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JAN - 2 2001

**CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE
ACT R.S.O. CHAPTER O.18 AND**

**17039 County Road 27
Waverley United Church and Cemetery**

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DEC 20 2000

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Township of Tay, on October 12th, 2000, decided to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 17039 County Road 27 - Waverley United Church and Cemetery.

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASON FOR DESIGNATION

The property at 17039 County Road 27 is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. Construction of the original church building, still in use today, was begun in 1867 and finished in 1868 on land donated by Samuel French and his son Thomas French. Originally, the congregation was Methodist and became United in 1925. In 1883 the church was enlarged by the addition of one bay to the rear of the church on the south side. Those of the Methodist faith were unable to benefit from the Clergy Reserves, and the cost of building meetinghouses was born by the congregation. Aside from limited funds, Upper Canada Methodist meetinghouses were deliberately plain in contrast to the elaborate Church of England parish church. They were simple in design and were built in the Loyalist style. Many of the first meetinghouses have been lost to fire, or rebuilt to accommodate a growing congregation, or bricked. The Waverley United Church remains virtually intact in its original structure, and represents a rare example of the Methodist meetinghouse.

The original 1868 church and 1883 addition have a wood frame that was probably constructed of timbers rather than the more modern "stick" method. The frame is built on log sleepers that rest on a shallow foundation wall. The material used in the foundation wall appears to be mortared rubble. The exterior is clad in horizontal wood beveled siding, painted white, with simple pedimented Greek Revival wood window trim, currently painted blue. The roof, as seen in early photographs, was originally covered in cedar shingles, but is now covered with asphalt shingles. The slope is approximately 9 in 12. In 1883 a fourth bay was added to the rear of the church which matches the original construction. The original enclosed entry porch was removed in the summer of 1961 and the "Memorial Tower" was added to the front. The tower is clad in beveled wood siding matching the original church, and painted white.

The interior floors are still the original 2" strip maple wood (refinished 1973). The wood wainscoting is original as are the pews (made from wood milled in Wyebridge), which are arranged in two rows perpendicular to the central aisle leading from the front door to the raised pulpit. The 1883 addition contains a wood platform with a carved wooden rail and a kneeling step extending around the platform on its two open sides. A carved wooden pulpit (perhaps not original, but very old, and possibly made in the 1880's in Luke Moody's carriage shop in Waverley) stands on the platform. Until the 1870's, the Methodists received communion kneeling at the rail. The rail has been altered by the removal of the front central portion to allow for access to the raised area.

The cemetery was established on the property of Samuel French, possibly with the death of Samuel himself in 1852. The earliest marked grave is Samuel's, but, as settlement in the area began 22 years prior to his death, there may be earlier unmarked graves. Samuel's wife, Sarah, died in 1862, and is buried next to him.

This cemetery was one of the first Methodist burial grounds north of Dalston and Crown Hill. Even in the 1870's and 1880's, it was the closest cemetery for families in the Vasey and Wyevale areas and on the Elm Flats. Many of the area's early families and historical personages are buried here. A sampling of family names well-known in the area's history include Archer, Brown, Chapman, Drinkill, French, Grigg, Miller, Moody, Parker, Sibbald, Trew, and Truax.

There are approximately 260 headstones. The markers are of the slab, block and obelisk styles, and are made of white marble, limestone or granite. While most stand intact and upright on stone bases, there are some of the older marble stones which lean against other stones or have a piece that has detached. The earliest markers are of white marble, and are primarily located in the southeast quarter of the cemetery. Many exhibit elaborate carved decoration. These stones date from 1852 (Samuel French) to just past the turn of the century. There are some granite obelisk markers and limestone slab markers which date from before the 1900's.

NOTICE of an objection to the designation may be served on the Township Clerk, Mr. Ted Walker, AMCT, at the Township of Tay Offices, 450 Park Street, P.O. Box 100, Victoria Harbour, L0K 2A0, within 30 days of December 19th, 2000, setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Council of the Township of Tay will hold a **special meeting** of Council on **Wednesday, January 24th, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Waverley United Church (17039 County Road 27) in order to consider the passage of the Heritage Designation By-law.

Dated at the Township of Tay the 19th of December, 2000.

Edmund K. Walker
CAO\Clerk