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November 6, 2023

City Clerk  
The Corporation of the City of Oshawa  
50 Centre Street South  
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

**RECEIVED**  
2023/11/07  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

File: 12-04

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate  
760 King Street West (Union Cemetery)**

Pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest:

760 King Street West, described as LOTS 6 & 7, PART LOT 415 SHEET 16C PLAN 370 EAST WHITBY, S/T EASEMENT OVER PART LOT 4 SHEET 16C PLAN 370

**1. Location and Description of Property:**

The property municipally known as 760 King Street West, site of Union Cemetery, is located at the northeast corner of King Street West and Thornton Road North. The property occupies a 32-acre generally rectangular plot and has rolling topography.

**2. Legal Description:**

The property at 760 King Street West to be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18 is legally described as:

LOTS 6 & 7, PART LOT 415 SHEET 16C PLAN 370 EAST WHITBY, S/T EASEMENT OVER PART LOT 4 SHEET 16C PLAN 370.

**3. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

Union Cemetery has physical value as a representative example of an early pioneer cemetery and a Garden cemetery design. The original pioneer portion includes 19 acres in the southwest corner and holds the memorials for some of the earliest pioneer families. This undesigned section includes memorials often clustered in familiar groups or sporadically placed. The remainder of the cemetery follows the picturesque movement or "Garden design". The Garden designs, as expressed in Union Cemetery, were organized and intentional created calm and reflective spaces integrating burial gardens, in-ground memorials, upright granite monuments, tranquil walkways, columbaria, mausoleums and memorial landscape features such as benches and vegetation. As a whole, Union Cemetery has design and physical value as an evolved cultural heritage landscape which showcases several representative examples of cemetery design spanning well over a century and a half.



Union Cemetery has historic value as it reflects the early history of the City of Oshawa and holds the memorials of some of Oshawa's earliest pioneer families, some which date back to 1837. Over the cemetery's 186-year history, it has been the final resting place for some of Oshawa's most prominent families and citizens, such as members of the Conant and Pedlar family, Rev. Robert Thornton, R.S. McLaughlin, artists Florence H. McGillivray and Alexandra Luke, along with many others. Union Cemetery is directly associated with Rev. Robert Thornton, the first Presbyterian minister for both Oshawa and Whitby and by extension the Presbyterian community, as Union Cemetery was the site of the first dedicated Presbyterian church in Whitby. In addition, Union Cemetery is associated with the Oshawa Union Cemetery Company, created in 1875 to consolidate land around the existing cemetery in order to expand the cemetery's boundaries. Union Cemetery serves as an expression and example of how local faith-based organizations in the community came together to ensure a final resting place for its citizens.

Union Cemetery has historic or associative value as it contains gravestones which provide information about earlier settlers including family genealogical information and serves as a tangible link to understanding the past.

Union Cemetery has associative value as it reflects the work of Prussian-born landscape architect H.A. Engelhardt, who designed the central section of the cemetery in 1875. Engelhardt was known for expressing the aesthetic associated with the picturesque movement through his cemetery designs and was also responsible for the design of several other cemeteries such as Port Hope's Union Cemetery and Mount Pleasant in Toronto.

Union Cemetery has contextual value as it is easily distinguishable as a cemetery and important in defining the character of the area. The park-like setting, location, size, and street frontage in relation to the encompassing suburban community defines the intersection.

Union Cemetery has been functionally and historically linked to the surroundings for over 180 years. Union Cemetery was originally established as the 19-acre churchyard of Oshawa's first Presbyterian church in 1837, and it expanded to over 30 acres by the 1920s.

Union Cemetery is a landmark within the City of Oshawa. It is situated in a prominent location along two major arterial roads. It is a well-known marker in the community as it is the largest cemetery in Oshawa and houses the remains of many citizens.

On the basis of the cultural heritage value or interest outlined above, the property at 760 King Street West meets the criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 569/22 subsection 1(2), specifically criteria 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

#### **4. Heritage Attributes:**

The following list of heritage attributes reflects the values described in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

- The monuments and grave markers with their variety of materials, design motifs, surviving inscriptions and placement associated with the original 19-acre portion of the cemetery;

- The presence of the office building, limestone mausoleum, columbarias, military cenotaph, and various monuments and markers found throughout the entire cemetery;
- The wrought iron gates marking the cemetery's main entrance;
- The metal fencing and row of mature trees which denote the cemetery boundary;
- The designed circulation patterns which create defined spaces of various shapes and sizes;
- Unobstructed view of the 32-acre cemetery located at the northeast corner of Thornton Road North and King Street West in the City of Oshawa; and,
- The park-like setting including meandering pathways and designed nature features of the site.

The full particulars for the subject property, including heritage attributes to be protected, are available for inspection in Planning Services, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall, 50 Centre Street South, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you would like to obtain further details, please contact Harrison Whilsmith, Planner A, at (905) 436-3311 ex. 2697 or by email at [hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca](mailto:hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca).

Any person may, on or before the 6th day of December, 2023, send by registered mail or deliver to the City Clerk, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of their reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the City of Oshawa will consider the objection on or before the 5th day of March, 2024.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact me at the address shown or by telephone at (905) 436-3311, extension 2697 or by email to [hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca](mailto:hwhilsmith@oshawa.ca).



Harrison Whilsmith, Planner A  
Policy

HW/k

c. Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

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