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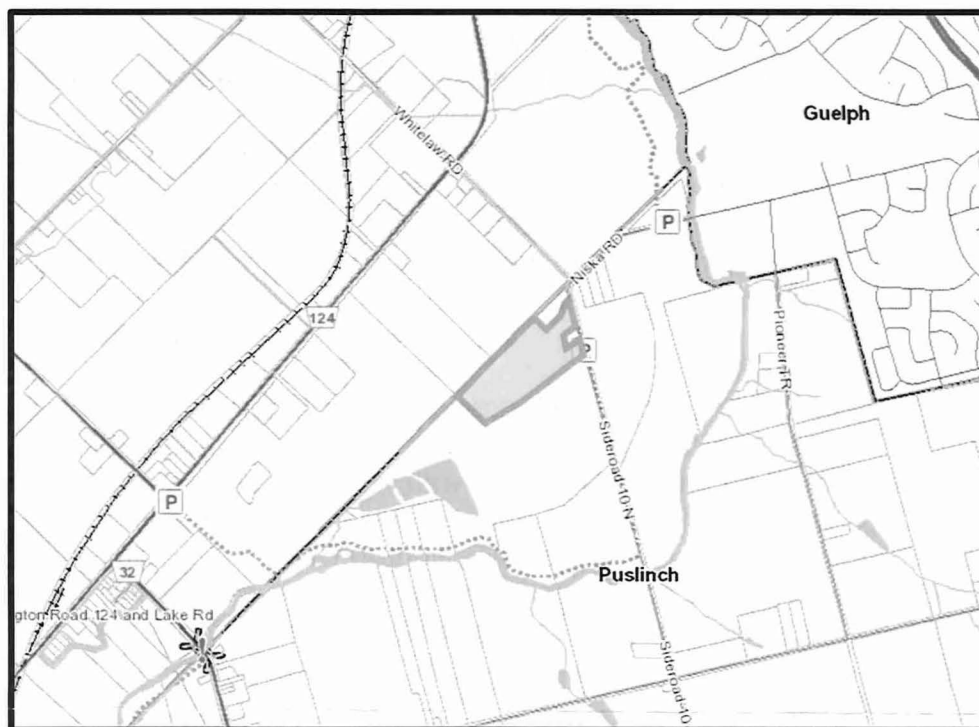


## THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 4856 Sideroad 10 N, Puslinch

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 4856 Sideroad 10 N, 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 5 Part Lots 9 and; 10 Part Road Allow RP 61R6065 Part; Parts 2 and 4, municipally known as at 4856 Sideroad 10 N, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 4856 Sideroad 10 N, Puslinch)

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4856 Sideroad 10 North, 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.

This property, built c. 1848 has highly significant cultural heritage value retained in the residence, barns, and landscape. Its design value lies in its very early and grand Neoclassic residence built in a frontier environment. It is associated with Thomas Saunders, and William Sorby, prominent gentleman farmers who promoted agricultural

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technology and education in the Township. The property also has a very complex social history of national significance. In addition to its farming purposes, the property has served as a rehabilitation centre for the World War 1 veterans, an agricultural training school for British youth, and a summer camp for World War 1 orphans. Contextually, the property is historically adjacent to manor farms built by other gentleman farmers who promoted agricultural education, improvement and invention, and is a landmark.

#### *Design Value*

The property's residence c. 1846 is an outstanding example of an early three-storey Neoclassic house rendered in large ashlar limestone, presently covered with roughcast plaster. The front of the residence is two storeys and the slope of the site and raised basement have created a third storey elevation at the rear of the building. This residence is the earliest example of Neoclassic architecture in Puslinch and one of the earliest extant stone properties in the Township. A model of the style, this Neoclassical residence has symmetry, simplicity of form and a formal system of proportion. The three bay front facade has a centred entranceway under a wood Greek portico, and has five large and proportionally vertical window fenestrations with stone sills, located symmetrically one to each side of the entrance and three on the second storey. The rear elevation has four windows placed symmetrically across each of the three stories. The hip roof has a front and rear centred low gable, added later in the Italianate style. Under these gables is a single ocular window. A hipped-roofed single storey wing (two-storey at the rear) at the side of the main building has similar, symmetrical, fenestrations of two windows on the front facade, and two on the upper part of the rear facade with a window and entrance on the lower level.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value*

The property, built on Lots 9 and 10 on Concession 5, originally belonged to Roland Wingfield. Col. Thomas Saunders, from Buckinghamshire, purchased the property in the 1840s and replaced the original log residence with his Neoclassic stone residence in 1846. He called his farm, "Woodlands." Saunders was a "Gentleman" farmer, president of the Puslinch Agricultural Society and the Wellington County Agricultural Society, and livestock breeder. He was also a colonel of the militia for the counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey, crown prosecutor, and Clerk of the Peace for Wellington from 1840 until his death.

Between 1863 and 1864, Walter Sorby bought the farm from Saunders and subsequently built a substantial horse barn and a woodworking shop for himself and his three carpenter sons. After Walter's passing in 1890, the farm passed into the ownership of his son, Oswald. Oswald used the farm for animal raising and the importation and sale of valuable horses, particularly Clydesdales.

In 1923 the property developed provincial and national significance as a rehabilitation/retraining centre for injured soldiers returning from the battlegrounds of World War I. The Province of Ontario purchased the property for this purpose and renamed it "Vimy Ridge Farm," after the battle of Vimy Ridge where the Canadian Expeditionary Force defeated the three divisions of the German Army in 1917. Vimy Ridge became a symbol of national achievement and sacrifice.

The farm was also used as a summer camp for war orphans in 1924. From that time forward to 1932, under the British Government's "Empire Settlement Act" (1922), Vimy Ridge Farm served as an agricultural training centre in an attempt to provide workers from Britain and her colonies needed for Canada's farms. Boys were trained in farming methods at the farm, provided room and board and subsequently were hired out to farmers.

*Contextual Value:*

The property remains as the material evidence of the architectural and agricultural initiatives of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Additionally, the property is considered a landmark for the area and has a physical proximity to the Anderson and Buchanan farms owned likewise by Gentleman farmers, active in the agricultural societies. Nationally, hundreds of Canadian families trace their heritage to Vimy Ridge Farm as their first residence in Canada.

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4856 Sideroad 10 North:

Thomas Saunders House/Vimy Ridge:

- All original door and window openings, extant sash windows
- Front portico
- Original stone foundation
- Front, side, and rear stone facades
- Height, scale, and massing of original three storey property
- Brick chimneys on main part of residence

**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

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

CC: Property Owner  
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