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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

BY-LAW NUMBER 06-187

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18 (17 Merino Road)

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH BY THE COUNCIL THEREOF HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the hereinafter described properties be and they are hereby designated to be of historical and architectural value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, for the reason hereafter stated:

17 Merino Road

PT LT 60 PL 70Q (NORTH MONAGHAN) AS IN R539829, S/T & T/W R539829; PETERBOROUGH

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

Merino has excellent historical value in its association with the Wallis family. James Wallis, a Scottish immigrant, is credited with being the founder of Fenelon Falls. In partnership with Robert Jameson, he built a sawmill, laid out the town-site and began bringing in settlers to the new village. Over the years, Wallis purchased up to ten thousand acres of land in Fenelon Township. In 1840, James Wallis married Janet Fisher.

Wallis began construction of his farmhouse, 'Merino' (named after his prized sheep), in Peterborough in 1849, the same year Janet died. By the time the new house was complete in 1851, Wallis had married Louisa Forbes, and together they became known for their hospitality and entertaining at the Merino farmhouse. Known locally as 'the Squire', James was a businessman and magistrate, and founding president of the Peterborough Protestant Home. Louisa was the President of the Peterborough Relief Society, and a supporter of Dr. Barnardo, who visited Merino in July 1884. Katherine Wallis, daughter of James and Louisa, grew up at Merino. She left at age 18 to study art in Edinburgh with her sister Adah, but they soon returned home to Merino to take care of their ailing parents. In 1887, Louisa died and Adah and Katherine were left to nurse James and run Merino. In 1893, Katherine returned to Europe to study art, and in 1902 she began studying with Auguste Rodin. Her work has received international renown, and she was the first Canadian woman to be elected Societaire of the prestigious Societe des Beaux Arts. Merino also has excellent architectural value, as it is one of few remaining stone farmhouses in the City of Peterborough. The original building was a Regency cottage: 1 ½ storeys with a large verandah, French doors and a low gable roof with center gable. A large summer kitchen with two gables on each side was built in the centered on the south side of the house. According to Katherine Wallis, it was remodeled in the early 1870's. Since then, the verandah has been removed, and several more additions added on the rear of the original summer kitchen. Merino also has good contextual value, although its setting has changed dramatically from the

time of its original construction. Once a farmhouse on the edge of town, the house is now located in a suburban setting. Merino remains distinctive from neighboring properties in its large lot and generous set back from the street.

By-law read a first, second and third time this 11th day of December, 2006

(Sgd.) D. Paul Ayotte, Mayor

(Sgd.) Nancy Wright-Laking, City Clerk