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**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT**

**BY-LAW NO. 2019-44**

**RECEIVED**  
2024/12/16  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

**BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS  
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, LOCATED AT 66 MILL STREET, BADEN,  
TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO,  
BEING LOT 180, PLAN 627,  
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

**WHEREAS** Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to designate property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot deems it desirable to designate St. James Lutheran Church as having historic, architectural and contextual value and interest;

**AND WHEREAS** the Clerk of the Township of Wilmot has caused Notice of Intention to Designate to be given in accordance with Section 29 (3 & 4) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990;

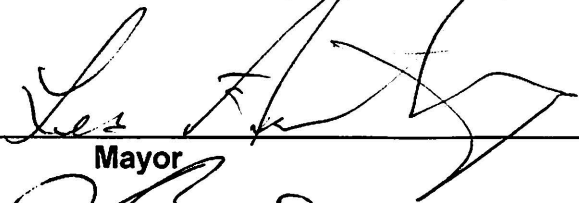
**AND WHEREAS** no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk within the meaning of Section 29 (5) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.


**THEREFORE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE  
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto is hereby designated to be of historic, architectural and contextual value. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest is set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. This By-law shall come into effect on the final passing thereof by the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot.

**READ** a first and second time this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

**READ** a third time and finally approved in Open Council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**to**

**BY-LAW NO. 2019-44**

Legal Description of Property to be designated:

**LOT 180, PLAN 627 TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF  
WATERLOO**

## **SCHEDULE “B” to By-law 2019-44**

### **HERITAGE WILMOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED HERITAGE DESIGNATION**

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
66 Mill Street, Baden Ontario

#### **Description of Property – 66 Mill Street**

The property at 66 Mill Street in the town of Baden, PLAN 627, LOT 180 is recommended for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design, historical and contextual value. Located on the west side of Mill Street, St. James Lutheran Church is listed on the Non-Designated Heritage Properties inventory for the Township of Wilmot.

#### **Statement of Cultural and Heritage Value**

##### **Historical Value**

St. James Lutheran Church was built in 1864. The history of the church has remained entwined with the community of Baden for over a 155 years.

Lutheran services began in 1856; the congregation formalized in 1858 purchasing property from Jacob Beck (Sir Adam Beck's father) in 1862. That year the cornerstone for the new church was laid and a frame church was completed c.1864. The original frame church remains in situ, with changes that include: addition of a basement and narthex in 1953.

Historically, the Beck family was closely associated with this church. First, with Jacob Beck who founded Baden and assisted with the building of the church while creating a thriving community. His wife Charlotte Hespeler who was the sister of nearby Jacob Hespeler was intricately involved in the church as well. Their son Adam who would become *Sir Adam Beck* was baptized and confirmed at this church. Adam Beck was a politician and founder of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and was knighted by King George V in 1914 for his promotion of electricity and development of transmission lines. On December 29, 1911, Beck and his wife returned to Baden and from the Baden Opera House, he officially switched on public hydro-electric power at precisely 6:11 p.m. in the village surrounded by hundreds of excited people and a 20-piece band at the event. Beck addressed the people and paid homage to his boyhood home of Baden followed by a banquet in their honour. The Becks continued to St. James Lutheran Church, where his mother had helped organize the church in its early years. In a more intimate setting while at St. James, Beck briefly addressed the church congregation in German; his first language that he tended not to use often in public. Following this, a set of ornate light fixtures were donated by Beck in memory of his mother and the church was lit at 8:00 p.m. sharp.

##### **Contextual Value**

This long-standing church has been a place of spiritual and social gathering since 1864. St. James Lutheran Church has been supported by the community and continues to be today.

##### **Physical Value**

St. James Lutheran Church is a representative example of a Vernacular religious building with Gothic Revival styling. Gothic Revival designs are recognized by the use of pointed arches, buttresses, and varied window types. This style diminished after the 1930s, a fact which adds to the architectural importance of the church.

## **Architectural Survey**

### **Front Façade/ East Façade**

1 storey; light grey vinyl siding covers the original frame church. Front entrance is an addition. The main church has a gable roof facing the street; on the roof is a square base with an eight sided tower with Gothic Revival features with plain tops and louvres in the lower portion; the steeple is 8-sided with a cedar shingle roof topped by decorative finial with a rooster weather vane. The foundation is parged with cement and marked out to look like stone.

### **West Façade**

West side has a 2-part 2/2 rectangular window towards the left side; the south side has a 2- part 2/2 rectangular window

### **North/South Façades**

The north side features 3 Gothic Revival stained-glass windows that are evenly spaced. The south façade is the same, featuring 3 Gothic Revival stained-glass windows. There is a small covered entryway towards the rear on the north side of the building.

## **Reasons for Designation**

St. James Lutheran Church is an example of a Vernacular style church with Gothic Revival features.

The Heritage Designation should include:

- All four exterior façades of St. James Church, including the stained glass windows on the north and south façades.
- The 8-sided tower

## **Recommendation**

The Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee recommends St. James Lutheran Church for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. This property meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design, historical and contextual value. The designation should include all four exterior façades of the church, including the tower.

Respectfully submitted by the Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee July 4, 2019