



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre 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**.

file

The Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth Simcoe

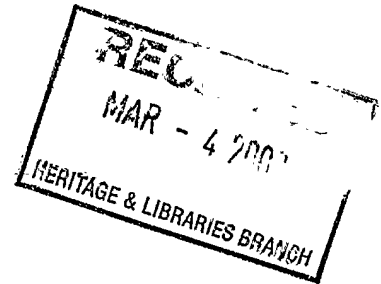
Administration Centre
Box 910, 10 Wellington Street East
Alliston, Ontario
L9R 1A1

Telephone #1-905-729-0057 or #1-705-435-6219
Admin. & Finance Fax #1-705-435-2873
Planning Fax #1-705-435-0407
Public Works Fax #1-705-435-1689

March 1, 2002

REGISTERED MAIL

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 passed By-Law #2002-29 on February 18, 2002 which designates all parts of the building, both inside and outside that are deemed to be original to the McDonald Log House including the general facade, white pine logs, roof pitch and general coverings, second floor flooring, staircase, windows, milk painted ceiling on first floor, opening trim and casings under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18. The building is owned by the Town of New Tecumseth and is located at the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum. A copy of the by-law is attached for your file.

The by-law will be registered on the title of the property in due course.

Yours truly,

Nancy Rugman
Deputy Clerk

cc. Rita Caldarone, Secretary, Heritage Policy and Program Development
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
400 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

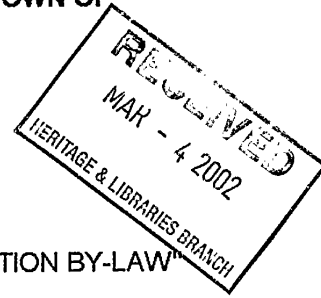
✓ RC
6/29/04 RC

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
NEW TECUMSETH

BY-LAW

Number 2002-29

"MCDONALD LOG HOUSE DESIGNATION BY-LAW"



A by-law to designate the property known municipally as "McDonald Log House" located on the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum property, Fletcher Crescent, Alliston 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 Corporation of the Town of New Tecumseth is the owner of the lands and premises known as the "McDonald Log House" located on the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum property, 250 Fletcher Crescent, Alliston and has caused to be served 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 September 12, 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:

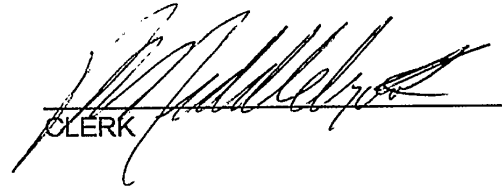
1. That there is designated as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest the real property known as "McDonald Log House" located on the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum property, 250 Fletcher Crescent, Alliston more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. That said property 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 "McDonald Log House 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 18TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2002.



MAYOR



CLERK

I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE COPY
OF ORIGINAL
DATED AT THE TOWN OF NEW TECUMSETH.
THIS 1st DAY OF March, 2002



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
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C17.

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 2002-29

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 1, Concession 1, Town of New Tecumseth, (formerly Township of Essa, formerly Town of Alliston), being Part 1 on Reference Plan 51R-7827 (Pin No. 58125-0281 (LT)).

**Town of New Tecumseth
Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee**

**Study of McDonald Log House
South Simcoe Pioneer Museum, Alliston**

**Prepared by:
Rachelle Clayton & Lory Whitemore
June 14, 2001**

**Town of New Tecumseth
Local Architectural Advisory Committee**

**Study of the McDonald Log House
South Simcoe Pioneer Museum, Alliston**

Introduction

This report is in response to a request for designation from the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum, Alliston, Ontario, November 17, 2000. It has been created by the Town of New Tecumseth LACAC to assist the Town of New Tecumseth in this purpose.

Lory Whitemore 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, and has been the Curator of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum for the past seven years.

RC N General Historical Context

The South Simcoe Pioneer Museum was established in 1959 with a delegation of representatives of the five south Simcoe townships at that time (Adjala, Tosorontio, Tecumseth, Alliston, Essa, and West Gwillimbury and Bradford). After a location was found at the Alliston Agricultural Hall in Riverdale Park, Alliston, the committee set out to find artifacts that represented south Simcoe County. One of those objects was a log house donated by the Salada-Shirriff-Horseley company in Alliston. This building was moved to the site log-by-log and was the centrepiece of the museum's opening on July 1, 1960. This building is now the main building used in the interpretation of early settlement life for our area.

Historical Background

The McDonald Log Cabin was built circa 1855 by Angus and Alexander McDonald on the east 1/2 of Lot 11 Concession 5, of Essa Township. If so, the building is an good example of early settlement and immigration patterns. The McDonald log house measures 21'10"X 28' and is constructed entirely of native white pine logs.

In 1952 it was purchased by the MacKenzie family and land was used for potato cash cropping. The Mackenzies are know as one of the founding families of the Potato Industry in Essa Township.



Later this same farm was bought by Salada-Shirrif-Horsey and the potato farming was continued on the site. Salada Foods established a plant in Alliston, and began processing potatoes in 1959. Instant potatoes were introduced and produced by this plant. Salada's arrival caused a great change to potato growing. Much property changed hands as potato farmers accumulated vast acres to meet the Salada needs.

In 1959 the McDonald Log Cabin was donated by Salada-Shirrif Horsey and moved to Lot 1, Concession 1, Essa Township. Its more recent association as part of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum has made it an important learning tool for all ages for the study of the early settlement of the south Simcoe area. The building was the featured artifact in the opening of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum on July 1, 1960. As part of the museum it has been associated with many community events since that time.

Architectural Background

The McDonald Log House is a good example of early settlement log building style which has survived with its original building materials, and history intact. It is unusual in that it is a two story log house which was built using shanty building methods, lap keying, and horizontal unfinished native white pine logs. The walls have strips of wood placed between the logs and filled with mortar. The mortar was chinked in 1959 when the building was moved. Out of respect for historic integrity a low gable cedar shake roof has been maintained.

The log house has a rectangular plan which measures 21'10" on the east and west facades and 28' on the north and south facades. It has 2 storeys. The main exterior walls are made from horizontal log, local white pine construction. The average log measures in diameter from 1.5', the interior of these logs is finished. It has a medium gable roof supported by rail trusses, hand sawed boards and cedar shingles. Under this gable is a good sized attic which can be accessed through a trap door.

Interior

Evidence exists in this building to suggest that it was originally a split bedroom floor plan with one main room and two smaller bedrooms leading off. Evidence was gathered from the ceiling paint colours and the original wall boards now used as floor boards on the second storey. A narrow open step board staircase leads up to the second floor. The second storey room appears to have been always open concept. The attic has a drop door and was probably used for storage. The building was always heated by wood stove and has no evidence to support a hearth at anytime.

The interior of the building is an open floor plan on both storeys with finished horizontal logs. The second floor flooring is milled tongue and groove lumber with a small bead. Some of these boards are painted with original milk paint in a cream colour. The rest have been painted with an oil base grey colour. Paint scrapings showed that the original colour of this feature was dark green. The original staircase and window casings have been preserved.

The rectangular main (south) facade has four window openings (two second floor) with original 8/8 windows and a central doorway. The central door was replaced in 2000 and slightly widened to allow for accessibility. The trim around this door is original to the building. The hardware was removed from the original door and placed on the reproduction.

Windows/Openings

The two windows on the north facade first floor are hand-crafted reproductions replaced in mid-1970's. The rest of the windows in the building are original eight over eight windows with pediment shaped rectangular reveals. All of the pediment trim around all the openings is all original and was popular in the Rideau area, during the Classic Revival Period (1830-1850). The design, drip label, was intended to keep rain and snow from splattering on the bays. All trim on the interior of the windows is a plain wooden design. All trim, frames and sills are original.

The north facade has two window openings on the first floor and a central doorway. This doorway was re-built in 1959.

The east facade is the gable end and the only solid unbroken wall. The log on this side shows the most deterioration and has been patched with cement over the years. No porches presently exist on this building though evidence (notches in the log) indicates a small lean-to on the east side.

The west facade of the building originally was unbroken log. During its history, local stories indicate this building was used as a chicken coop. A narrow doorway was built into the west side of the building. In 2000 this doorway was removed, and in order to maximize on the natural light for the interior, a single hung four-light window was installed.

Additions/Deletions

1959-Building was moved log by log to Lot 1 Concession 1 Essa. Bottom course of logs removed due to rot. It appears that the wall boards from the second floor were used as floor boards on the second storey.

1960-Building opened as part of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum.

1962-Pine floor was added.

1985-Roof was reshingled.

In the year 2000, extensive renovations were done to maintain the McDonald Log House. Included in these renovations was the installation of new cedar shingles on the roof, gutters and new pine fascia boards, installation of a poured cement foundation to raise the building up to it's original height and prevent it into sinking into the ground level. The west side door (added when the building was a chicken coop on the MacKenzie farm), was removed and replaced with a window. The original open board staircase was raised onto a platform and a new handrail installed. A new engineered support beam was installed to assist the second storey floor. The ceiling of the interior was painted using colour-matched latex ceiling paint but the original cream-coloured milk paint was left intact. The original white pine floor joists were removed due to rot and replaced with a cement pad and sawed lumber 2X4's. A bottom log on the east side was uncovered from the ground but accidentally cut during the foundation work. This log was one row beneath the existing ground level and gave extra proof that the bottom set of logs had been removed in 1959 therefore dropping the buildings height almost 2 feet. Due to the logs complete covering with soil, it was beyond salvage due to rot and infestation and it was decided to remove it. The logs were treated with Timbore brand insecticide to reduce bug infestation.

Context

This building is as an integral part of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum and their pioneer and early settlement programs. It is located in a central park setting with a buffer zone of natural sugar maple trees as a backdrop. It is located adjacent to an English-style barn originally built in 1858 near Bond Head. The only building original to the site is the 1915 Agricultural Fair Building Women's Exhibit Hall which houses the main museum galleries, offices and storage.

Items Proposed for Designation

All parts of the building, both inside and outside that are deemed to be original to the McDonald Log House including the general facade, white pine logs, roof pitch and general coverings, second floor flooring, staircase, windows, milk painted ceiling on first floor, opening trim and casings.

This does not include the window added on the east side of the building, gutters, fascia, cedar shingles, the south and north doors, latex paint on the first floor ceiling windows, the cement foundation, floor joists under first floor, or the first floor flooring.

Changes that are recognized as ongoing maintenance are the mortar chinking, cedar shingle replacement, interior painting, Plexiglas in the windows to minimize vandalism, and gutter maintenance.

Should the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum wish to conduct a period construction certain changes would be necessary to restore the structure's original floor plan. Such changes might include but are not limited to: Restoring the first floor to a split bedroom floor plan, returning the wall boards currently located on the second floor as floor boards to the first floor. These changes should be considered favourable and not effect the designation of this building. The South Simcoe Pioneer Museum is also considering re-installing a working woodstove and which is also favourable because it is consistent with the original type of heat (wood) and would allow the building to be used year round.