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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON



DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK
K.W. SADLER, CITY CLERK

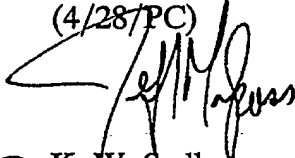
December 7, 1993

Brick Street United Church Cemetery
c/o Mount Zion United Church

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on December 6, 1993 resolved:

4. That, on the recommendation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, notice of Council's intentions to designate the property at **Brick Street Cemetery (Commissioners Road)** to be of historical value or interest **BE GIVEN** for the attached reasons under the provisions of Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18; it being pointed out that the owners have concurred in the above recommendation on the understanding that the land to be included in the designation will be shown as on the assessment roll.

(4/28/PC)


K. W. Sadler
City Clerk
/hap

cc Ontario Heritage Foundation, 7th Floor, 77 Bloor St W, Toronto, M7A 2R9
Chair & Members, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee
V. A. Cote, Director of Planning & Development, Suite 708
H. A. Pulver, Director of Community Improvement, Suite 603
M. E. Gladysz, Heritage Planner, Suite 603
Clerk Processing*

Reasons for Designation

Brick Street Cemetery (Commissioners Road)

Historical Reasons

This cemetery served as the burial ground for settlers who first arrived in Westminster Township in 1810. Burials began sometime between 1813 and 1819. The first gravestone dates from 1819. The cemetery is situated on land originally granted to Peter McNames. Many of the first settlers of Westminster and their descendants are interred here, since many attended and worshipped at Brick Street Methodist Episcopal Church next door. Many of the early settlers were American. The Methodist congregation which met here was established in 1816. Its allegiance was to the Methodist Episcopal Church, the American arm of the Methodist movement. The site is almost wholly gravel, and is one of the driest graveyards in the city. The cemetery measures 211.5 by 230 feet and is near capacity. Burials are still occurring to the present day.

Several local families are interred here including Dale, Griffith, Topping, Jarvis, Flint, Blinn and Norton. There are several streets in the area named after pioneers buried in this cemetery: Norton Avenue, Topping Lane, Towbridge Avenue, Teeple Terrace, and Southdale Road.

Three of the more notable people interred here include Nathan Griffith, Sr., Nathan Griffith, Jr., and Phoebe McNames. The histories and stories surrounding these early residents underscore the uneasy relations between the United States and Canada after the American Revolution and the transference of people and loyalties it created.

Nathan Griffith, Sr. (1756 - 1852) was a soldier in the American Revolution on the side of the rebels, and received a pension from the American government. His son, Nathan Jr. (1790 -1862), was in the battle of Lundy's Lane with the British forces, as he had arrived in Westminster Township in 1812. Nathan Sr. resided in Vermont for some years after his son had come to Canada, but finally took up residence with his son. It is recorded that Nathan Jr. founded the first brickyard in Middlesex County in 1816, making it one of the first manufacturing industries in the London area. There were at least thirteen brickyards along Commissioners Road (once known as Brick Street). Many people in the area made a living through brickmaking combined with farming, including Nelson Norton, James McLaren, Samuel Jarvis, Robert Summers, and Nathan Topping. All are buried in the cemetery.

Phoebe McNames (d. 1824) has become something of a folk heroine for an act of bravery she is reputed to have performed during the war of 1812. It is recorded in the Historical Atlas of Middlesex County that General Proctor after his defeat at the Battle of the Thames retreated through Middlesex County along Commissioners Road. During this retreat a skirmish ensued at Hungerford Hill (now Reservoir Hill). A troop of volunteer cavalry and a militia detachment conveying wounded men was attacked by an advance guard of Kentucky mounted riflemen. With her husband away on duty as a militiaman, Mrs. McNames found herself near the fighting. It is reputed she drove a baggage wagon and handed out ammunition and water to the troops during the engagement.

The grave of Richard Tunks is a white marble slab with a carved replica of a military metal ^{d,} on it. He was a sergeant in the British Army and fought in the Peninsular War. He was

discharged in Upper Canada in 1815. By 1816, he had cleared 20 acres and built a house and barn on Lot 40, Concession 1.

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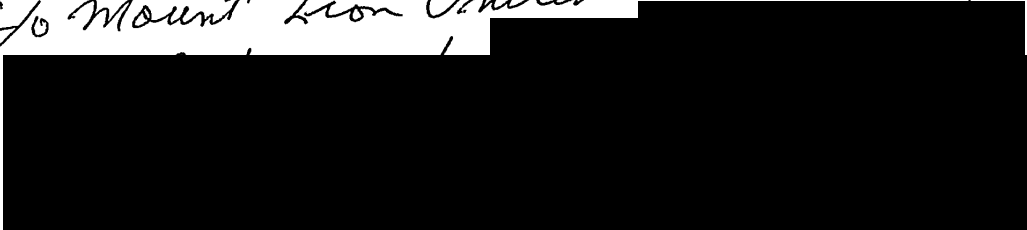
I/We hereby approve the above Reasons and consent to the Heritage Designation of the subject property.

I/We wish to amend the above Reasons as follows and

_____ consent to the Heritage Designation of the subject property.

Mount Zion U.C. Trustees Board ^{Chairman}
SIGNED: Edmes Houeg
the Chairman Lloyd H. Blum

Please address any correspondence to
B Three Brick St United
Church Cemetery
C/o Mount Zion United Church



CITY CLERK No. _____
SUBJECT Brick St Cemetery
heritage designation
DATE NOV 15 1993
REF. LACAC ✓
M. Gladysz ✓