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Marcy Smith

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, S. 29 and S. 67**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY
AS 21 STONE CHURCH ROAD WEST**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
77 Bloor Street West, 7th Floor,
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton intends to designate the following property, including land and buildings, as a property of historic or architectural value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: 21 Stone Church Road West.

THE REASONS for the proposed designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE is being published in The Spectator once a week for each of three consecutive weeks, commencing on the date set out below.

ANY PERSON may, within thirty days of the date set out below, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the City of Hamilton will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the City of Hamilton this *3rd* day of *August* 1993.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
AUG 04 1993
HERITAGE POLICY BRANCH

J. J. Schatz, City Clerk,
City Hall,
71 Main St. W., P.O. Box 2040,
Hamilton, Ontario.
L8N 3T4

Schedule "A"

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Barton Stone United Church Cemetery

21 Stone Church Road West

The cemetery located to the south of Barton Stone United Church, on Upper James, was opened in 1847, when the church itself was completed. The cemetery and church together constitute one of the most noteworthy historic landmarks on Hamilton's Mountain and serve as a tangible reminder of the rural character of Barton Township, which is rapidly disappearing in the wake of urban development. The green open space of the cemetery, with its peaceful atmosphere, stone grave markers of varying design and size, and several trees, complements the adjacent stone church building.

The church and cemetery were once set further back from Upper James (originally the Caledonia Road), with a low stone wall running along the eastern and northern borders of the one-acre property. When this wall was removed in recent years due to its deteriorated condition, salvaged stones were used to construct decorative pillars for a new iron railing extending in front of the cemetery alone.

The cemetery, one of the oldest on Hamilton's Mountain, is part of the original acre of land purchased by the Presbyterians from Stephen Blackstone for a church and cemetery plot. The first gravestone was erected in 1847 for William Terryberry, a prosperous landowner and innkeeper. Prior to this, the Presbyterians of Barton Township were buried in William Rymal's cemetery on the Mohawk Trail, which was located next to the meeting house built in 1811 as a place of worship for Lutherans and Presbyterians.

Schedule "A"

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Barton Stone United Church

21 Stone Church Road West, Hamilton

Context

Built in 1845-7 on the main road from Hamilton to Caledonia, just north of the hamlet of Ryckman's Corners, Barton Stone United Church now stands at the busy intersection of Upper James and Stone Church Road West. Encroaching commercial and residential development as well as increasing traffic have dramatically changed its rural setting in recent years. The green open space of the adjacent cemetery, with its peaceful atmosphere, wide variety of grave markers, and several trees, complements the church building and provides a welcome buffer to the south.

Historical Significance

Barton Stone United Church has the distinction of being the oldest building to have continuously served as a Presbyterian (and later United) Church within the present-day boundaries of the City of Hamilton. It also has direct ties with the first Presbyterian congregation in this area, founded in 1811 by William Rymal, one of the earliest settlers in Barton Township. The two-storey frame meeting house, which he had built adjoining the cemetery plot on the eastern border of his farm (now St. Peter's Cemetery on Mohawk Road West), was shared by two congregations (initially Lutherans and Presbyterians and later Anglicans and Presbyterians) and was thus named Barton Union Church. When this building was condemned as unsafe in 1844 and later demolished, each denomination erected its own stone church at separate locations: Barton Presbyterian (now Barton Stone United) and St. Peter's Anglican, built in 1852-3 near the site of the original church and demolished in 1922.

Served for almost fifty years by itinerant pastors, Barton Presbyterian obtained its first settled minister in 1886, shared with the Locke Street Presbyterian Church. Shared arrangements with other churches continued until 1920, when the minister of Barton Wesley Methodist Church was engaged and the congregation joined with Barton Presbyterian, formally merging in 1922. Three years later the congregation became part of the United Church of Canada (formed in 1925) and was then renamed Barton Stone United Church.

Architecture

Barton Stone United Church is an architectural landmark on Hamilton's Mountain, where it is the oldest surviving church, and reputedly the only remaining 19th century church building. Moreover, it ranks as one of the oldest stone buildings and possibly the earliest church still standing in the present-day City of Hamilton.

The original church, a modest vernacular building, is noteworthy for its rubblestone construction, pleasing proportions and Gothic Revival detailing. The simple front facade, unusual for its absence of fenestration, features a pointed arched doorway with double panelled wood doors and a solid wood transom. On the south and north walls, seven of the eight original window bays with paired lancet windows set in rectangular frames are still intact. The one at the eastern end of the south wall was recently altered by the removal of the lower half of the window and stone masonry below to install double fire doors (thereby allowing the permanent closure of the original front doorway facing Upper James).

The existing rear stone addition was built in 1972 to house the church offices, choir room, vestry, and a new main entrance facing the parking lot to the west. It replaced two earlier additions: the Sunday School room added to the west end in 1916 and a larger hall built to replace it in 1937. The Sunday School function is now accommodated within the Christian Education Building erected in 1957 on the west side of the church property facing Stone Church Road.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of Barton Stone United Church are the original exterior features of the east, south and north facades of the 1847 building, including the stone masonry, the original main doorway, and the original windows on the north and south facades (excluding the new fire doors).