

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH

BY-LAW NUMBER 025-2024

Being a by-law to authorize the designation of real property located at 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch, as the property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18* authorizes a municipality to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if the property meets the prescribed criteria and the designation is made in accordance with the process set out in the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch, in consultation with the Puslinch Heritage Advisory Committee, deems 4614 Wellington Rd 32 to be of cultural heritage value and interest in accordance with the prescribed criteria by the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*;

NOW THEREFORE the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the property located at 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch, and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, is hereby designated as property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29 Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990, c. O. 18*.
2. That the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized and directed,
 - a. to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation, to be served on the subject property owner and The Ontario Heritage Trust by personal service or by registered mail;
 - b. to publish a notice of this by-law once in a newspaper having general circulation in the Township of Puslinch.
3. That the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this bylaw, together with the statement of cultural heritage value or interest and description of heritage attributes set out in Schedule "B" hereto annexed and forming part of this bylaw, to be registered against the property affected in the proper land registry office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 20th DAY OF MARCH 2024

James Seeley, Mayor

Justine Brotherston, Interim Municipal Clerk

Schedule "A"
To
By-law Number 025-2024

4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch

PIN: 71211-0147

Legal Description: PT LT 5 CON 3 PUSLINCH, PT 1, 61R8414 ; TWP OF PUSLINCH ; S/T
IS11044

Schedule "B"
To
By-law Number 025-2024

4614 Wellington Rd 32,
Puslinch

**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST AND DESCRIPTION OF
HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property, Cross Road Be in Christ Church, located at 4614 Wellington Rd 32, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value owing to its association with Pennsylvania-German Mennonite settlement and multi-denominational religious history in the Township. This value is retained in an 1874 bichrome brick church and associated graveyard on site. Its historical significance lies in its original purpose as a multi-denominational church and its continued service to local residents today as "Crossroads Be In Christ." This church has played a vital role as a gathering place for several denominations over the years, especially the small Mennonite population that settled in the northwestern part of the Township. 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's building design value is of a representative one-storey bichrome brick rural church built in a modest form in 1874. This design is characterised by a rectangular floor plan, and front-gabled roof with rectangular sashed windows along the sidewalls. The exterior walls are predominantly constructed with red brick in a common bond pattern, with yellow brick highlights at the quoined corners creating a striking contrast in both material and colour. The lintels on the west wall are crafted from red brick in a soldier style, while those on the east wall are made of yellow brick and extend as window surrounds. It is most likely that the bricks were sourced from the Morriston brickyard. Later additions have been made to the building on the west wall and back façade, providing a modern entrance to the church.

The associated cemetery has markers with common nineteenth century motifs made by local gravestone manufacturers dating from the mid-nineteenth century, subsequently moved into rows from their original location. This variety adds to the historical and architectural significance of the property, providing a glimpse into the different artistic expressions and memorialization practices from inception to the present.

Historical/Associative Value:

The property, located at Lot 5, Rear Concession 3, was land originally belonging to Jacob Cober. Cober's family, Pennsylvania-German Mennonites, settled in Puslinch Township in the 1840s. Jacob and representatives of several families and denominations drew up an agreement that would establish a union church on this land. By 1874, the church was erected. The church was shared among different groups, with the Mennonite Brethren in Christ using it on two Sundays per month, and the Tunkers and Mennonites using it on the remaining Sundays. The German Baptists used the church minimally and had the smallest congregation among the population. About 1924, the church closed and fell into neglect and disrepair for a long time. In the 1950s, the church was restored by many descendants of the founders and congregants.

The first burial in the cemetery beside the church was that of Anna, daughter of Rev. Neils Peter Holm and his wife Susanna Cober in 1867, before it was officially designated as a cemetery. There have been 56 known burials in the cemetery, although many of the headstones have since disappeared. The last burial took place in 1930, but the site was not officially "closed" for burials until 1969. The names on the markers reflect the Pennsylvania-German family congregants, and provide historical insights into disease and mortality.

Contextual Value:

This property in the northwestern section of the Township defines the character of the area, showcasing the significant efforts of a relatively small number of Pennsylvanian-German settlers. The church and property is closely associated with Nichlolas Cober, his son Jacob Cober, wagon maker, and other family members. Niels Peterson Holm and his descendants, who built and operated the saw and grist mills powered by Irish Creek were members of the church. Related heritage structures include the existing Panabaker farmhouse and the neighbouring 1860s Roszell farmhouse. The property has served as a landmark for generations of Mennonites, Tunkers, and German Brethren who used the church for services and other civic activities. Consequently, the church stands as a symbol of the Pennsylvanian German community's historical and current presence in Puslinch.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4614 Wellington Rd 32:

Puslinch Mennonite/ The Brethren in Christ Church and Cemetery

- Scale, height and form of original 1874 structure
- Front gable roof design
- Red and yellow brick exterior walls
- Fenestration
- Brick lintels, yellow brick quoins, and yellow brick window surrounds
- Extant original doors and windows
- Cemetery and gravestones