



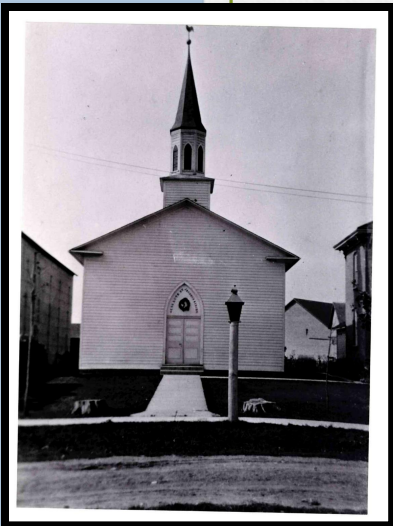
HERITAGE WILMOT

Presents the

Designation request of

St. James Lutheran Church

Located at 66 Mill Street
Baden, Ontario

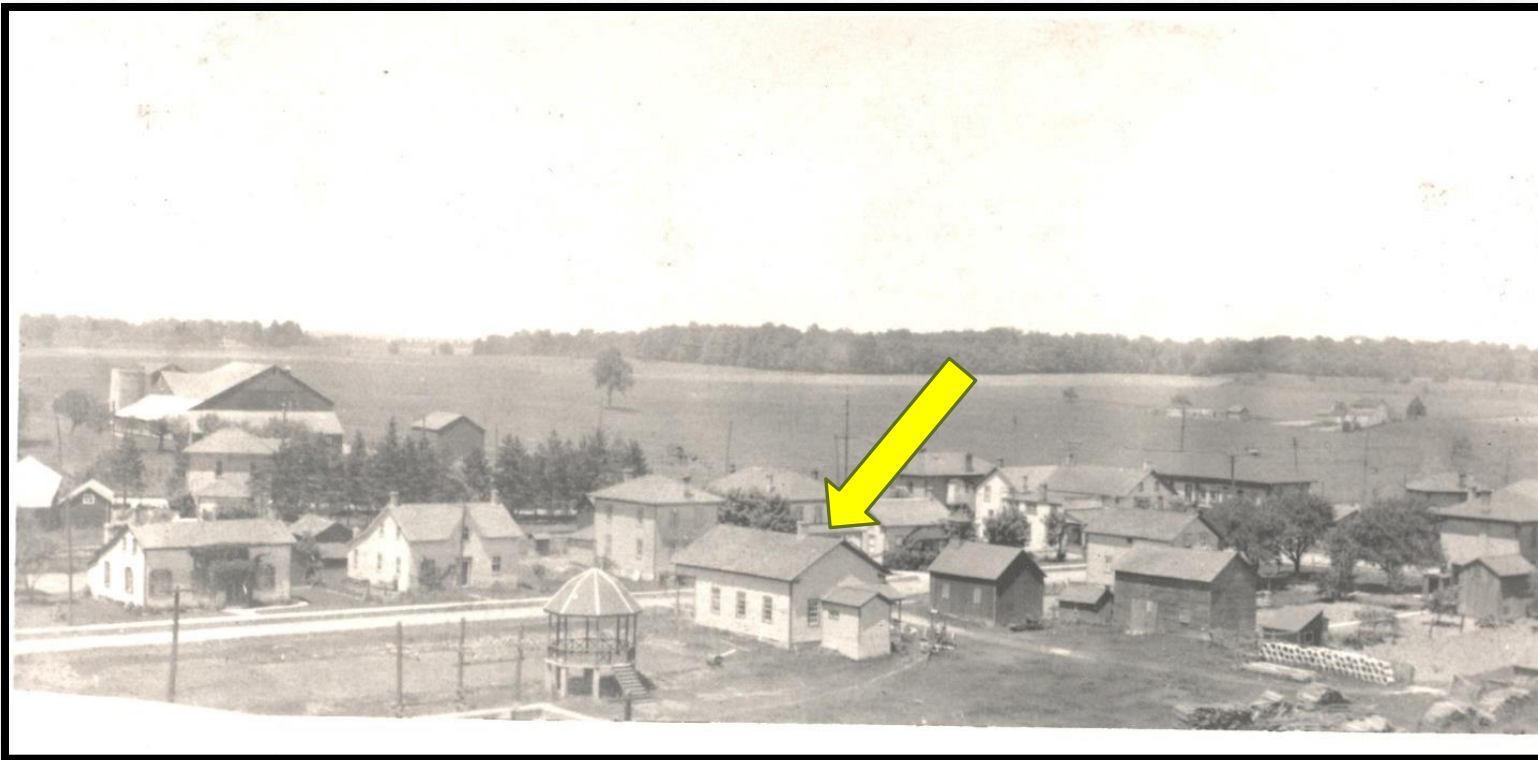


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Presented by: Al Junker, Member of Heritage Wilmot
Date: July 15, 2019



Overview

- Present information about the history of St. Jacob's Church / St. James Lutheran Church
- Summarize the important features of the church
- Request that Council initiate steps for the designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



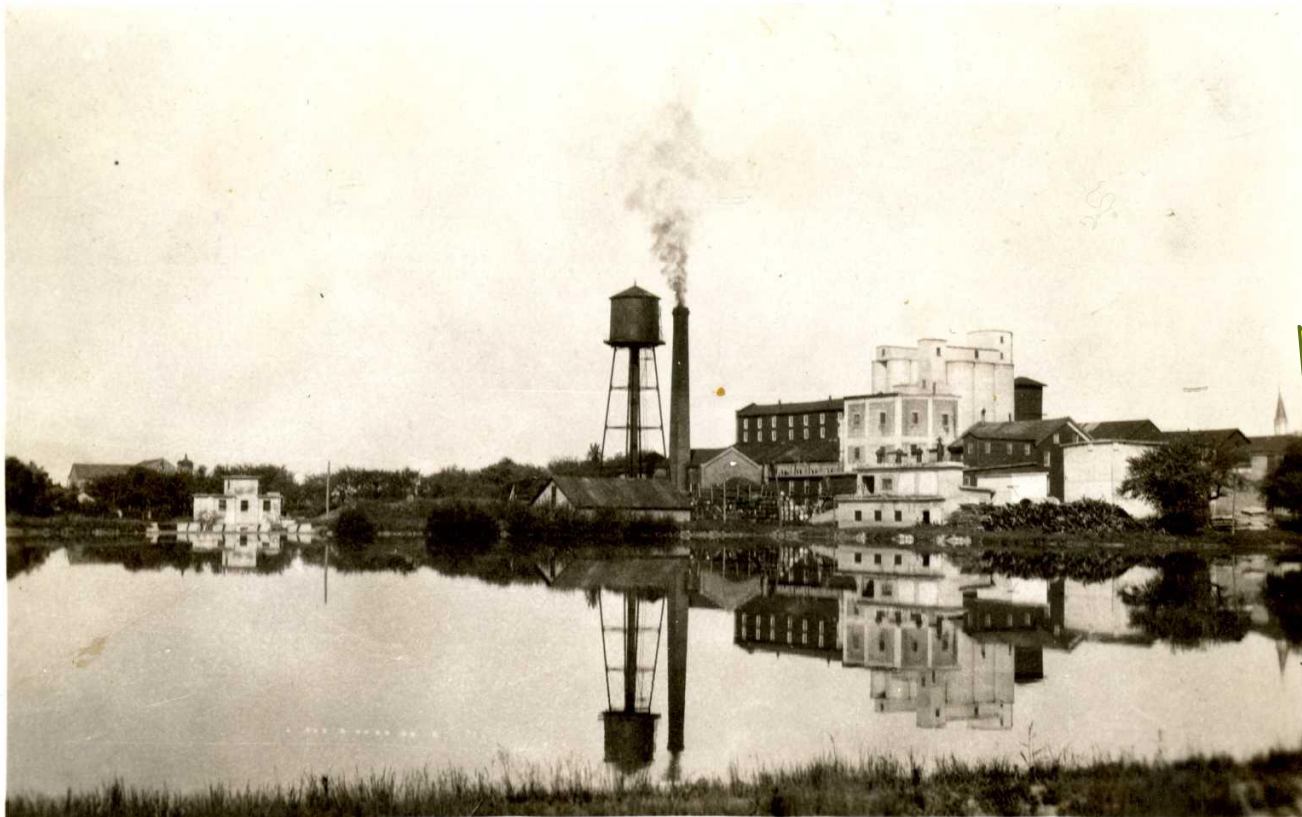
The first gathering of Lutheran people to worship in Baden was in 1856. Land was purchased from Jacob Beck to build a new Town Hall in 1858 and services were held inside the newly built Town Hall until their church was built. They were officially called “*Evangelical Lutheran St. Jacobus Kirche*” or better known as “*St. Jacob’s Church*.”



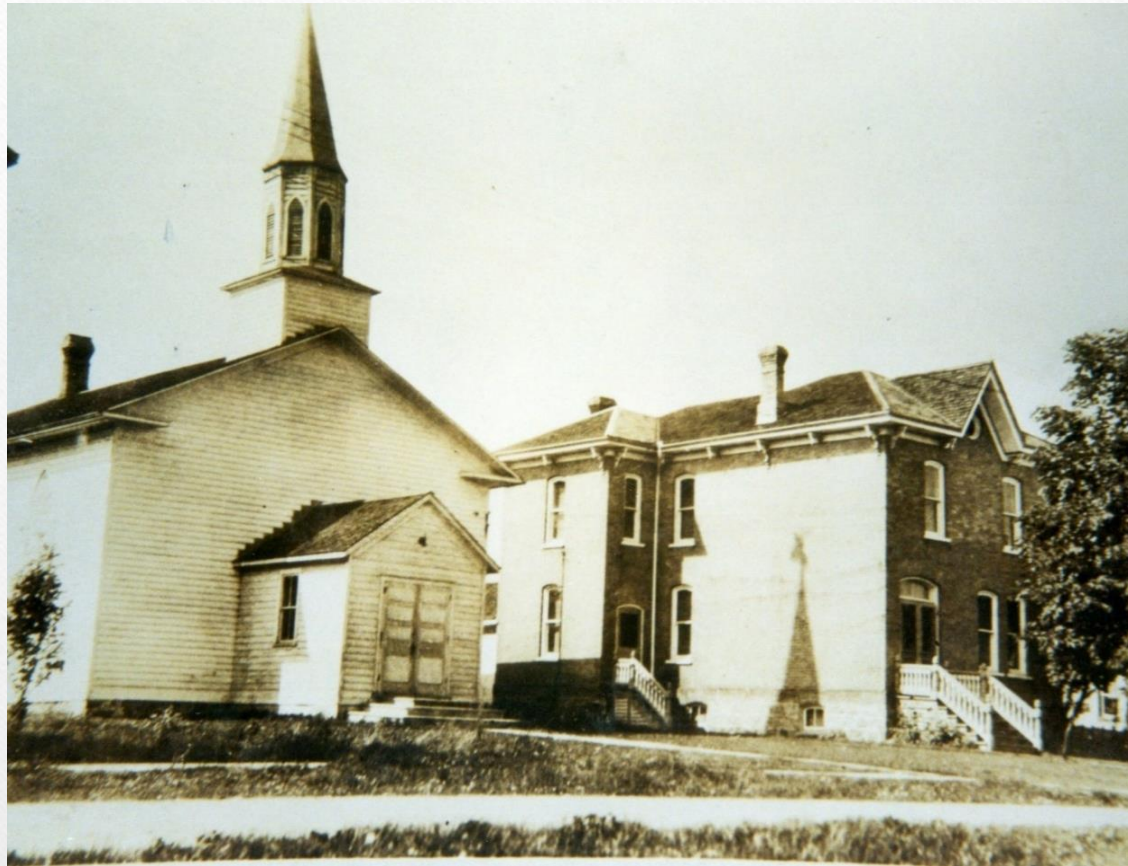
In 1861 a frame church was built on property owned by Jacob Beck and sold to the congregation for \$50. This would be the first church built in Baden.

In 1862 the cornerstone for the new church was laid.

The cost to build the church was \$1,000.



One year after the congregation formed, Adam Beck, the son of Jacob and Charlotte (Hespeler) Beck was baptized at the church. Fifteen years later, Adam is confirmed.



In 1887 a pump organ is purchased for \$450 for the church which remains inside the church today. The congregation becomes independent and is thriving by 1888. In 1889, the parsonage is built on land donated by James Livingston, owner of Castle Kilbride. (Note: James' wife Louise Liersch and her family attended this church).



**Inside St. Jacob's
Church, Baden, c.1900**

(Wilmot Township Archives)



Historical connections

December 29, 1911 was an exciting day for the village of Baden as it was the day that electricity from Niagara Falls was first turned on in the village. In celebration of the event, Adam Beck, Ontario Hydro Commissioner, returned to the village of his birth.

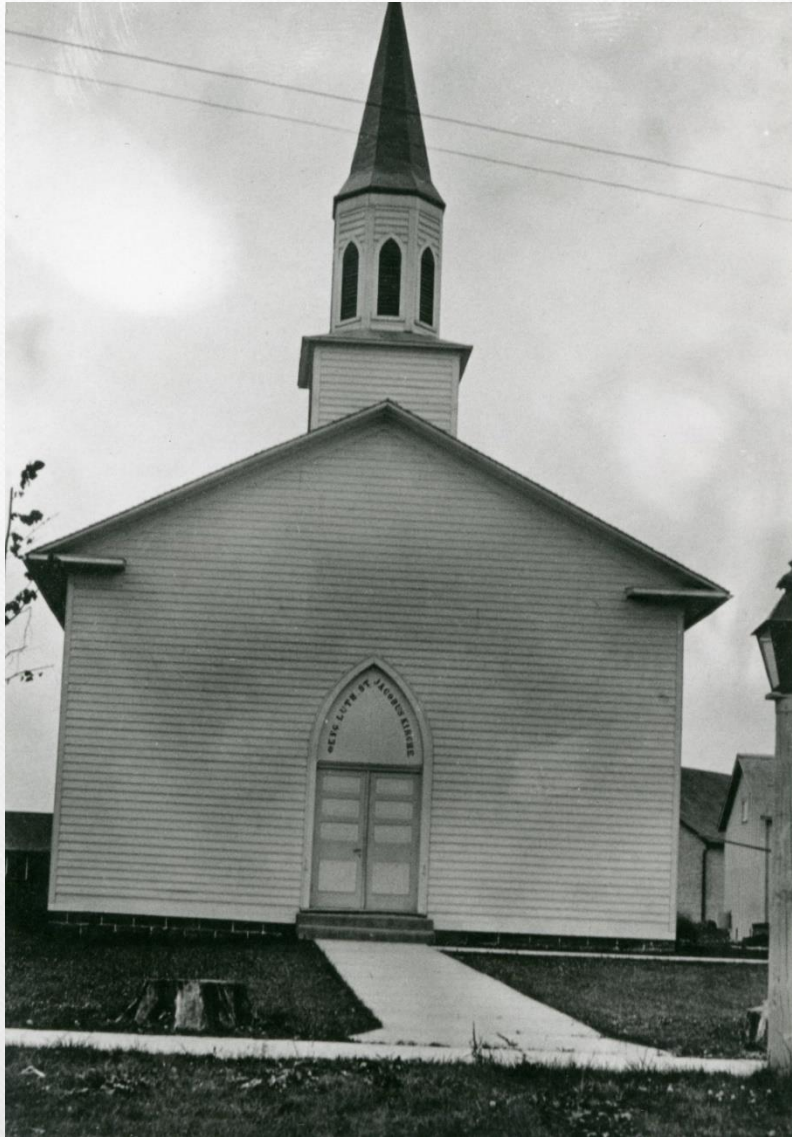
Adam Beck had amassed a fortune in his successful cigar box manufacturing business in London. He was now a powerful minister in Premier Whitney's cabinet and the commissioner of Hydro-Electric Power commission. His return to Baden was indeed triumphant.



Beck arrived in Baden an 1 ½ hour early walked around his boyhood village- his father's mill, his boyhood home and then to the Baden Hotel to book a room for the night. When his wife arrived 5pm the couple made their way to the Opera House with a 20-piece band serenading them along the way. Beck addressed the crowd and turned on the lights at exactly 6:11p.m in Baden. (Painting by Kyle Ferguson)



Beck paid homage to his boyhood in Baden. “We were all taught to work and labour, I left Baden 37 years ago. We went with less wealth than we came, but a deep fund of valuable training and experience...the Becks have gone their way from you in flesh, but we are with you in thought. We have taken the precepts taught us here and woven them into the warp and the weft of our destinies.”



Following the banquet, the Becks went to St. James Lutheran Church, which his mother had helped organized in its early years. A set of ornate light fixtures were donated by Beck in memory of his mother and were lit at 8:00p.m. sharp. (*These fixtures remain in the church today)

In that more intimate setting, Beck briefly addressed the congregation in German, which he did not do very often in public.

The church evolves...

- On July 28, 1914, German language services discontinued at the church.
- In 1934, the church celebrated its 75th anniversary. The name of the church was changed to **St. James Lutheran Church**. (“James” is the Latin form of the Hebrew name “Jacob”).
- In 1953, a basement and a narthex were added.
- In 1999/2000, new chimes were installed and the narthex was expanded for a large new foyer. During construction workers discovered the original sign over the doorway. This treasure remains inside the church as an integral part of the church’s rich history.
- In 2007 the original steeple is renovated and receives an award.
- 2008 St. James celebrated 150 years!





LEFT The new steeple for St. James Lutheran Church in Baden is lowered into place Saturday morning. **ABOVE** After being cut from the church and hoisted away, a worker safely guides the 80-year-old old cupola as a crane lowers it to the ground.

DOUG COXSON, INDEPENDENT STAFF

Church steeple restored in Baden

Doug Coxson
Independent staff

After about a year of planning, careful attention to historic detail and the help of a few local, skilled craftsmen, a little church in Baden finally has its rooster back.

It's been over 80 years since St. James Lutheran Church looked the way it was originally built by Baden pioneer and father of public hydro Sir Adam Beck.

Beck built the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1856 in memory of his parents. It was the first church in the area to have electricity when the town was wired for power.

Shortly after Beck was knighted by King George V in 1914, about 1,100 townspeople crowded around the tracks at the Baden train station to greet the town's most famous former resident when he arrived for a short visit.

His first

affectionately known by everyone in town as "the little church with the rooster on it."

But not long after Beck made his last visit to Baden and about the time of his death in 1925, members of the congregation decided to remove the church's decaying steeple and replace it with decidedly less ornate cupola, complete with a more traditional cross.

When a narthex was built onto the church in 2000 to create a large new foyer, workers uncovered the original sign over the doorway to the sanctuary. The sign was painted and restored to commemorate the heritage value of one of Baden's oldest buildings.

But the original steeple, proudly displayed in an old photograph of the church that hangs in the new foyer, was still missing.

Enter Jim Miller and his wife Marlene. The church members, who have an avid interest in preserving this area's heritage, took on the task of organizing a restoration of the steeple as a pet project.

Dyck, of Kitchener, and began looking for ways to create a replica of what appears in the picture.

The old photo played a critical role in helping Dyck create architectural drawings that recreate, down to less than an inch, the steeple that once towered over other buildings in Baden. "This has been a real study," Miller said. "By scaling it to the actual building we've recreated what was up there in 1856."

Much of the detail work was left in the hands of local artisans, including the Wilmot Senior Woodworkers, who offered their skills with a chisel and saw to recreate the gingerbread and louvre work on the steeple.

NW Roofing installed the cedar shakes and Frey Brothers, out of Hawkesville, completed all of the structural work on the steeple, including the work to remove the old cupola and install the stunning, new steeple.

St. Agatha tinsmith Ed Ries was commissioned to hammer out the intricate

St. James received a heritage award in 2007 for the restoration of the church steeple from Heritage Wilmot.



Group honoured for recreation of 1856 church steeple

It's been over 80 years since St. James Lutheran Church looked the way it was originally built in 1856 on land donated by Jacob Beck, father of Sir Adam Beck and founder of Ontario Hydro.

The original church was a frame building constructed at a cost of \$1,000 and capable of seating 300 people. Rev. Fred Ughner was the first minister and services were conducted in German until the First World War.

Sir Adam Beck donated lights to the church in memory of his parents after wiring it for power. It was the first church in the area to have electricity.

Shortly after Beck was knighted by King George V in 1914, about 1,100 townspeople crowded around the tracks at the Baden train station to greet the town's most famous former resident when he arrived for a short visit.

His first order of business was to walk from the station down to what was affectionately known by everyone in

the congregation decided to remove the church's decaying steeple and replace it with decidedly less ornate



Sir Adam Beck

cupola, complete with a more traditional cross. The church was renovated in 1953 when a basement and kitchen, board room, narthex and oil furnace were added.

When the narthex was expanded in 2000 to create a large new foyer, workers uncovered the original sign over the doorway to the sanctuary. The sign was painted and restored to commemorate the heritage value of one of Baden's oldest

Enter Jim Miller and his wife Marlene.

The church members took on the task of organizing a restoration of the steeple as a pet project last year.

"It seemed odd we have an original photo, we know what the church looked like — why don't we put the crowning glory on it?" Jim said.

The congregation hired historical architect Robert Dyck, of Kitchener, and began looking for ways to create a replica of what appears in the picture.

The old photo played a critical role in helping Dyck create architectural drawings that recreate, down to less than an inch, the steeple that once towered over other buildings in Baden. "This has been a real study," Miller said. "By scaling it to the actual building we've recreated what was up there in 1856."

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What is a designation?



- Is a way of publically acknowledging a property's value to a community.
- It helps to ensure the conservation of these important places for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Is a legal process outlined in the Ontario Heritage Act, created to preserve the unique heritage of our province.
- Designation registers the property as a historically significant property.
- Is a way for a property owner to display pride in their property.
- A designation protects and preserves Canada's heritage!



St. James Lutheran Church meets all three criteria for designation



Historical Value:

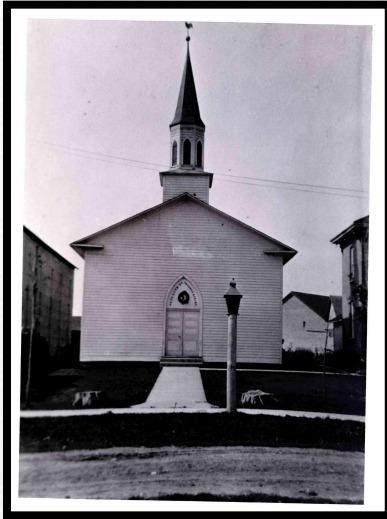
The history of this church has remained entwined with the community of Baden for over 155 years. The Beck family was closely associated with this church. Jacob & Charlotte Beck played an integral part in the early formation of the church; their son Adam will be knighted and known as “Sir Adam Beck, the Father of Ontario Hydro” who also had deep connections to the church. Both Jacob and Adam are listed in the Waterloo Region Hall of Fame.

Contextual Value:

This long standing church has been a place of spiritual and social gathering since 1864. St. James Church has been supported by the community and continues today. This church is both physically and historically linked to its surroundings.

Physical Value:

St. James Lutheran Church is representative of a Vernacular religious building with Gothic Revival styling.



Our request...

Heritage Wilmot has designated **21** properties under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and **1** Heritage Conservation District under Part V for Wilmot.

Heritage Wilmot requests Council to approve that the Director of Clerks Services initiate steps for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The Heritage Designation of St. James Lutheran Church will include:

- **All four exterior facades of St. James Lutheran Church, including the stained glass windows on the north and south facades.**
- **The 8-sided tower**



Thank you



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www.heritagewilmot.ca