



## MENON LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

7200 Goreway Drive, Unit L-29, Mississauga, ON, L4T2T7  
Tel: 905-956-0747      ■      Fax: 905-956-2017

Lata Menon  
Barrister & Solicitor  
[info@menonlawoffice.com](mailto:info@menonlawoffice.com)

May 3, 2024

VIA: Email: [lloney@haltonhills.ca](mailto:lloney@haltonhills.ca)

The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills,  
Heritage Planning, Planning and Development  
1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills,  
ON L7G 5G2  
Attn: Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning

Dear Laura Loney,

### **RE: Objection to Proposed Heritage Designation - Property at 9156 Trafalgar Road**

I write on behalf of our client, AMMA Canada, the lawful owner of the property located at 9156 Trafalgar Road in the Town of Halton Hills (the "Property").

On April 4, 2024, our client received notice of the Town of Halton Hills' intention to designate the Property, including all lands, structures, and buildings, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

We hereby lodge this formal objection to the proposed designation under subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, on the following grounds:

The property at 9156 Trafalgar Road is being considered for designation based on its historical and associative value as an extant farmhouse within a historic farm property in the community of Halton Hills. It is claimed that the property is an unusual example of Gothic

Revival style residence with historical significance attributed to the Currie family. The property has been evaluated as having physical and design value, representing a T-shaped, red brick Ontario farmhouse with attributes including architectural detailing and a segmentally arched window with unusual brick voussoirs.

While the property does hold historical importance associated with the property, our client contests the assertion that it holds significant cultural heritage value warranting individual designation. The architectural elements of the property, such as the segmentally arched window in the gable, are not distinctive in style, design, materials, or construction methods for its era.

The clients deny that the farmhouse possesses such stark identifiers of a Gothic Revival building, as such architecture has a distinct style: typically characterized by pointed and sharp archways, elaborate and stylish stonework, and external buttresses with a unique aesthetic. This style of building was popular throughout the 1700s and the 1800s. The farmhouse at 9156 Trafalgar Road contains little to none of these signifiers of a Gothic Revival style. It has a common red brick exterior rather than stone and was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with no elaborate buttresses nor pointed arches. The only obvious visual comparison are the gables, which are far from exclusive to Gothic Revival-styled building, and have been present through numerous periods of architecture.

The Research and Evaluation Report dated January 2024 places singular focus on the Currie Farmhouse rather than the surrounding farm outbuildings to justify its recommended designation. The property itself is in an isolated neighborhood surrounded by agriculture on all sides. The decorative round-arched hood molds above the window are given special significance for its uniqueness; however, our clients deny that this is an example of design or unique physical value as is argued in the report. These round-arched voussoirs are not exceptional in any notable or historical way, and in fact are made from the same standard red bricks used on the exterior of the rest of the house. The rounded pattern with these bricks are not unique. On the contrary, they are quite a regular design choice for the time and are even present in many more modern homes; as they do not require customized stone to be made and are thus a more economical design option. The actual windows for the home have already

been replaced with more modern designs since the time it was originally built, which further obfuscates any historical aesthetic (however little there was).

Our clients maintain that upon a critical examination of the farmhouse's architecture, its classification as a Gothic Revival building with unique decorative features is, at best, grossly overstated.

In addition to the points noted above, this designation damages an established charity and social outreach institution within the community. AMMA Canada is an organization which will be constrained by this designation as the building and property changes will require committee approval; limiting their ability to evolve and renovate to meet the changing needs of the community. This is an institution that serves the personal and spiritual needs to the broader area, and cannot properly operate under the static designation proposed under subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The organization is aware that the committee mandate is not to restrict but to advise the property owners over any such changes or renovations; however, considering the nature and significance placed on the farmhouse, our clients would still be constrained by such a designation from pursuing certain renovations that may be necessary for the proper functioning of their organization.

In conclusion, our client respectfully objects to the proposed designation of the Property under the Ontario Heritage Act. We contend that the Property does not possess the requisite cultural heritage value or interest to justify its designation. We also insist that the rights of the property owners, AMMA Canada, not be restricted from renovating or changing the site of their important social and spiritual work being done for the betterment of the local community.

We request notification of any further actions or decisions made by the Town of Halton Hills concerning this matter.

Should you require any further information regarding this notice of objection, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical line, positioned above the printed name.

Lata Menon  
Barrister and Solicitor