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The Corporation of the
Township of Wilmot 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, Ontario N3A 1A1

January, 19, 2012

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

JAN 30 2012

Dear Sir/Madame:

Re: **Notice of Designation of Property by Municipal By-law**

Enclosed is a copy of a by-law of Wilmot Township Council designating a property within the municipality.

By-law 2012-05 is submitted to you in accordance with Section 29 (6) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990, Chapter O.18 and a notice of the passing of the by-law will be published in a local newspaper that has general circulation within the municipality.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mittelholtz
Deputy Clerk

c.c. Mary-Eileen McClear, Chair Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee

/attachment

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

BY-LAW NO. 2012-05

JAN 30 2012

**BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS
THE MERNER-SHANTZ-ERWIN HOUSE, LOCATED IN NEW HAMBURG, TOWNSHIP
OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO, BEING PART LOT 3, N/S
SMITH'S PLAN, TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, PART 2, RP 58R9886 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 the Merner-Shantz-Erwin House as having historic and architectural 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;

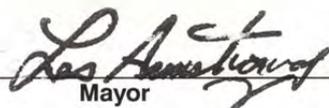
AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk within the meaning of Section 29 (5) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990.

**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, and architectural 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 16th day of January, 2012

READ a third time and finally approved in Open Council this 16th day of January, 2012



Mayor



Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

to

BY-LAW NO. 2012-05

Legal Description of Property to be designated:

PART LOT 3, N/S SMITH'S PLAN, TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, PART 2, RP 58R9886

SCHEDULE "B" to By-law 2012-05

HERITAGE WILMOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED HERITAGE DESIGNATION MERNER-SHANTZ-ERWIN HOUSE 274 HURON STREET, NEW HAMBURG ONTARIO

Description of Property – 274 Huron Street

The property at 274 Huron Street in the town of New Hamburg, Plan Smith, Lot 3, 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 north-west side of Huron Street, the Merner-Shantz-Erwin house is listed on the Non-designated Heritage Properties inventory for the Township of Wilmot.

Statement of Cultural and Heritage Value

Historical and Associative Background

This home has a direct association with Samuel Merner, a prominent businessman in the town of New Hamburg and throughout Waterloo County. The original deeds for the property show that he owned the property and built the house about 1875.

Merner was born in Kien, Canton of Bern, Switzerland on January 9, 1823 and immigrated to Upper Canada with his family in 1837, settling in what would become Waterloo County. His father, Jakob Muerner, located his farm on Bleams Road, about two miles east of the village of Hamburg. Samuel stayed on the farm for one year and then was apprenticed to a blacksmith in Preston (Cambridge). He became a journeyman blacksmith in 1840 and four years later established his own shop in Hamburg. He expanded it to make wagons and carriages. The business was sold to his brother Frederick in 1856, by which time Samuel had accumulated sufficient capital to establish a foundry in New Hamburg, as the village had become known, and another in Waterloo. As did many Germans of the time, Samuel anglicized his surname.

In 1857 he became a member of the council of the newly incorporated village of New Hamburg. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1862, in which year he provided financing for the purchase of the *Canadisches Volksblatt*, the local German newspaper. As he accumulated public offices, serving as Councillor for Waterloo County in 1866, Reeve of New Hamburg (1873-78) and Warden of Waterloo County (1878), his business interests prospered. Though the foundries were turned over to his sons in 1873, he still owned two large farms, a major flour mill and another structure in New Hamburg, and two large buildings in Berlin, where he was associated with William Simpson's furniture company. He was a founding director of the Economical Fire Insurance Company and a director of several other businesses, including the Preston Furniture Company, the John Hoodless Furniture Warehouse in Hamilton, the Dominion Life Assurance Company, and the Canadian Manufacturing Company, which had taken over the Simpson firm. It was said by the *Canadian Parliamentary Companion* that "all Swiss people emigrating to the Western Province [Ontario]" were directed to Merner.

In 1878 he stood for election to the Ontario legislature as a Conservative in the Waterloo South by-election. He lost, but later that year he was elected to the House of Commons for Waterloo South, defeating well-known Liberal James Young. New Hamburg's first English newspaper, the *New Hamburg Independent*, helped Merner's cause by having his supporters create the publication as a campaign newspaper. At the next general election, in 1882, he was defeated by James Livingston, a business competitor from nearby Baden. Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald appointed Merner to the Senate on the 12th, January 1887.

Merner was very much the dominant personality in the life of New Hamburg in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1898, he moved to Berlin and took up residence in the Brunswick

Hotel, which he owned.

The Berlin *News-Record* noted his death with the headline "Vital spark passes." "Honest Sam" Merner had little impact on national politics but, like so many public figures of the time, he significantly affected the community in which he lived.

Contextual Value

Built about 1875, this is one of New Hamburg's early brick houses. It is linked to the history of the community and maintains the historical flavour of the surroundings.

Physical Value

This house is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style.

Architectural Survey

The house is a 1 1/2 storey Gothic Revival salmon coloured brick 3 bay house.

Front, South Façade

The first floor consists of a centre door with a newer six panes over six panes window on either side of the door.

The front porch is an open one and square columns and finely detailed arches support the roof. The Gothic double window is a very attractive feature of this house. The Gothic gable is framed by looped gingerbread trim.

West Façade

This façade is 2 bays deep. The windows in the upper storey are slightly segmentally arched. The windows on the first floor are straight across. The windows are newer six panes over six panes. A tail on the rear of the house joins onto the main west wall. There is a small window under the eaves in the second storey where the tail begins.

East Façade

This façade is also two bays deep. The windows in the upper storey are slightly segmentally arched. The windows on the first floor are straight across. The windows are newer six panes over six panes. The tail of the house is inset on this side. There is a new porch built into the ell formed by the rear wall of the main house and the sidewall of the tail. The east wall of the tail has a door and a window in it. The window is a newer nine panes over nine panes.

Back, North Façade

The rear wall of the house has two windows in the upper storey and only one in the centre of the wall in the lower storey. All three windows are slightly segmentally arched and are replacement windows. The lower window is nine over nine panes.

Reasons for Designation:

The house has historical and associative connection to Samuel Merner, a prominent business man and politician in New Hamburg. It is a representative example of Gothic Revival.

The Heritage Designation should include:

- All facades of the house. This includes all the elements described on each of the facades.

Recommendation

The Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee recommends the Merner-Shantz-Erwin 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 Heritage Designation should include all facades of the house including all elements described above.

Respectfully submitted by the Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committee
November 15, 2011