



## Description of the Property

The subject property is described as being Front Concession 1, Part Lot 26, municipally known as 7156 Concession 1.



(Key Map Showing Location of 7156 Concession 1)

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 7156 Concession 1, Puslinch, retains cultural heritage value due to its significant role in the settlement and religious history of this area of the Township. The property includes the 1882 Knox Presbyterian Church and the associated Knox Presbyterian Cemetery. The property's design value lies in the rural Presbyterian Church vernacular architecture and in the adjacent cemetery landscape plans prepared by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm. The property is associated with families

and individuals significant to the history and settlement of the Crieff area of the Township, and serves as a marker of the nineteenth century Highland Scots Presbyterian immigration that characterized the southern part of Puslinch Township. Its continuous service across multiple generations underscores its cultural role in the Township, and it serves as a physical landmark at the main crossroads of the Hamlet of Crieff. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value. The property is listed on the Township of Puslinch Municipal Heritage Register and has received a plaque from the Township's Heritage Committee for its cultural heritage value.

*Design Value:*

The property includes a vernacular Presbyterian Church constructed by local craftsmen in yellow brick, most likely from the local Morriston brickyard. The simplicity of design and modest size reflects the beliefs and resources of the rural population it served. This church was built in 1882 re-using materials from an earlier 1854 frame church on the site, replaced because it was too large and difficult to heat. Duncan McPherson was the contractor. The church form is rectangular with a front-gabled roof and brick walls laid in a stretcher bond. An engraved "KNOX CHURCH PUSLINCH 1882" date stone is located under the front gable. The front facade has two separate entrance doorways each fitted with a split transom window in a segmented arch. Each side wall has three large vertical windows with segmented arches. In the late twentieth century stained glass was added to these windows through sponsored donations from families in the congregation. All fenestrations have soldier-style yellow brick lintels. In 1910, the original frame church sheds were replaced by a yellow brick addition to the rear of the church. This masonry work is attributed to Dan McMillan.

The church has an associated cemetery on the property that dates to the 1854 church. The cemetery lies on the west and east sides of the church and is still operational. Grave markers carved by local stone carvers in the nineteenth century showcase a diverse range of styles, degrees of craftsmanship, and materials. This variety adds to architectural significance of the property, providing a glimpse into the different artistic expressions and memorialization practices from inception to the present.

In 1923, Col. John Bayne McLean hired the Olmsted Brothers firm to prepare a landscape plan for the church cemetery, which had fallen into disrepair. The Olmsted Brothers was the principal landscape architecture firm in North America, whose projects included the Rockefeller's Biltmore House in North Carolina. Among their few projects in Ontario, they did significant work for J.B. McLean, for his Toronto residence, and in Crieff, for his father's parsonage and farm, and for Knox Presbyterian Church. Their plan included a large capped stone wall fence running along the west side and the front of the property with rear and front iron entrance gates as well as ornamental trees and hedges. The landscape work was carried out in 1924 by church members, and in 1934, the congregation placed a plaque in the front wall, with appreciation of this landscape work commissioned by the J.B McLean.

### *Historical/Associative Value*

The property, located at Part Lot 26, Front Concession 1, originally housed an 1854 large frame church with Gothic windows. The initial construction of this building coincided with the division of the Presbyterian Church congregation in Puslinch into "East" and "West." The East residents attended Duff's Presbyterian Church, while the West residents went to Knox's Church. Many of these Scottish congregants in the West division included the McPherson, McDonald, McLean, and McPhatter families who played vital roles in establishing both Knox Church and the Puslinch community as a whole. The cemetery opened in 1854 at the time the frame church was built. The cemetery markers record the individuals who were congregants of the church, and provide vital information on disease mortality in the settlement period.

The Knox Presbyterian Cemetery provides historical information about gravestone manufacture, genealogical records of the individuals interred within, and insights to disease and mortality in the settlement period. The Cemetery also showcases a 1920s landscape design significant in its association with the Olmsted Brothers.

### *Contextual Value*

Knox Church is situated at the crossroads of the hamlet of Crieff, a locus of central Highland Scots settlement in Puslinch Township in the early 1800s. In the immediate vicinity of the church, notable early residences of these settlers have been preserved, such as those built by John Thompson, Archibald Thomson, Malcolm Gilchrist, William McDonald, and others that form this historic section of Concession 1 in the Township. In 1862, an associated church manse was built on lot 25 for Rev. Andrew McLean, Minister of Knox Church from 1857-1873 who delivered services in Scots Gaelic. It still stands. Due to its cultural significance, Knox Church is widely regarded as a landmark representing numerous communities, families, and generations in the Crieff region. It continues to serve the community as a religious and social centre.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 7156 Concession 1, Puslinch:

- Height, scale and form of the 1882 church building
- Exterior yellow brick front and side facades of the 1882 church building
- Date Stone
- Original segmented arch fenestration
- Yellow brick soldier lintels
- Stone sills
- Extant windows and doors
- Stained glass
- Cemetery and gravestones
- Stone walled fence
- Iron gates
- 1934 commemorative plaque

### **Notice of Objection**

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, before 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024. The Township is providing a six-week commenting period due to the holiday season. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the Township of Puslinch, and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Township of Puslinch shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation bylaw must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation bylaw which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the bylaw may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

Dated December 14, 2023

Courtenay Hoytfox  
Municipal Clerk  
Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

CC: Property Owner  
Ontario Heritage Trust