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Description of the Property

(Key Map Showing Location of 4492 Watson Road South)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4492 Watson Rd S, Puslinch, the former “School Section 10” holds significant cultural heritage value due to its role in the educational and social history of Puslinch Township and the Corwhin community. This value is retained in the extant one-room schoolhouse on the property. The building represents the efforts of the constituents of School Section 10 to provide public elementary education to the local community. The schoolhouse was constructed in 1885 using building plans published by the Ontario Department of Education in the mid-nineteenth century as a guide. The board

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of School Section 10 fulfilled these plans according to their own resources and preferences. The property's design value is seen in the exceptional and distinct stone masonry attributed to local masons, William Laing and Thomas Taylor. Where other local landmarks have disappeared, the schoolhouse's strategic placement marks the location of the historic hamlet of Corwhin. 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 building features elements representative of late nineteenth century Ontario schoolhouse design: front gable roof, single-storey rectangular form, large window fenestrations on the side walls and a front facade with two entrances: one for girls and one for boys. Noteworthy features include its fine masonry with coursed ashlar and lime-taped exterior stone walls, and large rectangular segmentally arched windows along each of the side walls. A large Romanesque window is centred on the front façade. The side wall windows are topped with soldier-style stone lintels, while the central window holds a Romanesque arched stone lintel. The front gabled roof originally held a belfry and bell.

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 centre for community activities. The property at Lot 20, Front Concession 10 was purchased from John Laing. The present structure replaced a previous frame school on the site. In addition to providing elementary education for families in the "Section" the Corwhin School hosted local social events including dances, bingo, debates and Sunday school services. The property served the Corwhin community as its educational and community centre for 75 years until its closure in 1961, when local schools were centralised to a consolidated school in the Township. In 1963, the property was acquired by the Girl Guides of Canada, who named it Camp Corwhin. It has since been repurposed as a residence.

Contextual Value:

The property is surrounded by several other heritage properties along Watson Rd in the Corwhin area. These properties, among others, were built by Andrew McRobbie, Duncan Campbell, and Duncan McFarlane, individuals who played a significant role in shaping and establishing this part of Puslinch and the Corwhin school. The schoolhouse's strategic placement also marks the geographic location of the historic hamlet of Corwhin, since other local landmarks such as the post office, railway station and Methodist church have disappeared.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4492 Watson RD S:

Corwhin Schoolhouse:

- Height, scale, and form of original schoolhouse building
- Front gabled roof line
- Coursed ashlar stone exterior walls and quoins
- Extant original door fenestration with voussoirs
- Segmentally arched window fenestrations and stone lintels and sills
- Romanesque window on front facade and arched stone lintel

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
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