



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique. tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.



THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 843 Watson Road South, Arkell

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate 843 Watson Road South, Arkell, 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 Rear Concession 9 Part Lot 7, municipally known as 843 Watson Road South.



(Key Map Showing Location of 843 Watson Road South)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 843 Watson Rd S, Arkell, possesses significant cultural heritage value due to its association with the educational and social history of the Arkell area. This value is retained in the extant 1862 stone schoolhouse on the property. This building represents the efforts of the board of School Section 1 to provide public elementary education to the local community. The schoolhouse was constructed in 1862 using building plans published by the Ontario Department of Education in the mid-nineteenth century as a guide. The property's architectural value lies in the exceptional craftsmanship shown in the interpretation of these building plans. The schoolhouse served the

Receive

DEC 18 2023

Ontario Heritage Trust

community of Arkell and surrounding farms that comprised School Section 1 for a century as a place for elementary education and social events. It is in close proximity to other recognized heritage buildings in Arkell. Given its pivotal role in the history of Puslinch, both the property and its schoolhouse hold the status of a landmark. 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 the earliest extant school in Puslinch Township: an 1862 stone schoolhouse solidly constructed in coursed fieldstone and dolomite limestone. The building features elements representative of mid-nineteenth century Ontario schoolhouse design: front gable roof, single-storey rectangular form, large straight rectangular window fenestrations on the side walls and a front facade with two entrances: one for girls and one for boys. Notable attributes include the very large Romanesque window with a carved limestone surround in the centre of the front facade, entrance fenestrations with heavy limestone surrounds, large limestone quoins, and stone soldier lintels and stone sills on window fenestrations. Under the front gable is a carved datestone "1862" and below another inscribed carved stone inscribed "SCHOOL SECTION NO. 1". The original bell and a reproduced belfry are on the roof.

Historical or Associative Value:

As Puslinch was settled, it was divided into twelve school sections (SS). The residents of each section built their own school, which not only represented and defined the geographic community but also became a venue for community activities. This property, situated at Part Lot 7, Rear Concession 9, formed an initial land purchase agreement for a "common school" dated November 29th, 1850. The designated land served for the construction of a schoolhouse, and James Hower from the Township and Province of Canada was compensated one pound and five shillings. Trustees for the project included James Hower, Adam Hume, John Iles, and Joseph Dory. Replacing two log structures dated around 1839 and 1850, the present stone schoolhouse was constructed in 1862. It was in use as an educational and community facility for a century after which schooling became centralised, and the schoolhouse redundant.

Contextual Value:

The property is surrounded by several other heritage properties, along Watson and Arkell Rd in the Arkell area. These residences, including the John Caulfield, John Isles, Jr., and Thomas Arkell houses, among many others, played a significant role in shaping and establishing this part of Puslinch. In addition, the property is also in close proximity to the George Nichol Blacksmith Shop. The purpose-built 1875 stone school's teacherage is located directly beside the schoolhouse, demonstrating the importance of the school's educational role in the community. The property holds the status of a landmark due to its architecture and rich social history within the Township. Over the years, it has served numerous generations and families, playing crucial roles in both education and community activities.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 843 Watson RD S:

Arkell Schoolhouse:

- Height, scale, and form of original schoolhouse
- Extant exterior coursed stone walls
- Original fenestration on front and side facades
- Limestone quoins, lintels, and sills
- Limestone surrounds on Romanesque window and front facade entrance fenestrations
- Bell and belfry
- Date sign

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

CC: Property Owner
Ontario Heritage Trust

Received

DEC 18 2023

Ontario Heritage Trust