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FEB 21 2010

RECEIVED

**The Corporation of the Town of Essex
By-Law Number 1241**

**Being a By-Law to designate certain properties, known as the Harrow
British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, as being of cultural heritage value or
interest under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990,
c.O.18, as amended**

Whereas Section 29 on the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the council of a municipality to enact bylaws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures located thereon, to be cultural heritage value of interest;

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex has consulted with the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee with respect to the designation of the Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery as being of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas authority was granted by Council to designate said property;

And Whereas the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Essex has caused to be served upon the owner of the lands known as the British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (Corporation of the Town of Essex) and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to Designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be published in newspapers having general circulation in the municipality as required by the Ontario Heritage Act;

And Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in the Schedule A;

And Whereas no notice of objection to the proposed designations has been served on the Clerk for the Corporation of the Town of Essex;

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex enacts as follows:

1. That the property known as the Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, more particularly described in Schedule A attached to this bylaw is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended;
2. That the municipality's solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the bylaw to be registered against the properties described in Schedule A to this bylaw in the proper Land Registry Office;
3. That the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Essex is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this bylaw to be served upon the owners of the aforesaid properties and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and to cause notice of this bylaw to be published in a newspaper(s) having general circulation

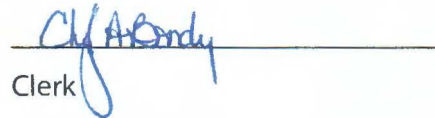
in the Corporation of the Town of Essex as required by the Ontario Heritage Act;

4. That Schedule A forms an integral part of this bylaw.

Read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed the 12th day of August, 2013.



Mayor



Clerk

Schedule A

Reasons for Designation – British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery

Legally Described as:

RCP 1645 Lot 80 RP, 12R5789 Part 2, municipally known as 25 Walnut Street, Harrow Centre, in the Township of Colchester South, within the Town of Essex, and the County of Essex.

Description of the Property:

Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery

The Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery is found in Harrow Centre, within the Town of Essex. It is located immediately south of Sanford and Son Supermarket and attached parking space. It contains a series of tombstones set back from a wrought iron fence with an eastward facing gate and stone pillars. The site is currently inactive as a cemetery.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Design or Physical Value

The cemetery began as an African Methodist Episcopal Church gathering place under the guidance of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The early congregation was comprised of many refugee slaves from the American South who formed Black Canadian communities throughout the Harrow area. A church building was eventually built on the corner of the property and was utilized until the mid-20th century when it was torn down. The most significant physical aspect of the cemetery is the tombstones themselves. It is estimated that somewhere between 30 to 50 persons have been buried on the site, with all identified internments dating back to the nineteenth century. For the most part, all grave markers are found to be in superior condition, thanks to the efforts of local restorationist. The site currently has a bronze placard erected in the spring of 2007 which offers a historical synopsis to visitors of the site.

Historical/ Associative Value

The Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery is one of the finest, most intact examples of Black Canadian cemeteries in Ontario, thanks in large part to the restorative efforts of local historians Ken Turner and Elise Harding-Davis.

Burials began on the site in the mid 19th century, with the oldest identifiable marker on the cemetery dating back to 1825. Many of the burials were in systematic rows while others are found sparsely dotting the plot. Some of the notable persons interned on the property include Reverend Noah Cannon, Canada's first African Methodist Episcopal itinerate minister; Reverend Josephus O'Banyon, and a number of Black United Empire Loyalists.

Contextual Value

The site is unique in its importance to the social history of the municipality, serving as a reminder of the distinctive past of the area. Along with other remaining Black churches and cemeteries in the region, the Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery serves as an important reminder of the American-Canadian story of slavery, abolition and the Underground Railroad.

The church and established community of the area gave Black congregations the opportunity to worship freely, organize civic meetings, and improve their segment of the community without fear of persecution.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the Harrow British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery:

- Burial place of early Black pioneers
- Municipal connection to the Underground Railroad
- Prominence of a number of buried persons
- Original location of cemetery
- Well maintained headstones
- Well maintained grounds
- Bronze historical signage added in 2007