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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEISGNATE 319 Brock Road South, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate 319 Brock Road South, Puslinch, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2023-392.

Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Rear Concession 7 Part Lot 28, municipally known as 319 Brock Road South.



(Key Map Showing Location of 319 Brock Road S)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 319 Brock Rd S, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value to the religious and cultural history of the Township, particularly within the Presbyterian denomination. This heritage value is retained in a noteworthy 1854 stone church with exceptional design value and craftsmanship. Named "Duff's Presbyterian Church" it has served as a religious and social institution for Scottish Presbyterian immigrants and families since its construction. The church is associated with several adjacent heritage properties, including Crown Cemetery, and defines the northern boundary of the Village of Morriston. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value,

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historical/associative value, and contextual value. The property is listed on the Township of Puslinch Municipal Heritage Register and has received a plaque from the Township's Heritage Committee for its cultural heritage value.

Design Value:

The property includes a unique 1854 Gothic, front-gabled stone church building, with a stone vestibule and Norman tower addition dating to 1903. Key design elements include stone construction, with cut-limestone coursed ashlar and lime taped masonry on the front and side facades and sizable stone quoins on all corners. Four paired sets of lancet windows run along each of the side walls of the original structure. This design was carried on to the 1903 vestibule addition which has paired lancet windows on the side walls and above the entrance on the front facade. Single lancet windows bracket either side of the central entrance, which has a Gothic transom with the lettering "Duff's Church 1903". During the 1903 renovations, stained glass was installed in all these windows. The vestibule addition includes an embossed cornerstone "DUFF'S CHURCH ERECTED 1854 RE-ERECTED 1903". Four segmented windows sit at basement level below the lancet windows on the side facades. The tower bears Gothic arched vents on the front and side facades and is topped with a stone cornice and seven merlons. All fenestrations have stone voussoirs and sills.

Historical/Associative Value:

Initially a log Presbyterian church was located across the road on Lot 28, Front Concession 8 on land granted by the Crown in 1835 for use by local Presbyterians for religious and educational services, including a cemetery, called Crown Cemetery. In 1843, a substantial group of evangelical ministers separated from the Church of Scotland to establish what is now recognized as the Free Church of Scotland. This schism arose from a disagreement over whether the Church of Scotland or the British Government should have authority over clerical positions and associated benefits. After the "Great Disruption" in the Presbyterian Church in 1843, local Presbyterians supported the new "Free Church of Scotland" and the land on Lot 28, Front Concession 8 was eventually forfeited, although the cemetery continued to operate. Free Presbyterians built Duff's Church directly opposite on Lot 28, Rear Concession 7. Constructed in 1854, the church was named after Dr. Alexander Duff, a Scottish missionary in India, who visited Canada during the 1850s and delivered a speech at the church. By 1893, the property also accommodated a Sunday school, providing education to numerous local children. From its construction until the early 20th century church services were offered in Scottish Gaelic since many of the congregants were immigrants from the Scottish Highlands. It is the oldest and largest church building in Puslinch Township. In the mid to late 1860s, an adjoining 30 acres of land was acquired from John Haise, the owner of Lot 27, Concession 7, for the purpose of erecting a manse for the church. This manse was completed in 1868.

Contextual Value:

The property is located along Brock Road, a region recognized as one of the Township's earliest settlement areas by British and European immigrants. The church is positioned across from Crown Cemetery, land deeded to the Presbyterian church as a burying ground in 1835. The location is close to heritage properties built by the church's early congregants: Malcolm McBeath, George McLean, Peter McLaren, and several others.

Owing to its vital and deep-rooted connections to multiple generations of families, the property holds a distinguished status as a community landmark, and physically stands as a marker of the northern part of the Village of Morriston.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 316 Brock Rd S:

Duff's Presbyterian Church:

- Height, scale, and form of 1903 building
- Limestone exterior walls and quoins
- Cut ashlar and lime-taped masonry
- Original fenestrations
- Original doors and windows
- Stone voussoirs and stone sills on window fenestrations
- Tooled stone voussoirs on entrance doorway and lancet windows on front facade
- Stained glass
- Norman-style tower, with fenestrations, cornice and merlons.
- Embossed 1903 Cornerstone

Notice of Objection

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024. The Township is providing a six-week commenting period due to the holiday season. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the Township of Puslinch, and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Township of Puslinch shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation bylaw must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation bylaw which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the bylaw may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

December 14, 2023

Justine Brotherston,
Interim Municipal Clerk
Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner
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