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cc - T. Anson & Co. Inc. JAH

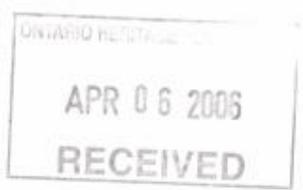
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Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore Corporate Services

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April 3, 2006

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Sirs/Madames:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

At its meeting of March 13, 2006, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore passed a resolution indicating its intention to designate the Roman Catholic Church properties in St. Joachim and Stoney Point as properties of cultural heritage value pursuant to Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Accordingly, we are hereby providing you with the required statutory notice.

St. Joachim Church

Location

The St. Joachim Church property is located at 2722 County Road 42, in the Village of St. Joachim. It is on the north side of County Road 42 almost directly opposite the "T" intersection of County Road 42 with County Road 31 (French Line) in the Town of Lakeshore and the Province of Ontario.

Reasons for Proposed Designation

1. Design or Physical Value

St. Joachim Church, first built in 1881 and remodelled in 1891, is a simple but attractive architectural composition. Its white oak timber framework, erected by the parishioners of

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the Ruscom River area with direction from Elzéar Jacques of Tecumseh, and the outer brick walls (also built by local help) are interesting for their demonstration of local skill in felling, squaring and raising timber and laying brick. The construction method is neither early nor rare for Ontario, but it is representative of a vernacular building tradition from an early time in the development of the farms around the Ruscom River. Overlying the vernacular structure are architectural features reflective of the knowledge Father Ambroise Lorion, a Roman Catholic priest from Quebec, brought to St. Joachim River Ruscom in the westernmost region of Southern Ontario. Father Lorion's choice of the round Roman arch on the exterior and in the interior and his preference for a bell-tower with open belfry make St. Joachim Church a rare expression of French Canadian Roman Catholic tastes and traditions in architecture during the nineteenth century in the Town of Lakeshore and Essex County.

2. Historical or Associative Value

St. Joachim Church predates the laying out of village lots in St. Joachim, are not only important to the history of the Roman Catholic faith in the local area but also are central to the history of the village of St. Joachim. As the community was generally French Canadian and Roman Catholic, St. Joachim Church, its rectory (built in 1882 and remodeled about 1929) and the parish compound that developed to the west of the church and rectory served as the unrivalled institution in St. Joachim. Contrast the situation in St. Joachim to ethnically diverse or predominantly Protestant villages and small towns of nineteenth century Ontario where there were usually a number of churches – Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc. That the religious monument erected in 1919 in front of the church served as the village war memorial is further proof of the paramount importance of the church property to the village and surrounding countryside.

3. Contextual Value

In his 1944 doctoral thesis on the geography of Essex County, Neil F. Morrison discusses the primacy of the church in the rural French Canadian landscape:

“In general, it may be said that the rural French-Canadian cultural structure rests upon four pillars – church, home, farm and language. The lofty spire of the Roman Catholic Church rises above the smaller French communities of Essex County and dominates the rural landscape just as it does in the Province of Quebec.”

In the area encompassed by the Town of Lakeshore where there were at one time five French Catholic churches, St. Joachim Church best exemplifies the landmark status of the church in the French Canadian countryside. Sited nearly dead centre on Essex County Road 31 (French Line), the church is viewed in the almost treeless plain of northern Essex County from a considerable distance to the south. In addition to the church's visual significance in the surrounding countryside, the church is the dominant historic building in the village. The placement of the rectory and monument in a treed lawn west of the church contribute to the sense that the property functions as the village green.

Heritage Attributes

The spire and open belfry are rare expressions of French Canadian tastes and traditions in architecture during the nineteenth century in the Town of Lakeshore and the County of Essex.

The monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus associated with the church was erected in 1919 and serves as the village war memorial.

Annunciation Church in Stoney Point

Location

The Church of the Annunciation property is located at 7025 Tecumseh Road, in the Village of Stoney Point. It is on the southeast corner of the intersection of County Road 35 and Tecumseh Road in the Town of Lakeshore and the Province of Ontario.

Reasons for Proposed Designation

1. Design or Physical Value

The church in Stoney Point is the product of Father N.D. St-Cyr's ambitious plans for transforming the Roman Catholic Church property in Stoney Point. Father N.D. St-Cyr, from Nicolet, Quebec, arrived at Stoney Point at the start of 1893 and was still making improvements to the physical fabric of the church property three years before his departure in 1914.

For the design of the church, Father St-Cyr turned to Louis Caron Junior whom he knew from Nicolet. Louis Caron Junior, in practice as an architect since 1890, was a prolific designer of churches, rectories, convents and other buildings in Quebec. The Church of the Annunciation in Stoney Point, erected in 1905 to his 1903 plans, was his only church commission in Ontario. The design Louis Caron Junior supplied is in some ways similar to his designs for churches in Windsor-Mills, Gentilly, Sainte-Cécile de Lévrard, Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil, Saint-Louis-de-Blandford and Victoriaville. The design reflects the traditions of church building in Quebec and the architectural tastes of French Canadians at the turn of the twentieth century.

The Church of the Annunciation exhibits in both its exterior and interior the Romanesque Revival style in the French Canadian tradition. The exterior features the round Roman arch which often distinguishes Roman Catholic churches in Ontario from Protestant churches and their preference for the pointed Gothic arch. Characteristically French Canadian are the bell-tower with open belfry (*clocher*), twin flanking towers (in this case reduced to pilasters surmounted by pinnacles), an oculus at the apex of the front gable (in the third tier of the central tower) and a spirelet (*flèche*) of the same design as the front pinnacles and located toward the south end of the church over the sanctuary and altar inside.

Pressed tin, a material that became widely available in the late nineteenth century, adorns the roofline of the church that is generally restrained in appearance on the exterior; and is applied throughout the interior to great decorative effect. The pressed tin patterns were probably designed in Nicolet and may even have been cast in the factory of Louis Caron et Fils where a blacksmith and metal workers were employed. In any event, the varied and wide use of pressed tin at the Church of the Annunciation and its survival into the twenty-first century are remarkable; perhaps of interest to the whole province.

For Father St-Cyr's last project, he ordered the magnificent Casavant pipe organ in 1911 from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec for installation in the centre of the church's gallery.

After the departure of Father St-Cyr, the influence of French Canadian designers continued. The painted decoration on the ceiling by Louis and Roland Jobin, Montreal transplants who worked on many ecclesiastical projects in Essex County, add to the artistic merit of the church's interior.

The influence of a Quebec-educated priest and Quebec designers on the Church of the Annunciation in Stoney Point is key to understanding the church's historic character.

2. Historical or Associative Value

The design influences from Quebec on the Church of the Annunciation demonstrate the close links a hundred years ago between Quebec and Essex County, 800 kilometres away. The Church of the Annunciation is the legacy of the cultural connection between French Canadians across provincial borders. G. Emmett Carter, the Bishop of London, acknowledged the cultural connection in the introduction to Breault's 1967 history:

“Notre milieu canadien-français, fidèle aux traditions de ceux qui ont longé le fleuve St-Laurent et qui ont fondé leurs foyers sur les bords de nos grands lacs se réjouit de la foi gardée intacte, de l'attachement à l'église paroissiale, à l'église universelle.” In translation: The French Canadians in our midst, faithful to the traditions of those who lived along the St. Lawrence River and who founded their homes on the shores of our Great Lakes, rejoice in their faith guarded intact, in their attachment to the parish church, in the church universal.”

In addition to its broader significance, the church has been the centre of parish life and village activity for a century. It has served the function of the most important institution in the generally French Canadian and Roman Catholic community, and has stood alone without the normal array of different churches seen in most other Ontario villages and small towns.

3. Contextual Value

In his 1944 doctoral thesis on the geography of Essex County, Neil F. Morrison discusses the primacy of the church in the rural French Canadian landscape:

Right of Objection

Please note that you may object to the designation of either or both of the above proposed designations by serving your notice of objection on me, the Clerk for the Town of Lakeshore, within 30 days of the publication of notice of Council's intention to designate these properties in the local newspapers, which was published on March 29, 2006. If you have any questions with respect to the appeal process, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Masse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Masse, Clerk