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The Corporation of the Township of Norwich

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND A BY-LAW
UNDER SECTION 30.1(1) OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

The Township of Norwich Council has received a request to amend the designation by-law from the owner of property located at Part Lot 18, Concession 5 (former East Oxford) and municipally known as 465003 Curries Road, Township of Norwich.

Purpose and Effect of Amendment

Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Municipal Heritage Committee, Township of Norwich Council has approved proceeding to amend the by-law to facilitate the conversion of the former Curries United Church to a residential dwelling. The property is currently the subject of a consent application which proposes to separate the Church from the Cemetery lands to the east. The proposed changes will be sympathetic to and maintain the identified attributes in the original Notice of Intention to Designate.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The exterior and sanctuary of this 1891 Victorian red brick church are original as designed by Cuthbertson of Woodstock, Ontario. Cuthbertson also designed the Woodstock Opera House, the House of Refuge and the Oxford County Court House.

Description of Heritage Attributes

- The asymmetrical façade features regularly placed windows, intricate brickwork and a bell tower.
- The interior dark wooden ceiling has curved portions along the wall and is supported from above by hidden hand-hewn beams.
- A detailed wrought iron railing, also designed by Cuthbertson is located on the mezzanine floor. (Formerly located in the church gallery)
- Some pews from the original 1855 Church to be displayed within the structure
- Sanctuary features include: sloping pine floors, wainscoting and stained-glass windows

Contextual Value

This building represents a historical focal point for the rural community of Curries. Several families have worshiped here for five and six generations and include members from the original 1891 congregation in their ancestry. A Wesleyan Methodist Congregation was formed in 1855 and purchased land in the same year. The Cemetery property was acquired in 1861 and additional property was purchased in 1885 to allow the erection of the present church, which was opened on Thanksgiving Day, November 12, 1891. The hamlet formerly called Zion, became Curries in 1903 and in 1925 the church became part of the United Church of Canada.

Further information respecting the proposed amendment is available at the Township of Norwich office located at: 285767 Airport Road or by contacting the undersigned.

Anyone wishing to object to the amendment shall outline the reasons within a Notice of Objection. Such objection shall be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday November 29, 2021, to the undersigned.

Kimberley Armstrong, Deputy Clerk
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