



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre 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](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

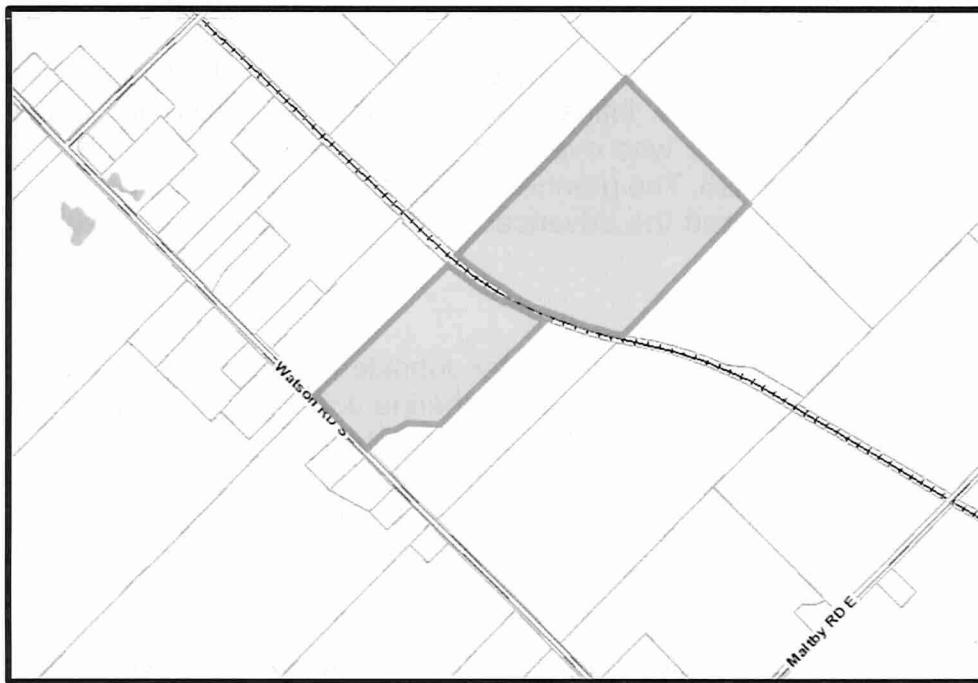


## THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 4677 Watson Rd S, Puslinch

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 4677 Watson Rd S, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18. as authorized by Township of Puslinch Council through Resolution No. 2024-336.

### **Description of the Property**

The subject property is described as being Concession 10 Part Lot 13 RP;61R502 Part 1 PT Part 2, municipally known as at 4677 Watson Rd S, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 4677 Watson Rd S, Puslinch)

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The property located at 4677 Watson Road South, Puslinch, 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 retains significant cultural heritage value in its rare fieldstone Queen Anne architecture. The property is historically associated with the Castor Johnston family, the John Murray family, and the Village of Arkell. It is contextually significant to other stone buildings in Arkell built by stonemason, Robert Lamb.

*Design Value:*

**RECEIVED**  
2024/10/21  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

The property was built for John Murray in 1896. It is a rare, and the only example in Puslinch Township, of a two-and-a-half-storey Queen Anne Revival/Italianate-style house built of large cut field granite, fieldstone and limestone. Queen Anne architecture is usually rendered in brick or wood to accommodate the asymmetrical form, multiple planes, and decorative treatments of this style. In this case the builders applied Italianate detailing to the Queen Anne form and mass to achieve this effect. Features characteristic of the Queen Anne style on this residence include the two-and-a-half-storey height with a steeply pitched cross-gabled roof. The front Gothic gable is to one side of the front facade. A projecting two-storey bay under the Gothic gable, is typical Queen Anne design. In contrast to the heavy granite and fieldstone of the main facade, the bay is constructed of finely cut limestone with a separate parapeted roof with cornice and brackets. It is windowed on both storeys, with windows canted to fit the bay. The original double-hung entry porch with a second story exit door tucked beside the projecting bay is also Queen Anne design (porch has deteriorated). The residence has a two-storey fieldstone and granite rear extension, perpendicular to the main structure, that accommodates a long veranda with posts and fan brackets; the latter also characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Wide eaves with paired decorative scroll brackets, and arched windows in the upper storeys illustrate the Italianate influences. All lintels and sills are cut stone. The construction of the residence was overseen by local stonemason Robert Lamb, who completed the project in 1896. The grandeur of the endeavor was highlighted in the Arkell newspaper, which showcased the advanced skills of Scottish stonemasons in the area during that era.

#### *Historical/Associative Value:*

The property, originally settled by the Crastor Johnston family in 1839, was sold to John Murray in 1871, following his marriage to Catherine Johnston in 1866 and the death of Crastor Johnston in 1867. Crastor had no sons to inherit or work the property. The pre-1851 two-storey stone house that the Johnston family had built on the property was replaced by Murray in 1896. Murray was a farmer and livestock breeder and a prominent figure in Arkell, playing a vital role in various aspects of community building. He served as Secretary of the School Board for School Section #1, facilitated the purchase of the school bell for the Arkell Schoolhouse, and was involved in hiring teachers. He was a director of the Puslinch Agricultural Society. He also organized church gatherings for his Presbyterian peers and was regarded in the Township as a man of integrity and generosity. John Murray and his wife Catherine raised a large family, many of whom became active community contributors. This property reflects the economic status of the Murray family at the time they had the residence built.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property is physically connected to its surroundings through the use of local stone for the house construction and the stonemason Robert Lamb, who also built the 1875 Arkell teacherage. The property is situated in proximity to other mid to late 19th century properties with heritage significance including the Thomas Arkell Georgian manor farmhouse, and the William Hume and James Orme Neoclassic residences, that collectively exemplify the history and agricultural prosperity of the Arkell area.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4677 Watson Rd S.

John Murray House:

- Height, scale, and massing of two-and-a-half storey property
- Field granite, fieldstone and limestone fieldstone masonry walls
- Original/extant door and window fenestrations
- Decorative eaves-brackets
- Two storey limestone bay with parapet roof and original fenestration

### **Notice of Objection**

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:00 p.m. on November 16, 2024. 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 October 17, 2024

Justine Brotherston,  
Municipal Clerk  
Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner  
Ontario Heritage Trust

Received  
OCT 21 2024  
Ontario Heritage Trust