THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STONEY CREEK

BY-LAW NO 4134-94

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 228 RIDGE ROAD BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1980, authorized the Council of a Municipality to enact By-laws to designate a property, including buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as Spera House, 228 Ridge Road, Concession , Part of Lot , City of Stoney Creek, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid property and has causes such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STONEY CREEK ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest the real property known as the Spera House, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

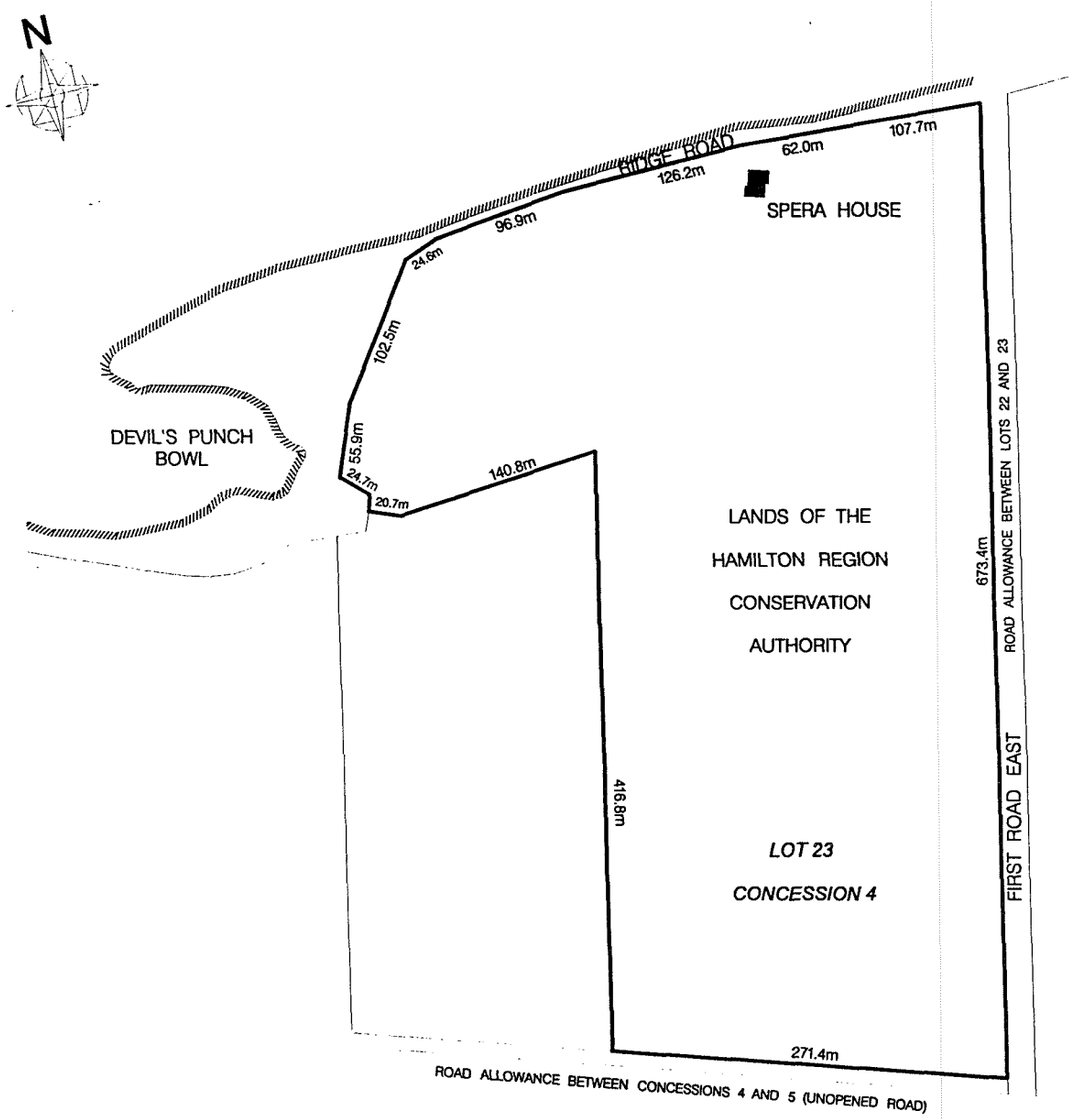
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property land registry office.

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 same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 13th day of December , 1994.

CLERK

MAYOR



LANDS OF H.R.C.A. SHOWING LOCATION OF SPERA HOUSE

THE CITY OF STONEY CREEK
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Schedule "A" forming part of By-law No. 4134-94
Passed the 13th day of December ,1994

CLERK

MAYOR

SCHEDULE "B"

BY-LAW NO *4134-94*

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
SPERA HOUSE
228 RIDGE ROAD

The Spera House is an excellent example of the combination of Gothic Revival "Ontario Farmhouse" and Classical Revival architectural styles probably in vogue at the time of construction. The resulting synthesis exhibits a comfortable, restrained formality, which suggests a place of retreat, contemplation and enjoyment in harmony with the natural setting. Fruit trees abound on three sides contrasted with vistas of the lower city and the lake beyond.

The Spera family has long been associated with the Saltfleet and Stoney Creek area. The land upon which the Spera House now stands may have been the site of the original Adam Green log house where Billy the Scout, hero of the Battle of Stoney Creek, was born. The Spera family is also connected to other important families in the Saltfleet area including Green, Nash, Davis, Lee, Beemer, Utter and Pottruff.

Henry Spera is said to have emigrated from Holland to Pennsylvania, then migrated to Upper Canada in 1828. Henry and his wife Barbara Gohrman, who was born in Pennsylvania, settled on top of the escarpment in 1828. Henry died in a ploughing accident in 1833 and is buried in Hamilton Barbara and Henry had 8 or 9 children. Barbara later married Samuel Nash bearing 7 more children.

The 1859 map shows Henry Spera, son of Henry and Barbara, as land owner. William, and perhaps John Spera, built the house that now stands on the site, circa 1874.

The infant Arthur Harris Spera was brought to the house at that time when he was only three days old. He later planted the orchard, known as Montmorency Farm, because it produced Montmorency cherries. It was at the time the largest cherry farm in the area producing 75 to 100 tons of cherries annually as well as plums, grapes and pears. Harry Spera, son of Arthur Harris Spera, was born in the house.

The two-storey Gothic Revival "Ontario Farmhouse" in the vernacular is cladded with horizontal wood siding. The gable over the main entrance partially encloses a window with a circular head. This shape is unusual.

The floor plan closely follows the typical model, with the central staircase leading to bedrooms on the upper floor. The ground floor with the sitting room and dining room/parlour on each side of the main entranceway is typical. The original kitchen was probably adjacent to the dining room.

The single-storey addition at the rear is quite utilitarian in appearance and consists of a bedroom and kitchen with a small porch.

Of interest is the verandah, added later, which serves quite well to give formality and grace to an otherwise quaint pedestrian structure. The proportions and wrap-around configuration create a comfortable transition from the main entrance to the garden or outdoor entertainment area. The verandah exhibits the Classical Revival style (probably early 20th century) in the vernacular. Typical is the low sloped roof supported by truncated quasi Etruscan columns on rusticated concrete block piers. The playful tracery just below the handrail on the railing being decorative in purpose is not in context.

The pediment over the entranceway is quite typical and serves to unite, by echoing the gable above, the distinct architectural styles.

The pine floors in the interior retain their appearance and construction, as do the beaded wood mouldings around the doors and windows.

Important to the preservation of the Spera House are the exterior facades including the foundation, cladding, windows and roof, as well as the verandah including the floor, railings, and columns. The interior pine floors and beaded mouldings around the doors and windows are also important to the preservation.

SCHEDULE "C"

BY-LAW NO *4134-94*

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS
SPERA HOUSE
228 RIDGE ROAD

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Stoney Creek, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, (formerly, in the Township of Saltfleet, in the County of Wentworth), and being composed of part of Lot Number Twenty-Three (23) in the Fourth Concession of the Township of Saltfleet, and which parcel or tract of land may be more particularly described as follows, that is to say:

PREMISING that the bearings used herein are assumed and are referred to the allowance for road between Lots Numbers Twenty-Two (22) and Twenty-Three (23) on a course of north seventeen degrees twenty-eight minutes thirty seconds east (N.17° 28' 30" E.)

COMMENCING at an iron bar planted in the eastern limit of the said Lot Number Twenty-Three (23) (being a point in the western limit of the allowance for road between lots numbers Twenty-Two (22) and Twenty-Three (23), commonly known as First Road East), where it is intersected by the northern limit of the lands of The Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario, described in deed registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth, as Instrument Number 11791, the said iron bar being distant thirty-three and five one-hundredths feet (33.05') measured on a course of north seventeen degrees twenty-eight minutes thirty seconds east (N. 17° 28' 30" E.) from an iron bar planted in the southeastern corner of the said Lot Number Twenty-Three (23).

THENCE North seventeen degrees twenty-eight minutes thirty seconds east (N. 17° 28' 30" E.) along the eastern limit of the aforesaid lot number Twenty-Three (23) two thousand, two hundred and nine and nineteen one-hundredths feet (2,209.19') more or less to an iron bar planted in the southern limit of a given road commonly known as Ridge Road.

THENCE Northwesterly along the southern limit of the said Ridge Road, the following courses and distances, namely: - north eighty-four degrees fifty-four minutes west (N. 84° 54' W.) three hundred and fifty-three and twenty-three one-hundredths feet (353.23') to an iron bar planted at an angle therein; north eight-two degrees thirty-four minutes west (N. 82° 34' W.) two hundred and three and thirty-seven one-hundredths feet (203.37') to an iron bar planted at an angle therein, and north eighty-seven degrees twenty-eight minutes thirty seconds west (N. 87° 28' 30" W.) thirty-three and fifty-nine one-hundredths feet (33.59') to a point.

THENCE South thirteen degrees thirty-two minutes twenty seconds west (S. 13° 32' 20" W.) two thousand and seventy-two and fifty-six one-hundredths feet (2,072.56') more or less to a point in the northern limit of the lands of The Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario, as described in Instrument Number 11563.

THENCE South sixty-nine degrees thirty-eight minutes thirty seconds east (S. 69° 38' 30"E.) along the last mentioned limit, and the limit of the said Commission's Lands, as described in Instrument Number 11791, four hundred and thirty-six and seventeen one-hundredths feet (436.17') more or less to the point of commencement.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED parcel of land contains by admeasurement twenty-four and nine hundred and twenty-seven one-thousandths acres (24.927 Acres) be the same more or less.

As contained in Instrument Number 197171 A.B.