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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**.

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1710 Kingston Road, Pickering, Ontario L1V 1G7

Telephone _____

Quote File _____

January 29th 1986

REGISTERED MAIL

Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto
Ontario
M7A 2R9

Re: Designation of the Altona Mennonite Church

Pursuant to section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act,
I herewith serve upon you a certified copy of Town
of Pickering By-law Number 2123/85 to designate
property owned by the Trustees of the Altona
Mennonite Church and Cemetery as being of archetec-
tural and historical value or interest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Taylor", is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Taylor, A.M.C.T.
Town Clerk

BT/et

encl.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PICKERING

BY-LAW NUMBER 2123/85

Being a by-law to designate property owned
by the Altona Mennonite Church and Cemetery
in the hamlet of Altona as being of archi-
tectural and historical value or interest

WHEREAS pursuant to paragraph (a) of section 29.6 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, c. 337 the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest; and

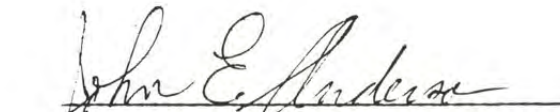
WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Pickering has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises being the Altona Mennonite Church and Cemetery in the hamlet of Altona and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; 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 Pickering HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property owned by the Altona Mennonite Church and Cemetery in the hamlet of Altona, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The municipal solicitor is hereby 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. The Clerk is 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 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.

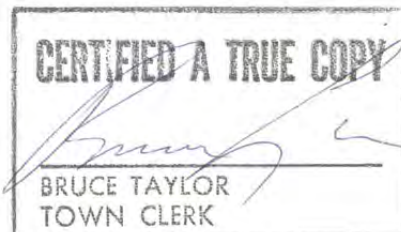
BY-LAW READ a first, second and third time and finally PASSED this 16th day of December, 1985.



Mayor



Clerk



SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2123/85

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of lands and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Pickering, in the Regional Municipality of Durham and Province of Ontario and being

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1980, CHAPTER 337

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
THE LANDS AND PREMISES
KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
PART LOT 30, CONCESSION 9
IN THE TOWN OF PICKERING
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
TOWN OF PICKERING
BY-LAW NUMBER 2123/85

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The history of the Altona Mennonite Church is inseparable from the history of the Altona community in the Town of Pickering. The name of the hamlet came from that of Altona (Hamburg-Altona) in Germany. The Dutch Mennonite congregation in that city enjoyed great freedom of worship under Danish rule compared with other persecuted areas and produced many prolific writers.

The Mennonites met with persecution in Switzerland and went to America on the invitation of William Penn in the early eighteenth century. They had taken an oath of allegiance to Britain for sanctuary in America and even after the American Revolution, they did not renounce their British citizenship. Although the Mennonites did not suffer persecution in America, they chose to remain British subjects by emigrating to various parts of Ontario, including the Pickering/Stouffville area.

The Mennonite congregation worshipped in the homes of members until 1834 when a log school house, also used as a meeting house, was constructed in Lot 30, Concession 9. In 1850, arrangements were made for the transfer of one acre, also in Lot 30, Concession 9 from Christian Stouffer for the sum of five pounds. The deed was not registered until 1852 and renewed in 1857 when the Counties of York, Ontario and Peel were separated.

The present brick building was constructed in 1852 with the first meeting being held in 1853. The bricks for the church were hauled from the Cherrywood brickyard by members of the congregation. The masonry work was performed by William Feaster who caught a cold while doing this work and died on completion of the church.

Over the years, the Altona Mennonite Church served the community well with the heads of such respected families like the Nighswanders, the Reesors and the Widemans acting as Trustees.

Due to urbanization and other influences, the congregation was completely reorganized into three different affiliations in 1964 so that Altona figured less and less in the life of former worshippers. The expropriation of the lands in the area for the proposed airport and the dislocation it produced removed the possibility that the building might again be used for church purposes.

On September 15, 1974, the last service was held after which the building was abandoned as a regular meeting place. The church remains today as a reminder of the hard work and influence of the Mennonite congregation in the development of the community.