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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate 4614 Wellington Rd 32, 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 O.18. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2023-392.

Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Rear Concession 3 Lot 5, municipally known as 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 4614 Wellington Rd 32)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value owing to its association with German settlement and religious history in the Township. The centerpiece of the property is a red stone church, notable for its architectural value derived from the creative use of limestone in its construction. Furthermore, the church has played a vital role as a gathering place for various

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denominations over the years, serving the spiritual needs of the diverse community in Puslinch. Its historical significance is further emphasized by its long-standing service to the residents, making it a cherished location with a rich and meaningful past. 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.

Design Value:

The property's building stands as a representative example of a one-story brick rural style church. This design is characterized by a rectangular floor plan, an end-gabled roof, and exceptionally rare and original 12 by 12 sash-style windows. Notably, the lintels on the west wall are crafted from red brick in a soldier style, while those on the east wall are made of limestone. Moreover, the east wall's windows boast an elegant outline of limestone brick, lending it a truly unique appearance. The exterior walls are predominantly constructed with red brick, yet the quoined corners stand out in limestone, creating a striking contrast in both material and color. Additionally, there have been later additions on the west wall and back façade.

Historical/Associative Value:

The property, located at Lot 5, Rear Concession 3, had its church built on land originally belonging to Jacob Cober, a descendant of German Pennsylvanian Mennonite, Nicholas Cober Sr. In 1868, Jacob and representatives of several families and denominations drew up an agreement that would establish a union church on this land. By 1874, the church was erected. The church was shared among different groups, with the Mennonite Brethren in Christ using it on two Sundays per month, and the Tunkers and Mennonites using it on the remaining Sundays. The German Baptists, however, used the church minimally and had the smallest congregation among the population. Around 1924, the church was eventually closed and fell into neglect and disrepair for a long time.

In the 1950s, the church was restored by many descendants of the original members and leaders. The first burial in the cemetery beside the church was that of Anna, daughter of Rev. Neils Peter Holm and his wife Susanna Cober in 1867, before it was officially designated as a cemetery. There have been 56 known burials in the cemetery, although many of the headstones have since disappeared. The last burial took place in 1930, but the site was not officially "closed" for burials until 1969.

Contextual Value:

The property along Concession 3 defines the character of the area, showcasing the significant efforts of German settlers during its early establishment. Despite being in close proximity to original British family residences like Robert Little, Peter Stewart, and John McCormick houses, the church on the property represents that German settlement took place around the Township, rather than in more typical areas like Morriston.

Moreover, the property has served as a landmark for generations of Mennonites, Tunkers, and German Brethren who used the church for services and other civil activities. Consequently, the church stands as a symbol of the German community's historical and current presence in Puslinch.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4614 Wellington Rd 32:

Puslinch Mennonite/ United Brethren Church and Cemetery

- Original stone foundation
- Original doors and windows; including 12 by 12 panes
- Red brick and limestone used for exterior walls; including lintels, quoins, window outline
- Tombstones

It is intended that non-original features may be returned to document earlier designs or to their document original without requiring Council to amend the designating by-law.

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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