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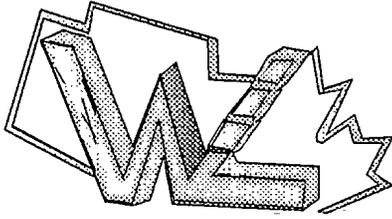


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TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN

Corporate Services Department

318 Canborough Street
P.O. Box 400
Smithville, Ontario
L0R 2A0
Phone: (905) 957-3346
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November 10, 1998

Heritage Branch
Heritage Programs Section
77 Bloor St. W., 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate Property

Please be advised that on October 19th, 1998, West Lincoln Council adopted the following recommendation from its October 13th General Committee Meeting:

That, the West Lincoln Heritage Committee minutes of a meeting held on September 24th, 1998, be received, and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

The reasons for designation of the Ker Church were approved by Council with the passing of the above resolution.

Please find attached a copy of the "Notice of Intention to Designate" which is to be inserted in the West Lincoln Review on November 18th, 1998.

If further information or clarification is required please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edith Packham', written in dark ink.

Edith Packham
Deputy Clerk

EP/
Encl.

pc: Ker United Church
c/o Ms. Wendy Veldman
9374 Twenty Road
R.R.#1, Smithville, Ontario, LOR 2A0

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN

(LOGO)

NOTICE TO CITIZENS IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS PART OF
LOT 18, CONCESSION 7, 9353 TWENTY ROAD, R.R.#1, SMITHVILLE,
ONTARIO, TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln intends to designate the following property, including land and buildings as a property of historic or architectural value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act: Part of Lot 18, Concession 7, 9353 Twenty Road, R.R.#1, Smithville, Ontario, Township of West Lincoln.

THE REASONS for the proposed designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto.

ANY PERSON may, within thirty days of the publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

THIS NOTICE PUBLISHED on the 18th day of November, 1998.

S. A. Hayden, Clerk

Township of West Lincoln

318 Canborough St., Box 400

Smithville, Ontario LOR 2A0

SCHEDULE 'A'

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

To designate only that portion of Part of Lot 18, Concession 7, 9353 Twenty Road, R.R.#1, Smithville, Ontario, Township of West Lincoln, as outlined in attached photographs.

History

Built in 1900, Ker United Church continues to be an active and essential part of community life. Although the congregation is 168 years old, the present building is the second structure built on this site. The cemetery, which is located to the west of the building, contains a wide variety of grave markers and several trees that compliment the church building. North of the church is the vault which was built in 1881 and is barely visible from the parking area located to the east of the church.

Ker United Church is historically important to the community for several reasons. The land for the church building and burial ground located at Part Lot 18, Concession 7, was donated by David Snyder in 1845 to build a Wesleyan Methodist Church. The land is described as "commencing at the SE angle of Pt. Lot 18, 7th Concession, that lies on the N side of the road according to George Balls Survey, said angle being 2 chains where a stake is planted. Then N 3 chains and 26 links. Then S 80 minutes, next five chains and 80 links. Then south of the highway 50 links more or less."

The trustees were Ezra Snyder, Elija Snyder and Jacob Ker. It was deemed necessary in 1883 to appoint four more trustees for the burying ground. The new trustees were James Harvey Buckbee, Thomas Ker, John Tweedle and James Ker. In 1883 James Harvey Buckbee, James Ker, Thomas Ker and Courtland White were given permission to build a vault on the burying ground. "Said parties ... shall have the right of way at anytime and at all times as accession, necessity or convenience may require" "and that same privileges are hereby granted to the heirs, descendents and executors of the above named parties so long as they may agree among themselves in the joint possession of said vault. (It is interesting to note that there is a Buckbee vault located in the Smithville United Church cemetery).

In 1862 the first church building was built, replacing a log and frame meeting house built in 1843. The present building was built in 1900. Much of the work was done by holding "work bees". Those on the building committee were Joseph Coon, Israel Marshall, James Ker and Thomas Bush. Descendants of the Coon, Marshall and Bush families still attend Ker United Church.

Architectural

The following architectural features of the Church interior, the exterior and the burial vault are to be included in the designation.

Exterior

Ker Church is a two-storey, solid brick, rectangular plan building. The roof type is hip and has a decorated parapet on the front facade. Currently, asphalt shingles protect the roof, and under the eaves are decorative brackets. The foundation is natural fieldstone, quarried from the nearby Twenty Mile Creek. The only exterior changes are the utility shed replacing the wood shed approximately 50 years ago and the original chimney is gone.

The front facade features a beautiful stained glass rose window over the front doors which have been replaced and a date stone with the inscription "Erected AD 1862, Rebuilt A.D. 1900."

The windows in the sanctuary are double hung, arch-headed with stained glass. These windows were beautifully restored several years ago using original materials. The basement windows are double hung, 1/1. Several panes on the east side of the church have been replaced.

Vault:

The vault was built in 1881 into the creek bank. To reach the entrance there are curved stairways on either side, made of stone probably from the creek bed. The front of the vault is also made of the same stone.

It is a very peaceful setting and is the final resting place for the Buckbee, Ker and White families. The last interment was approximately 20 years ago.

Interior

Entry:

The entrance to the church is through double doors. To the left and right are staircases leading into the sanctuary. The ceiling and plaster are original except where replaced with paneling going up each staircase. The railings are original, but the left one on the west side is missing.

Sanctuary:

The sanctuary consists of eleven rows of pews with a centre aisle. The floor slopes from the back to the front and drops about 1' for a better view of the pulpit and choir loft.

The floor, made of narrow pine boards, is original and has been refinished. The plaster and wainscoting are all original. The chair rail has been repaired to its original state. Hydro came in 1927 replacing carbide lamps and the lighting fixtures are the same ones installed at that time.

The ceiling is also Georgia Pine and at one time held gas heaters. These have been removed and the holes covered over.

To the left and right of the choir loft are two doors with plaster arches over each door leading to the basement and attic stairs. Each landing also contains a window looking to the choir loft. The landing on the right side contains the door to the choir loft. All the doors, windows, trim and hardware are original. The flooring is the same as the sanctuary.

Basement:

The whole basement is not to be designated, just the main room and the two classrooms on either side of the entry. The two classrooms have panel doors one that swings open and the other three fold. The plaster on the walls is original but paneling was used as wainscoting to repair below the windows. The baseboard and window sills are original. The ceiling is the same as the entry and Sanctuary, Georgia Pine. The floor is carpeted, but the original pine floor is underneath.

