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Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich

By-Law No. 2019-49

**BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE 8947 IONA ROAD TO BE OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, as amended, the Council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich at its meeting of December 13, 2017 designated the property known as 8947 Iona Road to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of that intention to so designate the property was duly published and served on December 28, 2017;

AND WHEREAS a number of objections to such designation were filed. Those objections have been resolved on the basis of the provisions of this By-law;

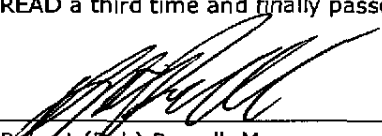
NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich enacts as follows:

1. THAT the real property at 8947 Iona Road, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. THAT the Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. THAT the Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the **West Elgin Chronicle** and to enter the description of the aforesaid property, the name and address of its registered owner, and short reasons for its designation in the Register of all properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

THIS By-law comes into force and effect on the day it is passed.

READ a first and second time this 22nd day of May 2019.

READ a third time and finally passed this 22nd day of May 2019.


Robert (Bob) Purcell, Mayor


Heather Bouw, Clerk

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JUL 15 2019

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SCHEDULE "A"

Legal Description

The property is legally described as Plan 3 Lot 1 E/S King Lot 2 W/S Townline 1 and 3, Municipality of Dutton Dunwich, locally known as 8947 Iona Road in the geographic Township of Dunwich.

SCHEDULE "B"

Description of Property

The property municipally known as 8947 Iona Road is located on the south side of Iona Road, between Back Street and Crane Street in the Hamlet of Iona. The property is located in the former Township of Dunwich.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property municipally known as 8947 Iona Road is of cultural heritage value because of its physical or design value, its historical or associative value, and its contextual values.

Historical/Associative Values

The building at 8947 Iona Road was constructed around 1850 as Iona's first post office and as the residence for the hamlet's first postmaster. Thomas Talbot, in charge of seeing this area settled, appointed William Harris to the post on the recommendation of surveyor Mahlon Burwell; Harris had formerly worked as a schoolmaster in Iona, after coming from Nova Scotia as a civil engineer. The building is still known as the Harris House.

Harris died in 1863, at the age of 43 (because, it was thought, of his grief over the recent loss of his wife). The building was then bought at auction by Jane Decow, the first of several short-term owners before the house was purchased in 1903 by Belle Sinclair Robb Smith, who had been born in a house across the street. She shared the Harris House with her sister, Betsy Apel, who died in 1935 at the age of 96; Belle lived three years longer. In 1938 Sarah Carswell bought the home, and it remained in her family until 1982, when it was bought by [REDACTED]

The Harris House was conveniently located to serve as Post Office, centred in the village and near the intersection of Iona Road and the former Highway 3, long known as the Talbot Road and the centre of commercial travel in the area up to 1949, when a by-pass was routed to the north. Rooms in the house were at one time rented to travellers.

Physical/Design Values

A 1-and-1/2-storey clapboard building, the Harris House is both a unique and a very good example of a Classical Revival cottage. It possesses a number of representative features: a five-bay façade with a centre door flanked by sidelights (each, here, with four panes) and pilasters, with a layered architrave above. The windows here and around the house are 6/6 sash windows (though a kitchen window on the north side was at some point reduced in size), and a moulding along the rim of each lintel hints at an entablature for each window. The shallow gable roof is outlined by the deep, plain cornice frequently found on Greek Revival buildings; over the centre door and above the eaves, a later gable features a somewhat steeper roofline and holds an additional window. The symmetry of the façade is broken only by the replacement of the northeast window by the door that once led into the post office, a door similar to the main entrance but without the sidelights. Similarly, the interior floor plan was once symmetrical, with a centre hall containing a stairway and, in most models, with two main public rooms, though one of the rooms here functioned as the post office rather than, say, a formal dining room.

Like the Iona Town Hall, the Harris House was constructed by members of the Lumley family. Where the Town Hall features elegantly spare adornment, however, the various kinds of woodwork on the Harris House give a fuller, more lush impression: proportionately, it occupies more of the building's surface, and there are more layers and rounded surfaces. Much of the interior woodwork is especially robust.

The house retains most of its original plan and interior features (see "Heritage Attributes" below), with the exception of one major change enacted by Belle Smith around 1900. She removed the central staircase and the hall partition, and installed double glazed doors between the study and what became a new living room.

Contextual Values

In addition to its importance as the first Iona Post Office and the residence of its postmaster, the building at 8947 Iona Road is important as the sole surviving example of a Classic Revival residence in the hamlet, and as a particularly fine and interesting example of the style. It is still situated on a typical village half-acre of land which would have been used for vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and raising subsistence livestock. Though now partially curtained from the street by various plantings, its historical landmark status is still acknowledged by its commonly recognized label as "The Harris House."

Heritage Attributes

Exterior:

- Form, mass, and scale of the house, including the near-symmetry of the front facade;
- Painted wood clapboard siding on the east, north, and south sides of the building;
- Two façade entranceways, with fielded panels in the doors, and with pilasters and an entablature in each surround;
- Sidelights flanking centre door;
- Cast iron and porcelain doorbell on the northeast door;
- Six over six wood windows, one on the north side of the house, three along the façade, and two on the south side;
- Original muntins, rails, and panes of windows, where they exist;
- Wood window surrounds, including sills and lintels with protruding lip along each upper rim;
- Central Victorian dormer, with window;
- Returned eaves on the northeast and southeast corners;
- Setting within property.

Interior:

- Narrow wood plank stairway to the second floor;
- Original surrounds, muntins, and rails of 6/6 windows;
- Moulded panels beneath windows in the living room and dining room;
- Original interior wood doors (two in the kitchen, one to the dining room closet, and one to the attic);
- Original door surrounds;
- Original wood plank floors in the dining room and in the north and south bedrooms of the upper storey;
- Chimney closets below chimneys in second floor north and south bedrooms;
- All original baseboards.