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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 92-18

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A LAND AND PREMISES
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
FOR CRUIKSHANK [REDACTED] HOUSE
LOT 12, CONCESSION 8, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, authorizes Council of a municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and/or structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest, and;

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Hamilton has caused to be served on the owners of lands and premises below, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and/or buildings and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the Cobourg Star having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks, and;

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Township of Hamilton Council ENACTS as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property as follows;
 - a) The Cruikshank [REDACTED] House
[REDACTED]
R.R. #1
Gores Landing, Ontario
KOK 2E0 Part Lot 12, Concession 8
- Good example of an Ontario Vernacular Style Home with Bell Cast Verandah Roof of circa 1875.
2. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-Law to be registered against the properties described above in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-Law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this By-Law to be published in the Cobourg Star having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

This By-Law given a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD READING and FINALLY PASSED this 27th day of January, 1992.

I, Peggy Cramp, Clerk of the Township of Hamilton hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a By-Law that was passed by the Township of Hamilton Council on the 27th day of January, 1992.

CLERK

REEVE

CLERK

CRUIKSHANK [REDACTED] HOUSE

Address: R.R.1, Gore's Landing, Ont.
Lot 12, concession 8
Hamilton Township

Original Owner/Builder: George Cruikshank

Present Owners: [REDACTED]

Date: c. 1873

Historical Analysis, April 1991:

In 1798 the 200 acres of lot 12, concession 8, were designated a clergy reserve by the Crown. In 1828 Judge William Falkner, the first settler who came to the Rice Lake Plains, purchased the adjoining lot 11, which he named "Oaklands" and later acquired or rented lots 12, 13 and 14 in both concessions 8 and 9. The Judge married twice; fathering 5 children by his first wife, Elizabeth Bowes, and 3 by his second, Agnes Sowden (sister of William Sowden, builder of the designated Beaver Meadows brick house built c. 1839 on Dale Road).

William and Elizabeth Falkner emigrated from Bewdley, Worcestershire, in 1820 and first settled near Creighton Heights, Cobourg. According to authoress Catharine Parr Traill, a close friend and admirer, when the Judge decided to move his family to the Rice Lake Plains people thought he was out of his mind to choose land they deemed "utterly unfit for cultivation", but, she went on to say, "the Patriarch of the Plainshas lived to see his hopes realized and his judgement confirmed". Besides clearing and farming all these properties with his five sons Falkner also built a water-powered sawmill on the lakeshore which operated until the early 1850s on the site of present Gore's Landing Marina. Falkner acquired many other properties in the township as well but he was over extended, like so many early settlers of the gentleman class, and ended up in bankruptcy. He lost most of his property including Oaklands and the sawmill and at his death had retained only lot 13, concessions 8 and 9, and a frame house "Claverton" built on lot 14, the site of present Victoria Inn.

In 1856, however, the Judge's second and third sons, William Bowes (1816-1893) and Francis, were able to secure the patent for clergy reserve lot 12, concession 8. They had been renting the lot from the Crown since 1844. In 1849 Thomas Traill purchased the nearby Oaklands and their daughter, Annie, gives this description of the Falkner brothers and their abode: "Willie and Frank kept bachelor's hall in a small shanty on their farm that adjoined ours on the western side and we saw a great deal of them especially Frank. He was a very nice fellow and they were both well educated and were nice companions for mother and father, fond of reading. After a year or two they put up a nice log

house and their sister Mrs. Bird with her children came and lived with them and kept their house..." (Jane Falkner Bird had been deserted by her husband who left her with two little girls).

In 1857 Francis sold the north half to William Bowes and went off to the gold fields in Australia with his oldest brother, Henry. Neither were ever heard of again.

William Bowes sold the north half of lot 12 to William Thoms but retained the south half for himself. In 1856 he married Rhoda Anne Page, the sister of a neighbour, who resided on the farm presently owned by [REDACTED]. Rhoda Anne came from a literary family and was well known locally as a poetess for some years before her marriage. William and Rhoda Anne were only married seven short years before her death in 1863 in childbirth. In those seven years she bore six children including two sets of twins. Only three children lived to adulthood. Rhoda Anne Falkner was buried in St. George's Cemetery where her grave may still be seen.

The bereft William Bowes Falkner continued to live with his three surviving children in the old one and a half storey log house assisted on the farm by his youngest half-brother, Arthur. William sold the 90-acre farm to John Tisdale in 1868 but continued to live in the house, renting from the owner. According to Hamilton Township assessments the value of the property at that time was \$950.00. When Tisdale sold the farm to George Cruikshank in 1872 Falkner went to live with his daughter at Trent River. On his death in 1893 his body was brought back to lie beside Rhoda Anne's at St. George's. Arthur purchased a farm in Haldimand Township.

By 1873 the value of the George Cruikshank property had risen to \$3000 which would indicate the present frame house replaced the old log one at that time. George was the son of William Cruikshank who owned lot 15, concession 7. William Cruikshank replaced his own one story log home on that property with a large brick house around 1875. [REDACTED].

In 1909 George Cruikshank sold to [REDACTED] (1861-1943), who was no relation to the present owners. [REDACTED] three unmarried children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] retained the farm until their deaths in the 1970s and were buried at Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery.

Most of the above information is taken from GORE'S LANDING AND THE RICE LAKE PLAINS, 1986, by Martin, Milne and McGillis.