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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

BY-LAW NO. 2003- 03

RECEIVED  
2024/12/16  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

**BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE  
BADEN HOTEL, LOCATED AT 39 SNYDER'S ROAD WEST, BADEN,  
BEING PART LOT 15, CONCESSION SOUTH OF SNYDER'S ROAD AND  
PART OF LOT 96, PLAN 627 AND DESIGNATED AS PART 1, PLAN 58R-8121**

**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 architectural and historical value or interest;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wilmot deems it desirable to designate The Baden Hotel (EJ's Restaurant and Tavern) as 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) 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 and interest. The reasons for designation are 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 20th day of January, 2003.

**READ** a third time and finally approved in Open Council this 20th day of January, 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**SCHEDULE “A”**

**to**

**BY-LAW NO. 2003-03**

Part Lot 15, Concession South of Snyder's Road and Part of Lot 96, Registered Plan 627,  
Township of Wilmot (formerly Village of Baden) Regional Municipality of Waterloo and  
Designated as Part 1, Plan 58R-8121.

## **SCHEDULE “B” TO BY-LAW NO. 2003-03**

### **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

#### **The Baden Hotel**

The following historical facts provide a setting for the architectural details of the Baden Hotel.

- The original Baden Hotel was built by Christoph Kraus on a lot purchased from Jacob Beck in 1858. This frame structure was moved to a lot beside the Presbyterian Church and is now a residence.
- The present Baden Hotel, also built by Christoph Kraus, has a date stone above the northwest wall that reads July 22, 1874.
- The Baden Hotel was run by the Kraus family for thirty years and was then rented to different people – Frederick A. Kraus (son of Christoph Kraus), Werner Braun, William Witte.
- Henry Stiefelmeyer, son-in-law of Christoph Kraus, purchased the Baden Hotel in 1906 and ran it until his death in 1920.
- John N. Stiefelmeyer, son of Henry Stiefelmeyer, ran the Baden Hotel until his retirement in 1946.
- The Baden Hotel was sold to George Zimmerman in 1946.
- Fred Gallagher, a retired building contractor from Streetsville, bought the Baden Hotel on January 1, 1967.

The location of the Baden Hotel has supported its important role in the community. The Hotel was on the main street, adjacent to the Railway Station, affording travelers, salesmen, merchants and townspeople a place to assemble. It was also on Snyder's Road, once called Middle Road, one of the main roads in Wilmot Township, used by many modes of transportation. Trains carried passengers, freight and mail. The Baden Hotel and The Grand Trunk Railway Station were closely entwined as all passengers from Wellesley or going to Wellesley waited at the hotel for the mail.

During the years 1920 to 1930 Snyder's Road (Hwy. #8) was paved. The number of cars increased very quickly and trucks were used to take goods to Wellesley. The Gray Coach line began a route from London to Toronto. The Hotel was the first Bus Depot. People began using buses to get to city employment. Students, who formerly used the train, now began using buses and cars to get to school, colleges and universities.

The commercial life of the community had a focus on the Baden Hotel. The Railway Station and Hotel were favourite meeting places for the drovers of the area. David Hunsberger, owner of a large farm at the eastern end of Baden, and Mr. Nickilson of Toronto shipped cattle from the local station to the stockyards in Toronto for many years. People from all around brought their products to the Train Station to be shipped to other points and returned with items that had been shipped to Baden.

Their horses were fed and housed in the stables across the road and the men ate a good meal in the hotel dining room. It was not uncommon to see farmers bring big loads of logs to the Baden station to be shipped to ports for shipbuilding. The hotel had two sample rooms to which commercial travelers from different Wholesale firms would ship their sample trunks on the train and display their wares to the merchants of the area. A wood frame driving shed next door to the hotel housed a jeweler's store, a doctor's office, a hairdresser's shop and a shoemaker's repair shop at various times until the late 1960's when it was demolished for a parking lot.

The Baden Hotel was a center for social activities. A band was organized in Baden, around 1880 by Noah Zoeller, of the Waterloo Bank. Practices and dances were held on the third floor of the Hotel. The Oak Room or Banquet Hall situated on the second floor and built between 1935 and 1940 has been the setting for weddings, dances, and meetings. A forerunner of our present-day jukebox provided hours of enjoyment for the young people of the village. It was called a "Regina" and was bought by Henry Stiefelmeyer in Cincinnati around 1908 for use in the Baden Hotel. It was a large 10 foot high model. By depositing \$.05, a 3-foot perforated disc was set in motion producing band music. The "Regina" was located in the Banquet Hall. The Wilmot Township Council, in its early years, left the Township Hall, after its 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the each month meeting, to have dinner at the Baden Hotel. Candidates, successful on Nomination Day, often treated the voting public at the Hotel.

Many things have changed over the years at the Baden Hotel. The Hotel used to rent out rooms to travelers and salesmen who arrived by train and displayed and sold their wares. During the 1920's, cooking was done on coal or wood stoves with high warming closets. Electric washing machines were rare and electric refrigerators had not yet made an appearance. The old-fashioned mangle used to iron the bedding was soon to be replaced by electric irons. Most of the interior has been changed over the years to accommodate modern plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems as well as newer insulation and decorating ideas. The second floor and third floor are no longer rented out but are now the owner's living quarters.

To-day 2002, The Baden Hotel is a wonderful country tavern offering food and drink with all the modern conveniences. The three rooms on the main floor are tastefully decorated in a warm country style. The former men's beverage room is now open to both sexes. There is still a large main bar. Most of the 26 paintings on the ceiling, done during the time of John Stiefelmeyer, remain. The hotel is a very good example of an early hotel that, despite some changes and additions, retains its original integrity.

### **Reasons for Designation:**

#### **The Baden Hotel**

#### **Architectural Survey:**

##### **Interior:**

- hand painted pressed tin ceiling tiles consisting of 26 hand painted tiles located in the bar room along with all other pressed tin tiles and crown moldings located on the ceiling and walls of the bar room including two hand painted tiles relocated to the north wall of the bar room

##### **Exterior:**

##### **North Façade (facing Snyders Road)**

- fieldstone foundation
- buff brick-common bond
- six basement window openings , only one remains functional
- six window openings on the first floor – two of which have been changed and four of which are closed in.
- six windows on the second floor all of which are 6 over 6 double hung
- radiating brick voussoirs located above all windows
- moulding lugsills located below windows
- boxed corner plain frieze soffit and fascia
- doorway opening
- eight tie rods – four on each floor
- roofline

- **Note: the two shed dormers are not original and are not to be considered part of this designation.**

**West Façade (facing Mill Street)**

- Buff brick common bond
- unusual cut corner
- date stone located above the first floor window in the cut corner "Baden Hotel Christoph Kraus July 22 1874"
- window on first floor of cut corner originally a door – 6 over 1 double hung
- window on first floor 6 over 1 double hung
- doorway opening on first floor currently bricked in and housing an air conditioning unit
- window opening on first floor which currently serves as a door
- balcony on second floor
- iron wall brackets supporting the balcony – seven in total
- balcony railing
- two decorative iron posts attached to the brickwork at either end of the balcony
- two windows on second floor 6 over 6 double hung
- doorway off second floor balcony including sidelights and transom
- second floor window in cut corner 6 over 6 double hung
- two windows third floor one 6 over 6 the other altered
- doorway opening on third floor currently serving as a fire escape probably originally a window
- gothic attic window currently serving as a vent
- radiating brick voussoirs located above windows and doors
- moulded lugsills located below windows
- four tie rods - two each floor
- boxed corner plain frieze soffit and fascia

**East Façade (facing Foundry Street)**

- buff brick common bond
- window first floor 6 over 6 double hung
- three windows second floor 6 over 6 double hung
- three windows third floor 6 over 6 double hung
- gothic attic window
- radiating brick voussoirs located above the windows
- moulded lugsills located below the windows
- four tie rods - two each floor
- boxed corner plain frieze soffit and fascia

**Note: the addition on the first floor is not to be considered part of this designation**

**South Façade (facing Railway tracks)**

- buff brick-common bond
- one window first floor 6 over 6 double hung
- two windows second floor both 6 over 6 double hung
- two windows third floor one 6 over 6 double hung, the other altered
- radiating brick voussoirs located above the windows
- moulded lugsills located below the windows
- boxed corner plain frieze soffit and fascia
- roofline

**Note: the two shed dormers are not original and are not to be considered part of this designation**

**Note: the additions attached to this façade are not to be considered part of this designation**

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**Schedule "B"**  
**By-law No. 2003-03**

<b><u>Owners</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>Years</u></b>
Christoph Kraus	Owner	1874 – 1904
Werner Braun	Leased from Kraus	1905 – 1906
William Witte	Leased from Kraus	1906
Henry Stiefelmeyer	Owner	1906 – 1920
John Stiefelmeyer	Owner	1920 – 1946
George Zimmerman	Owner	1947 – 1950
Jamie Craven/ Wes Dunn	Owner	1950 – 1952
George Zimmerman	Owner	1953
Earl Baechler		
Walter Bibby		
Edward Bodnerchuk	Owner	1964 - 1967
Fred Gallagher	Owner	1967 – 1973
Delton/Frederick Kissner	Owner	1973 – 1975
Fred Gallagher	Owner	1976 –
Carmen Bannon	Owner	1977 – 1980
241400 Ontario Ltd.	Owner	1980 – 1982
Fred Gallagher	Owner	1982 – 1984
Christine Warner.Real Lacroix	Owner	1984 – 1984
Geo. Vragovich	Owner	1984 – 1989
Frankenmuth Inns	Owner	1989 – 1993
Prowasa Ltd.	Owner	1993 – 2000
Matthew/Jacqueline Rolleman	Owner	2000 –