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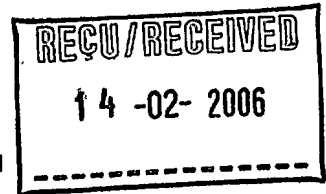
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Chatham Kent 52

BY-LAW NUMBER 126-2005  
CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

A By-law to designate the property known as Morpeth United Church, Lot 1, NSR Plan 87 as being of historical and architectural value or interest.



FINALLY PASSED the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 as amended, provides that the Municipal Council may designate a property within the boundaries of the Municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has appointed a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and the said committee has recommended that the Municipality designate the hereinafter described property pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has given Notice of Intention to Designate the hereinafter described property to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been received by the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" annexed hereto;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent enacts as follows:

1. That the property more particularly described in the attached Schedule "A" be and the same is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act.
2. That the Clerk be authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper land registry office.
3. That the Clerk be hereby authorized 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 cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

THIS By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.

Original signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – Diane Gagner

Original signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk – Elinor Mifflin

by-law  
125-2005  
is a zoning by-law  
not OHA by-law.

✓

Schedule 'A'

ALL AND SINGULAR these certain parcels or tracts of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the former Village of Morpeth, in the former County of Kent, now the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, in the Province of Ontario, and being composed of Lot 1, NRS Plan 87.

Schedule 'B'

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The reasons for designation are contained in the attached Heritage Chatham-Kent Committee, Property Designation Report, dated August 26, 2004.

## Appendix 1

# **PROPERTY DESIGNATION REPORT Heritage Chatham-Kent (Municipal Heritage Committee)**

## **MORPETH UNITED CHURCH**

### **1. General Description:**

The Morpeth United Church is situated on Lot 1, North South Ridge (Plan 87) on the Northwest corner of Hill Road and Ridge Street (911-12561) in the village of Morpeth in the former Township of Howard.

### **2. Historical Background:**

Initial settlement in what is presently the Village of Morpeth can be traced back to 1814 when the Woods and Coll families arrived as pioneers. Development began throughout the 1820s when stores, a blacksmith shop, grist mills, and an inn were established. By the mid-1800s, Morpeth was established as a thriving commercial centre on the Talbot Road. The village was a major trading centre in early Kent County, being situated only one kilometer north of Hill's Dock on Lake Erie and the Port of Antrim slightly to the west. In the 1860s, the population of Morpeth was over 600 and rivalled Chatham as the County's largest settlement.

In the mid-1800s, two Methodist congregations were centred in Morpeth; the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church. Both congregations maintained their own churches but in the mid-1870s, the two congregations were united through the establishment of the Methodist Church of Canada. The combined congregation required a larger facility and on May 18, 1876, a property was purchased at the north end of the village from Lydia Taylor for \$100 as the site of a new Methodist Church. The present church, a magnificent brick structure, was built the following year at an estimated cost of \$5,000. The first minister of the new Morpeth Methodist Church was Rev. R.W. Woodsworth.

Following the development of rail lines that bypassed Morpeth and contributed to the development of Ridgetown to the North, the population of the village began to decrease. This placed a financial burden on the remaining congregation that had to carry a mortgage for the substantial structure, however, in 1901 after 24 years, the congregation successfully paid off the mortgage on the church. In 1925, a union occurred between the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches at which time the structure became the Morpeth United Church.

Up until 1894, the church was lit with kerosene lamps and heated with wood stoves but at this time a gas well was drilled on the property and gas lighting was introduced. In the early 1920s, the first renovations to the church occurred with electric lighting replacing gas, two outside sets of steps were closed and the present doorway was opened. In 1974-76, new entrance doors, storm windows and modern washroom facilities were constructed, and more recently, a handicap lift was installed.

Presently, the Church is part of a pastoral charge that includes Morpeth, Turin, and Highgate.

### **3. Historical Significance:**

The Morpeth United Church is historically significant on a number of different levels.

- It is one of the few early Talbot Settlement churches that remain in Chatham-Kent. The Talbot Road was the initial transportation route and settlement focus that resulted in the development of the entire north shore of Lake Erie. The communities that were established along this route represent the earliest pioneer settlements that forged the way for the later interior development of the counties of Essex, Kent, Elgin, Norfolk and Haldimand. As a centre for social and religious activity, the few remaining Talbot Settlement churches have particular associative significance. Morpeth is one of the few Talbot Settlement churches that remain in Chatham-Kent (others, including Palmyra, Guilds, Ouvrey, and Grace United, have all been demolished).
- The church is an important historical testament to the commercial and cultural importance of Morpeth. In the 1860s and 70s, Morpeth was the second largest commercial centre in Chatham-Kent next to Chatham proper. The Talbot Road through Morpeth was lined with shops, inns and general stores and it boasted an impressive two-storey school house and many impressive early homes. The vast majority of these are now demolished. Morpeth United Church was built as a "town" church, reflecting the size and prominence of the community at that time and it is one of the few (and probably the best) remaining structures that illustrates the historical status of this community.
- A quote from "As The Story Is Told: A History Of Morpeth And Community" best captures the church's historical significance to the area. "The church on the hill stands as a memorial to those who have gone on, and as a challenge to those who are left to take up the torch and keep the faith".

### **4. Architectural Significance:**

The church is a large and impressive structure representing high Victorian style that would normally be associated with a prosperous and fairly large town. As such, the entire exterior façade of the structure should be considered significant for the purpose of designation. Specific outstanding architectural features include:

- Original polychrome slate roof
- Use of polychromatic brick to create patterns and accent lines in the façade
- Buttressed supports
- Window placement
- Window sash
- Decorative gothic “rosette” windows including a large centre medallion and three smaller rosettes (usually incorporated to represent the Trinity) on the south east front façade.
- Chimneys
- Stone foundation
- Decorative brick “dentil-work” at the frieze
- Decorative brickwork on the front south-west corner.
- Parapet north wall

## **5. Contextual Significance:**

The church is built on a ridge on the northern edge of the village. As such, it has a commanding view of Morpeth and the surrounding area. More significantly, however, because of its placement, ***it has a position of visual prominence and it architecturally dominates the physical and cultural landscape of Morpeth and the surrounding area.***

It is a predominant and defining landmark when travelling towards the village on Hill Road (formerly Highway 21) and Talbot Road (formerly Highway 3).