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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 6705 Ellis 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 Concession 9 Front Part Lot 2, municipally known as at 6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value due to its association with the religious and educational history of the Township, particularly for the Puslinch Lake community. This value is retained in the 1861 building on the property. It is the only example in Puslinch Township of a Gothic chapel built in the vernacular form from locally sourced materials. It is deeply connected to the Ellis family, as it was originally constructed on the land they owned and built by family members. Moreover, the property possesses significant cultural value stemming from its importance

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as a religious and educational centre for multiple generations, especially in the Puslinch Lake community. The Ellis Chapel is recognized locally and provincially as a landmark in the Township. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario as it satisfies at least three of the nine criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest under Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) under the Ontario Heritage Act. 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 contains a unique example of a front-gabled Gothic chapel constructed with a high degree of craftsmanship by local artisans using local materials. The design and craftsmanship reflects the beliefs, skills and resources of those who built it. In 1861, the local community came together in work bees to build the chapel, with carpentry work carried out by Edward and Thomas Ellis, as well as Peter Lamont. The structure is constructed with random coursed fieldstone. Two very large sashed Gothic windows with rectangular tracery muntins are placed along both side walls, and on each side of the front entrance. The Gothic transom above the front double door entry matches these windows and lines up with them. These windows were built by Edward Ellis. A single door is located at the rear of the building. All fenestrations have stone voussoirs. The front gabled roof still retains its original wooden brackets beneath the eaves. The front façade holds a stone plaque under the gable peak displaying the name of the chapel and the date of its construction. The chapel interior includes a unique Grecian-style framing behind the pulpit area, among other original materials. The property includes a small cemetery at the rear with marble stones from the 1860s and 1870s that have been removed and re-mounted onto a stone wall cairn. These markers show the delicate work of a single monument carver from Guelph, named "Feast."

Historical/Associative Value

The chapel, situated on Front Concession 2, Part Lot 9, was constructed on land donated by Edward and Mary Ellis. It is historically significant that it was built as an interdenominational church, in a community effort to serve the various Protestant faiths of the residents of the Puslinch Lake area. The regular ministers and local laymen were Methodists but Sunday School teachers were always of mixed denominations. The ministerial services were phased out by the end of the nineteenth century although the Church Sunday School continued into the 1940s, after which the building was used for Boy Scout meetings.

The Chapel was restored in 1962-1963, once again as a community effort, led by Mr. Lloyd S. Frank, a scout for a service centre to be built on the property for the 401 highway that bisected the Ellis lands. It was also intended to be used as a place of meditation for travellers on the 401. The new Ellis Church constitution read "the basic religious purpose and significance of Ellis Church shall be preserved and it shall never be permitted to deteriorate into use as a museum or other commercial purpose."

In August 1963, it was officially recognized and marked by the Archeological and Historical Sites Board of Ontario. The Ellis Chapel's small cemetery was rededicated after

the removal of the extant tombstones onto a memorial stone wall cairn in 1965. This act served as a tribute to those resting in the cemetery and to their faith practiced in the Chapel. As in other cemeteries, the extant gravestones provide genealogical information on the congregants and on disease and mortality in the time period. Other unmarked burials may be present at the rear of the property.

Contextual Value

Ellis Chapel stands in close proximity to the residences of many early settlers who originally inhabited the Puslinch Lake community during the mid-19th century and participated in its construction. Some of these residences, such as the houses of Charles Barrett, Hector McCaig, and Alexander McPherson, are still located in its immediate vicinity, forming a historical neighborhood around Ellis Chapel. The property's strong connection to its surroundings is evident in the fact that numerous building materials were sourced from the nearby fields and forests. Subsequently the restoration of the chapel has been a community event, and services continue to be held here. Due to its architectural, historical, and cultural significance, Ellis Chapel has become a significant, and cherished landmark in the Township.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6705 Ellis Rd:

Ellis Chapel

- Height, scale and form of building
- Coursed fieldstone walls and quoins
- All original doors
- Gothic windows with rectangular wood muntin tracery
- Entrance transom
- Stone voussoirs
- Date sign
- Plaque from the Archaeological and Historical Sites Board of Ontario
- Cairn and extant gravestones

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.

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