



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique, tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

KENNETH R. TODD, A.M.C.T.  
ADMINISTRATOR-CLERK

SAMUEL M. MANNELLA, CMA  
TREASURER

MARIA MAURO, CMA  
DEPUTY-TREASURER

JOHN K. BICE, A.M.C.T.  
DEPUTY-CLERK



FRANK LEWIS, P. ENG.  
ENGINEER

THOMAS A. DOHERTY, C.E.T.  
ENGINEERING MANAGER

KENNETH WILKINSON  
CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

(MRS.) ADELE FILSON, OPPI, MCIP  
CITY PLANNER

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD

8 CARLETON STREET SOUTH  
P.O. BOX 1044, THOROLD, ONT. L2V 4A7

PHONE 227-6613

FAX 227-5590

July 13, 1993.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
Heritage Branch,  
77 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor,  
TORONTO, Ontario.  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate  
Ontario Heritage Act - Beaverdams Church

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of a Notice of Intention to Designate the above noted property in accordance with Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter 0.18.

You have been notified as required under the provisions of Section 29 (3) of the Act.

I trust this is in order.

Yours very truly,

John K. Bice,  
Deputy-Clerk.

JKB:mg

c.c. A. Filson, City Planner  
L.A.C.A.C.

Nancy Smith

N/A

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

JUL 19 1993

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

HERITAGE POLICY BRANCH

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY OF THOROLD, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chapter 0.18, Section 29.

### SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

Beaverdams Church c1832,  
Marlatts Drive,  
Lot #52,  
THOROLD, Ontario.

This is a New England Meeting House style church of clapboard over a framework of massive oak timbers infilled with soft brick. It was built with minimum classical detailing around exterior doors and interior columns. It originally had 26 windows of double hung sash type with with 12 over 12 panes. It has an arched ceiling flanked by galleries supported by round columns. The woodwork in the partitioned off galleries remains unfinished as it was originally throughout most of the building. Changes and repairs have been carried out over the years but none radically altered the fabric of the building.

The site includes a cemetery in which are buried a number of notable people from the time of construction, before, and after that era. The first recorded burial is of Daniel Totten. Others interred therein include: Hiram Swayze, Isaac Kelly and Obadiah Hopkins.

Beaverdams Church is the oldest Methodist church still standing in Ontario and also the oldest to have remained in continuous use. It was constructed three years following the passing of an 1829 Act "for the relief of religious societies" whereby trusteeships could be formed to own property and construct churches. Beaverdams was the oldest and chief settlement lying wholly in Thorold Township. This community had the first Township Post Office, and other amenities. On June 26, 1832 the deed of this one acre site was transferred from Hiram Swayze to the trustees of Beaverdams Methodist Episcopal Church. The date of construction and the contractor are unknown as some records have been lost to history. Warren Moore was the first child to be baptized in this church. Sunday school was first organized in 1840. On June 19 and 20, 1932 the Centennial Celebration was conducted by Rev. Judson Kelly, a descendant of Isaac Kelly who was the first white child born in Thorold Township. Also participating in the service were Rev. T. H. Bole, Rev. Harvey Forster, and six other ministers of the United Church. In 1965 an historical plaque was unveiled by Ms. Ethel Swayze, a descendant of Hiram Swayze. This church is the site of the first "free school" in Canada (1847) organized by Rev. Egerton Ryerson, the father of education in Ontario.

This designation is to include the exterior and interior of the building and the cemetery on the property.

More details are available in a report by Nora Reid titled: "Historical Background of the Beaverdams Methodist Church" prepared for the City of Thorold L.A.C.A.C. Nov. 1991, which is available at the Thorold Library.

Any person may object to the proposed designation within thirty (30) days after the date of the first publication of the notice of intention by serving on the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Thorold a notice of objection setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The last day for filing objections will be Thursday, August 19, 1993. All objections received within the aforementioned time period will be referred to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED at the City of Thorold this 20th day of July 1993.

K. R. Todd  
Administrator  
City of Thorold  
P. O. Box 1044  
8 Carleton Street South  
Thorold, Ontario  
L2V 4A7