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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY

BY-LAW NO. 3095-92

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE STRUCTURE MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS 9060 BALDWIN STREET AS BEING OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby considers it desirable to designate property hereinafter described to be of historic and architectural value and interest;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the said Corporation has caused to be served on the owners of property municipally known as 9060 Baldwin Street, Whitby, Ontario, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of its intention to designate the structure at the aforesaid address to be of historic and architectural value and interest and has caused such notice to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Whitby;

AND WHEREAS, no person has served a notice of objection to the proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby enacts as follows:

1. The structure known as the Methodist Episcopal Church located on the property municipally known as 9060 Baldwin Street, Whitby, Ontario and being more particularly described in Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this by-law, is designated as being of historic and architectural value and interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B", attached hereto.
2. This designation shall not preclude any changes that may be deemed necessary for the efficient use of the structure provided that any and all changes shall be in keeping with the original and current character of the structure and shall be carried out in consultation with the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of the Town of Whitby.

BY-LAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 13TH DAY OF JANUARY A.D., 1992.


CLERK


MAYOR

SCHEDULE "A"

That part of Lot 21, Concession 9, Town of Whitby, Regional
Municipality of Durham, designated as Part 1, Plan 40R-5108.

SCHEDULE "B"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 3095-92

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARSONAGE

9060 BALDWIN STREET

1877

SCHEDULE 'B'

DESIGNATION REPORT

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARSONAGE

9060 BALDWIN STREET, MYRTLE

BUILT IN 1877

Compiled by Brian Winter, Archivist, Town of Whitby

June 6, 1990

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARSONAGE

9060 BALDWIN STREET, MYRTLE

BUILT IN 1877

The old Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage is located on the west side of Highway 12, a short distance north of the 9th concession (Myrtle Road). The property on which it stands is part of township lot 21 in the 9th Concession of Whitby.

The 200 acres of lot 21, Concession 9 were patented to The Canada Company, an early land development company, on March 8, 1832. On Nov. 17, 1840, The Canada Company sold the south half of lot 21 to John Shearer. There is no information available on this man.

On Dec. 31, 1850, John Shearer sold one-quarter acre of land to George Fisher and others, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church was a branch of Methodism which flourished in Brooklin and Myrtle until 1884 when the Methodist Episcopalists joined with the Wesleyan Methodists. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Myrtle was likely founded by Rev. Gardner Wells (1807-1883). He was one of the first and most influential citizens of Myrtle, and the community originally was called Wells' Corners after him.

The Methodist Episcopalists built a frame church on the east side of Highway 12, south of the 9th Concession, where Willy's Car Care Centre is now. The church was built in 1857 and the cemetery connected with this church is still located behind the Willy's Garage.

The quarter-acre of land that is the subject of this report, was the first land to be sold by John Shearer, from his 100 acres in the south half of Lot 21. It is most likely that this land was purchased by the church trustees for a parsonage, and that a building was built on it in the 1850s. Reports in the Canada Christian Advocate, the Methodist Episcopal Church's newspaper, indicate there was a parsonage at Myrtle before 1878, and certainly as early as 1861.

The Canada Christian Advocate of March 6, 1878 states: "Two new parsonages have been built and occupied during the year--one at Myrtle and the other at Seagrave." This report from the local area conference, or governing body of the church, indicates that a new parsonage was built sometime in 1877. That parsonage is the house at 9060 Baldwin Street today. The earlier parsonage was probably demolished.

Although a list of ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church is not complete for Myrtle, information available gives the following names and dates of men who likely occupied this parsonage:

Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage, Myrtle - 2

MYRTLE CHURCH

1886 - 1889	Rev. James G. Liddy
1889 - 1890	Rev. George W. Hewitt
1890 - 1893	Rev. John Bedford
1893 - 1896	Rev. W. J. Wetherill
1896 - 1898	Rev. William Alfred Bunner
1898 - 1900	Rev. John X. Moran

MYRTLE AND COLUMBUS CHURCHES

1900 - 1903	Rev. John F. Mears
1903 - 1906	Rev. Albert C. Wilson
1906 - 1910	Rev. Edwy Eratus Howard
1910 - 1912	Rev. Francis Johnson
1912 - 1915	Rev. Roger Allin
1915 - 1920	Judge Nickle
1920 - 1922	Rev. Charles Adams
1922 - 1925	Rev. Herbert J. Latimer
1925 - 1928	
1928 -	Rev. Merriam
	Rev. Swain
1931 - 1935	Rev. W. J. Totten
1935 - 1940	Rev. W. E. Honey
1940 -	Rev. G. S. Girvan

There is every indication from verbal evidence that not all the ministers lived in the Myrtle parsonage. When it was not occupied by the local minister, the church trustees rented the building to various tenants.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Myrtle united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1884. The same year, the village of Myrtle Station was established where the new Ontario and Quebec Railway (now the Canadian Pacific Railway) crossed Highway 12.

In 1908 the Myrtle Methodist Church suffered through a crisis. The trustees decided, with two members absent, that the old church, built in 1857, could not be repaired, and voted to sell it to John Bright, a farmer at Myrtle Station. The old church was pulled by a team of horses to Myrtle Station, and in 1920 it was moved again to the west side of Highway 12, north of the CPR tracks, where it became a garage owned and operated by Elmer Cook. The building was demolished in 1980 and a store built on the site.

A quarrel developed in 1908 between the members of the board of trustees on where to build a new Methodist Church in Myrtle.

Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage, Myrtle - 3

Rev. Edwy Eratus Howard made a private deal with John Bright for a site at Myrtle Station, even though some of the trustees were negotiating for another site owned by John Carmichael. This action split the congregation, with about 15 members worshipping with Rev. Howard at Myrtle Station in the new brick church which he built, and 32 members taking over the Temperance Hall in Myrtle and hiring a minister from Toronto. There were accusations of politics being involved, and the bad feelings took some years to die down.

The new brick church was opened for worship at Myrtle Station in the spring of 1909, and still remains in use today. In 1925 it became the United Church of Canada when the Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists united.

At the time of the 1908 crisis there was a vote taken among the trustees to sell the Myrtle parsonage, but this was not done. In 1923, some of the land at the parsonage was sold to the Provincial Government for the widening and paving of Highway 12.

After a little more than 97 years as a site for the Methodist parsonage in Myrtle, the quarter-acre site was sold by the trustees of the church, on March 1, 1948, to John Ledingham Leask and his wife Jean. At that time, the 1877 parsonage had been owned by the church for 71 years.

John Ledingham Leask (1863-1962) was born at Leaskdale, the hamlet north of Uxbridge, named after his family, and worked in Toronto as a toolmaker and draftsman until he retired in 1931. He lived for a while in Ashburn and Myrtle and moved into the old parsonage in 1948. The trustees who sold him the parsonage were Oscar H. Downey, Leslie Smith, Harvey Dobson and Lottie Lyke. Mr. Leask lived in retirement at Myrtle until his death there on Dec. 12, 1962, at the age of 99. His wife lived into the 1970s, and both are buried at Uxbridge.

On Aug. 22, 1977, the executors of the will of Jean Leask sold the house to John Ronald Annis through an auction. Mr. Annis, a piano tuner, now lives at the corner of Lakeridge Road and Concession 5.

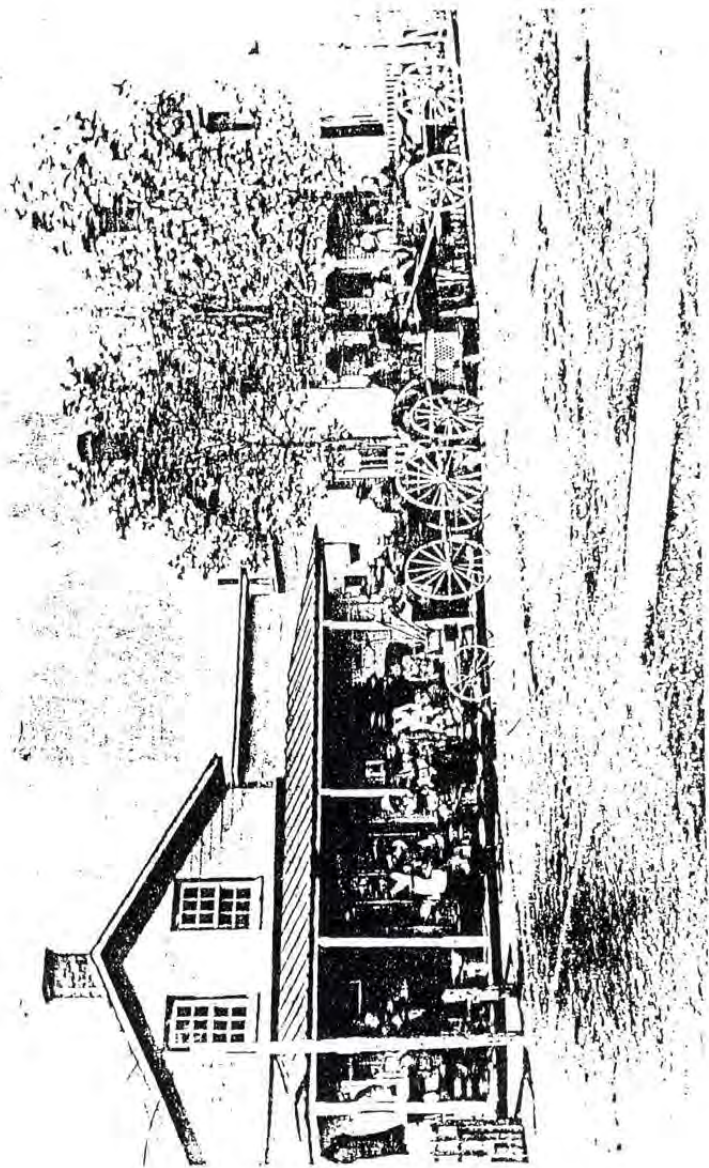
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The house appears in the accompanying photograph of the Brown and Briggs Store, taken about 1885. There have been some structural changes to the house over the years, with some windows on the front being changed and a new porch built in recent years to look much like the original in the photograph. Verbal evidence indicates that David Brown, one of the partners in the store, lived in the parsonage before the store burned down in 1889 and he moved to Toronto.

The Methodist Episcopal Parsonage is a typical large frame house of the 1870s, its major source of historic interest being that it was a home for ministers for 71 years.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARSONAGE, MYRTLE (AT RIGHT), C. 1885