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VIA EMAILTO: registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca

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2025/04/24
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Ontario Heritage Trust

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Caledon intends to designate the property at 12489 Dixie Road as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property is located on the east side of Dixie Road, between Mayfield Road and Old School Road, in the Town of Caledon. The property contains a mid-19th century residence, a modified late 19th century barn, mid to late 20th century farm outbuildings, mature vegetation, a meandering creek, and agricultural fields.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The one-and-one-half storey farmhouse at 12489 Dixie Road has design or physical value as a representative example of a mid-19th century (c.1852-1861) Neoclassical style cottage constructed in red brick with buff brick detailing. Neoclassical design elements are found in its symmetrical, three-bay front façade with centre entrance and flanking windows, paneled wood door surround with four-pane transom and three-pane sidelights, decorative brickwork, and wood sash six-over-six pane windows with cut stone sills.

The farmhouse displays a high degree of craftsmanship on its exterior. The exterior craftsmanship is found in the decorative buff brick detailing, including quoins, window and door voussoirs, protruding horizontal banding in a key pattern on three façades, and a diamond pattern surmounted by three crosses in the west gable ends.

The property has historical value for its direct association with the Speirs family, who were early settlers to Chinguacousy Township and influential in the development of the hamlet of Mayfield. The Speirs family, originally from Renfrewshire, Scotland, settled in the township in the 1830s. The head of the family, Patrick Speirs, purchased the property in 1835, transferring ownership to his son William in 1850. The existing farmhouse was constructed under William Speirs' ownership. In addition to farming, William served as a local storekeeper for the community of Mayfield and he, his wife Janet and their son John all served as postmasters in the hamlet between 1853-1897. The property remained in the ownership of the Speirs family for 110 years.

The property has contextual value as it is visually and historically linked to the adjacent Mayfield United Church and cemetery at 12496 Dixie Road, and to the former hamlet of Mayfield, which developed at the intersection of present-day Dixie Road and Mayfield Road. Patrick and Mary Speirs had donated the land for the original Mayfield church in 1842, which was replaced in

1874 with the existing church. Eleven members of the Speirs family are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church, including Patrick and Mary Speirs, William Speirs and his two wives, Ann Hunter and Janet Scott.

The property is also historically linked to nearby extant farmhouses that were constructed for Speirs family members. The farmhouses at 4585 Mayfield Road and 12434 Dixie Road are associated with William Speirs's children, Mary (Speirs) Archdekin, and John Speirs respectively; and the farmhouse at 4848 Mayfield Road was constructed for William Speirs' brother, Adam Speirs.

Heritage Attributes

Heritage attributes that convey the design value or physical value of the property as a representative example of a Neoclassical style cottage:

- One-and-one-half-storey massing
- Medium-pitched cross gable roof with T-shaped plan and rear, one-storey shed roofed addition
- Dichromatic brick construction
- Symmetrical, three-bay front façade with centre entrance flanked by windows
- Front wood-paneled entry door with multipane sidelights and transom
- All historic exterior window and door openings
- 6/6 pane wood sash windows and paired 4/4 pane wood sash windows
- Cut stone sills
- Rubblestone foundation

Heritage attributes that display the high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit of the property:

- Buff brick detailing, including quoins, window and door voussoirs, protruding horizontal decorative banding in a key pattern, and a diamond pattern surmounted by three crosses in the west gable end

Heritage attributes that contribute to the historical or associative value of the property:

- Its association with William Speirs and family, demonstrated by inscribed bricks on the east elevation, one of which includes the name 'Speirs'.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's visual and historical links to its surroundings:

- The location of the farmhouse on the east side of Dixie Road opposite the Mayfield United Church and the Adam Speirs farmhouse at 12434 Dixie Road.
- South-facing orientation of the farmhouse overlooking the West Humber River tributary

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value or interest, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Modern side porch
- All interior finishes
- Barn and other outbuildings on the property
- Vegetation

RIGHT TO OBJECT

Any person may, within thirty days after publication of the notice on the Town of Caledon's website, dated April 23, 2025, serve the Clerk notice of their objection to the proposed designation in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The Notice was published in accordance with the Town's Ontario Heritage Act Alternative Notice Policy.

By email:
Kevin Klingenberg
Town Clerk
kevin.klingenberg@caledon.ca

By mail, courier or personal delivery attention:
Kevin Klingenberg, Corporate Services/Town Clerk
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