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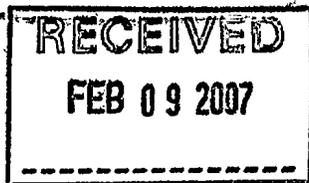
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COUNTY OF **Brant** Simply Grand

February 2, 2007



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

Dear Ms. Axford:

**RE: Bylaws for Designation – Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act**

Please find attached the bylaws and notices for the designation of properties under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The properties designated are as follows:

- 1. • 703 Mt. Pleasant Road – Cemetery – former Township of Brantford (Mt. Pleasant)
- 2. • 899 Keg Lane – Dwelling – former Township of South Dumfries
- 3. • Colborne St. E. – Bowstring Bridge – Former Township of Brantford

Copies of the bylaws have been given to the property owners. We trust this information is satisfactory. Please let me know if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Pomponi, Senior Planner

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# COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Council of the County of Brant hereby gives notice of the intention to designate the Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery, located at the South West Corner of Mount Pleasant Road and Burtch Road, being Part Lot 5 First Range East of Mount Pleasant Road and all of Registered Plans 45A and 256, Township of Brantford, County of Brant as a Heritage Site under the Ontario Heritage Act.

## Background - Reasons for Designation:

### Historical:

Council deems the pioneer cemetery to be worthy of designation for the following reasons:

- the historical integrity and importance of the village itself
- the numerous associations of the cemetery with important historical figures
- the interesting and representative nature dating from the early 19th century
- the location of the cemetery on an historic Indian trail and early road
- the contribution the cemetery makes to the character and ambience of the village

The Haldimand Deed of 1784 granted a huge parcel of land, The Grand River Tract, to the Six Nations under the leadership of Captain Joseph Brant. The future site of the hamlet of Mount Pleasant lay within the Grand River Tract.

It is clear from historical evidence that Joseph Brant realized that for his people to survive in their new homeland they had adapt to the changes precipitated by the arrival of white settlers and he took deliberate action to ensure the long term welfare of his people. Under a controversial scheme, white settlers, who were frequently colleagues of Brant, were leased large areas of for 999 years. These leases were devised by Brant to generate a steady stream of income for the Six Nations.

In 1799, the Ellis and Sturgis families took up residence in the area. In 1800, Joseph Brant ordered a survey of the 5000 acre Mount Pleasant Tract, making Mount Pleasant the first organized settlement within the Grand River Tract. Margaret Smythe, who compiled a detailed history of Mount Pleasant, argues that the survey and village are a singular example of a white settlement deliberately planned by Joseph Brant, somewhat similar to the model advanced by Sir William Johnson. In 1802, Brant granted the site for a public burial ground. The first recorded burial is that of Thomas Sturgis, the patriarch of the Sturgis family, in 1802.

### Historically Significant Gravesites

After 1802, the cemetery became the final resting place for members of all pioneer families as it was the only cemetery in the area until a second was established by All Saints Anglican Church in 1845. Among the deceased are founders and relatives of the following families: Biggar, Bryce, Bryning, Burtch, Chatterson, Devlin, Eadie, Ellis, Fairchild, Grantham, Guest, Hardy, Harris, Marquis, McAlister, McEwen, Nelles, Nickerson, Perrin, Phelps, Secord, Stowe, Sturgis, and Townsend.

These families are significant to the history of Brant County, and Ontario and beyond, because of the role they and their descendants played in the social, economic, institutional and political development of the area.

For example, members of the Biggar family, including Herbert Biggar, first M.P.P for the South Brant Riding, have a long and distinguished record of public service in our municipal government. Rev. John Bryning was instrumental in building social order in the new settlement through his ministry, his church organizing and his teaching. The Phelps family graves include Esther Phelps, wife of Epaphras Lord Phelps, Joseph Brant's white secretary. Other equally important contributions were made by the Hardy family (Arthur Sturgis Hardy, 4th Premier of Ontario), the Bryce family (Dr. George Bryce, founder of the United College, University of Manitoba and Dr. Peter Bryce, first Ontario Medical Officer of Health), the Marquis family which became a local medical dynasty and the Stowe family (Dr. Emily Stowe and Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen). The Harris family invented the hay rake in Mount Pleasant and founded A. Harris, Son & Co. which became a major component of the Massey Harris empire. The Nelles family produced several accomplished scholars and doctors including Rev. Dr. Samuel Sobieski Nelles, principal of the highly acclaimed Nelles Academy and President and Chancellor of Victoria University (University of Toronto).

### Interesting Monuments

The oldest graves are located in the section parallel and closest to Mount Pleasant Road where the majority of markers are creamy marble. Polished granite markers predominate in the rest of the cemetery. There is a somewhat late Victorian cast cement form of a felled tree and several examples of cast metal markers manufactured by the White Bronze Co. of St. Thomas. An interesting grave marker is that of Private Mitchell, killed during the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), September 1862, considered to be one of the bloodiest battles of the U.S. Civil War.

The grave markers also speak as works of art. Children's markers are tiny while those of prominent individuals and families are larger. Lambs and doves are used for children, while draped urns-of-life and hands pointing heavenward are common for adults. Weeping willows are standard expressions of sorrow and probably the most popular of all motifs used on marble grave markers. Biblical inscriptions speak to the religiosity of the period.

### Importance to the Village of Mount Pleasant

Residents of Mount Pleasant have always held the cemetery in high regard and consider it an important public manifestation of their proud history. The community holds an annual cemetery dedication, decoration, and memorial service to organize by local churches. Many direct descendants of the founding families continue to reside in the village and surrounding area, maintaining a strong unbroken connection to the past and taking a keen interest in the cemetery. In the early 1900s a public subscription was taken up to install a metal fence along Mount Pleasant Road. This fence was recently replaced with fence donated by members of the Phelps family. In the 1930s, another public subscription resulted in the erection of a monument commemorating the early pioneers in the cemetery.

Heritage Mount Pleasant, in co-operation with the County of Brant, has recently undertaken a number of restoration and renewal projects at the cemetery. A new entrance sidewalk has been installed and plans are underway to clean the commemorative monument, erect signage and a historical plaque, and arrange for the planting of Carolinian species to replace dying older trees and enhance the landscape.

Anyone wishing to make comments either in support of or in opposition to the proposed designation should submit written comments by fax, email, mail or in person on or before July 30, 2006 to:

The County of Brant  
Community & Development Services Department  
66 Grand River St. N.  
Paris, Ontario  
N3L 2M2