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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAR 02 2020

And in the Matter of the Lands and Premises  
Known Municipally as 2 Church Street, Bowmanville,  
in The Municipality of Clarington

**RECEIVED**

**Notice of Intention to Designate**

Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington intends to designate the property located at 2 Church Street, Bowmanville, in the Municipality of Clarington, as a property of architectural and historical value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18.

**Reasons for Proposed Designation**

**Description of Property**

The lands upon which the Fletcher Tree grow are located at 2 Church Street, east of the intersection of Church Street and St. George Street in Bowmanville. The lands are currently vacant of buildings, but were occupied once by a two-storey brick house, circa 1812, which provided backdrop for this grand Fletcher Tree.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The Fletcher Tree holds significant historical and contextual value to Bowmanville. This magnificent Tree was planted by Squire Alexander Fletcher in the front yard of his third Bowmanville home, which is cited as one of the first brick homes in the area, and was completed in approximately 1812 with bricks made on site. At that time, Squire Fletcher planted two trees, one of which is the Fletcher Tree. The trees were planted as "his and hers" trees, thought to signify love and commitment. Squire Fletcher was one of the earliest and most influential European settlers in the establishment of the area now known as Bowmanville. Subsequent to his arrival in Darlington, Squire Fletcher acquired a large tract of land stretching from Division Street to Mearns Avenue on both sides of King Street, among his extensive land holdings.

Squire Alexander Fletcher served many years as a local magistrate, was involved in the War of 1812 providing storage for canons and munition at his numerous properties between Bowmanville and Kingston, and was an officer in the Durham militia. Later, Squire Fletcher became one of the first shareholders in the Port Darlington Harbour Company.

The copper beech, known as the Fletcher Tree, may be the only remaining physical element of Squire Fletcher's significant contribution to the establishment of the area, as the 1812 brick house was demolished in the 1970s, and the second tree no longer exists.

It is noted the former house later belonged to Robert Loscombe, a prominent Bowmanville lawyer and twice Mayor of Bowmanville, at which point the house was known as the Loscombe House.

The Fletcher Tree itself is a cultivated variety (cultivar) of the European Beech tree. It is commonly known as purple or copper beech, and scientifically as *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea'. The age of the Fletcher Tree combined with its cultivar make it unique in Bowmanville. The Fletcher Tree has a grand presence as it stands 30 metres (approximately 100 feet) tall with a canopy spread that is almost as wide. Its leaves are oval-shaped and glossy with wavy edges that emerge a deep purple, and gradually turn greener towards the end of the growing season.

The Fletcher Tree has stood in this spot for over 200 years, despite the ongoing changes and development around it, and continues to be in good health overall. It is a grand tree representative of the early settlement of the area that would later become Bowmanville.

## Description of Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the Fletcher Tree include:

Age: 200+ years

Height: 30 metres

Circumference: 180 centimetres (DBH)

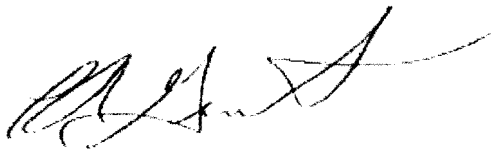
Other character defining elements include:

- The 'Purpurea' cultivar of its age, specifically selected through cultivation, the leaves of which emerge a deep purple, and gradually turn greener over the course of the growing season;
- The general size and shape of the tree, including its root system; and
- The location of the tree on the property formerly occupied by the Fletcher family in the centre of Bowmanville, and its physical and visual relationship to its surroundings.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available from the Municipality of Clarington.

Any person may, within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, send by Registered Mail or deliver to the Municipal Clerk of the Municipality of Clarington, 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 Municipality of Clarington shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Municipality of Clarington this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020



C. Anne Greentree, BA, CMO  
Municipal Clerk  
40 Temperance Street  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6