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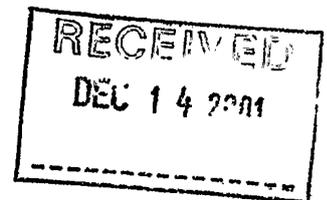
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Rford.
The Corporation of the Town of
New Tecumseth *Simone* ✓

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December 10, 2001



Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Dear Sir:

Designation Under Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised that Council of the Town of New Tecumseth have passed By-Law 2001-108, which designates all items of the exterior of the Rich Hill United Church building which are considered original to the design of the church, including the building plan, exterior wall materials, windows, roof line, exterior measurements, chimneys and all other aspects ascertained as original. The steeple is designated as a period reconstruction as extrapolated from historic documents and photos.

The by-law will be registered on the title of the church and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee will be arranging for a plaque to be placed on the building to recognize the designation.

Yours truly,

Nancy Rugman

Nancy Rugman
Deputy Clerk

✓
RR
12/01/04

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
NEW TECUMSETH

BY-LAW

Number 2001-108

"RICH HILL UNITED CHURCH DESIGNATION BY-LAW"

A by-law to designate the property known municipally as "Rich Hill United Church" East Half Lot 10, Concession 2 as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Section 29(6) authorizes the council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and/or historical value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as the "Rich Hill United Church" at East Half Lot 10, Concession 2 and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality on June 20, 2001;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth enacts as follows:

1. That there is designated as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest the real property known as "Rich Hill United Church" at East Half Lot 10, Concession 2, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. That said property shall be designated for the reasons indicated on Schedule "B" to this by-law.
3. That the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed 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.
4. That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered in the proper Registry Office against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto.
5. That this by-law shall be cited as the "Rich Hill United Church Designation By-Law".
6. That this by-law shall come into force and effect from and after the passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS
13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2001.
I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE COPY

OF ORIGINAL
DATED AT THE TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH,
THIS 13th DAY OF December, 2001

Nancy Rugman
Deputy Clerk, The Corporation of the Town
of New Tecumseth

NANCY RUGMAN, DEPUTY CLERK
The Corporation of the Town of
New Tecumseth, Commissioner for
taking Oaths Pursuant to the
Commissioners for taking Affidavits
Act, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C17

J.P. Keugh
MAYOR

J. Middlebrook
CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 2001-108

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the Town of New Tecumseth, in the County of Simcoe and being composed of Part of Lot 10, Concession 3, Town of New Tecumseth, (formerly Township of Tecumseth), more particularly described as firstly, Part 2, Reference Plan 51R-23390 as deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Simcoe No. 51 (Pin No. 58939-0075 (LT)) and secondly, Part 3, Reference Plan 51R-23390 as deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Simcoe No. 51 (Pin No. 58939-0076 (LT)).

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 2001-108**Town of New Tecumseth
Local Architectural Advisory Committee****Study of the Rich Hill United Church
(Town of New Tecumseth)****Introduction**

This report is in response to a request for designation from the Rich Hill United Church from the congregation of Tottenham-Rich Hill United Churches on February 10, 2000. It has been created by the Town of New Tecumseth Local Architectural Advisory Committee (LACAC) to assist the Town of New Tecumseth in this purpose.

Lory Whittemore is the Town of New Tecumseth LACAC Historical Researcher and is responsible for the maintaining of heritage building/LACAC inventory files. She has worked for the Town of New Tecumseth LACAC for seven years in this capacity.

Rachelle Clayton is the Recording Secretary for the Town of New Tecumseth LACAC. She is also the Curator of the local museum, the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum, for the past seven years.

General Historical Context

Rich Hill United Church is located on the East Half of Lot 10, Concession 2, former Township of Tecumseth and now the Town of New Tecumseth.

The history of Rich Hill in local history books seems centred on the events of the Rich Hill Methodist Church. Due to its close proximity to Tuam, a catholic community two miles to the east, the history of the two communities seems to overlap. Another reason is that many rural areas of Canada are named for their post offices. Tuam had a post office as early as 1863 and was named by the first postmaster Patrick Derham, as Tuam, named for his place of birth in Ireland. As Rich Hill would have received their mail from this Post Office, the two communities historically seem tied. By the end of the 19th century the Catholic population of Tuam had dwindled so much that in the "Lovells Gazeteer of 1895" there is no mention of Tuam's catholic church "St. Margaret's Church" only the Rich Hill Methodist Church. The population of this community is listed as 100 in this reference material.

The community of Rich Hill also boasted a school known as Tecumseth S.S. #2 which sat on the north half of Lot 10, Concession 1, the south west corner of Sideroad 10 and Concession 2. The school burned down in 1920 and for the duration of its rebuilding classes were held in the Rich Hill Church. S.S. #2 was in operation until 1961 when Tecumseth South Central School opened. This building was then used as the meeting hall of the Rich Hill Loyal Orange Lodge. It currently is a personal residence.

Rich Hill Church was an active congregation and therefore an integral part of the Rich Hill and Tuam community. It is a landmark and the only remaining building of this community which has not been significantly altered.

Rich Hill Church Historical Context

From 1859-1925, Rich Hill had been a Methodist Church, with a set order of services. The original church of the congregation of Rich Hill Methodist Church was a wooden plank structure built in 1859 located at the north east corner of Lot 11, Concession 1 of Tecumseth Township. It was registered in July of 1859 to a board consisting of Samuel Hastings, Richard Palmer, James Pickerton and Robert Thompson. Plots were established around the church for burial. This building is rumoured to later being moved into Tottenham and used as a stable. This building no longer exists, but the well tended cemetery still remains.

This Methodist congregation was part of the Beeton-Tottenham circuit formed by the Toronto Conference in 1887. This circuit included Beeton, Tottenham, Rich Hill, Rainey's and Tecumseth. The rectory for this circuit was in Tottenham so such a building was never on the Rich Hill site. Church union of Methodist and Presbyterian churches happened on June 15, 1925. These churches were then known as "United".

In 1888 a brick church was built across the road on the East Half of Lot 10, Concession 2, former Township of Tecumseth and now the Town of New Tecumseth. The new building was built on a plot of land purchased in 1857 from Robert Fleming. The orange Ontario brick structure was designed by architect John Merrick Sr. and built by John McCabe and James Stephenson in 1888, the same persons who built a similarly designed church in Newton Robinson in 1887. The building originally had a low wall on three sides for tying up horse and buggies.

Rich Hill Church is a landmark in a small, rural community which has seen a notable decline in population. Some of the other buildings original to this community have been severely altered into personal residences (including Orange Lodge and School House). The church building is a vital component of the landscape of this community.

Architectural Description

The architectural description is based on observing the building, reviewing historical photos, visiting the Newton Robinson United Church and extrapolating information ascertained at the site. Over the years features have been altered.

The brick structure is a Gothic Revival style building. It has a rectangular with apse plan, due to a semi-polygonal projection which houses the altar on the west facade of the building. It is one storey high with the fieldstone foundation and basement full above ground. The main exterior walls are constructed with three layers of dichromatic brickwork in Ontario orange brick and Ontario buff brick. The main roof is a high gable with a temporary low gable gracing the top of the east facade square tower.

Exterior

The exterior of the Rich Hill United Church is Ontario orange and buff coloured brick. The foundation is fieldstone and unique in that it comes up the exterior of the building about one third of the way, where it is capped by five rows of buff coloured brick. From there, there is the orange brick colour being capped again by five rows of buff coloured brick. The top capping or frieze is just under the roof line and has a middle row of dog teeth or dentalling where the bricks are turned to make a triangular protrusion. It is an interesting brickwork detail, probably put in place to replace the more common gingerbread work on gothic buildings.

The main facade of the building is located on the east side along Sideroad 10 of the Town of New Tecumseth.

Steeple

This facade is bisected with a central square tower that served as a vestibule and bell-cote. It currently has a low gabled roof, but was originally graced by a steeple. The six-sided roof, which met at a point with a cross adorning was destroyed in a windstorm in 1928 along with the roof eaves, cornice with eaves brackets and about 11 feet of the brick tower. This spire is being rebuilt in the summer of 2001 and will resemble the original. Information on the replacement spire will be added to the LACAC file on completion of the project. If this spire meets LACAC's and the Town of New Tecumseth's requirements as a proper period reconstruction of the original spire, it will be designated as a period reconstruction. In the centre of the square tower is a carved semi-circular date stone stating "Methodist Church 1888". On either side of the square tower are pointed, arched windows. Further description of these windows can be found under windows.

Vestibule

The building has a vestibule which was added in 1980 constructed of orange brick with a white stone cross gracing the front beneath the gabled roof. There are two balanced arched openings which contain rectangular stained glass windows. The recommendation for designation does not include the new vestibule.

The original vestibule still exists and can be seen from the north and south facade. The entranceway (still existing) was reached by climbing a set of stairs. To the south was a pointed arched door which gave access to the basement.

Both the North and South sides of the building have four bays framed by flying buttresses used as a decorative detail and to give added structure to the height of the building.

Windows

In each bay is one main storey window which is a pointed, arched window capped with an alternating coloured brick voussoirs label in a square pattern. The windows have three muntins with the top third appearing to be a stationary, pointed arch, the second and bottom sections have one by one windows. At the top of the arch is a diamond shaped pane which is either cobalt blue or garnet red glass. These colours alternate around the entire building's main floor windows. The panes in the main floor windows are etched glass in a fleur-de-lis pattern.

The basement windows are original segmental shaped windows with two over two glass and a fan shaped voussoirs label of buff brick. All the windows have a mortar sill.

Apse

The west facade has a semi-polygonal projection which holds the altar area inside. It is capped with a steel roof. A door leads into the basement in the most westerly portion of the projection. Two pointed, arched windows are centred in the wings of the projection, each with stained glass inserts.

Washroom Addition

To the north of the apse on the west facade is the 1966 cement block addition which houses the interior washrooms. This addition is not recommended for designation.

Chimneys

The west facade gives the best view of two Gothic High Victorian polygonal chimney pots. The most northerly appears to be original with alternating bands of coloured brick. One pot section has been rebuilt on the southerly chimney using newer brick, but still in the same style. The brick work for the chimneys begins in a decorative framing around the apse and right up to the roof. It is truly wonderful craftsmanship.

Additions/Alterations

The building has retained its architectural integrity and has been very well maintained. It remains mostly in its original state with the exception of the above mentioned steeple being lost in 1928. Electricity was installed in 1950. A small addition was added in the north west corner rear of the building in 1966 for washrooms. In 1968 a septic tank and indoor washroom was added. The vestibule was added to the main facade in 1980. In 1981 stained glass windows were added to the vestibule. Floors and pews were stripped in 1995. In 1998 additional land was purchased for a parking lot and a well was dug.

Interior

The interior of the main storey has been left open with little change to the original structure. Large carved timbers frame the roof at regular intervals and give the interior a Tudor style feeling. It is rumoured that originally the ceilings were wallpapered but today are painted. The pews are unique and examples of them still exist today. The legs are constructed from cast iron and with a birch or maple board seat and back. There is a set at the end of each pew which can be pulled out into the aisle from cast iron legs and remains attached.

The pulpit and chair were made by W.J. Verney & Co., Tottenham Undertakers at the time and are original to the building.

Items Proposed to be Designated

All items of the exterior of the building which are considered original to the design of the church. Designation of the exterior is not to include the vestibule added in 1980 and the washroom addition on the west facade. Designation is to include the building plan, exterior wall materials (brick decorative frieze, window labels), windows, roof line, exterior measurements, chimneys and all other aspects ascertained as original.

In the case of the steeple, it is to be designated as a period reconstruction as extrapolated from historic documents and photos.