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Planning &  
Development Services  
Tel. 905-683-4550  
Fax. 905-683-0360

TOWN OF AJAX  
65 Harwood Avenue South  
Ajax ON L1S 2H9  
www.townofajax.com

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

July 13, 2018

JUL 17 2018

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DESIGNATE  
A PROPERTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

**RECEIVED**

**Owner:** Town of Ajax

**Purpose:** The Town of Ajax intends to designate the Quaker Meeting House (457 Kingston Road West) as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

**Location:** 457 Kingston Road West  
(Southwest corner of Kingston Road and Mill Street)

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax intends to designate the Quaker Meeting House at 457 Kingston Road West as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.18, as amended 2005.

**ANY OBJECTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2018.**

Objections can be filed in writing with the Town Clerk, Legislative and Information Services, Town Hall, 65 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax ON L1S 2H9.

**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

**Description of Property**

The Quaker Meeting House is a large, single-storey congregational brick building located at 457 Kingston Road West in Ajax, Ontario, at the eastern edge of Pickering Village. It is situated toward the rear of a roughly one-acre lot that forms the southwestern corner of the intersection between Kingston Road and Mill Street. The building, which exhibits a simple American Classic Revival design, was constructed in 1867 by the Orthodox Society of Friends (Quakers) and has enjoyed a long history of community use.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The cultural heritage value of the Quaker Meeting House resides in its historical associations, its architecture and in helping to define the historic character of the Pickering Village area. It is one of few remaining purpose-built Quaker Meeting houses in the Province of Ontario.

**Historical Value**

The Quaker Meeting House is historically significant for its association with the settlement of local Quakers, its connection to Timothy Rogers and its long history of community use. The Meeting House was constructed by the Orthodox Society of Friends (also known as the Quakers) to replace an earlier frame meeting house structure built on the same lands. The structure provides a physical representation of the Quakers' legacy of pacifism, modesty and kindness in early Pickering Township and is associated with the first Yearly Meeting in Canada of the Society of Friends, Orthodox Branch, in 1867. The lands on which the building was constructed were donated by Mr. Timothy Rogers, who was a prominent figure in the early history of Pickering Village and one of the first Quaker settlers in the region. Before a meeting house was constructed, the Quakers would meet at Mr. Rogers' property in his log home. With the decline of the Quaker population in the area, the building was auctioned and purchased by the local

Lodge of Freemasons in 1942. Many well-known residents of Pickering Township and nearby areas were among the founding members of the Doric Pickering Masonic Lodge No. 424 GRC. The Masons stewarded the property for approximately three generations and their presence is part of the property's long history of community use. The property was purchased by the Town of Ajax in 2015.

#### Design Value

The building is architecturally significant for its simple American Classic Revival features, its architectural symmetry and its atypical design when compared to other Ontario Quaker Meeting Houses. Its design provides a very tall volume of space, which is notably different from the lower, single-storey frame construction of other meeting houses of the same period. This unique design reflects the stature and resourcefulness of the Pickering Quaker community and has allowed for a greater variety of reuse options and adaptations over time. The detailed but unadorned common bond brickwork of the exterior walls, the simple free-laid stone foundation and the consistently-spaced, symmetrical, round-headed window openings evoke the restraint, solidity and dignity of the Quaker way of life. The semicircular arched transom panel and front wood door provide a focal point around which the symmetry revolves. This formal hierarchy enforces the importance of the building's function. Other significant features include the simple yet well-crafted architectural detailing of the full arch, segmental arch and jack arch brick lintels and the remaining early window components. The building's unique Dutch-gable roof was constructed in place of the simple gable roof that existed up until the building experienced a fire in 1908.

#### Contextual Value

Contextually, the building is significant for its association with, and location across from, the Friends Cemetery, which is also on land donated by Timothy Rogers. This cemetery is the final resting place of Mr. Rogers, his wife, and several of his children. The meeting house is located approximately half a kilometre east of the Pickering Village Heritage Conservation District, nearby other sites of significance to the Quakers including the site of the original Pickering College (established by the Quaker community in 1878). The building is prominently located on a regional road (Kingston Road) and its scale and materiality (red brick, limestone, wood) complement other significant historic buildings in the area.

#### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key attributes that express the heritage value of the Quaker Meeting House include:

##### Exterior:

- the general footprint, massing, form and siting of the building on the property;
- the pure simplicity of the design and symmetrical fenestration arrangement, which reflect the beliefs and character of the Quaker community;
- American Classic Revival stylistic references as evidenced in:
  - Well-balanced symmetrical North façade;
  - Arched door and window openings; and
  - minimal external detailing.
- the crafted but unadorned brick construction, most of which is thought to be original to 1867;
- the general fenestration pattern and the glass and wood frames of the following windows, which are original to the 1908 reconstruction:
  - North elevation: all four large, round-arched wood sash windows with 9 x 9 light configurations;
  - East elevation: the two central wood sash windows with 8 x 8 light configurations and the upper storey round-arched wood sash windows with 6 x 6 light configurations; and
  - South elevation: the two remaining large, round-arched wood sash windows with 9 x 9 light configurations.
- the original iron shutter hooks along the window openings, which are the only reminder of the existence of window shutters prior to the 1908 fire; and
- the simple, wood front entry door with arched transom constructed as a replica of the original front door assembly.

Interior:

- the original, solid-wood front door, which is now used as the interior door to the banquet hall;
- the interior components of the remaining windows described under the exterior elements above;
- the 1908 pressed decorative metal ceiling tiles and mouldings in the lodge and banquet rooms; and
- the original chestnut benches in the lodge room given by the Pennsylvania Quakers as a contribution to the reconstruction following the 1908 fire.

Landscape:

- its location at the southwestern corner of Kingston Road and Mill Street, which are both significant roads in the history of Pickering Village;
- its visibility from Kingston Road and resulting landmark status; and
- the sightlines from the building to the Friends Cemetery on the opposite side of Mill Street.

Further information with respect to the proposed designation can be obtained by contacting Mike Sawchuck, Senior Planner, at 905-619-2529 x3200 or [michael.sawchuck@ajax.ca](mailto:michael.sawchuck@ajax.ca).

Sincerely,



Mike Sawchuck, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

Cc: Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3