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THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 6981 Concession 4, Puslinch

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch intends to designate at 6981 Concession 4, 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 3 Part Lot 19 RP;61R11574 Part 2, municipally known as at 6981 Concession 4, Puslinch.



(Key Map Showing Location of 6981 Concession 4, Puslinch)

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property at 6981 Concession 4, Puslinch meets the requirements for heritage designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

6981 Concession 4, Puslinch retains cultural heritage value in the exceptional stonemasonry craftsmanship of its "Ontario House" design. Historically, the property is associated with early immigration to Puslinch Township from the Scottish Highlands, and the community in Puslinch known as "The Third". Contextually, the property is associated

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with two neighbouring properties with similar stonemasonry and design from the same builder.

Design Value:

The property is an outstanding example of 'Ontario House' architecture c. 1865 in coursed fieldstone with elaborate stone masonry detailing in cut limestone. Features present that are consistent with the Ontario House architectural style include the one-and-one-half storey elevation with side-gabled roof, and front entrance under a centred peaked roof gable. Symmetrical single windows are positioned on either side of the entrance door. A double arched window is under the peak above the entrance. A high degree of masonry craftsmanship is reflected in the Italianate detailing on the elaborate articulated quoins, distinctive entrance door voussour, pedimented window surrounds on the ground floor and carved surrounds with keystones on the upper storey arched windows, all rendered in finished limestone. The front door entranceway has a fanlight transom with sidelights.

Historical/ Associative Value:

The property, located on Rear Part Lot 19, Concession 3, holds significant historical value, dating to the earliest settlement in Puslinch Township. In 1834, as a result of the Highland clearances, widow Catherine Stewart and her children immigrated from Perthshire, Scotland, becoming the first settlers on the lot. They initially resided in a shanty before constructing a log cabin, laying the foundation for future developments.

The current house, built c. 1865, marked a milestone in the property's history, built for Catherine's son, Peter Stewart, before his marriage in 1866. Catherine Stewart was a founder of Duff's Presbyterian Church and Peter Stewart was both an esteemed farmer and respected elder of this Church. The family played a vital role in the community's founding and development. His sister, Catherine Stewart, also contributed significantly, assuming parental responsibilities during times of family tragedy.

The property flourished as a prosperous farm, cultivating grain, wheat, and vegetables, and serving as a hub for agricultural activities. In more recent times, it underwent a transformation and now serves as the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada, preserving its heritage while continuing to fulfil a role in the community.

Contextual Value:

The property is an integral part of a collection of neighbouring 1860s residences linked by their similar architectural design and outstanding masonry. Notably, the houses of Alexander McKay on Lot 19 Front Concession 3 and John McCormick on Lot 15 Front Concession 3 bear a striking resemblance to the Peter Stewart house in terms of their construction and masonry detailing.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6981 Concession 4.

Peter Stewart House:

- Extant doors and windows

- Original window and door fenestration
- Exterior fieldstone construction
- Masonry limestone quoins, voussoir, and window surrounds with original detailing
- Height, scale, and massing of the original one-and-a-half storey property

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
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