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TOWN OF AJAX
65 Harwood Avenue South
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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

SEP 25 2018

September 20, 2018

RECEIVED

**NOTICE OF DESIGNATION FOR A PROPERTY OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST: BY-LAW NO. 53-2018**

Owner: Town of Ajax

Purpose: Designation of 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)

On September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (Town Hall), the Town of Ajax Council passed By-law No. 53-2018 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. A copy of By-Law No. 53-2018 is attached.

Further information with respect to the designation of the Quaker Meeting House can be obtained by contacting Mike Sawchuck, Senior Planner, at 905-619-2529 x3200 or michael.sawchuck@ajax.ca.

Sincerely,

Mike Sawchuck, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

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

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AJAX

BY-LAW NUMBER 53-2018

A By-law to designate the Quaker Meeting House located at 457 Kingston Road West, known as Concession 1, Part Lot 13 on Reference Plan 40R-D128, as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Town of Ajax is the registered owner of the property known as the Quaker Meeting House being more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto (the "Property");

AND WHEREAS The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax has caused to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust a Notice of Intention to so designate the Property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS no person has served a notice of objection to the proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the Council has considered the recommendations of the Ajax Heritage Advisory Committee with respect to this matter.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax ENACTS as follows:

1. THAT the Property be designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B", attached hereto.
2. THAT this designation shall not preclude any changes that may be deemed necessary for the efficient use of the property provided that any changes shall be in keeping with the current character of the property and shall be carried out in consultation with the Ajax Heritage Advisory Committee.
3. THAT the Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the Property in the land registry office.
4. THAT the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause Notice of Passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

READ a first time and second time this
Seventeenth day of September, 2018.

READ a third time and passed this
Seventeenth day of September, 2018.



Mayor



D-Clerk

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 53-2018

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN 26441-0051 (LT). Part Lot 13 Concession 1 Pickering as in D381054 Except Part 4 Plan 40RD128; Town of Ajax.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 53-2018

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST FOR THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

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.