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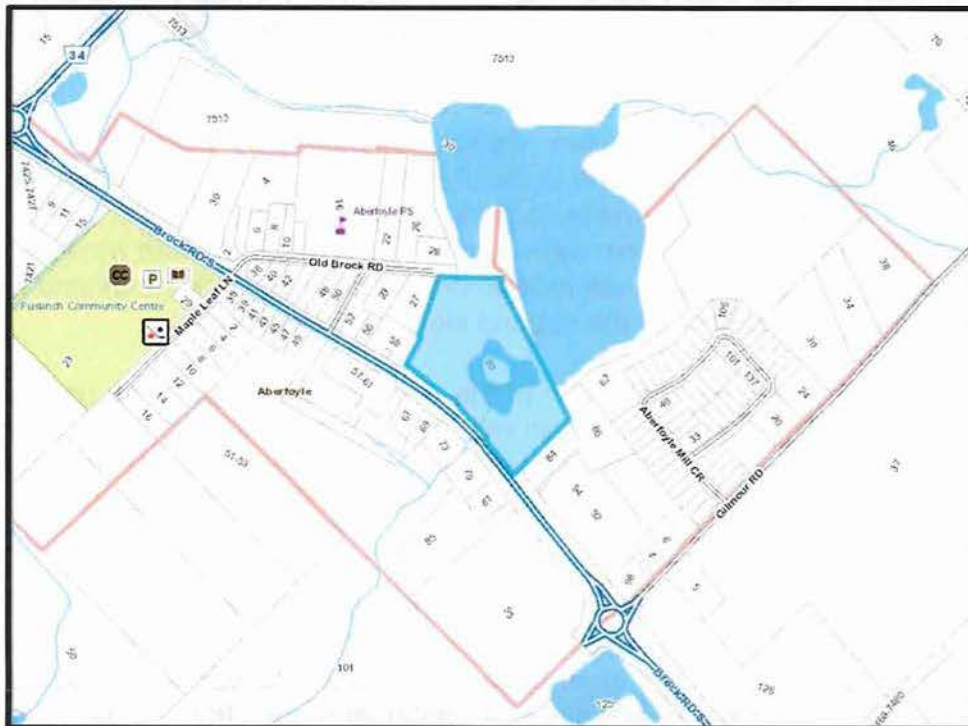


THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 80 Brock Road South, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate 80 Brock Road S, Puslinch as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2023-392.

Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Front Concession 8 Lot 22, municipally known as 80 Brock Road S.



(Key Map Showing Location of 80 Brock Road S)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 80 Brock Rd S, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value stemming from its association with the grist milling history of the Township. This value is retained in the large brick mill complex and pond on site. The property's architectural value lies in its design and singular presence in the Township. Built initially in 1863 by George McLean, and subsequently rebuilt in 1869 by him following a fire, it remains the only extant grist mill structure in Puslinch. The mill architecture is in excellent condition. Situated in the heart of Aberfoyle, the property is located alongside other heritage

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residences and industries that were established during the mid-1800s in connection with the mill. The property's significance is further seen by its transformation into a restaurant in later years, effectively highlighting its enduring importance and adaptability over time. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value. The property is listed on the Township of Puslinch Municipal Heritage Register and has received a plaque from the Township's Heritage Committee for its cultural heritage value.

Design Value:

The property showcases a grist mill complex. The primary structure consists of a tall two-and-a-half-storey rectangular building. A one and one-half storey smaller brick wing is attached on the south side. Both buildings are rendered in yellow brick from the Morriston brickyards, laid in common bond by local mason James Freed. A small one-storey fieldstone and board and batten shed is attached to the north side of the building. The rear of the complex has had several additions. A one and one-half storey fieldstone section remains at the rear that appears to date from the 1869 building based on archival photographs.

The main building has a Georgian design: rectangular, side-gabled form with symmetrically placed multi-paned and vertically sashed windows. The front facade has four, six over six paned windows on the second story; with three identical windows placed directly below on the first floor. The main entrance lies below the fourth window. Italianate ornamentation on these fenestrations include details such as brick labels and stops, and brick soldier lintels with dentils on the second storey side windows.

The one and one-half storey brick wing of the complex was reportedly used for drying grain. It has two smaller windows with four over four panes on the front facade, and three on the side facade. A lower six over six paned window with a brick label and stop is on the front facade and on the side facade. An entrance is in the rear corner of this structure.

Historical/Associative Value:

The property, situated at Lot 22 Front Concession 8, saw the construction of the present grist mill in 1869 after a fire burnt down the original 1863 building in 1866. The building and its reconstruction were undertaken by owner George McLean, who also dug out the mill raceway. The mill products achieved international recognition: its oatmeal received a gold medal for its high quality at the 1867 World's Fair in Paris, France. During George McLean's ownership, the mill was called "The Puslinch Mills" and was subsequently named "The Aberfoyle Mill." Throughout its history, the mill serviced a significant number of Puslinch farmers, and served as an industrial anchor to the growing Village of Aberfoyle. The building passed through the hands of numerous proprietors and millers during its active years. Among them were W.H. McDonald, R.B. Morison, Herbert Hamersley, and its final owner, James Murphy.

By the 1960s, the property had been acquired by the Owens Family, who transformed the mill building into a restaurant. It continues in that capacity today as the "Aberfoyle Mill Restaurant".

Contextual Value:

Due to the property's function, many early settlers were drawn to establish their residences near the mill which was essential to their farm economy. The property is in close proximity to numerous other heritage properties situated in the Aberfoyle area of the Township such as the Malcolm McBeath, John Hammersley, and Peter McLaren houses, and the 1857 house built for George McLean across the road from the mill, known today as "The Miller's House." Additionally, the property is closely situated to other buildings that provided essential services for the Aberfoyle area during the 19th century, including a blacksmith and wagon shop, and the Aberfoyle Schoolhouse. Given its pivotal role in enhancing the area's prosperity and its later reputation as a restaurant, the property is a landmark, and the most significant heritage structure in the community.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 80 Brock Rd S:

Aberfoyle Mill:

- Height, scale, and form of 1869 two and a half storey brick building and one and one-half storey brick wing
- Yellow brick exterior walls
- Original fenestration, with brick labels and stops
- Extant original doors and wood windows
- Original stone foundation walls and rear fieldstone stone section

Notice of Objection

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024. The Township is providing a six-week commenting period due to the holiday season. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the Township of Puslinch, and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Township of Puslinch shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation bylaw must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation bylaw which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the bylaw may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

Dated December 14, 2023

Justine Brotherston
Interim Municipal Clerk
Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner

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