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RECEIVED
2023/09/07
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

August 31, 2023

Re: Notice of Intent to Designate 8682 Highway 27 pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

INTENT TO DESIGNATE UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan intends to designate for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest, pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* the property municipally described as **8682 Highway 27** in the City of Vaughan, in the Province of Ontario.

REASONS FOR PROPOSED DESIGNATION

The John Lawrie House at 8682 Highway 27 was first identified as a potential heritage property in a 1976 Town of Vaughan review of potential heritage properties and was formally Listed by the City of Vaughan in 2005. The preliminary evaluation of property at the time noted that the primary structure was built circa 1850 and is one of the oldest surviving cultural heritage properties. Recent staff research on the subject property has confirmed that the cultural heritage value of 8682 Highway 27 meets the criteria set out under OHA Regulation 9/06 for physical, associative, and contextual cultural heritage value.

The John Lawrie House at 8682 Highway 27 presents physical heritage value as one of the early surviving vernacular stone farmhouses in Vaughan with influences by local stone mason Henry Burton (c. 1850). The fieldstone house is built in the late Georgian architectural style, with dressed stones and finely tooled limestone quoining that provide a unique example of early vernacular masonry in the area. The details of its construction and association with Burton, allow for study of contemporary and regional construction methods. The brick addition, which was added later in the 19th century, adds merit in expressing the evolving trends and materials available to the settlers in Vaughan Township. The interior layout, window casements, floorboards, baseboards are all original to the design of the house; the building has a “cross and bible” wood door, typical of 1850’s and earlier.

The John Lawrie House at 8682 Highway 27 has historical association as the home of well-known settlers registered on title as far back as the 1830s. Four generations of the Lawrie family, for a period of almost 120 years, owned and farmed the land where the house sits today, and were local leaders within the community. John Lawrie was a member of the first Vaughan Township Council when the municipal government was established throughout rural Ontario by provincial legislation in 1849. John Lawrie also participated in the development and construction of a community church. The farmhouse is also associated with the local stone mason Henry Burton – a skilled local stone mason well known for the contemporary addition to Osgoode Hall in Toronto. The integrity of the farmhouse allows for the study of its construction and has the potential to yield further insight into 19th masonry.

The John Lawrie House at 8682 Highway 27 has visibility from Highway 27 which allows it to act as a landmark and point of reference in the landscape and streetscape. It is historically linked to its surroundings by way of its vernacular rural history. The property also contains a cultural heritage landscape in the allée of mature heritage trees that line the property’s original access driveway from Highway 27, where a ploughed field existed at one time contribute to its characteristic rural setting.

FILING A NOTICE OF OBJECTION

ANY PERSON MAY, within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this Notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan, a notice of objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

Notice of Objections can be served at the following address:

City of Vaughan, City Clerk’s Office,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Additional information, including a full description of the reasons for designation and minutes of the Heritage Vaughan presentation meeting are available online, or upon request from the Cultural Heritage Division at CulturalHeritage@vaughan.ca.

Office of the City Clerk
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