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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

3114 Dundas Street West, Oakville, ON

TAKE NOTICE that Oakville Town Council, on November 9, 2009 resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PT LT 32, CON 1 TRAF SDS, AS IN TW776, EXCEPT PT 2, 20R15842; OAKVILLE municipally known as 3114 Dundas Street West under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. 18, as a property of cultural heritage value and interest.

1. Description of Property

The subject property is located on the south side of Dundas Street West directly west of Valleyridge Drive in the village of Palermo. The property includes one frame church currently in use by St. Luke's Anglican Church.

2. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design or physical value

St. Luke's Anglican Church at Palermo has cultural heritage value as an excellent rare, representative and early rural example of an ecclesiastical building constructed in a vernacular expression of the Regency Gothic Revival style.

The building is the only remaining historic wood church in what was historically rural Oakville and one of two remaining historic wood churches in the whole of Oakville, along with St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

The Gothic Revival style was first implemented for churches in Canada in the Maritimes in the late 18th century. The style became prevalent in Ontario in the 1820s with many Anglican churches being constructed in the style by the 1840s.

St. Luke's Church is an example of Regency Gothic style because of the fanciful web-like windows, some of which have since been replaced. The Regency style of the early to mid 19th century reflects a romantic interest in ancient, exotic and picturesque styles.

While most of the remaining Gothic Revival churches in Ontario were constructed of stone, the Canadian climate and availability and abundance of lumber often required the use of wood in the early 19th century. St. Luke's Church was built of timber frame construction with heavy timbers jointed together with wooden pegs rather than nails. Horizontal clapboard was installed over this timber framing, which likely remains underneath the modern vinyl siding.

Churches like St. Luke's which are built in the Gothic Revival style and constructed of wood are often described as Carpenter Gothic style. Many of Ontario's early churches were of frame construction, but few of these wood structures have survived; some were destroyed by fire or succumbed to neglect, or were replaced by stone or brick structures.

Outstanding physical design elements of the Gothic Revival style of St. Luke's Church include the 3-bay symmetrical design, the pointed arched windows, doors and hood moulding and the pitch of the gable roof. Unique to this particular example is the form of the gable roof, including the two pinnacles on the front façade and the belfry, which is not original to the building. Wood cladding, covered by vinyl siding, may also exist and contribute to the vernacular expression of the church's Gothic Revival style.

Several changes have been made to the property since its 19th century construction. The belfry was constructed in 1932, with the bell from the former Palermo foundry installed in the belfry. In 1951, the church was raised and a new basement constructed, which is commemorated through the datestone on the northwest corner of the church which reads: "St. Luke's Church 1845-1951".

The subject building also has excellent physical value by virtue of its date of construction. It is one of the oldest buildings in Palermo and one of the earliest remaining churches in Oakville and in Halton Region, having been constructed in 1845. A wooden datestone on the front façade which reads "1845" commemorates this construction date.

The cemetery, located at the rear of the church also has physical design value in the varying styles and materials of the monuments and headstones. It is a good example of 19th century small cemetery design, and is representative of small churchyard cemeteries.

Also a structure of heritage value is the stone cairn, located in the northwest corner of the church property. It was constructed in 1945 of local field stones set in mortar and includes a plaque that reads:

*1845-1945/ THIS CAIRN IS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENNIAL
OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH AND TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF THE PIONEERS
WHO FOUNDED IT.*

Historical or associative value

St. Luke's Anglican Church at Palermo has strong cultural heritage value for its historical association with the village of Palermo, which developed in the early 1800s as Dundas Street became a major roadway. Significant past residents of the Palermo community have been members at St. Luke's, including Harvey M. Switzer (b.1819), local businessman, postmaster, and politician.

The subject property also has excellent heritage value for its association with William Peacock, an early and prominent settler in Palermo Village. Peacock was an English sea captain who retired with his family to Upper Canada in 1832. Peacock served as tax collector, then first Justice of the Peace for Halton, and also established the local land registry office.

A staunch Anglican, Peacock held prayer services in his home from c.1835, as there was no Anglican church in the vicinity. The growing number of settlers demanded the construction of a church, and in 1845, John Englehart donated a parcel of land a quarter mile west of Palermo Village. Peacock, who was also an experienced cabinet-maker, designed and supervised the building of the church, which was constructed of wood cleared from the property.

The first service of worship took place on March 1, 1845. However, the church was not officially consecrated until 1868 when the debt of construction had been paid off. Attendance declined at the turn of the century and the church was closed for several years, but re-opened in 1908. The church has been in continuous service since then.

The churchyard cemetery also has distinct historical value through its associations with the early settlers buried in the grounds. Grave markers date back to at least 1814, decades before the construction of the church. William Peacock and his wife, Harriet, were both buried in the cemetery behind the church, as were many other early settlers in Trafalgar Township.

The stone cairn was constructed in 1945 to celebrate the centennial of St. Luke's Church. Built by parishioners James Fairbrother and George Atkins, the cairn was constructed of stones brought in by local farmers.

St. Luke's Anglican Church at Palermo also has strong historical value through its association with the Church of England and the Anglican Church of Canada. This Protestant denomination was brought to the area by English and Loyalist settlers who held private services at home and went on to build churches to continue worshipping in the traditions of the Church of England. The Anglican Church of Canada remains the third largest church in Canada today.

Contextual value

As part of the historic village of Palermo, St. Luke's Anglican Church at Palermo is contextually significant as a landmark within the village and along Dundas Street. The building is a reminder of the importance of the church in early Ontario settlements. The growth of the village of Palermo was assisted by the construction of this church which gave residents a home for spiritual and community activities. The location of the church along the main thoroughfare of Dundas Street gave travellers the opportunity to attend service while on the road. The churchyard cemetery provided consecrated ground near the village to allow for local burials.

The village of Palermo is extremely significant as the oldest remaining urban centre in the Town of Oakville and as one of the Town's only remaining villages, along with Oakville and Bronte. Settlement began in Palermo over 200 years ago in 1806, some 20 years prior to the founding of settlements at the ports of Bronte and Oakville. The village thrived in the early to mid-19th century as a result of its position along Dundas Street, which was the oldest and most significant east-west overland route between Toronto and western Ontario for more than a century. It was also strategically situated midway along the north-south road between Bronte and Milton.

At its peak around 1920, Palermo boasted as many as 30 houses, a community hall, a school, an implements factory, a sawmill, two churches, two general stores, a park and an implements store. Such was the prominence of the village that it could boast the introduction of sidewalks, prior to the installation of sidewalks in Oakville.

With the widening of Dundas Street West and the recent construction of the Bronte Road by-pass, the historic fabric that makes up Palermo's streetscape has been challenged, yet significant elements of the village remain. St. Luke's Anglican Church at Palermo is one of the remaining historic buildings in the village and as an ecclesiastical building has the potential to continue to effectively define and support the hamlet character of Palermo.

3. Description of Heritage Attributes

1) Church

Key exterior attributes of the church which embody its physical and historical significance include:

The following heritage attributes which apply to all elevations and the roof of the church including all facades, entrances, windows and trim, together with construction materials of wood and glazing, and their related building techniques:

- Exterior plan of the church which is composed of the large rectangular sanctuary and the chancel extended from the sanctuary at the rear;
- Exterior form of the gable roof, including the belfry and two pinnacles on the front façade;
- Timber-frame construction and any surviving and intact historic wood cladding and features;
- The arrangement of the fenestration;
- The stained glass window on the south elevation of the chancel;
- The stained glass window located on the south end of the west elevation, depicting the Queen Victoria Jubilee;
- Wood hood moulds above the two windows on the front façade and above the window on the north elevation of the chancel;
- Exterior front wood door and its corresponding wood trim and hood mould;
- Date marker on front façade which reads "1845"; and
- Date marker on southwest corner which reads "St. Luke's Church 1845-1951".

Key attributes of the church which contribute to its contextual significance include:

- Its proximity to Dundas Street, one of the first major inland transportation routes to be built in Upper Canada.

2) Cemetery

Key exterior attributes of the cemetery which embody its physical and historical significance include:

- Its original markers and monuments;
- The variety of styles, materials and symbolism represented in the markers and monuments ; and
- The range of size and sophistication of markers and monuments, from modest to elaborate.

3) Cairn

Key exterior attributes of the cairn which embody its physical and historical significance include:

- The stones;
- The general pyramid-like form of the cairn; and
- The plaque.

OBJECTIONS: Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than **December 18, 2009**. Objections should be directed to Cathie Best, Town Clerk, 1225 Trafalgar Road, P.O. Box 310, Oakville, Ontario L6J 5A6.

MORE INFORMATION: Any inquiries may be directed to Michael Seaman, Manager of Heritage Planning at 905-845-6601, extension 3873 or by email at mseaman@oakville.ca

Last Date to file Notice of Objection: December 18, 2009

Cathie Best, Town Clerk