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May 11, 2022

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2022/05/30  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

## Notice of Intention to Designate a Heritage Property

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands intends to designate the former Old Baptist Chapel located at 37 Sydenham Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29 Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

### Description of the property

The property at 37 Sydenham Street, Flesherton Grey Highlands is located on the northeast corner of Highway 10 and Margaret St; one block north of the junction of Hwy 10 and Grey Road 4. The legal description of the property is: Lot 1, BLK M, PL 39; PT BEACHELL ST BTN LT 1 AND LT 2 BLK M PL 39 ARTEMESIA AS IN R486275; Former Township of Artemesia, Grey Highlands having roll number 420818001013200

The Old Baptist Chapel is a typical Ontario one-room chapel with a gable roof and tower is built of red Bowler brick from near Markdale. The rear yard that overlooks the Boyne River originally housed a large barn that is long gone. Eventually the congregation outgrew the small chapel and in 1965 Cedarside Baptist moved into the former Chalmers Presbyterian Church at 44 Collingwood St. The manse was then converted to a home and for many years the chapel was a yoga studio. In 2021 a new owner re-opened the Chapel as an art gallery

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Old Baptist Chapel has design and physical heritage value: The chapel is a typically proportioned one-room protestant church with narthex and gable roof. Having no bell tower is unusual but was likely an economic decision. The common bond double-brick exterior has design value for textured color variations of the local red brick (Bowler), and for contrast buttresses, banding and voussoirs of local yellow brick, for added banding at the windowsill level and for the decorative two-colour banding above the narthex, all of which exemplify the high degree of skill and creativity in local heritage brickwork. The design and physical value of the façade lies in well-balanced placement and proportion of the protruding narthex, with the unusual façade feature of banding and Gothic window being identical in size

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#### The Municipality of Grey Highlands

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and placement to the main structure. The chapel interior has design and physical value for much natural light permitted by the tall wood-framed Gothic-arched windows and for the raised dais centered on the north wall. 2 The attached Manse has design and physical value for the massing and placement of the structure, for the contrast texture of cedar shake cladding distinguishing it from the brick chapel, and for the unusual feature of a connecting door straight into the chapel. The historical and associative value of the Old Baptist Chapel is the connection to the “Wesleyan Mission” that fostered a variety of devout Protestant congregations in Artemesia Township. After the Baptist congregation rejected joining the United Church in 1925, the congregation of Cedarside Baptist Church remained vibrant enough to outgrow this original home, and in 1961 reestablished Cedarside Baptist in the former Chalmers Presbyterian Church at 44 Collingwood St. (which now serves as the local food bank run by Gentle Shepherd Church who now own that building). The contextual value of the Old Baptist Church and Manse is its prominence as a visible landmark atop a ridge overlooking the Boyne River at the northern edge of Flesherton. Contextual value is enhanced by the proximity to Hickling House, a designated property at 25 Sydenham St. and to the South Grey Museum, diagonally across the road at 40 Sydenham. Description of Heritage Attributes: Key exterior attributes that exemplify both the typical and the unique design value of the Old Baptist Chapel and Manse include: • All heritage brickwork, particularly all contrasting brickwork in rows of banding and the vousoirs that outline the arched windows • Contrasting yellow brick buttresses with red “caps” at two levels • Identically sized tall Gothic windows in the narthex and throughout the chapel • Original west entry door of the protruding brick narthex • The location and massing of the attached manse at rear is an essential component of the property • The original weathered cedar shake siding enhances an authentic historical appearance of the manse. Unfortunately, the condition of this attribute has deteriorated with age. When replacement becomes necessary, a heritage renovation permit approving the colours and materials will be required. Key interior attributes that enhance the design value of the chapel include: • Original “natural” wood frames and sills for Gothic windows and doors • Original beadboard paneling on side walls below the windows and dais • Original interior wooden door connecting the chapel to the manse • The manse has no other interior heritage attributes

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- Contrasting yellow brick buttresses with red “caps” at two levels
- Identically sized tall Gothic windows in the narthex and throughout the chapel
- Original west entry door of the protruding brick narthex
- The location and massing of the attached manse at rear is an essential component of the property
- The original weathered cedar shake siding enhances an authentic historical appearance of the manse. Unfortunately, the condition of this attribute has deteriorated with age. When replacement becomes necessary, a heritage renovation permit approving the colours and materials will be required. Key interior attributes that enhance the design value of the chapel include:
  - Original “natural” wood frames and sills for Gothic windows and doors
  - Original beadboard paneling on side walls below the windows and dais
  - Original interior wooden door connecting the chapel to the manse
  - The manse has no other interior heritage attributes
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A more detailed description of the property’s cultural heritage value may be contacting [clerks@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:clerks@greyhighlands.ca).

### Objection to proposed designation

Any person may send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, a notice of objection to this proposed designation, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. This must be done before 4 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022. If a notice of objection is received, the Clerk of the Municipality of Grey Highlands shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board (CRB) for a hearing.

Raylene Martell  
Municipal Clerk  
Municipality of Grey Highlands  
519-986-1216 ext. 233  
[clerks@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:clerks@greyhighlands.ca)

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