MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Address: 2082 Lakeshore Road

Known as: Wesley Church, Wesleyville

Architectural Style: Gothic

Date Built: Circa 1866

Date Designated: June 11, 1990 to By-Law No. 3317, SCHEDULE B

Lot Description: LOT 30, CON 1



Architectural Description

Typical rural public building of the 1840's to 1900. Gothic Hall Church (Brick) with low pitched eave returns. Three bay Gothic window on each side. The façade is three bay, a Gothic window on either side of centre door also Gothic. Each bay in the centre of an indentation of the brick façade. Coloured glass of the 1900 to 1920 period.

Historical Abstract

Wesley Church is a good example of the hall church building of the mid-nineteenth century, Neo-Classical in form with Gothic arched openings. When it was constructed it was an important focus of the Wesleyville community as a place of worship and also in its prominent location within the village of Wesleyville. Neighbouring buildings included the post office (now a house) and a brick one-room school house (built in 1866 destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1899). Wesley Church was not only a place of worship for many early settlers and their descendants, but also provided a burial place for parishioners. The Church was built shortly after completion of the Grand Trunk Railroad perhaps in anticipation of potential growth within the community.

At the time of construction of the church, the congregation was on the Canton Circuit, and in 1884, became part of the Welcome Circuit when the Methodist and Bible Christian Churches united. In 1925, the church became part of the United Church of Canada and in 1960 it celebrated its centennial. However, in 1969, the church was closed and the congregation was amalgamated with the new congregation at Welcome.

John Barrowclough donated land from his farm located at Lot 30, Concession 1, Hope Township for construction of Wesley Church and its cemetery in 1860. Wesleyville had a Methodist Church as early as 1845. It was a frame building situated one half mile east of the present church where there were three or four houses, a school and a blacksmith shop. When the church had deteriorated, it was decided to build a new one at Wesleyville. The Board of Trustees for the new Wesley Church included John Barrowclough and James Jacobs, from the previous Church board, and several newly appointed board members including Jonathan Brand, Luke Jakes, I.B. Ostram and Thomas Tyndall.

The building was heated by two large cast iron stoves marked "C.W. 1858", standing in brick enclosures in opposite corners of the basement. Heat was conducted by pipes to small registers in the pews. This proved to be an unsatisfactory method of heating the building so the stoves were moved to the main floor and remained there until 1951.





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Architectural Detail

The coloured glass in the windows is not original and dates from the 1900's to 1920's.