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Township of Camden

Hand

DRESDEN, ONT., September 27th, 1990.
NOP 1MO

Ontario Heritage Foundation,
77 Bloor St. West,
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 2R9.

Dear Sir,

Re: By-Law to Designate
'Josiah Henson House',
Township of Camden

The Council of the Township of Camden recently passed the necessary By-Law, etc. to designate the 'Josiah Henson House' as a property of historical value and interest, under The Ontario Heritage Act.

I have now arranged to have the By-Law # 42-90 registered on September 21st, 1990 and have enclosed a copy of the By-Law, etc. enclosed, for your records.

If there is any other action necessary on the part of Camden Township to finalize this procedure, please let me know.

I have placed an ad in the Dresden paper, "Notice of Passing of By-Law" and I have enclosed the 3 editions with that ad.

Encl. - Copy of By-Law (Registered)

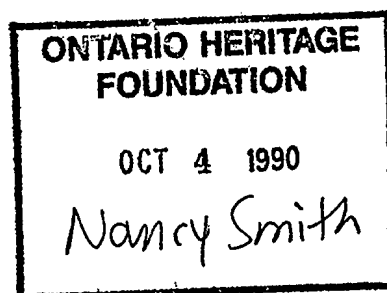
- Ads re Passing of By-Law

Copy - Arthur Pegg

Sincerely,



Carl McFadden,
Clerk,
Township of Camden,
Box 130,
Dresden, Ontario.
NOP 1MO.



✓

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1980, R.S.O. CHAPTER 337

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMDEN IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Camden has passed By-Law Number 42 - 90 to designate the following properties as being of historical value and interest and/or architectural interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1980, R.S.O. Chapter 337.

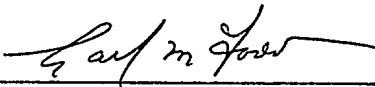
- (a) Part of Park Lot 16, Plan 133, Township of Camden, County of Kent designated as Parts 1, 2 and 3, Ref. Plan 24R 3373, municipally known as R. R. 5, Dresden, Ontario.

Reasons for the Proposed Designation:

The Josiah Henson House also known as Uncle Tom's Cabin plays a significant role in local, provincial and national history. It is a national landmark associated with historical persons, the heritage of Fairport and Dresden, Afro-American history, and the Abolitionist Movement. Its architectural type is disappearing from the contemporary landscape and should be retained for the historical record.

DATED AT Dresden , Ontario ,

this 6th day of July, 1990.



CLERK
Carl McFadden,
Township of Camden ,



REEVE,
Walter Debicki ,
Township of Camden .

(SEAL)



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

495187

100 SEP 21 P 3:20

[Signature]
LAND REGISTRAR/REGISTRATEUR

New Property Identifiers Additional: See Schedule

Executions *[Stamp: DUPLICATE]* Additional: See Schedule

(1) Registry Land Titles (2) Page 1 of 6 pages

(3) Property Identifier(s) Block Property Additional: See Schedule

(4) Nature of Document By-Law

(5) Consideration Dollars \$

(6) Description

(7) This Document Contains: (a) Redescription New Easement Plan/Sketch (b) Schedule for: Description Additional Parties Other

(8) This Document provides as follows:
- By-Law # 42-90 of the Corporation of The Township of Camden, being a By-Law to designate Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Josiah Henson House, under The Ontario Heritage Act, 1980.
Continued on Schedule

(9) This Document relates to Instrument number(s)

(10) Party(ies) (Set out Status or Interest)
Name(s) Signature(s) Date of Signature Y M D

(11) Address for Service

(12) Party(ies) (Set out Status or Interest)
Name(s) Signature(s) Date of Signature Y M D
Corporation Of Township Of Camden *[Signature]* 1990 09 11

(13) Address for Service 199 QUEEN ST. EAST, DRESDEN, ONT

(14) Municipal Address of Property

(15) Document Prepared by:
Carl McFadden,
Clerk,
Township of Camden

Fees and Tax	
Registration Fee	25.00
Total	

BY-LAW # 42-90
TOWNSHIP OF CAMDEN

2.

(A By-Law to designate Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Josiah Henson House, under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1980.)

Whereas the property on which the Uncle Tom's Cabin is situated, is located in the Township of Camden, at Lot 3, Con. 4, also described as "Part of Park Lot 16, Plan 133, Township of Camden, County of Kent, designated as Parts 1, 2 & 3 of Ref. Plan 24R 3373,"

And whereas the Council of the Township of Camden is desirous of having this building, known as Uncle Tom's Cabin designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1980,

Therefore the Township of Camden approves of the action to have the Josiah Henson House, also known as Uncle Tom's Cabin designated as being of historical value and interest and / or architectural interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1980, R.S.O. Chapter 337.

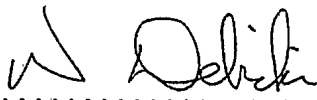
Read a First time on July 3rd, 1990,

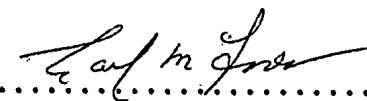
Read a Second time on July 3rd, 1990,

Read a Third time and passed, signed and sealed on

July 3rd, 1990.

(Seal)


.....
Walter Debicki, Reeve,
Township of Camden.


.....
Carl McFadden, Clerk,
Township of Camden.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
OF
THE JOSIAH HENSON HOUSE
AT
THE UNCLE TOM'S CABIN HISTORIC SITE
DRESDEN, ONTARIO

As part of the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1980 R.S.O. Chapter 337

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Township of Camden Gore: The Josiah Henson House:

The Josiah Henson House at The Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site is recommended for designation for its historical and architectural significance as well as for its importance in the community and the heritage of Ontario.

Its specific location is described as Part of Park Lot 16, Plan 133, Township of Camden, County of Kent designated as Parts 1, 2 and 3 Ref. Plan 24R 3373 municipally known as R. R. 5, Dresden, Ontario.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The house has a connection with the early history of Fairport and Dresden and with a significant era in Afro-American history. Josiah Henson's affiliations with The British Methodist Episcopal Church, the Masonic Order and Abolitionist Movement make his history important to many people.

Known as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" throughout the world, the Henson House has been marked with a Provincial Historical Sites plaque since the early 1960's. The house was once the home of an historic person who had associations in the Dresden community, in the County of Kent's heritage, and provincially and world wide.

To refugee slaves in the 19th century, the site was a beacon in the wilderness towards the progress of independence.

Josiah Henson was among the founders of the Dawn Institute/British American Institute, described as a manual labour school designed for the advancement of refugee slaves near present day Dresden. It is suggested that this school was the first vocational school in Canada.

Josiah Henson was also very active in the "Underground Railroad" movement both in the United states and in Canada. He assisted many fugitive slaves in their escape to Upper Canada.

As Henson's years passed, his name became synonymous with the character "Uncle Tom" from Harriet Beecher Stowe's controversial novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published in 1852. The novel had an impact on the view of slavery world wide, and the Henson House has become a symbol to that period; a representative landmark and visual artifact in the interpretation of the Henson era for the visiting public.

In relation to other components on site, the Henson House is situated on land formerly owned by Henson and his family; land which once adjoined property owned by the governing body of the British American Institute. Moreover, the Henson family cemetery and the British American Institute cemetery, both frequently visited properties, are in the immediate vicinity of the Henson House.

Historical research and oral tradition concur that the building known popularly as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is the home of Josiah Henson who had moved to what is now the Township of Camden in about 1845. Research supports the fact that the Henson House was built either by Henson or a hired contractor in approximately 1877, and that Henson spent the last years of his life in the structure.

He and other Abolitionists developed the area of Lot 2 and Lot 3, Concession 4, now Camden Gore, as a negro colonization community in approximately 1845. The settlement became a haven for refugee slaves during the mid 19th century.

Presently the 4 acre museum property is believed to be a parcel of the original settlement where the Dawn Institute/British American Institute was opened.

The house was moved to its current location and is known to have been in two other locations in recent years in the immediate vicinity of its present situation. Its original site is not known but it is likely to have remained on the same property owned by Henson and now in part by the County of Kent as present-day museum property.

As an artifact, the house remains a symbol of the hardship endured by Henson and his contemporaries during this 19th century development of Canadian history.

Architectural Significance:

The design of the Josiah Henson house includes small rooms once used for heat retention, a stairway and closet design, and door and window design comparable with architecture at another Black historical settlement nearby that contains 19th century heritage buildings. This architecture is rapidly disappearing from the contemporary landscape of this area and few remaining architectural examples are present in the vicinity of Dresden.

The building is constructed of wood (possibly tulip wood) that existed in this area in the 19th century. It is a two storey framed building with a simple pitched roof with gables at the north-south ends; probably originally covered with sawn pine shingles. The main walls are of timber-framed construction. Siding is of clap-board. Windows, probably originals to the building consist of 2 six over six paned windows at the north and south second floor location and 5 six over six paned windows on the facade; three windows along the second floor and two more, one on each side of the present door entrance. There is also a central hall plan. Square cut nails exist in most of the building except the existing east side which has been altered. It is probable that there was once a porch and small additional building attached to the original house. This house may also have been attached to another house for several years in the immediate vicinity. Most of the original building remains, although some architectural alterations have been made, based upon existing photographic evidence.

Afro-American influences may be present in the design of small room sizes, doors, stove pipe accesses, and in stairway and closet design. These architectural vestiges should be considered for the benefit of the interpretation of the facility, as an example of local architectural history in the area, and to retain a visible artifact of the Henson period.