



OAKVILLE

## REPORT

### Planning and Development Council

Meeting Date: June 7, 2022

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**FROM:** Planning Services Department

**DATE:** May 24, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Notice of intention to designate – Former Palermo Methodist Church Parsonage at 3017 Old Bronte Road**

**LOCATION:** 3017 Old Bronte Road

**WARD:** Ward 7

Page 1

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That a notice of intention to designate be issued under section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for the Former Palermo Methodist Church Parsonage at 3017 Old Bronte Road.

#### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The property at 3017 Old Bronte Road contains the Former Palermo Methodist Church Parsonage, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century settlers' cabin with later 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Revival style addition.
- Heritage planning staff have evaluated the property and consider the property worthy of conservation and heritage designation.
- It is recommended that the property be designated under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and that a notice of intention to designate be issued by Council.
- The property owner and the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee are supportive of this heritage designation.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The property at 3017 Old Bronte Road is located at the east side of Old Bronte Road just north of Dundas Street in the historic village of Palermo. A location map is attached as Appendix A. A heritage research report has been prepared by staff and is attached as Appendix B. The document provides an overview of the property's history, current condition and its cultural heritage value. A draft Notice of Intention to Designate has also been prepared by staff and is attached as Appendix C.

On July 5, 2021, Town of Oakville Planning and Development Council carried a recommendation directing Planning staff to proactively examine listed (non-designated) heritage properties within Palermo Village and, should a property meet the criteria for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, recommend to Council that notice be given to designate the property.

In accordance with this direction, staff have assessed the subject property at 3017 Old Bronte Road and have found it to contain sufficient cultural heritage value to warrant heritage designation, as outlined in Appendices B and C. Staff are therefore recommending that the property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as an individually designated property in order to conserve the historic Former Palermo Methodist Church Parsonage, which is considered to be of significant cultural heritage value. The draft Notice of Intention to Designate provides more details on the intent of the designation.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

The subject property is considered to have cultural value for its one-storey settlers' cabin that evolved throughout the past two centuries to become a unique representative example of a Gothic Revival style house. It also has heritage value for its use as the Former Palermo Methodist Church Parsonage for almost four decades.

The building has design and physical value for its c.1819 settlers' cabin that displays a high degree of craftsmanship in its original timber frame construction and other finishing details. The structure remains one of very few known frame or log cabins that were built in the first two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Oakville. The building also has cultural heritage value for the 19<sup>th</sup> century front wing that was added and converted into a Gothic Revival style home, likely when the Church began using it as their parsonage. The Victorian Gothic style was increasingly popular in Ontario around this time and the subject house is a unique and representative example of this eclectic and often exaggerated style with its steep roof, front gable and fanciful vergeboard.

The property has historical and associative value for its relationship with the historic village of Palermo, the oldest settlement in present day Oakville. Founded in 1806, the village was originally named Hagertown/Hagarstown after its founder Lawrence Hagar who also helped to establish the Palermo Methodist Church for which this building was once used. The property also has strong associations with the Palermo Methodist Church, now the Palermo United Church that continues to remain a significant organization in the community today. Used as the parsonage for almost four decades, the building was not only home to the reverends and their families, but also served as an administrative office for the church. Many of the church events and meetings would have been planned in the parsonage, or even held there.

Finally, the property has contextual value because the former parsonage building defines, maintains and supports the historic small-town character of the village of Palermo. The settlers' cabin, including its location and orientation to Dundas Street, provides a significant link to the village's early history of European settlement. The later front addition and Gothic Revival style renovations help to tell the story of the evolution of the village from a sparse, early 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement to a busy and thriving village in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house contributes to the historic low-scale character of the village and the historic street wall that remains along the northeast, southeast and southwest corners of the village. The property is therefore physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings that have heritage value as a historic village that has evolved over two centuries.

These physical, historical and contextual associations are considered to be significant enough to merit designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It is therefore recommended that Council issue a notice of intention to designate the property under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Staff will continue to work proactively with the owner of the property on the designation of the property.

A separate staff report on this matter was presented to the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee on May 24, 2022. The Committee recommended that the notice of intention to designate be issued.

## **CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **(A) PUBLIC**

If notice is to be issued for the designation of the property, notice will be given in accordance with section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### **(B) FINANCIAL**

None

### **(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The Legal Department and will be consulted on the designation as necessary.

### **(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- enhance our cultural environment
- be the most livable town in Canada

**(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION**

A Climate Emergency was declared by Council in June 2019 for the purposes of strengthening the Oakville community commitment in reducing carbon footprints. The retention and conservation of the Former Palermo Methodist Parsonage building contributes to the town's initiatives to reduce carbon footprints.

**APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A – Location Map
- Appendix B – Heritage Research Report
- Appendix C – Draft Notice of Intention to Designate

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