

Cultural Heritage Value or Interest	Heritage Attribute
2584 Ott Road has the potential to yield information regarding the early Mennonite community of Fort Erie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 19th century monuments and grave markers, the earliest of which date to 1838 with their variety of materials, design motifs, surviving inscriptions some of which are in German
2584 Ott Road can be considered a local landmark as it is meaningful to the Reformed Mennonite community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-storey Mennonite Meetinghouse Relationship of Meetinghouse and cemetery The 19th century monuments and grave markers, the earliest of which date to 1838 with their variety of materials, design motifs, surviving inscriptions some of which are in German

8.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Introduction and Description of Property

2584 Ott Road is located on the east side of Ott Road in the community of Stevensville. The property contains a one-storey brick Mennonite Meetinghouse built in 1872, with a cemetery located to the north of the building.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

2584 Ott Road is a representative example of a Mennonite Meetinghouse in Ontario. The one-storey rectangular shaped plan building has a front gable roof with overhanging eaves, red brick envelope and a symmetrical three-bay façade. Additionally, the symmetrical composition of the subject property combined with the tall and segmentally arched window openings with stone sills that are regularly placed as well as the modest construction and lack of are additional features of Mennonite Meetinghouses ornamentation.

2584 Ott Road has historical associations with the Mennonite settlement of Bertie Township as a Reformed Mennonite congregation that has been meeting in the same area since around 1825. Mennonites were some of the earliest settlers in Niagara, lured by the promise of being allowed pacifistic non-resistance afforded to other groups such as the Society of Friends (the Quakers) and the Tunkers (Brethren in Christ). Mennonites began settling in Niagara as early as 1786, and many Anabaptist groups used the same facilities for church services. The Reformed Mennonites were organized in Ontario around 1825 by John Herr, who sought to take the religion back to its earliest theological tenets of simplicity and humility. The first church at 2584 Ott Road was a log cabin, and its earliest congregants were members from the Beam, Neff, Stoner, Augustine, Baker, Weaver, and Morningstar families. The extant brick church was constructed in 1872, and a congregation of Reformed Mennonites have been meeting at the location on the subject property for almost 200 years.

2584 Ott Road is also associated with a Reformed Mennonite cemetery whose earliest legible inscription date to 1838 but was likely in use since the mid-1820s. Surnames such as Beam, Baker, Kraft, Morningstar, Noyes, Sherk, Tripp, and Young are common on the headstone inscriptions, and represent some of the earliest and most locally significant Mennonite families in Bertie Township.

2584 Ott Road has the potential to yield information regarding the early Mennonite community of Fort Erie. The property contains gravestones which provide information about earlier settlers including family genealogical information and serves as a tangible link to

understanding the past. Surnames such as Beam, Baker, Kraft, Morningstar, Noyes, Sherk, Tripp, and Young are common on the headstone inscriptions, and represent some of the earliest and most locally significant Mennonite families in Bertie Township. Further, the cemetery provides information about traditional practices and genealogical information related to the Mennonite community.

2584 Ott Road can be considered a local landmark as it is meaningful to the Reformed Mennonite community. The Stevensville congregation of Reformed Mennonites is one of the oldest continually meeting congregations of Anabaptists remaining in Niagara Peninsula and have been meeting at this location for over 200 years. As such, the subject building is a well-known marker in the community

Cultural Heritage Attributes

2584 Ott Road is a representative example of a Mennonite Meetinghouse in Ontario. The property contains the following heritage attributes that reflects this value:

- One-storey Mennonite Meetinghouse
- Front gable roof
- Overall height, form and massing
- Three-bay façade and symmetrical side elevations
- Red-brick construction
- Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs and stone sills
- Centered and arched front entranceway opening

2584 Ott Road has historical associations with the Mennonite settlement of Bertie Township as a Reformed Mennonite congregation that has been meeting in the same area since around 1825. The property contains the following heritage attributes that reflect this value:

- One-storey Mennonite Meetinghouse
- Overall height, form and massing
- Location at the intersection of Ott Road and Stevensville's Main Street
- Relationship of the Meetinghouse and cemetery
- The 19th century monuments and grave markers, the earliest of which date to 1838 with their variety of materials, design motifs, surviving inscriptions some of which are in German
- Orientation of the cemetery plots facing east and in a grid like pattern

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2584 Ott Road can be considered a local landmark as it is meaningful to the Reformed Mennonite community. The property contains the following heritage attributes that reflect this value:

- One-storey Mennonite Meetinghouse
- Relationship of Meetinghouse and cemetery

- The 19th century monuments and grave markers, the earliest of which date to 1838 with their variety of materials, design motifs, surviving inscriptions some of which are in German

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

O. Reg. 9/06 of the *OHA* requires that to be designated, a property must meet at least two of the criteria. 2584 Ott Road meets four of the criteria for determining CHVI as outlined in *O. Reg. 9/06*, therefore it is worthy of designation under *O. Reg. 9/06* of the *OHA*.

The *Provincial Planning Statement* notes that CHVI is bestowed upon cultural heritage resources by communities (MMAH 2024). Accordingly, the system by which heritage is governed in this province places an emphasis on the decision-making of local municipalities in determining CHVI. It is hoped that the information presented in this report will be useful in those deliberations.