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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 600 Arkell Road, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate 600 Arkell Road 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. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2023-392.

Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Plan 131 Part Lot 3, municipally known as 600 Arkell Road.



(Key Map Showing Location of 600 Arkell Road)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property situated at 600 Arkell Rd, Puslinch, holds cultural heritage value to the settlement and religious history of this area of the Township. The property includes an 1877 brick church and an associated cemetery cairn. The church is particularly notable for its establishment with the Wesleyan Methodist denomination and its subsequent evolution into a United Church property, being one of the first United Churches in Ontario. The property's design value lies in the representative architecture of its modest yellow brick church building and Gothic windows. Its continuous service across multiple generations and denominations underscores its vital role within the Township and it

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serves as a landmark property in the historic village of Arkell. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, 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 modest 1877 Methodist rural brick church. The plain rectangular front-gabled architecture built in local yellow brick from the Morriston brickyard is representative of a Methodist church built in a rural setting from this period. The brick is laid in a stretcher bond. The structure is distinguished by three large Gothic windows along the east side wall and two on the west wall, the original third on this wall removed for a modern building addition. Lancet windows sit on each side of the entrance on the front façade. This entrance features a Gothic transom. Located under the front gable is an arched datestone with brick voussoir, inscribed in the mortar "Plains Wesleyan Church 1877". All doors and windows feature arched brick soldier lintels. Stained glass in a contemporary design was added to all windows and the transom in the 1970s through money raised by congregants. The front portico that covers the central entrance is a later addition, as is the wing added to the west side of the church.

The associated cemetery cairn lies to the rear of the church. Grave markers carved by local stone carvers in the nineteenth century showcase a diverse range of styles, degrees of craftsmanship, and materials. This variety adds to the architectural significance of the property, providing a glimpse into the different artistic expressions and memorialization practices from inception to the present.

Historical/Associative Value:

This area of the Township was settled primarily by English immigrants. An Anglican church was built in the adjacent former hamlet of Farnham on Lot 6, Front Concession 9 in 1845. It was the only Church of England in the Township and was demolished a century later. The building of a Wesleyan Methodist Church at the same time on Lot 6, Rear Concession 9, indicates a community of non-conformist English settlers and the growing influence of Wesleyan theology on the rural farming population in this part of the Township. "Puslinch Plains" or "Arkell Plains" was a term used to refer to this part of the Township with comparatively flat land, and explains the "Plains" attribution on the date stone. The property originally featured a Methodist log church built on land donated by Charles Willoughby in 1838. In 1877, the current yellow brick church was erected. The congregants were English and Scottish settlers in the immediate area of Arkell. In 1920, the church became one of the first United Churches of Canada in Ontario, when Methodist and Presbyterian churches entered into a union. The property also includes a metal plaque presented by the Arkell Women's Institute in 1974. "Dedicated to the pioneer settlers of Arkell, who beautified the land by their toil. They left not only the fruits of their labours, but the thoughts and feelings that cheered them on in their solitude."

Positioned at the rear of the property, the Arkell Church cemetery features grave markers of Arkell settlers and congregants. Those early congregants who contributed 25 shillings or more were entitled to a burial plot without any additional charge. Gravestones are an

important source of local genealogical history and provide vital information on mortality in the settlement period.

In 1981 these stones were moved and relaid onto a cemetery cairn.

Contextual Value:

The property is located at the main crossroads in the Village of Arkell and is a visual landmark among the many heritage properties in the village that include the Arkell Schoolhouse, Arkell Teacherage, and blacksmith shop. Due to its continued role over 150 years as a religious and social centre for the community, the property holds contextual significance to the community.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 600 Arkell Road, Puslinch:

Arkell United Church:

- Height, scale, and form of 1877 building
- Exterior yellow brick walls and lintels
- Stone sills
- Original doors and windows, and extant fenestration
- Date stone
- Stained Glass
- Cemetery cairn with grave markers
- Women's Institute Plaque

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.

Dated December 14, 2023

Justine Brotherston,
Interim Municipal Clerk

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Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner
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