scarborough-Rouge Park
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	Highland Creek
CONSTRUCTION DATE	c. 1850
ORIGINAL USE	Residential
CURRENT USE* (*This does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined by the Zoning By-law	Residential
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/DESIGNER	Unknown
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	Front verandah & dormer (2002)
LISTING DATE	September 27, 2006

2. ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06 CHECKLIST:

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The following checklist identifies the prescribed criteria met by the subject property at 6278 Kingston Road for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if the property meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

The evaluation table is marked "N/A" if the criterion is "not applicable" to the property or "✓" if it is applicable to the property.

6278 Kingston Road

1.	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.	✓
2.	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A
3.	The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A
4.	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.	✓
5.	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.	N/A
6.	The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	N/A
7.	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	N/A
8.	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	✓
9.	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	N/A

3. RESEARCH

This section of the report describes the history, architecture and context of the property. Visual resources related to the research are located in Section 4 (Visual Resources). Archival and contemporary sources for the research are found in Section 5 (List of Sources).

Indigenous Communities

For time immemorial, Toronto has been home to Indigenous peoples. Ojibway oral histories speak of Ice People, who lived at a time when ice covered the land.¹ Following the retreat of glaciers approximately 13,000 years ago, small groups of Indigenous peoples moved from place to place, hunting and gathering the food they needed according to the seasons. Over millennia, they adapted to dramatically changing environmental conditions, developing and acquiring new technologies as they did so. Waterways and the lake were vital sources of fresh water and nourishment, and shorelines and nearby areas were important sites for gathering, trading, hunting, fishing, and ceremonies. Long-distance trade moved valuable resources across the land.

After maize and squash were introduced to Southern Ontario, by approximately 500 CE, horticulture began to supplement food sources. By 1300 CE, villages focused on growing food became year-round settlements surrounded by crops. These villages were home to ancestors of the Huron-Wendat Nation, who would continue to occupy increasingly larger villages in the Toronto area and beyond. These villages were connected to well-established travel routes which were part of local and long-distance trail networks, including the Carrying Place trails on the Don, Rouge and Humber rivers that connected Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. Beads made from seashells from the eastern seaboard were found at the Alexandra site in North York, which was a community of 800-1000 people in approximately 1350.

By 1600, the Wendat had formed a confederation of individual nations, and had concentrated most of their villages away from Lake Ontario, in the Georgian Bay area. Following contact with French explorers and missionaries in Southern Ontario in the early 1600s, European diseases decimated First Nations. Competition for furs to trade with Europeans and the desire to replenish numbers through absorption of captives, among other factors², contributed to the Beaver Wars, which after 1640, saw the Haudenosaunee Confederacy expand into Southern Ontario, dispersing the Wendat. Within the boundaries of today's Toronto, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy then occupied villages on the Carrying Place trails on the Humber and Rouge Rivers from approximately the 1660s to the 1680s.

In the late 1680s, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy chose to leave their village in the Toronto area and returned to their homelands in upstate New York. As evidenced by the 1701 Great Peace of Montreal, the 1701 Nanfan Treaty, and the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Haudenosaunee continued to have an interest in the resources of the area.

Anishinaabe people from the Lake Superior region then moved into the Toronto area. While the Wendat and Haudenosaunee people lived in year-round villages surrounded by crops, the Anishinaabe people continued to live primarily by seasonally moving across the land to hunt, fish and gather resources that were available at a specific time, including migrating birds and maple syrup. To the west of Toronto, the Anishinaabe

1 With thanks to Philip Cote for the reference to Benton-Banai, Edward, *The Mishomis book: The voice of the Ojibway* (Indian Country Press, 1985), p. 26.

2 <https://histindigenouspeoples.pressbooks.tru.ca/chapter/chapter-5-colonial-wars-looking-east>; Gary Warrick, "The Aboriginal Population of Ontario in Late Pre-history," in Munson and Jamieson, eds., *Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), p. 72.

people became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. To the east, they became known as the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island.³

In 1787, as the British began to prepare for an influx of colonists into the area following the American Revolution, the British Crown negotiated the Toronto Purchase with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to obtain title to the land. The flawed and poorly documented agreement was invalidated, and Treaty 13 was negotiated in 1805 for lands now including much of the City of Toronto. In 1923, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Williams Treaties for over 20,000 km², including portions of eastern Toronto, with seven First Nations of the Chippewa of Lake Simcoe (Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama) and the Mississauga of the north shore of Lake Ontario (Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island).

The Mississaugas, Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, or the Wendat did not traditionally regard land as a commodity to be sold. Following the Toronto Purchase, the British government quickly set out to survey the land into lots which were either sold or granted into private ownership of settlers. In 2010, the Government of Canada settled the Toronto Purchase Claim with the Mississaugas of the Credit after agreeing that the Mississaugas were originally unfairly compensated. In 2018, the Williams Treaties First Nations settled litigation about land surrenders and harvesting rights with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

The City of Toronto remains the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is also covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with seven Mississaugas and Chippewa First Nations.

i. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The following section outlines the history and facts related to the properties which are the basis for determining historical or associative value of Criteria 4, 5 or 6 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

Scarborough Township and the Village of Highland Creek

Located to the east of the old City of Toronto and the former Town of York, Scarborough Township was a rural community settled in 1796. Through the nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, Scarborough was a primarily rural and agricultural community comprising a collection of towns, villages, and settlements stitched together by roads running along concession lines and interspersed with farms, market gardens, and undeveloped land.

The first recorded settler to establish a homestead in Scarborough Township was David Thomson, along with his wife, Mary. Scottish immigrants who arrived in York in 1796,

³ Mississaugas of the Credit, "The History of Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation." n.d.

David and Mary were soon joined by David's brothers, both employed in the building trades, who built homes for their respective families and are credited with the construction of the Township's early fieldstone cottages and barns.⁴ However, many of the early and later homes were built of simple wood framing with clapboard siding, a more economic building material requiring less skilled trades.

While the Thomson family were the first settlers recorded to establish homesteads in Scarborough Township, Highland Creek was the first formally established community, founded on the banks of Highland Creek north of Lake Ontario and located on the former eastward extension of The Governor's Road that was cleared by the American engineer Asa Danforth beginning in 1799 to connect the Town of York with eastern settlements. The rough-cut road laid out by Danforth was re-surveyed in 1815 and expanded, at which time it was renamed Kingston Road.⁵

Like many rural communities, Highland Creek's initial settlement and growth were largely driven by the harnessing of the creek's waters for grist, flour, and sawmills. The Helliwell family purchased land in the area in 1818 and expanded their holdings in 1847. By 1850, the community had 23 sawmills with lumber floated down the river to docks at Cornell's Landing.⁶ The surge in industrial activity was short lived, however, as clearcutting exhausted local resources and the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway (1853-1859) blocked maritime access to Highland Creek and Cornell's Landing.

The Village of Highland Creek received a post office in 1852, establishing it as a formal community and hub of commercial activity within Scarborough Township. Although the geographic advantage Highland Creek had in relation to maritime shipping diminished with the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway, the village's location at the intersection of Danforth Road and Kingston Road provided an alternative means to deliver agricultural goods to market, as well as economic activity from traffic along Kingston Road, which remained the primary east-west corridor between Toronto and eastern settlements into the twentieth century.

The Morrish Family

The scion of Scarborough's Morrish family, John Morrish, arrived in Scarborough Township from Ohio in 1855; oral family histories suggest that the existing structure at 6278 Kingston Road was already there when Morrish settled in Highland Village, however this has not been independently verified.⁷

William James Morrish (1854-1924) was the first-born surviving son of John Morrish, just one year old when John moved the family to Scarborough from Ohio. William married Amelia Alice Stotts (1867-1922), daughter of a neighbouring family in Highland

4 Ontario Heritage Trust. "The Thomson Settlement." Accessed August 14, 2025.
<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/plaques/thomson-settlement>.

5 Scarborough Historical Society. "Highland Creek." Accessed August 14, 2025.
<https://scarboroughhistorical.ca/local-history/communities/highland-creek/>

6 Toronto Historical Association. Lower Highland Creek. Accessed August 14, 2025.
<http://www.torontohistory.net/lower-highland-creek/>

7 Email from Rick Scholfield, Chair, Scarborough Historical Society & Archives to Adrian Gamble, Heritage Planner, City of Toronto, April 25, 2025.

Creek, in 1884 and constructed a board and batten cottage for their family on Kingston Road east of Franklin Street soon after.

William opened the adjacent Morrish General Store on Kingston Road in the 1880s, supplying hardware, dry goods, boots, shoes, and farm machinery to the primarily agricultural community of Highland Creek. Morrish built the current commercial structure at 6282 Kingston Road in 1890 as business prospered; in 1914 he added a fuel pump to the property, the first and only gas station between Toronto and Whitby at the time.⁸

William retired from the business in 1919, with two of his sons (Roy and Charles), assuming operations. After Amelia's death in 1922, and William's in 1924, Charles moved to the community of Cherrywood, with five of the eight siblings moving to the family home and store to assist in running the business.

Dorothy Edna Morrish, the second youngest of the eight Morrish children and sister to Roy, married Newton Foster in 1942. Newton was a chemical engineer residing in the Beaches neighbourhood at the time of their wedding.⁹ Land registry records indicate that in 1948 Dorothy received title to 6278 Kingston Road, and she and Newton moved into the house. Dorothy and Newton welcomed a daughter in 1944, Susan Amelia Foster, with the three of them appearing on voters lists at the property through to at least 1968.

Both the residence at 6278 Kingston Road and the former Morrish General Store at 6282 Kingston Road remained in the Morrish family into the second half of the twentieth century. It was not until nearly a decade after Dorothy's death, in 1984, that the subject property was transferred to new owners, Janet and Ronald Giblin, who subsequently sold the property to the current owners in 1998.¹⁰ As of the time of this report, the subject property remains a private residence.

ii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following section provides an architectural description and analysis related to the property which will establish the basis for determining design or physical value of Criteria 1, 2 or 3 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The subject property at 6278 Kingston Road contains a single-storey detached house form building designed in the vernacular Ontario Cottage style built in the mid-nineteenth century. The structure comprises a side gable single-storey rectangular volume with rear L-shaped extension fronting onto the north side of Kingston Road, with a cross-gable single-storey volume extending at the rear.

The house faces onto Kingston Road with a symmetrical façade comprised of a centered primary entrance flanked by two segmental arched openings of two-over-two hung windows. The visible east and west facades are asymmetrical and contain

⁸ The Villager, Highland Creek, Ontario. May-June 1991.

⁹ Marriage registration for Dorothy Edna Morrish and Newton Foster (1942), Ontario, Marriages. Accessed August 15, 2025 via Ancestry.ca.

¹⁰ Ontario Land Registry Records. 6278 and 6282 Kingston Road. OnLand.

segmental arched window openings with deep eaves above. The house is clad in board-and-batten cedar plank siding, with an asphalt roof. A covered porch (constructed in 2002) extends the front of the house with a low-pitched roof supported by wooden columns and ornamental wooden brackets. The front gable dormer with circular gable window was added at the same time.

The Ontario Cottage style was a Regency-inspired vernacular style prevalent throughout Southern Ontario in the nineteenth century. In its simplest form, the style is comprised of a single-storey, hipped-roof rectangular plan house with a symmetrical front façade comprising a single centered primary entrance flanked by windows. The cladding material (brick, stone, or wood board), and the extent of ornamentation, reflected both local conditions and materials, as well as the economic means of the builder and/or inhabitant. The John Morrish House at 6278 Kingston Road is a representative example of the Ontario Cottage style, maintaining its single-storey massing, symmetrical front façade, and side gable roof.

iii. CONTEXT

The following section provides contextual information and analysis related to the property which is the basis for determining contextual value of Criteria 7, 8 or 9 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The City of Toronto Property Data Map attached (Attachment 2) shows the site of the property at 6278 Kingston Road.

The community of Highland Creek is in the southeast section of the borough of Scarborough. While historically a formal settlement with a village centre located to the west of the subject property on the banks of Highland Creek, the present-day community is primarily suburban residential in character, comprised of arterial roads (Highway 2A, Kingston Road, Ellesmere Road, Highway 401, and Morningside Avenue) encompassing low-density post-war neighbourhoods.

While few geographical traces of Highland Creek's agricultural past remain, including natural systems such as the Highland Creek and its encompassing parks, as well as historic roads such as Military/Colonel Danforth Trail and Old Kingston Road, there are several properties on the Heritage Register which reflect the area's historic context:

- 6282 Kingston Road: W.J. Morrish Store, 1890. Part IV Designated.
- 6170 Kingston Road: Walnut Trees at Falcon Inn. Part IV Designated.
- 215 Morrish Road: W.D. Morrish Store, date unknown. Listed.
- 200 Morrish Road: St. Joseph's Cemetery. Listed.
- 1458 Military Trail: Thomas Elliot House, date unknown. Listed.
- 1410 Military Trail: Highland Creek School, 1918. Part IV Designated.
- 726 Meadowvale Road: Adams-Hawkins House, c.1855. Part IV Designated.
- 6502 Kingston Road: Knowel House, date unknown. Listed.
- 6550 Kingston Road: Centennial Church, 1891. Part IV Designated.

The present-day context of 6278 Kingston Road is an evolved suburban residential landscape, with only a few visual markers of the property's agricultural past in the



Figure 5. Kingston Road, Highland Creek, 1909. Toronto Public Library.



Figure 6. John Morrish House, looking northeast from Kingston Road, c. mid-20th century, Scarborough Historical Society.



Figure 7. John Morrish House, looking northwest from Kingston Road, c. mid-20th century, Scarborough Historical Society.



Figure 8. Aerial photograph with Kingston Road and Highway 2A running diagonally from left to right, with the subject property indicated by the red arrow, 1953, City of Toronto Archives.



Figure 9. 6278 Kingston Road (John Morrish House) and 6282 Kingston Road (W.J. Morrish Store), looking northeast (Alex Corey, August 2025).



Figure 10. 6278 Kingston Road, looking northwest (Alex Corey, August 2025).

5. LIST OF SOURCES

ARCHIVAL SOURCES

- City of Toronto Archives.
- City of Toronto Building Records.
- Ontario Land Property Records Portal. <https://www.onland.ca/ui/>. Accessed August 16, 2025.
- Scarborough Historical Society.
- Toronto Public Library Digital Archives.
- University of Toronto Map and Data Library.

SECONDARY SOURCES

- Email from Rick Scholfield, Chair, Scarborough Historical Society & Archives to Adrian Gamble, Heritage Planner, City of Toronto, April 25, 2025.
- Marriage Records, "Dorothy Edna Morrish" and "Newton Foster (1942)," Ontario, Marriages, Ancestry.ca. Accessed on August 15, 2025.
- Ontario Heritage Trust. "The Thomson Settlement." <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/plaques/thomson-settlement>. Accessed August 14, 2025.
- Scarborough Historical Society. "Highland Creek." <https://scarboroughhistorical.ca/local-history/communities/highland-creek/>. Accessed August 14, 2025.
- The Villager, Highland Creek, Ontario. May-June 1991.
- Toronto Historical Association. Lower Highland Creek. <http://www.torontohistory.net/lower-highland-creek/>. Accessed August 14, 2025.