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The City of Stoney Creek

NOV 01 1994

October 26, 1994

Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Culture & Communications
2nd Floor - 77 Bay St. W.
Toronto ON M7A 2R9

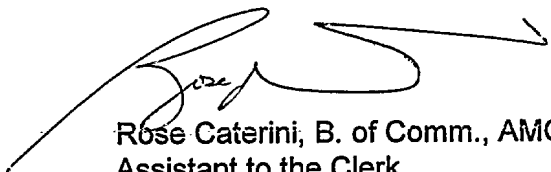
**Re: City of Stoney Creek - Notice of Intention to Designate
- 228 Ridge Road**

As per Section 29(3a) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990, Chapter O.18, the City of Stoney Creek is serving the Ontario Heritage Foundation with the attached Notice of Intention to Designate 228 Ridge Road.

The attached notice will also be advertised in the Stoney Creek News for 3 consecutive weeks commencing Wednesday, November 2, 1994.

A copy of the Director of Planning's Report No. PL94 - 56, adopted at the October 25, 1994 Council meeting is enclosed for your information.

Please provide correspondence pertaining to this matter to the undersigned.



Rose Caterini, B. of Comm., AMCT
Assistant to the Clerk

Attachments

Copy to: P. Smithson, Planning Department

The Corporation of the
City of Stoney Creek

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O., 1990, CHAPTER O.18**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND
PREMISES AT 228 RIDGE ROAD
CITY OF STONEY CREEK, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE, That the Council of the Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historic value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O., 1990, Chapter O.18.

The Spera House is an excellent example of the combination of Gothic Revival "Ontario Farmhouse" and Classical Revival architectural styles probably in vogue at the time of construction. The resulting synthesis exhibits a comfortable, restrained formality, which suggests a place of retreat, contemplation and enjoyment in harmony with the natural setting. Fruit trees abound on three sides contrasted with vistas of the lower city and the lake beyond.

The Spera family has long been associated with the Saltfleet and Stoney Creek area. The land upon which the Spera House now stands may have been the site of the original Adam Green log house where Billy the Scout, hero of the Battle of Stoney Creek, was born. The Spera family is also connected to other important families in the Saltfleet area including Green, Nash, Davis, Lee, Beemer, Utter and Pottruff.

Henry Spera is said to have emigrated from Holland to Pennsylvania, then migrated to Upper Canada in 1828. Henry and his wife Barbara Gohrman, who was born in Pennsylvania, settled on top of the escarpment in 1828. Henry died in a ploughing accident in 1833 and is buried in Hamilton. Barbara and Henry had 8 or 9 children. Barbara later married Samuel Nash bearing 7 more children.

The 1859 map shows Henry Spera, son of Henry and Barbara, as land owner. William, and perhaps John Spera, built the house that now stands on the site, circa 1874.

The infant Arthur Harris Spera was brought to the house at that time when he was only three days old. He later planted the orchard, known as Montmorency Farm, because it produced Montmorency cherries. It was at the time the largest cherry farm in the area producing 75 to 100 tons of cherries annually as well as plums, grapes and pears. Harry Spera, son of Arthur Harris Spera, was born in the house.

The two-storey Gothic Revival "Ontario Farmhouse" in the vernacular is clad with horizontal wood siding. The gable over the main entrance partially encloses a window with a circular head. This shape is unusual.

The floor plan closely follows the typical model, with the central staircase leading to bedrooms on the upper floor. The ground floor with the sitting room and dining room/parlour on each side of the main entranceway is typical. The original kitchen was probably adjacent to the dining room.

The single-storey addition at the rear is quite utilitarian in appearance and consists of a bedroom and kitchen with a small porch.

Of interest is the verandah, added later, which serves quite well to give formality and grace to an otherwise quaint pedestrian structure. The proportions and wrap-around configuration create a comfortable transition from the main entrance to the garden or outdoor entertainment area. The verandah exhibits the Classical Revival style (probably early 20th century) in the vernacular. Typical is the low sloped roof supported by truncated quasi Etruscan columns on rusticated concrete block piers. The playful tracery just below the handrail on the railing being decorative in purpose is not in context.

The pediment over the entranceway is quite typical and serves to unite, by echoing the gable above, the distinct architectural styles.

The pine floors in the interior retain their appearance and construction, as do the beaded wood mouldings around the doors and windows.

Important to the preservation of the Spera House are the exterior facades including the foundation, cladding, windows and roof, as well as the verandah including the floor, railings, and columns. The interior pine floors and beaded mouldings around the doors and windows are also important to the preservation.

Inquiries may be directed to Paul Smithson, Planning Department, City of Stoney Creek at 643-1261.

Any person may, within thirty days of the first publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to Joseph A. Brezina, Clerk of the City of Stoney Creek notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

J. A. Brezina, A.M.C.T.
City Clerk

City of Stoney Creek

Planning Department

Prepared for Planning Committee
 Agenda Date October 13, 1994

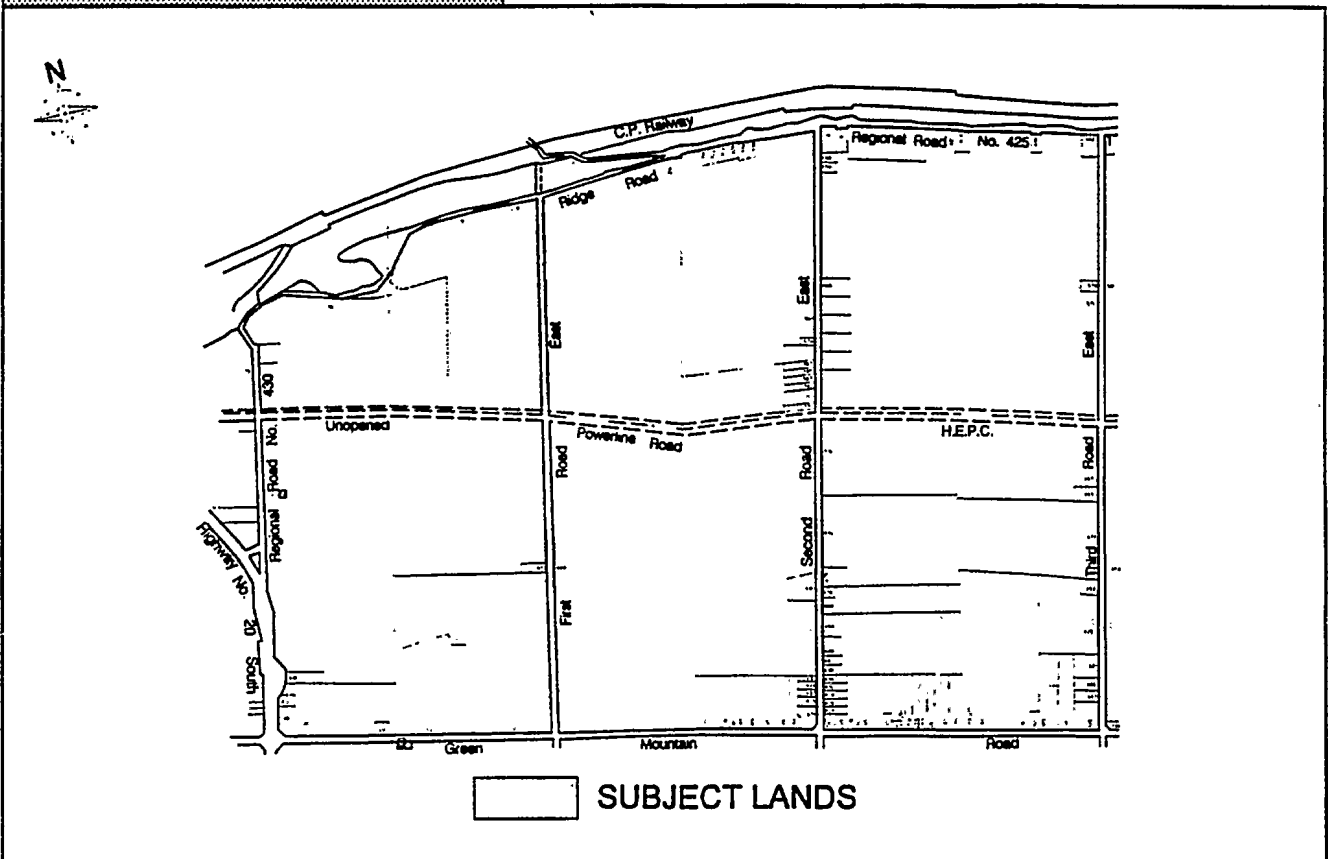
Report No. PL94 - 56
 Report Date September 30, 1994

Subject

Request by the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority and the City of Stoney Creek L.A.C.A.C. to Designate the Spera House, 228 Ridge Road, under the Ontario Heritage Act - File No. LD91-7

Summary of Recommendation

That the request to designate the Spera House under the Ontario Heritage Act be endorsed by Planning Committee and Council.

Map

Respectfully submitted

R. M. Marini

R. M. Marini, M.C.I.P.
 Director of Planning

Approved by

Paul Smithson

Paul Smithson, M.A., M.C.I.P.
 Manager of Land Use and Policy

INTRODUCTION

The current owner of the building (Hamilton Region Conservation Authority) has requested designation under the Ontario Heritage Act for the house located at 228 Ridge Road.

The Planning Department has received a communication from the Stoney Creek LACAC, resulting from their meeting of June 21, 1994, requesting that the historical and architectural qualities of the Spera House, located at 228 Ridge Road, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act as the Spera House is of architectural value. The Stoney Creek LACAC Research Sub-committee has outlined the architectural and historical reasons for designation in this report.

Historical Qualities

The Spera family has long been associated with the Saltfleet and Stoney Creek area. Henry Spera is said to have emigrated from Holland to Pennsylvania, then migrated to Upper Canada in 1828. Henry and his wife Barbara Gohrman, who was born in Pennsylvania, settled on top of the escarpment in 1828, although there does not seem to be an official record of his land purchase. Henry died in a ploughing accident in 1833 and is buried in Hamilton. Barbara and Henry had 8 or 9 children. Barbara later married Samuel Nash bearing 7 more children.

The land upon which the Spera House now stands may have been the site of the original Adam Green log house where Billy the Scout, hero of the Battle of Stoney Creek, was born. The 1859 map shows Henry Spera, son of Henry and Barbara, as land owner. In *Circa* 1874 William, and perhaps John Spera, built the house that now stands on the site. The infant Arthur Harris Spera was brought to the house at that time when he was only three days old. He later planted the orchard, known as Montmorency Farm, because it produced Montmorency cherries. It was at the time the largest cherry farm in the area producing 75 to 100 tons of cherries annually as well as plums, grapes and pears. Harry Spera, son of Arthur Harris Spera, was born in the house.

The Spera family is also connected to other important families in the Saltfleet area including Green, Nash, Davis, Lee, Beemer, Utter and Pottruff.

Architectural Qualities

The dwelling situated on the property comprises three distinct components, constructed at different time periods, which may help explain their different architectural styles. Presumably the additions reflect the current style in vogue at time of construction.

EXTERIOR

The original structure, which may have been built in 1867 (assessment roll) or 1874 (Lara Campbell, HSAB 1993), is a two-storey Gothic Revival "Ontario Farmhouse" in the vernacular, clad with horizontal wood siding.

The gable over the main entrance partially encloses a window with a circular head. This shape is unusual.

The floor plan closely follows the typical model, with the central staircase leading to bedrooms on the upper floor. The ground floor with the sitting room and dining room\parlour on each side of the main entranceway is typical. The original kitchen was probably adjacent to the dining room.

The single storey addition at the rear is quite utilitarian in appearance and purpose and was built as such. It may have been added a short time after the original building. Features of the original structure have not been echoed in its design. It consists of a bedroom and kitchen with a small porch.

Of interest is the verandah, added later, which serves quite well to give formality and grace to an otherwise quaint pedestrian structure. The proportions and wrap around configuration create a comfortable transition from the main entrance to the garden or outdoor entertainment area.

This effect probably happened by accident, as the architectural character of the verandah probably followed the aesthetic vogue at that time, thus dictating its design and the need to acquire one.

The verandah exhibits the Classical Revival style (probably early 20th century) in the vernacular. Typical is the low sloped roof supported by truncated quasi Etruscan columns on rusticated concrete block piers. The playful tracery just below the handrail on the railing being decorative in purpose is not in context.

The pediment over the entranceway is quite typical and serves to unite, by echoing the gable above, the distinct architectural styles.

INTERIOR

The pine floors in the interior retain their appearance and construction, as do the beaded wood mouldings around the doors and windows.

Designating Features

Important to the preservation are the exterior facades including the foundation, cladding, windows and roof, as well as the verandah including the floor, railings, columns which should be preserved.

Also important to the preservation are the interior pine floors and beaded mouldings around the doors and windows.

REVIEW OF POLICES AFFECTING PROPOSAL

n/a

COMMENTS FROM RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS

n/a

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

n/a

DISCUSSION

n/a

CONCLUSION

The exterior facades represent a hybrid interpretation of two vernacular architectural styles probably in vogue at the time of construction. The resulting synthesis exhibits a comfortable,

restrained formality, which suggests a place of retreat, contemplation and enjoyment in harmony with its natural setting. This is somehow not surprising given its prestigious location. Fruit trees abound on three sides contrasted with vistas of the lower city and the lake beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, it is recommended that the request of the owners, which is supported by the Stoney Creek Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, to designate the Spera House located at 228 Ridge Road be endorsed by Planning Committee and Council.

It is further recommended that:

1. the process of registration of the draft designating By-law be initiated in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act;
2. the Clerk be directed to provide notice of Council's intention to designate the Spera House in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act; and
3. upon passing of the By-law and registration of the subject property as a heritage building, in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, that Planning staff be authorized to order a plaque, in accordance with City policy, for the Spera House.

Attachments