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Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under the Ontario Heritage Act

46249 Sparta Line

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin intends to designate the following properties as properties of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18:

House located on property known municipally as **46249 Sparta Line** and legally described as **Part of Lot 21, Concession 3 and Part of Lots 7 and B, South Side of Main Street, Plan 48, more particularly described as Part 1 on Reference Plan 11R-2354, Geographic Township of Yarmouth, Municipality of Central Elgin.**

The exterior of the house is proposed to be designated. The house was build about 1855 and served as the parsonage for Sparta Baptist Church from 1883 until 1956. In addition, the property has been owned by several key historical figures in Sparta. The house was constructed in Greek Revival architectural style with returned eaves and pilastered entrance with Doric capitals and entablature. The house is used as a private home today.

The full statement of cultural heritage value or interest is attached. A copy of the statement is available in the Municipal Office at the Elgin County Administration Building, 450 Sunset Drive, 1st Floor, daily, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the municipal website, www.centralelgin.org, by clicking the "Notices-Other" Quick Link on the homepage.

Any person may, not later than the **Monday, September 1st, 2008**, serve on the Clerk of the Municipality of Central Elgin a **notice of objection** setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the Municipality of Central Elgin this 1st day of August, 2008.

Donald N. Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer & Clerk
Municipality of Central Elgin
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The Baptist Parsonage

Architectural Qualities

The Baptist Parsonage was built about 1855. It served as a residence for the ministers of Sparta Baptist Church until the mid-twentieth century. It now serves as a private home.

The Baptist Parsonage is constructed in the Greek Revival Architectural Style (with its returned eaves and pilastered entrance with Doric capitals and entablature). The structure sits on a fieldstone foundation topped by several courses of brick and laid with bottom row headers and stretchers. It is a one and a half storey building, and it has a partial basement and a crawl space (though the basement is not original to the building). The facade is 11 metres long and has a depth of 7 metres. It is made of clapboard and supported by a wooden frame. The clapboard on the corners is corner board to make a nice finish. The structure is roofed by a medium gable. The building has projecting eaves, returned eaves, wooded verges, plain fascia, moulded soffits, and plain frieze. A composite roof replicates the original cedar shingles. There are two chimneys on the building; they are made of brick and are located side left and side right single mass. There is one doorway located in the centre of the facade. The entrance is pilastered with Doric columns and entablature. The door has 1 leaf and a single panel. The windows on the building are two sash, single or double hung with a 6/6 pane arrangement. The building has a wooden platform across the front. It is believed that the basement and the stairs and porch have been altered or added.

Registry Office Material & Historical Significance

Several Key figures of the Sparta community owned this property before it was bought by the trustees of the Sparta Baptist Church. Among these are John Mills, James Mills, and Hiram B. Smith.

John Mills was deeded the land from the Honourable James Baby. Baby was a member of the Upper Canada Legislature, and he was given this land through the crown patent of 1799. After the War of 1812 had ended, Jonathan Doan went to Pennsylvania to encourage his friends there to move to the Sparta area. Shortly thereafter, John Mills came to the Sparta area. John Mills later split his land up among his sons, including James Mills. Hiram B. Smith bought this property from William R. Spruce in 1854. Hiram B. Smith was one of the most influential people in early Sparta; Smith owned a store and large home which can be still seen on Sparta Line (Main Street) today. The trustees of the Sparta Baptist Church purchased this property in 1883 and it served as their parsonage until 1956 when it was purchased by Rev. William and Vera Sherman who served as the pastor family for approximately 21 years. The Baptist Parsonage is now owned by Dr. Robert and Barbara Burns.

Legal Description:

Lot 1, Concession 3
Plan 48 Part of Lot 7 and Lot B South Side of Main Street
Municipality of Central Elgin (Yarmouth)
Part 1 on 11R-2354

Note: It is proposed to designate the exterior of the building.