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2022 02 18



## Notice of Intention to Designate

TAKE NOTICE that the Council for the Town of Caledon intends to designate the following property as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18:

### **16847 Heart Lake Road**

**PIN: 14290-0054 (LT) – Part of Lot 8, Concession 3, EHS, Caledon, Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8, Plan 43R17948; Town of Caledon; Regional Municipality of Peel.**

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The property at 16847 Heart Lake Road is within the western half of Lot 8, Concession 3, EHS, Caledon Township, Town of Caledon. Parts 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Lot 8 represent a 60.0178-acre parcel of land on the eastern side of Heart Lake Road, situated roughly halfway between Escarpment Side Road to the north and The Grange Side Road to the south. It contains an 1870s-1880s bank barn, laneway, 1989 cookhouse converted to a dwelling, two camp/ranch cabins, stone building ruins, outbuildings and landscape features remnant to the 19<sup>th</sup> century farm and subsequent 20<sup>th</sup> century usage for children's summer camp Rainbow Valley Ranch. The 20<sup>th</sup> century dwelling, stone ruins, and other modern outbuildings were found to be of no heritage merit.

The property is located east of the historic village of Silver Creek. A branch of the Credit River intersects at the boundary between the west and east halves of Lot 8.

### **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

The historical or associative value of this property within the west part of Lot 8, Concession 3, EHS, Caledon Township, is found in its direct association with two early Irish families in Caledon Township, John Davis and George Wilson. The farm was likely developed by John Davis before his death in 1858 and by his son Robert to 1875. It was not owned by a Davis but may have been occupied by consent or in conjunction with the Wilsons who lived on the south abutting Lot 7, Concession 3, EHS. Both owned other farm acreages in Caledon Township. The property also has a direct association with a summer outdoors camp founded in 1946 and experienced by many boys and girls until closing in 1990.

The design or physical value of this property rests with the bank barn, as it was reconfigured and enlarged in the 1870s-1880s; with the traditional, long laneway running east/west from Heart Lake Road to the barn; and with the two remnant cabins associated with the use of the property as a children's camp or ranch. The large size of the barn, at 95 ft. by 45 ft., makes it a unique and representative example of a style, type, and construction method involving the reconfiguration of an older agricultural building or buildings to suit the changing needs of a family-owned farming operation.

The design of the bank barn with its saltbox form and overhang may exhibit Pennsylvania-German or Swiss-German cultural influence, suggesting its original construction and/or 1870s-1880s reconfiguration is the work of an itinerant barn builder or someone local with this cultural background and barn building expertise. The barn may also be the product of the enlargement

and addition of an overhang for convenience that inadvertently achieved the Pennsylvania-German or Swiss-German form and style. The evolution in the size, framing, openings, siding, and other elements also is representative of the continuing adaptive reuse of an agricultural building, in this case, to a 1940s children's camp dormitory and recreation hall, and to a wedding venue after 2006. The two cabins that accommodated the children reflect the philosophy of the camp/ranch owners to provide a rustic adventure experience. The long, east/west laneway between the barn and Heart Lake Road has existed since at least 1877 and is a good example of a traditional farm lane.

Contextually, this property is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the rural agricultural character of this area. It is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as a 60.0178 parcel of land within the original 100 acres of the farmstead.

## **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

The heritage attributes of this property are the bank barn, two cabins, and the laneway. For the reasons given in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, the barn, cabins, and laneway support the historical or associative, design or physical, and contextual values of this property. The principal characteristics of these attributes are as follows:

### **Barn**

- Overall form, massing, and design elements as a Pennsylvania-German/Swiss German bank barn with an overhang
- Evidence such as builder's hardware (locks, hinges, latches, etc.), siding, timber framing, stonework, flooring, doors, sashes, pole rafters, roof sheathing and other components that provide clues to the pre 1870s-1880s state of the barn or barns (before the reconfiguration to its current large size with an overhang)
- Builder's hardware (locks, hinges, latches, etc.), siding, framing, stonework, flooring, doors, sashes, and other components original to the 1870s-1880s state of the barn when in agricultural use (after the 1870s-1880s reconfiguration and before conversion to camp use in 1946)
- 95 ft. by 45 ft. size of the barn
- Medium pitched gable roof and saltbox form
- All window and door openings related to its function as a barn
- All 19<sup>th</sup> century rubblestone work including walls and buttresses
- All components of the timber framing
- Placement against a natural slope rising to the east
- Evidence of its use as a dormitory and recreation area for children between 1946 and 1990, such as writing on the walls and other fixed memorabilia

## **Two Cabins**

- Rectangular form
- Medium pitched gable roof
- Frame construction
- Open foundation comprised of concrete posts
- Original door and window openings
- Exterior horizontal wall cladding with vertical cornerboards
- Components of the original stairway accesses with a wood slat handrailing
- Original location of site as part of a row of five cabins

## **Laneway**

- The existence of an east/west laneway between the barn and the road allowance

## **CONTACT**

Any person may, within thirty days of the publication of this notice, serve the Clerk notice of their objection to the proposed designation in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts.

By email:  
Laura Hall  
Director, Corporate Services/Town Clerk  
[laura.hall@caledon.ca](mailto:laura.hall@caledon.ca)

By mail, courier or personal delivery attention:  
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