



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.



Town of Lakeshore
Intention to Designate
Puce Memorial Cemetery

The Town of Lakeshore hereby serves notice of the Intention to Designate the Puce Memorial Cemetery, located at 898 County Road 42, near Puce Road as a Historical Property.

In the matter of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 1990 Chapter O.18, as amended authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest.

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore intends to designate the Puce Memorial Cemetery located at 898 County Road 42 in the Town of Lakeshore and the Province of Ontario as a property of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990 CO.18

Description of Property

Puce Memorial Cemetery is recommended for designation for its cultural heritage value or interest under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. It meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

Puce Memorial Cemetery is an active cemetery which has a blunted triangular shape encompassed by the Puce River on the West which travels a short distance North-West, a fence along the North, a field to the East and a bridge and County Road 42 along the South. A sign marking the site as Puce Memorial Cemetery marks the entrance located along the South edge of the cemetery. The front border of the cemetery is outlined by tapered cement standards with painted iron rails partially bordering the road and the creek bank. A gravel roadway encircles central gravestones starting at the entryway and back to the road; a side road branches off on the side of the creek with plots marked on both sides of the circle driveway. A survey of the property is on file.

Puce Memorial Cemetery is the burial place of numerous people of African origins, who were escaped slaves and oppressed free Blacks from the U.S.A. who later became pioneers and freedom fighters helping to shape Canada. Puce Memorial Cemetery is a cemetery with approximately 400 plots.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Puce Memorial Cemetery owned by the First Baptist Church Puce has been in existence since circa 1846 and is a burial place of numerous people of African Origin.

As Puce was one of the final stops on the Underground Railway; escaped enslaved families and oppressed free blacks from the United States settled this area seeking freedom and to make contributions to this community.

These black freedom seekers purchased property from the Refugee Home Society and were incorporated into the community as productive citizens making contributions to agriculture, business, religious and cultural landscapes garnering great admiration and respect.

The First Baptist Church Puce and the Puce Memorial Cemetery served many individuals from the community and has unified families both in life and in death physically and spiritually.

Puce Memorial Cemetery is an active cemetery with an estimated 400 plots located on the Puce River.

The legacy of Puce Memorial Cemetery comes from the positive spirit of the Underground Railway and continues in the congregation and descendants of the First Baptist Church to this very day. The spirit of love and harmony links the cemetery to this community which will continue on into perpetuity.

The First Puce Baptist Church has requested designation not be rescinded by any future Council.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of the cemetery that reflect its design/physical value and historical/associative value include:

- Its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions;
- Its variety of styles, materials and symbolism represented in the markers and monuments;
- The range of size and sophistication of markers and monuments from modest to elaborate. Some of the early markers were made out of wood and have deteriorated over time but markers made of marble and granite though worn, still indicate the resting place of these free men and women. Family clusters of graves are common throughout the cemetery signifying generational unity.

- Some graves were moved and the boundaries of the Cemetery were shifted to the north in the 1930s to accommodate the widening of Highway 2, now called County Road 42. Many of the headstones were buried underground which helped with the preservation even though no care was taken during relocation.
- The entire Puce Memorial Cemetery property is to be designated while allowing the cemetery to remain active. There are over 40 plots remaining to intern individuals. Once all plots are filled, the cemetery will be closed in situ. It is requested that this designation not be rescinded by any future Council.

Notice of Objection

If any individual objects to this designation, they must file notice with the Town of Lakeshore, in writing by noon on July 2, 2013. If no objections are filed with the municipality by the deadline identified, than Council can proceed to pass a bylaw designating the property.