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June 5, 2019

Christine Nancekivell, Chief Facilities Officer
Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

File: B-8600-0391

JUN 11 2019

RECEIVED

**Re: Notice of Intent to Designate
300 Ritson Road South (former Ritson Public School)**

Pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest:

300 Ritson Road South (described as FIRSTLY: LOTS 311-314, 321-324, 331-334, 341, 343, 344, 351, 353, 354, 361-364, 371-374, 381-384, 391-393, 413-425, and 453-464, PLAN 145 OSHAWA AND PART OF LOT 452 PLAN 145 OSHAWA AND PART ELDON AVE PLAN 145 OSHAWA CLOSED BY BYLAW OS58657 BEING BANTING AVE (FORMERLY ELDON AVE) AS IN OS58954; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN OS58954; SECONDLY: LOTS 342 AND 352 PLAN 145 OSHAWA; THIRDLY: LOT 394 PLAN 145 OSHAWA; FOURTHLY: PART CLARKE ST. PLAN 145 OSHAWA CLOSED BY BYLAW OS19737; FIFTHLY: PART ELDON AVE PLAN 145 OSHAWA LYING E OF THE NLY PRODUCTION OF THE W LIMIT OF LOT 465 PLAN 145 EXCEPT D28908 BEING BANTING AVE (FORMERLY ELDON AVE); SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN D3847; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN D216; CITY OF OSHAWA)

Reasons for the Proposed Designation

1. Location and Description of Property

300 Ritson Road South, commonly known as the former Ritson Public School, is located on the west side of Ritson Road South, north of Olive Avenue and south of Stacey Avenue. The property is generally bounded by residential lots fronting onto Clarke Street to the north, Huron Street to the west, residential lots fronting onto Olive Avenue to the south, and Ritson Road South to the east.

The history of the Ritson Public School spans almost a century. The 2.1 hectare (5.2 ac.) property is owned by the Durham District School Board (D.D.S.B.) and was in use as a school from 1923 until 2011. When Oshawa became a city in 1924 there were eight elementary schools, one of which was Ritson Public School.

Ritson Public School sits prominently on a rise on Ritson Road South. The property consists of the school building and surrounding open space, which includes 2 baseball backstops, a soccer field, paved parking and play area, and a school playground. A bus loop is located to the east of the school building, off of Ritson Road South.

2. Legal Description

The property at 300 Ritson Road South is identified as:

FIRSTLY: LOTS 311-314, 321-324, 331-334, 341, 343, 344, 351, 353, 354, 361-364, 371-374, 381-384, 391-393, 413-425, and 453-464, PLAN 145 OSHAWA AND PART OF LOT 452 PLAN 145 OSHAWA AND PART ELDON AVE PLAN 145 OSHAWA CLOSED BY BYLAW OS58657 BEING BANTING AVE (FORMERLY ELDON AVE) AS IN OS58954; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN OS58954; SECONDLY: LOTS 342 AND 352 PLAN 145 OSHAWA; THIRDLY: LOT 394 PLAN 145 OSHAWA; FOURTHLY: PART CLARKE ST. PLAN 145 OSHAWA CLOSED BY BYLAW OS19737; FIFTHLY: PART ELDON AVE PLAN 145 OSHAWA LYING E OF THE NLY PRODUCTION OF THE W LIMIT OF LOT 465 PLAN 145 EXCEPT D28908 BEING BANTING AVE (FORMERLY ELDON AVE); SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN D3847; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN D216; CITY OF OSHAWA)

3. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property's cultural heritage value results from its historical significance and importance as a cultural heritage educational institution, built in the 1920s during a period of growth in the City of Oshawa. There were eight schools when Oshawa became a city in 1924, and Ritson Public School was one of them. The school is named after and built on land that was once owned by John Ritson, Oshawa's first school teacher.

The cultural heritage value of Ritson Public School is related to its architectural and design value, as it is comprised of the neo-Gothic and Modern Classicism styles. The original school building was built in 1923. An addition of six rooms to the school was added in 1928, on the north side of the original school building. The plans for this addition were prepared by architect C.C. Stenhouse, who was also the architect of the original structure. This two-storey six-room addition increased the accommodation of the school by fifty percent at the time. The Board of Education awarded the contract to W.J. Trick, a local contractor, to build the addition. W.J. Trick was the first Mayor of the City of Oshawa from 1922-1925.

Another addition was added in 1948, which included five rooms and facilities for a kindergarten classroom. This made Ritson Public School the second school in Oshawa to add a kindergarten class, the first being located at the former Centre Street School (now E.A. Lovell Continuing Education Centre). Prior to this time kindergarten was regarded as a waste of money, according to Olive French in *The Story of Oshawa Schools: 1800 – 1967*.

The last addition was made to Ritson Public School in 1975 on the southern side of the building. Although complementary in architectural style to the original school building, neither the 1948 nor the 1975 additions merit inclusion as heritage attributes for their design and physical value. Only the 1923 and 1928 structures display the neo-Gothic/Modern Classicism style which merits designation.

4. Heritage Attributes

The key heritage attributes of 300 Ritson Road South that reflect its value as an important link to the history of Oshawa consist of the following:

- The original 1923 school building dates from an early period of education in Oshawa, and is important in the early development of the City of Oshawa.
- Both the original 1923 structure and the 1928 addition are representative of the architectural work of C.C. Stenhouse, and were built by W.J. Trick, contractor and the first Mayor of Oshawa, from 1924 to 1925.
- The school is named after John Ritson, an early settler, significant contributor, and Oshawa's first teacher. John Ritson owned the land upon which Ritson Public School currently stands.
- The architecture of the original 1923 school building and 1928 addition are an example of the neo-Gothic/Modern Classicism style, representative of early schools/educational institutions in the 1920s. Typical of the neo-Gothic style, the main entrance is a decorated frontispiece that is accessed by a stairway to the first level doorway. This example features a double leaf door with glazing. Over the door is a gothic inspired window opening that is multi-paned, with an oversized arched transom. The entranceway and window are crowned with a hood-like moulding around the archway.
- The school building is located on a prominent rise on Ritson Road South, and is a landmark in the community.

The full particulars of the Reasons for Designation for 300 Ritson Road South are available for inspection in the Planning Services Branch, 8th Floor at 50 Centre Street South between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Any person may, on or before the 8th day of July, 2019, send by registered mail or deliver to the City Clerk, a Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of their reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the City of Oshawa will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and a report.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact Connor Leherbauer at the address shown or by telephone at (905) 436-3311, extension 2402.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connor Leherbauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connor Leherbauer, Planner A
Development Services Department

CL/c

- c. Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3