



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.1

Halifax Regional Council
December 13, 2022
February 7, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
For Patrick Connor, Chair, Heritage Advisory Committee

DATE: December 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **Case H00526: Request to Include the church building and cemetery at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality**

ORIGIN

November 30, 2022 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Item 9.1.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Heritage Property Act

s. 14(1) A heritage advisory committee may recommend to the municipality that a building, public building interior, streetscape, cultural landscape or area be registered as a municipal heritage property in the municipal registry of heritage property.

HRM By-law No. H-200 - Heritage Property By-law

4. The [Heritage Advisory] Committee shall, within the time limits prescribed by Council or the [Heritage Property] Act, advise the Region respecting:
- (a) the inclusion of buildings, public building interiors, streetscapes, cultural landscapes or areas in the Registry.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and
2. Approve the request to include 1608 Hammonds Plains Road in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the November 23, 2022 report, as a municipal heritage property under the Heritage Property Act.

BACKGROUND

At the November 30, 2022 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, the Committee received a staff recommendation report dated November 23, 2022 and received a staff presentation on Case H00526. Staff noted that should the Committee award the property a total score of fifty (50) points or more for the identified property, out of a possible one hundred (100), then the staff recommendation is that the Committee recommend the property for registration by Halifax Regional Council.

For additional background information on this item, refer to the staff report dated November 23, 2022 (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

At the November 30, 2022 meeting, following the presentation from staff, the Committee evaluated the proposed heritage property using the Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in HRM. The Committee applied the following scores:

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	13
2A. Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups	15
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	3
4A. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	3
4B. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	9
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	59

Based on this evaluation, the Committee approved a motion recommending that Halifax Regional Council schedule a heritage hearing for the matter, and to approve the registration to Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

For further discussion on the heritage registration evaluation criteria as it relates to this application, refer to the staff report dated November 23, 2022 (Attachment 1) and the Scoring Summary for Heritage Buildings (Attachment 2).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated November 23, 2022.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated November 23, 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Heritage Advisory Committee is comprised of ten citizen members and two Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated November 23, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated November 23, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES

The Heritage Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated November 23, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff Recommendation Report dated November 23, 2022.

Attachment 2 – Scoring Summary for Heritage Buildings.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Attachment 1
Heritage Advisory Committee
November 30, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee

-Original Signed-

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: November 23, 2022

SUBJECT: **Case H00526: Request to Include the church building and cemetery at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality**

ORIGIN

On January 11, 2022, the following motion of Regional Council was put and passed:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report examining the potential for including 1608 Hammonds Plains Road in the registry of heritage properties for Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should be referred to the Heritage Advisory Committee for evaluation.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Heritage Property Act

RECOMMENDATION

Should 1608 Hammonds Plains Road score 50 points or more on evaluation as a heritage property under the HRM Heritage Property Program, the Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and
2. Approve the request to include 1608 Hammonds Plains Road in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1, as a municipal heritage property under the *Heritage Property Act*.

BACKGROUND

In January 2022, Regional Council passed a motion to consider the registration of the church property and cemetery at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, (Map 1) as a municipal heritage property. The property is located on the southern side of Hammonds Plains Road, about one hundred metres east of the intersection with Lucasville Road. The small church building is visually prominent along this stretch of Hammonds Plains Road due, in part, to its location close to the road. Almost half of the church building and at least four gravesites with markers are currently located within the municipal right-of-way.

The property is owned by St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which operates out of the church building. The church building was constructed between 1888 and 1890, when it was consecrated as St. Nicholas Anglican Church. It replaced the Little St. John's Church which was destroyed by fire on the property in 1888. The first recorded burials in the Anglican cemetery on the property date to 1834. St. Nicholas Church moved into a larger facility on Westwood Boulevard, in Westwood Hills, between 2004 and 2008. The Anglican Church began renting the church building to St. Gabriel Church in 2010 and later sold the property to them in 2019. The Anglican Church and its congregants continue to hold interest in the cemetery on the property by visiting its graves and maintaining it.

The request to include the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality is being evaluated based on the property's heritage value and the evaluation criteria established through HRM's Heritage Property Program. Staff sent letters to the property owner notifying them of this application to register their property. The property owner has not responded to staff's requests for a meeting and for comments on the potential heritage registration.

This report is being considered in accordance with Sections 14 and 15 of the *Heritage Property Act*.

HRM's Heritage Property Program

The purpose of the HRM Heritage Property Program is to help protect and conserve significant heritage resources including buildings, streetscapes, sites, areas, and conservation districts that reflect the rich heritage found throughout HRM. One of the principal aims of the Heritage Property Program is to recognize significant heritage resources through the inclusion of properties into the Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties.

Under the Heritage Property Program, all registration applications for heritage buildings are evaluated by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) using "The Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in Halifax Regional Municipality" (Attachment A).

The Evaluation Criteria for scoring a property and building are broken down into six categories as follows:

Criterion	Highest Possible Score
1. Age	25
2. Historical or Architectural Importance	20
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	10
4. Architectural Merit: Construction type and Style	20
5. Architectural Integrity	15
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	100

Should the HAC score a property with 50 or more points, a positive recommendation will be forwarded to Regional Council. If the property scores less than 50 points, the report will not be forwarded to Regional Council.

Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act

HRM's Heritage Property Program receives its authority from the *Heritage Property Act* which seeks:

“to provide for the identification, designation, preservation, conservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, public-building interiors, structures, streetscapes, cultural landscapes, areas and districts of historic, architectural or cultural value, in both urban and rural areas, and to encourage their continued use”.

Sections 14(2) and 15(1) under the *Heritage Property Act* require that notice of recommendation is given to the property owner at least thirty (30) days prior to any Council decision to include the property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality. The property owner is also given an opportunity to address Council before they make a decision on the registration request. Should a positive recommendation be forwarded to Council, staff will ensure the required notices are sent to the owners and deposited at the Registry of Deeds.

DISCUSSION

Heritage registration applications are evaluated by the HAC relative to six evaluation criteria as outlined previously, and described in greater detail in Attachment A. To assist the HAC in their evaluation and scoring, staff offer the following comments based on a historical research report (Attachment B).

1. Age:

The church building was constructed between 1888 and 1890. The lands were donated to the Church of England in Nova Scotia by Thomas Johnston and his wife Mary in 1839 for use as a cemetery and church. The present church was built in response to the original Anglican church having burned down in 1888.

The church building was constructed between 1888 and 1890, staff recommend a score of 13 points for age.

2. Historical OR Architectural Importance:

Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups:

The original boundary for the Parish of Sackville extended from Birch Cove to Grand Lake, to Mount Uniacke, and Tantallon. This parish was initially served by a single church, known as St John's, on top of one of Sackville's highest hills. In 1828, the church of St. John's in Sackville was destroyed by fire. Work to rebuild started that same year, with the present church of St. John the Evangelist (now a registered heritage property) constructed on the foundation of the first church in 1829. This church served as the mother church for the parish of Sackville until various communities eventually erected their own churches.

With the growing need for a local church, Thomas and Mary Johnston donated a half-acre of land, already in use as a cemetery, for the construction of the Little St John's Church in 1842. The Johnstons are considered one of the founding families of Hammonds Plains. They purchased a 200-acre lot of the Hammonds Plains grant in 1811. A former soldier of the Royal Artillery, Thomas Johnston was highly enterprising, and his business interests spanned multiple industries, including Hammonds Plains' first inn, pub, grist mill, and post office. He married Mary Tufts and together they had two sons.

The Little St. John's Church in Hammonds Plains was destroyed by fire. The local Anglican congregation built a new church on the same property, completing construction in 1890 and consecrated it as the Church of St Nicholas. Little St. John's and St. Nicholas saw many a service performed by the laity or by visiting clergy. Due to the size of the Parish of Sackville, travel for clergy was difficult and the turnover of rectors in the Parish of Sackville was high. In 1912, the parish was divided, and the Bedford congregation became its own distinct parish.

In 1919, the rectorship of the parish stabilized with the appointment of Rev. Arthur H. Tyers, who remained rector for twenty-six years. Under Rev. Tyers, the Parish of Sackville and its various churches including St. Nicholas had services with marked regularity, owing to the Rev.'s dedication, taking a vacation only once in his whole rectorship, in 1937. Attendance steadily grew and records indicate that, by 1925, vestry books were simply marked "full". The advent of the automobile made servicing the parish churches considerably easier for the rector and made attending easier for the parishioners. However, monetary concerns plagued the church of St. Nicholas and the Parish of Sackville, as the parish's main source of funding, the English Government, discontinued its financial support. Parishioners, and their fundraising talents, came to the rescue of the church's finances on numerous occasions. Parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Schmidt, donated funds for the construction of the church's small belltower in 1937.

St. John the Evangelist in Sackville and St. Nicholas in Hammonds Plains, as the remaining churches in the Parish of Sackville, eventually split on January 1st, 2000, becoming their own parishes. St. Nicholas Church was deemed too small for its two morning services and Sunday school. A new larger St. Nicholas church in Westwood Hills was completed in November of 2008. The old St. Nicholas church building stood vacant until 2010, when a deal was reached for St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church to rent the building. The property was later sold to St. Gabriel in 2019.

Staff recommend a score between 11 and 15. The church property is intimately related to occasions, institutions, personages or groups of local importance.

3. Significance of Architect or Builder:

St. Nicholas Church was built by the local parishioners, and its design is indicative of local vernacular traditions in church-building, with its simplified Gothic-Revival style, minimal ornament, and wooden construction. It is not associated with a known architect and/or builder.

Staff recommend a score of 1 point for the local community that designed and built the church building.

4. Architectural Merit:

Construction type or building technology:

The church building is a two-storey building of light-frame, wooden construction. It is built atop a masonry foundation of coursed rubble, with one side of the foundation parged with board-formed concrete. Many of the church windows exhibit a type of early rolled, white cathedral glass with a pattern very similar to that known as "quarry rolled" but without the fine ribbing.

Staff recommend a score of between 1 and 3 points for the building's somewhat rare light frame construction.

Style:

The church exhibits a simplified Gothic Revival style reflecting the fashions in architecture of the time. The two-storey church building has a simple rectangular hall plan with two vestibules on the northern side and a squared off apse on the eastern end. The very steep roof pitch is typical of the heavily exaggerated forms associated with later Gothic Revival. The minimal ornamentation and uncomplicated layout, as well as the thorough use of rolled white cathedral glass with pressed lozenge pattern, as opposed to more traditional stained glass, reflects the humble nature of this structure, which was built by the community faithful to serve their small rural community.

Character defining elements of 1608 Hammonds Plains Road include, but are not limited to:

- Original wooden church building;
- Squared off apse on the east end of the church;
- Surrounding cemetery with headstones;
- Steeply pitched gabled roof with projecting eaves;
- Coursed rubble foundations;

- Single-hung, wood-framed lancet windows on the first storey: two on the northern elevation and four on the southern elevation;
- Twin vestibules on the northern elevation with original gothic arched wooden double doors and short lancet windows on the outermost sides;
- Use of rolled white cathedral glass with pressed lozenge pattern in lancet windows;
- Large tripartite arrangement of lancet windows on eastern and western elevations, with storm sashes;
- Four round-headed, single-hung, wood-frame basement windows on the southern elevation; and
- Small belltower at the western end of the roof.

Staff recommend a score of between 4 and 6 points for the moderately rare architectural style.

4. Architectural Integrity:

The church building at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road has a fair level of integrity. The addition of a small belltower was made in 1937, though this addition, by virtue of its age and historical connection to the Schmidt family, contributes to the character defining elements of the church. A brick chimney was installed at the northeast corner of the building in 1949 when the church converted its central wood burning stove to furnace heat. The western foundation wall was at some point parged with board-formed cement. In the 1980s the church installed vinyl siding to replace what was at one time original cedar shakes. The present asphalt shingle roof is also not original, and the church appears to have had a cedar shingle roof. The overall condition of the church building is considered fair.

Staff recommend a score of between 6 and 10 points for modest changes to the architectural integrity.

5. Relationship to Surrounding Area:

The subject property bears a relationship to the surrounding neighbourhood through its consistency with the neighbourhood's modest scale, its prominent positioning as a landmark, and through the vicinity's development patterns. These patterns reflect the history of the original Hammonds Plains land grants to founding families. The large abutting property is zoned for industrial and/or mixed uses. These lands, and those of the church and cemetery, ultimately derive from the 200-acre Lot #7, granted to Nicholas Smith in the original 1786 Hammonds Plains land grant. The two houses to the north and northwest of the church also fall within the original lands of Lot #7.

Almost half of the church is located within the right-of-way of Hammonds Plains Road because of the expansion of Hammonds Plains Road as a highway in 1955. Prior to this expansion there was a much greater distance between the church and the road. The church's proximity to the road also aids in its visual prominence as a landmark for the area.

The property is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area. Staff recommend a score of between 6 and 10 points for the relationship of the church and cemetery to the surrounding neighbourhood.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HRM costs associated with advertising and processing this application can be accommodated within the approved 2022/2023 operating budget for C340 - Heritage and Planning Information Services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process for a heritage registration is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement for this application was information sharing achieved through public access to the required Heritage Advisory Committee meeting. As a

provision of the *Heritage Property Act*, no registration of a municipal heritage property shall take place until Regional Council has given the owner of the property an opportunity to be heard.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant environmental implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Heritage Advisory Committee may choose to refuse the application to include 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality if the property scores less than 50 points based on the evaluation criteria. In doing so, the application will not proceed to Regional Council for evaluation.

ATTACHMENTS

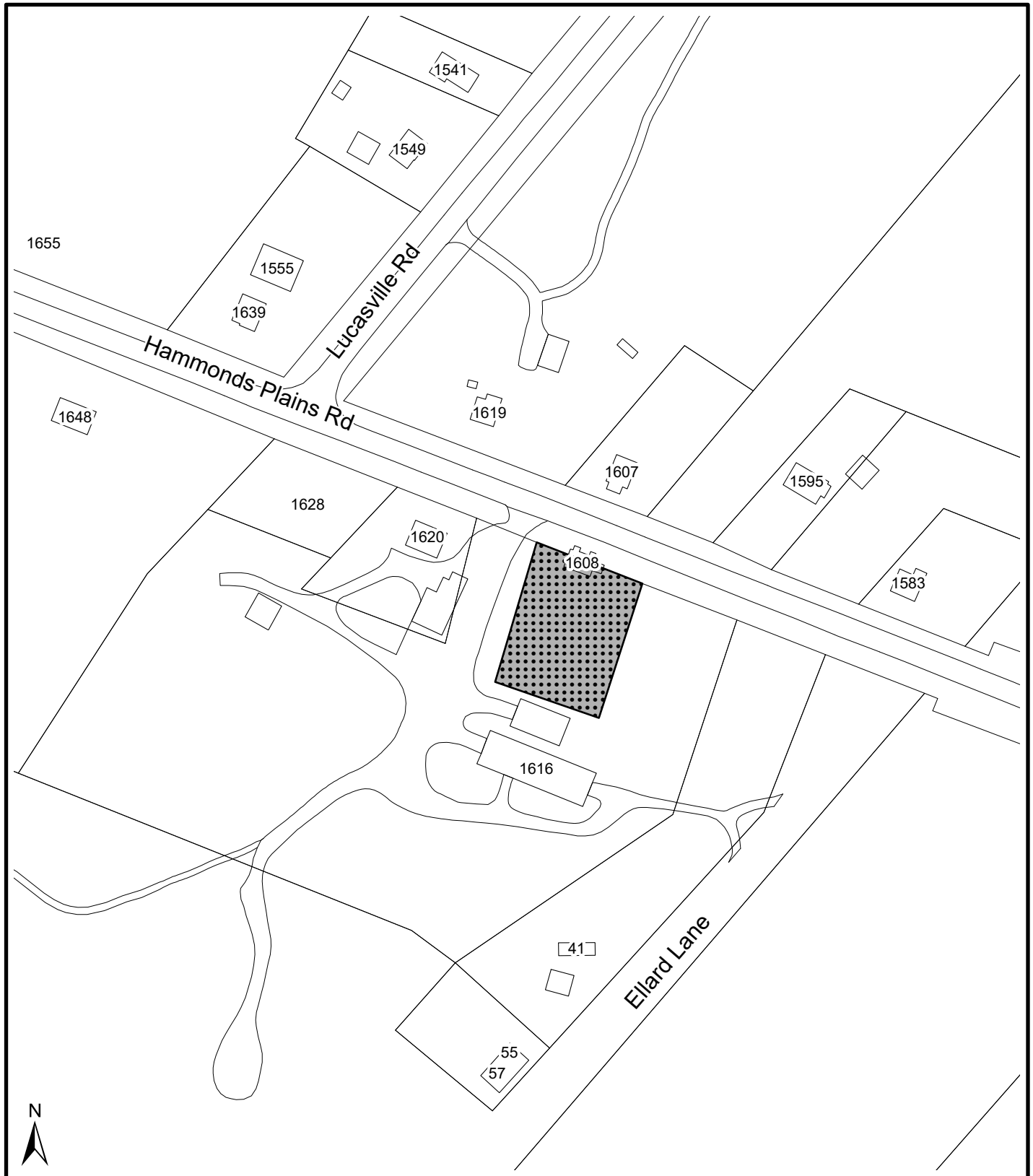
Map 1: Location Map

Attachment A: Evaluation Criteria

Attachment B: Research Report

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Seamus McGreal, Planner III, Heritage, 902.717.1568

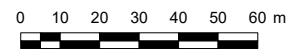


Map 1 - Location Map

1608 Hammonds Plains Road,
Hammonds Plains

HALIFAX

 Subject Property



HRM does not guarantee the accuracy of any representation on this plan.



HERITAGE PROPERTY PROGRAM

EVALUATION CRITERIA

**Heritage Property Program
Community & Recreation Services**

March 2013

**EVALUATION CRITERIA
FOR REGISTRATION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS (Revised 2004)**

1. AGE

Age is probably the single most important factor in the popular understanding of the heritage value of buildings. The following age categories are based on local, national and international occasions that may be considered to have defined the character of the Halifax Regional Municipality and its architecture.

Date of Construction	Points	Timeline
1749 - 1785	25	Halifax Garrison Town to the Loyalist migration
1786 - 1830	20	Boom period following construction of Shubenacadie Canal
1831 - 1867	16	From Boom to Confederation
1868 - 1899	13	Confederation to the end of the 19 th century
1900 - 1917	9	Turn of the Century to Halifax Harbour Explosion
1918 - 1945	5	The War Years
1945 - Present	3	Post-War

** Maximum score of 25 points in this category*

2. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

A building can receive points for:

- A) Having specific associations with important occasions, institutions, personages and groups,
OR
B) For being architecturally important unique/representative of a particular period.

2A) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups

Nationally	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	16 - 20	
Moderately Related	11 - 15	
Loosely Related	1 - 10	
Provincially	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	

Locally	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	
No relationship to important occasions, institutions, personages or groups.	0	

** Maximum score of 20 points in this category, scoring from one of the three categories only*

2B) Important/Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era

Importance	Points	Comments
Highly important, Unique, or representative of an era	16 - 20	
Moderately important, Unique, or representative of an era	11 - 15	
Somewhat important, or representative of an era	1 - 10	
Not important, Unique, or representative of an era	0	

** Maximum score of 20 points in this category.*

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Is the structure representative of the work of an architect or builder of local, provincial or national importance?

Status	Points	Comments
Nationally	7 - 10	
Provincially Significant	4 - 6	
Locally Significant	1 - 3	
Not Significant	0	

** Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

4. ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

The assessment of architectural merit is based on two factors:

A) **Construction type/building technology**: which refers to the method by which the structure was built (early or rare uses of materials), and building techniques;

AND

B) **Style**: which refers to the form or appearance of the architecture.

Construction Type/Building Technology		
A) Construction type	Points	Comments
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	
B) Style	Points	Comments
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	

** Maximum score of 10 points for Construction Type, and a maximum score of 10 for Style - a total maximum of 20 points in this category.*

5. ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

Architectural Integrity refers to the extent to which the building retains original features/ structures/ styles, not the state of the building's condition.

Architecture	Consider any additions/ removal/ alterations to windows, doors, porches, dormers, roof lines, foundations, chimneys, and cladding.	
Exterior	Points	Comments
Largely unchanged	11 - 15	
Modest changes	6 - 10	
Major changes	1 - 5	
Seriously compromised	0	

** Maximum score of 15 points in this category.*

6. RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING AREA

Points	Comments
6 - 10	The building is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area.
1 - 5	The Architecture is compatible with the surrounding area and maintains its heritage character.
0	Does not contribute to the character of the surrounding area.

** Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

Research Report

1608 Hammonds Plains Road,
Hammonds Plains, NS

Former St. Nicholas Church

Prepared by:
Carter Beaupre-McPhee

May 30, 2022

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Age

1608 Hammonds Plains Road, formerly known as St. Nicholas Anglican Church and presently known as St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, is situated on the southern side of Hammonds Plains Road between the intersections with Lucasville Road and Ellard Lane. The present church building was erected **between 1888 and 1890**, having been consecrated in the latter year by the then Bishop of Maine, Henry Adams Neely.(Neely, 1891) The lands were donated to the Church of England in Nova Scotia by Thomas Johnston and his wife Mary in 1839.(Spidell, 2022) The present church was built in response to the existing Anglican church having burned down in 1888.

Ownership History

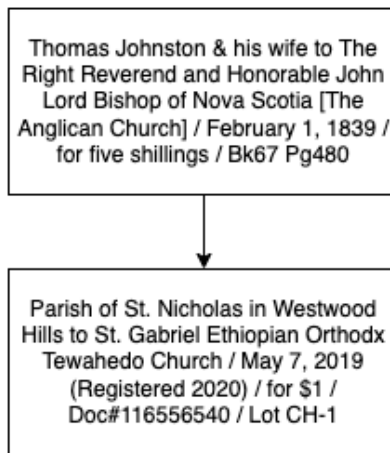


Figure 1: Deed history of 1608 Hammonds Plains

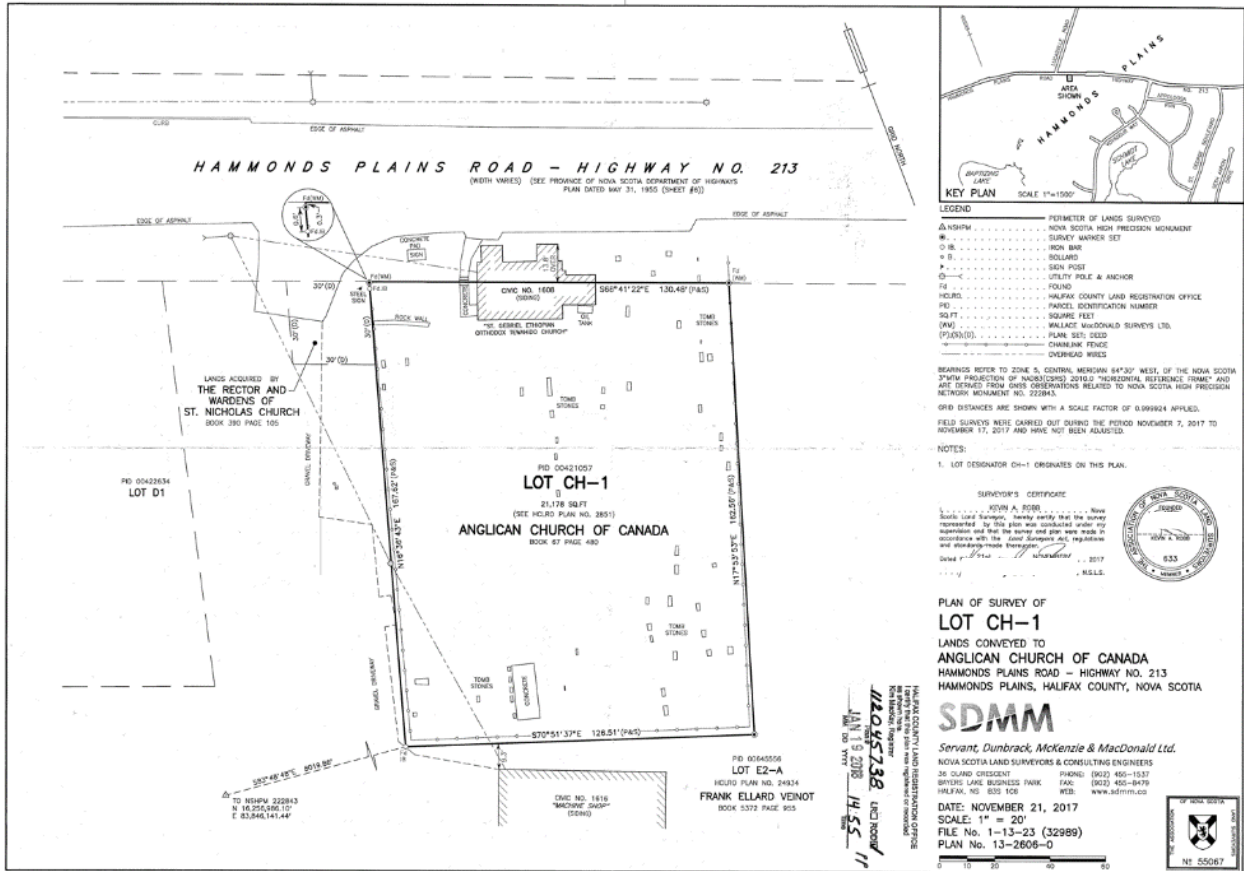


Figure 2: 2017 Plan of lands conveyed to the Anglican Church of Canada on Hammonds Plains Road (Robb, 2017)

Historical or Architectural Importance

Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups

The church building and graveyard at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road has historical associations with the development of the Parish of Sackville, the first church of Hammonds Plains [known as St. John's], Rev. Arthur H. Tyers, Thomas and Mary Johnston, as well as a handful of other notable Hammonds Plains residents who have been buried in the cemetery.

The Parish of Sackville

In 1749, a barracks known as Fort Sackville was built at the head of the Bedford Basin, so named for Lionel Sackville, first Duke of Dorset. (Tufts, 1960) The surrounding area came to be known as Sackville [preceding the use of the name Bedford], and with its proximity to the main road from Halifax to Windsor, it quickly developed as a rural community with new residents establishing farms and mills. (Townsend, 1999) With a growing population of primarily British loyalist immigrants and those otherwise of British origins, the need arose for an Anglican parish to serve the community. (Townsend, 1999) In 1804, the Nova Scotia Legislature established the original boundary for the Parish of Sackville. (Tufts, 1960) This sprawling rural parish encompassed lands from Birch Cove to Grand Lake, on to Mount Uniacke, then Tantallon, and back to Birch

Cove.(Townsend, 1999) This parish was initially served by a single church atop one of Sackville's highest hills and known as St. John's, the construction date of which is debated and could be as early as 1790 or more likely 1805.(Spidell, 2022; Tufts, 1960). In 1828, the church of St. John's in Sackville was destroyed by fire. Work to rebuild started that same year, with the present church of St. John the Evangelist [itself a registered heritage property] having been completed in 1829.(Spidell, 2022; Tufts, 1960) St. John the Evangelist was built atop the foundations of the old church, and it would function as the church for the entire parish of Sackville before its various communities eventually erected their own churches.(Spidell, 2022)

The Little St. John's Church in Hammonds Plains

Through the 1800s, Hammonds Plains was developing rapidly into a thriving little village.(Spidell, 2022) The area's families primarily worked on farms or in cooper mills [mills processing wood to make barrels and other wooden vessels], with Hammonds Plains at one point having seventeen such mills in operation at once.(Spidell, 2022) Regular church services in Hammonds Plains started in 1839, with Rev. Archibald Gray, rector of the Sackville church, routinely visiting the area and holding services for the community on community members' lawns and in community members' homes.(Townsend, 1990; Tufts, 1960)

With this rapid development, in 1839, the local community decided they needed a dedicated church in Hammonds Plains.(Townsend, 1990) A half-acre of land in Hammonds Plains was donated to the Church of England by Thomas and Mary Johnston, for the construction of a church.(NSPOL, 1839; Spidell, 2022) These donated lands are the same lands upon which St. Nicholas Church [now known as St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church] stands today.(NSPOL, 1839; Townsend, 1990) It's possible the Church of England had already entered into agreement with the Johnstons before the deed was conveyed in 1839, as the first recorded burial on the site dates to 1834.(Spidell, 2022) In any case, this first little church in Hammonds Plains was known as St. John's [not to be confused with St. John the Evangelist or its predecessor St. John's in Sackville] and it was erected by the local Anglican congregation in 1842.(Spidell, 2022; Townsend, 1990) The church was consecrated by Bishop John Inglis [the son of Bishop Charles Inglis] the following year on May 28, 1843.(Townsend, 1990) Bishop John Inglis wrote the following note about his visit to the little St. John's Church in Hammonds Plains:

I drove to Hammonds Plains, in the Mission of Sackville fourteen miles, where I consecrated a neat little church. It was crowded by one hundred and twenty persons, and nearly half as many more were compelled to remain without, at the doors and windows. I gladly preached and endeavoured fully and plainly to encourage all in their duty to God, and to His church, and to their own souls. This little church, like that at Douglas, has led to the forming of a little flock, more numerous than ever hoped for when the undertaking was commenced. Its completion is a credit to the missionary the Rev. A. Gray, and those who have zealously cooperated with him. Several of the people of colour, who are settled a few miles from the church attend, but the greater proportion of them call themselves Baptist. This was the first Episcopal visit to Hammonds Plains whither I hope, ere long, to have a second call.(Townsend, 1990)

The reference the bishop makes to the African Nova Scotian community of Hammonds Plains is [together with baptism, marriage, and burial records] evidence suggesting that the Parish of Sackville generally and the little St. John's Church in Hammonds Plains in particular, served both the white and Black communities at the time.(Tufts, 1960)

A Note on Thomas Johnston [b.1776, d.1857](Evans, 1993)

The connection of the church and cemetery through the donation of the lands by Thomas Johnston is a noteworthy one, as Johnston is considered one of the founding fathers of Hammonds Plains.(Evans, 1993) Thomas Johnston moved to Hammonds Plains in 1811, half a year after the Melvins, Thomsons, Webbers, and Ellises of Chester.(Evans, 1993) He purchased the 200 acre Lot #7 of the Hammonds Plains grant, formerly owned by the late Nicholas Smith of Halifax, from the interim owner George McIntosh for 80 pounds.(NSPOL, 1811) A former soldier of the Royal Artillery, Johnston was highly enterprising and his business interests spanned multiple industries.(Evans, 1993) On the aforementioned Lot #7, at the intersection of Hammonds Plains Road and Lucasville Road, Johnston built and operated Hammonds Plains' first inn, which was frequented by hunters, sportsmen, and travellers.(Evans, 1993; Hammonds Plains Historical Society, 2021) Johnston was reportedly the first licensed victualler [a purveyor of food and alcoholic beverages], serving the community of black settlers in Hammonds Plains.(Evans, 1993) Johnston also imported a grist mill from London, England, to produce flour and meal.(Evans, 1993) Further diversifying his work, Johnston was responsible for establishing and running Hammonds Plains' first post office, as well as serving as the 1835 county tax assessor and later the 1838 census taker for Hammonds Plains.(Evans, 1993; Government of Nova Scotia, 1838; Hammonds Plains Historical Society, 2021) Johnston is also noted as being first Hammonds Plains resident to earn the title of Esquire.(Evans, 1993) He married Mary Tufts and together they had two sons.(Hammonds Plains Historical Society, 2021) Johnston continued to acquire lands in Hammonds Plains through his lifetime and willed his lands in trust to his wife, to then be split evenly between his sons upon her death.(Evans, 1993)

Early Years of St. Nicholas Church

The little St. John's Church in Hammonds Plains was destroyed by fire in 1888, and the local Anglican congregation with the leadership of their rector, Rev. William Ellis, built themselves a new church on the same lands, completing construction in 1890.(Townsend, 1990) It is debated as to whether the new St. Nicholas Church was built on the very foundations of its predecessor or whether the predecessor church was actually further back from the road than St. Nicholas.(Spidell, 2022) The new church was consecrated as the Church of St. Nicholas by the Bishop of Maine [the Rt. Rev. Henry Adams Neely] in 1891, during a visit to Nova Scotia he conducted from June 14th through June 17th.(Townsend, 1990) This duty fell to the Bishop of Maine because the Bishop of Nova Scotia [the Rt. Rev. Frederick Courtney] was ill at the time.(Townsend, 1990)

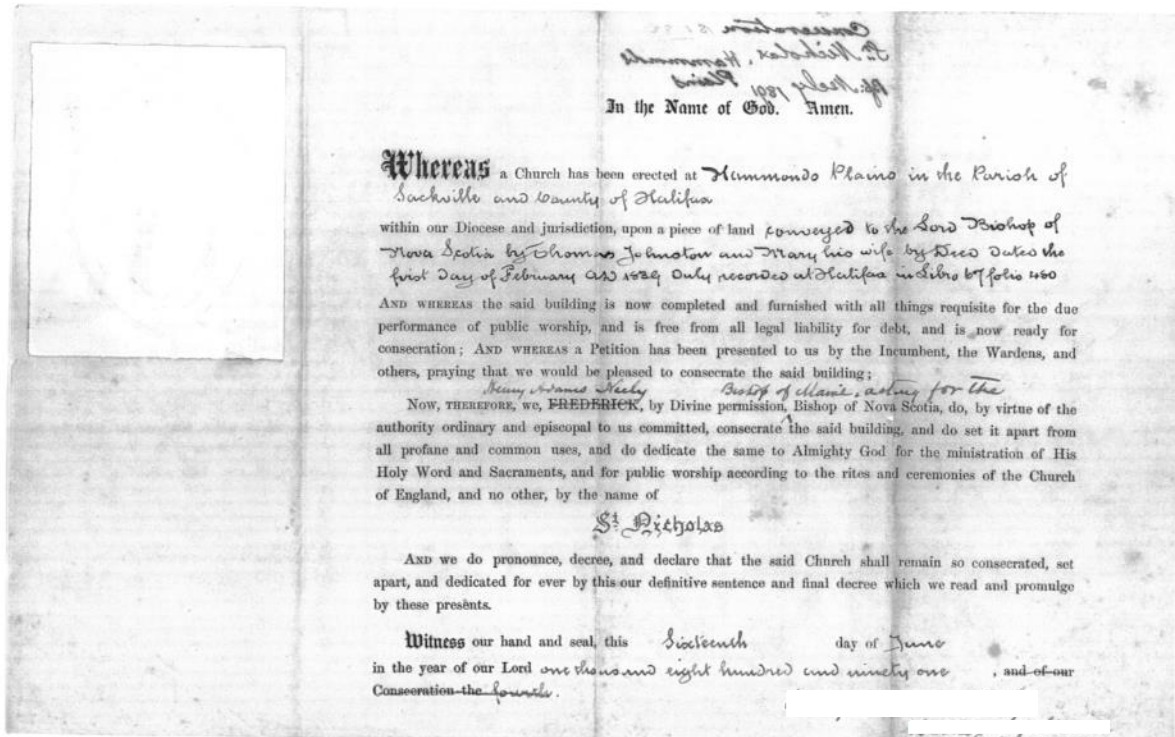


Figure 3: Consecration sentence for St. Nicholas in Hammonds Plains (Neely, 1891)

Ministry at the little church of St. John's in Hammonds Plains and later at St. Nicholas was rather poor in the late 1800s.(Townsend, 1990) The turnover of rectors in the Parish of Sackville was high. The travel demands for clergy were burdensome given the sheer breadth of the parish.(Townsend, 1990) St. John's and St. Nicholas saw many a service performed by the laity or by visiting clergy.(Townsend, 1990) On October 22, 1912, the old Parish of Sackville was divided, with the Bedford congregation becoming their own distinct parish.(Anglican Church of Canada Diocese of Nova Scotia, 1960) This lessened the burden on the Sackville rector with less territory and fewer churches to service.(Townsend, 1990)

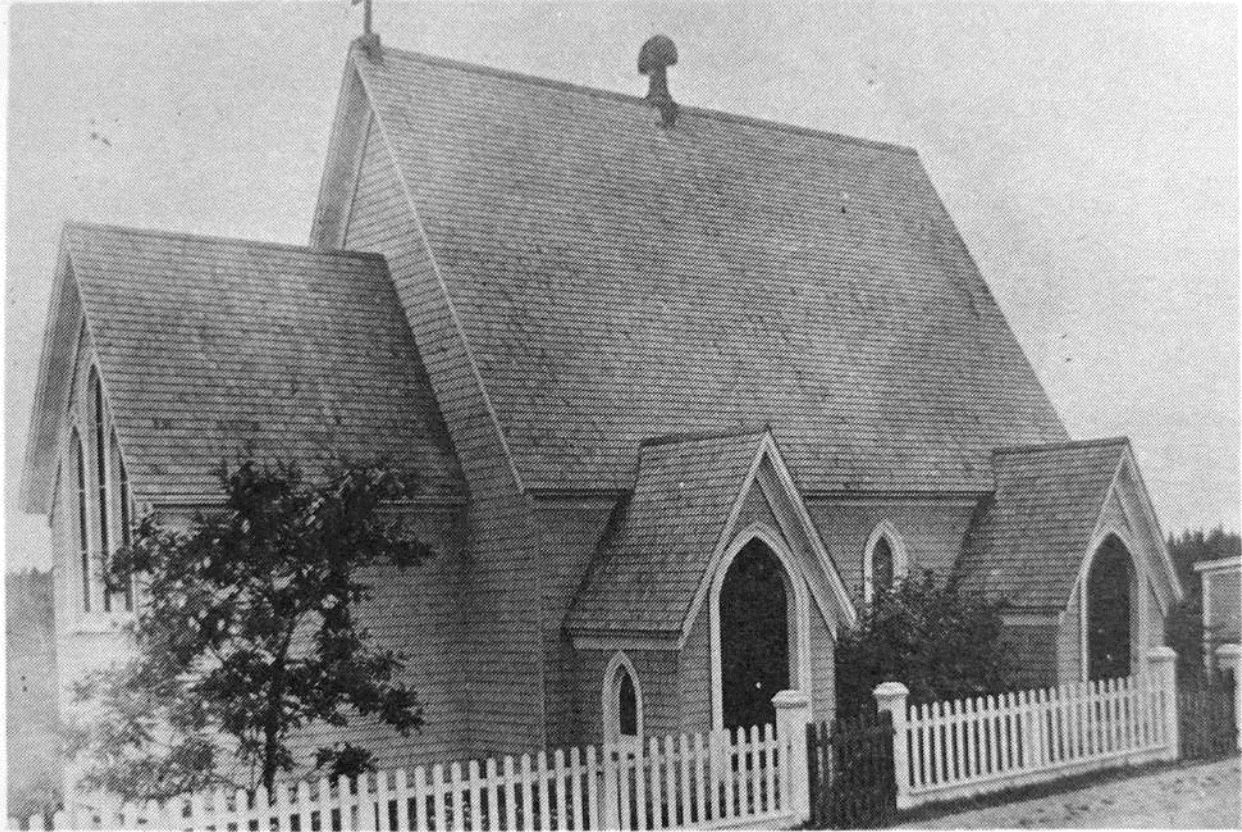


Figure 4: Earliest known photo of St. Nicholas Church, taken pre-1937. Note the lack of steeple, which was a later addition, and the presence of a chimney for the centrally located wood-burning stove, which was later replaced with a furnace and brick chimney.(Evans, 1993)

[The Rectorship of Rev. Arthur Henry Tyers \[b.1870, d. 1957\]\(Ancestry.ca, 2022\)](#)

In 1919, the rectorship of the parish stabilized with the appointment of Rev. Arthur H. Tyers, who remained rector for twenty-six years.(Tufts, 1960) He resigned in 1941, but continued serving in the role until 1945, as the new rector [Rev. Harry Langwith] was serving in the armed forces during the Second World War.(Townsend, 1999; Tufts, 1960) Under Rev. Tyers, the Parish of Sackville and its various churches including St. Nicholas had services with marked regularity, owing to the Rev.'s dedication, taking a vacation only once in his whole rectorship, in 1937.(Townsend, 1990) Attendance steadily grew and records indicate that, by 1925, attendance was occasionally too many to count and vestry books were simply marked "full".(Spidell, 2022) The advent of the automobile made servicing the parish churches considerably easier for the rector and made attending easier for the parishioners.(Townsend, 1999) Nonetheless, Rev. Tyers is remembered for his love of walking; he thought nothing of travelling on foot some four or five miles to deliver a service if the road conditions were too poor for his car to navigate.(Tufts, 1960)

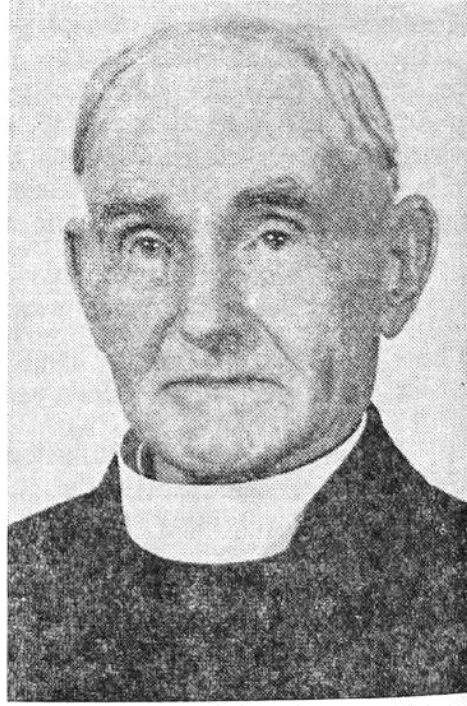


Figure 5: Portrait of Rev. Arthur Tyers, the longest-serving rector of the Parish of Sackville.(Tufts, 1960)

Rev. Tyers managed to construct a new rectory [still standing at 900 Old Sackville Road] for the parish in 1934, at a cost of \$3712.67.(Tufts, 1960) Despite this, for much of his tenure, monetary concerns plagued the church of St. Nicholas and the Parish of Sackville, as the parish's main source of funding, the English Government, discontinued its financial support.(Townsend, 1990) The Church of St. Nicholas did not cost much in upkeep.(Townsend, 1990) In 1917, James Melvin was paid \$1.25/day to maintain the graveyard, and in 1939 Douglas Eisenhower was for a time paid \$15/year as sexton, lighting the wood stove and ringing the church bell.(Townsend, 1999) Still, the church's income was no great sum, and it struggled some years to pay its share of the rector's stipend.(Townsend, 1999; Tufts, 1960). When called upon, the faithful parishioners of St. Nicholas and the Parish of Sackville gave generously, collecting for widows and orphans, the Bible Society, and the people of Springhill after the mining disaster of 1958, among other causes.(Spidell, 2022) Fundraising efforts at St. Nicholas were often led by The Sewing Circle, a church society formed in 1925 as a breakaway from the Parish Guild.(Spidell, 2022) The Sewing Circle's fundraising talents came to the rescue of the church's finances on numerous occasions.(Townsend, 1990). Particularly generous were long-time church members Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Schmidt, whose large donation funded the construction of the church's small belltower in 1937.(Townsend, 1999) The church was once home to a Sunday school, presumably operated out of the church basement.(Spidell, 2022) However, little remains in the way of records. In 1948, the Sunday school reportedly consisted of 12 pupils and 2 teachers; however, it's reported to have eventually grown to over 50 pupils.(Townsend, 1990)

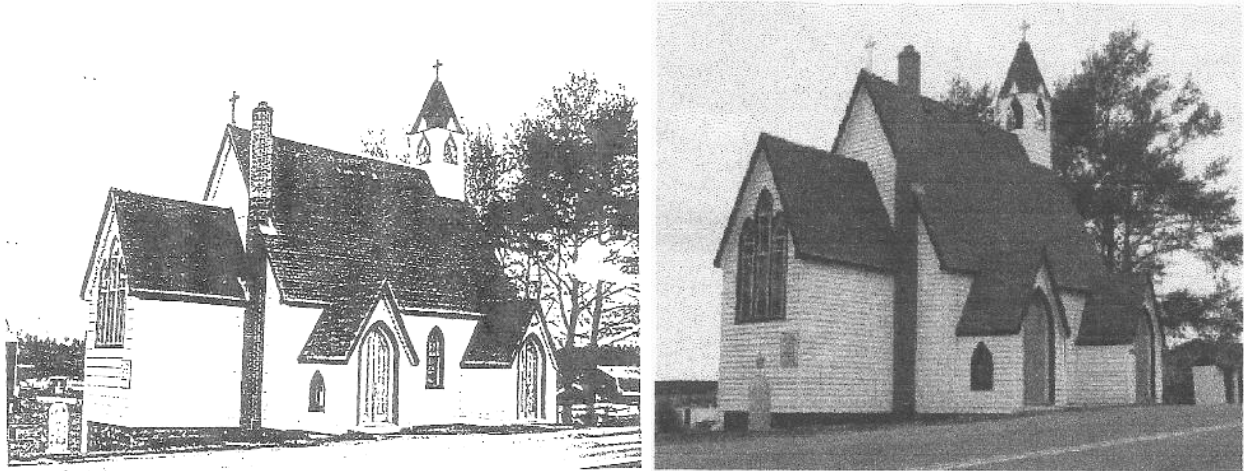


Figure 6: Exterior view est. 1990 [left] & est. 1999 [right] (Townsend, 1990, 1999)



The Rectory Built in 1934

Figure 7: The new rectory for the Parish of Sackville, built under the rectorship of Rev. Tyers [and located near St. John the Evangelist at what is now 900 Old Sackville Road].

Contemporary History of St. Nicholas

In 1998 the Parish of Sackville was restructured once again, with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Beaver Bank leaving to operating as its own parish.(Spidell, 2022) St. John the Evangelist in Sackville and St. Nicholas in Hammonds Plains, as the remaining churches in the Parish of Sackville, eventually split on January 1st, 2000, becoming their own parishes.(Spidell, 2022) Much of the Parish Lands in Sackville were sold to fund the three newly formed

parishes.(Spidell, 2022) Rev. Arthur Nash became rector of St. Nicholas in 1999 and finding that St. Nicholas Church was too small for its two morning services and Sunday school, he began holding some services and the Sunday school at Tantallon Elementary.(Spidell, 2022) Lay-reader and engineer, William [Bill] Wood, led the effort to construct a new larger St. Nicholas church in Westwood Hills.(Spidell, 2022) The new church hall was completed in February of 2004, while the new church sanctuary was completed in November of 2008.(Spidell, 2022) The old St. Nicholas church building stood vacant until 2010, when a deal was reached for St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church to rent the building.(Hammonds Plains Historical Society, 2021; Nixon, 2019) The property was later sold to St. Gabriel in 2019.(NSPOL, 2019)



Figure 8: The new St. Nicholas in Westwood Hills (September, 2021)

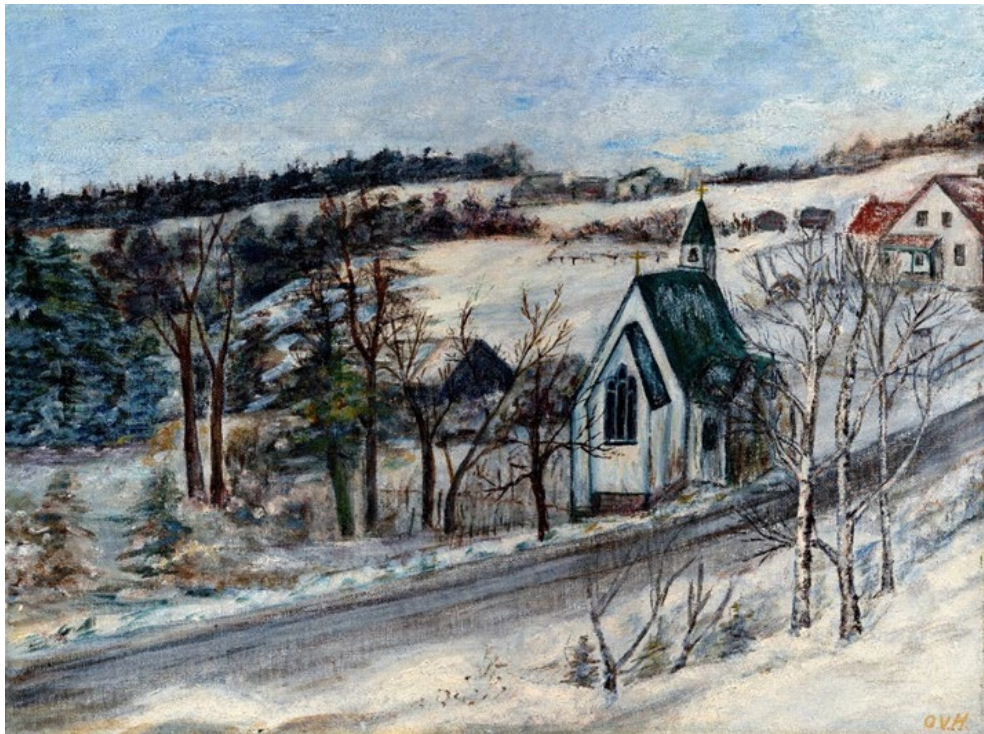
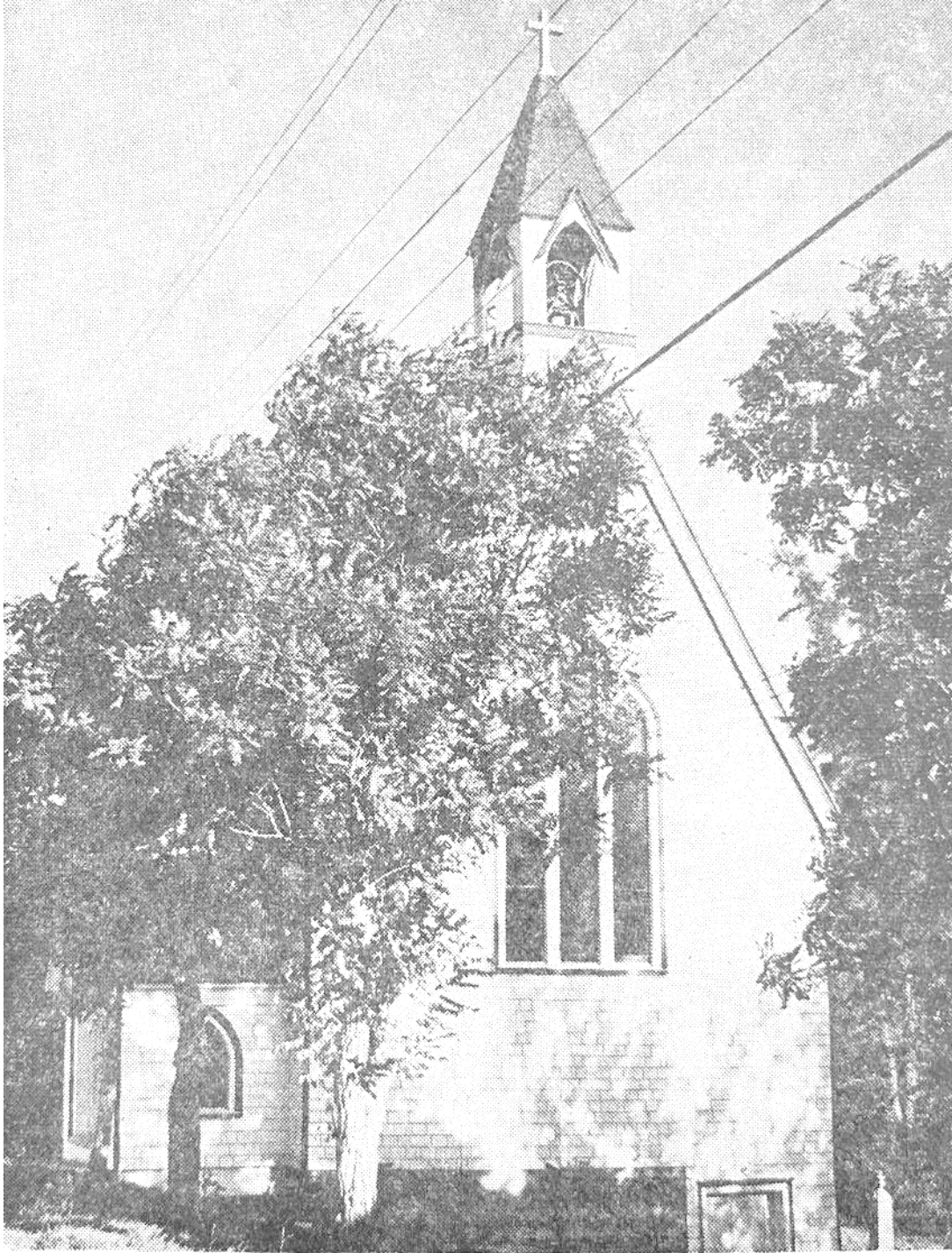
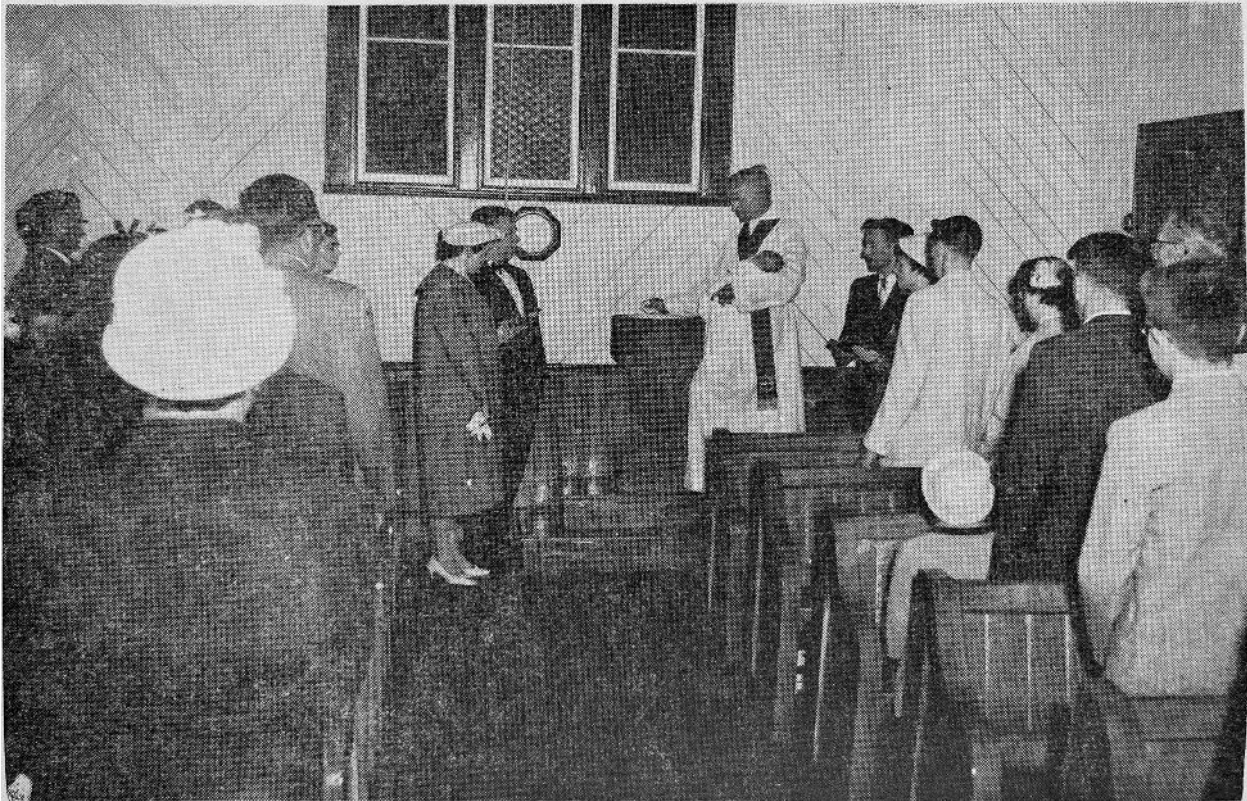


Figure 9: Undated painting of the church, awaiting source from the Hammonds Plains Historical Society



St. Nicholas — Hammonds Plains
First Service 1890

Figure 10: Photo of the western elevation of St. Nicholas Church [est. 1950-1960].(Tufts, 1960)



St. Nicholas, Holy Baptism

Figure 11: A photo of a baptism at St. Nicholas, showing the church interior [est. 1960].(Tufts, 1960)



Figure 12: Interior view, undated [est. 1980s or later].(St. Nicholas Center, 2022)

Notable Figures Interred in St. Nicholas Cemetery (Hammonds Plains Historical Society, 2021)



Thomas Johnston [b.1769, d.1857]

Thomas and his wife, Mary [Tufts] Johnston, were one of the founding families of Hammonds Plains. They donated the half-acre lot of land upon which both the original church of St. John's in Hammonds Plains, and the original church of St. Nicholas in Hammonds Plains were built. Johnston established the first post office in Hammonds Plains, ran the first inn in Hammonds Plains, and imported and ran a gristmill.



Charles Schmidt [b.1805, d.1874]

Schmidt was a lawyer from Halifax who retired to Hammonds Plains in the 1860s. He assisted the community with legal matters and was very involved in the church as a lay-reader and in performing marriages. He married Sarah Ann Fletcher and later Sophia Hunt, and they had 17 children between them.



Samuel Eisenhauer [b. 1844, d. 1935]

Samuel Eisenhauer was a farmer and lumberman who moved to Hammonds Plains in 1868 and whose original farm remains a feature of the community to this day [Blue Barn Farms]. He served as warden of St. Nicholas for many years. He married Sarah Ann Boutilier and they had 11 children.



Arthur Harrison Eisenhauer [b. 1885, d. 1931]

Son of Samuel and Sarah Eisenhauer. He worked as a Provincial Game Warden and was attacked and beaten on the job, later succumbing to his injuries. A high-profile murder trial followed. He is commemorated on Peace Officer memorials in Ottawa and Halifax, and he has a monument in his honour at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. He was survived by his wife Jennie Robinson and six children.



William Garvie Haverstock [b. 1871, d. 1939]

Haverstock founded W.G. Haverstock & Sons, one of Hammonds Plains' many cooper mills, producing lumber, boxes, and barrels. He married Ethel Eisenhauer and they had 7 children.



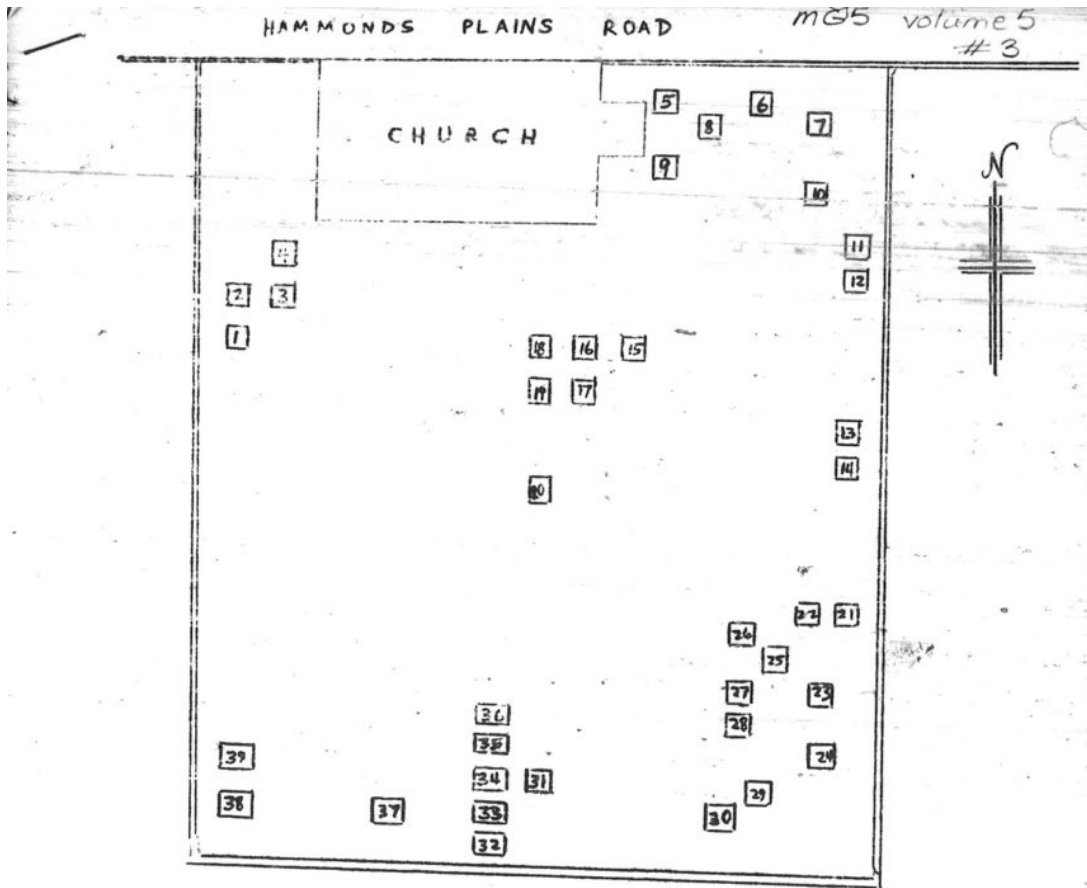
Earl Haverstock [b.1904, d.1982] & Weilder Haverstock [b.1909, d.2003]

Earl was a son of W.G. Haverstock and took over his father's cooper mill business. He ran as a local Progressive Conservative candidate in the 1950s, served as church warden and trustee for Hammonds Plains School. Weilder was the church's organist and regent of a local IODE Chapter.



Mae Wright Romans [b.1903, d. 1996]

Romans was a very active community member and served as president of the St. Nicholas Sewing Circle, treasurer of the IODE, member of the Hammonds Plains Community Club, and active on numerous church committees. She married Wallace Romans.



ST. NICHOLAS ANGLICAN,
HAMMONDS PLAINS
KEY TO HEADSTONES
30 APR, 1974 / T.M.P.

Figure 13: Map of headstones at St. Nicholas Cemetery (St. Nicholas Anglican, 1974)

ST. NICHOLAS ANGLICAN, HAMMONDS PLAINS

1. Sgt. Maurice EISENHAUR, P.L.Fus., C.E.F., d.30 May 1958, aged 69
2. Edmond J. WAMBOLDT, 1865-1928
Levnia A., his wife, 1861-1932
Lophemia A., their dau., 1898-1911
3. Norman Gordon BOUTILIER, b.1890
His wives: Mary Ellen, 1892-1938
Laura Ann, 1882-1969
4. Mary Ellen 1892-1938, wife of Norman G. BOUTILIER
5. John JOENSON, d.15 Nov 1911, aged 95
Ann, his wife, d.4 Mar 1906, aged 85
sister, Susanna L., d.4 Mar 1905, aged 92; wife of James MELVIN.
6. David G. WRIGHT, d.6 Mar 1915, aged 84
Evangeline, his wife, d.9 Aug 1908, aged 68
7. Children of Ernest & Sarah LANGILLE: Russel S., d.10 Dec 1910, aged 3 yr. 8m
Edith C., d.5 Oct 1905, aged 2 mos.
Infant, d.5 Dec 1902
8. Peter REFUSE, d.12 Jun 1900, aged 33 yr. 6 mos.
9. Wilfred A. EISENBAUER, 1879-1968
Ethel W., his wife, 1882-1955
their sons: Hazen, 1906-1916
Amos A., 1914-1929
10. Samuel D. LANGILLE, 1864-1892
his children: John G., d.1891, aged 6 mos.
Melinda A., 1876-1899
Alice M., 1890-1922,
buried at Boutillier's Point.
11. Francis L., d.30 Nov 1915, aged 3½; son of Lawson & Mabel SLAENWHITE
12. Stewart ROMANS, 1869-1949
Laura A. ROMANS, 1879-1949
13. Walter C. BOUTILIER, 1875-1952
Rena, his wife, 1892-1949
14. Bruce Andrew SUGARS, 1957-1971
15. Albertus BOUTILIER, 1875-1947
Hattie L. FLYNN, his wife, 1877-1912
16. Drusilla, d.23 Apr 1900, aged 29; wife of Thomas PACE
17. Susan BOUTILIER, d.10 Sep 1901, aged 64
her sons: Theophilus, d.3 Jun 1881, aged 14 yr.
Maurice Wm., d.3 May 1883, aged 11 mos.

Figure 14: Index of graves at St. Nicholas Cemetery [page 1] (St. Nicholas Anglican, 1974)

ST. NICHOLAS ANGLICAN, HAMMONDS PLAINS /2

18. William Garvie HAVERSTOCK, 1871-1939
Ethel Carrie, his wife, 1877-1944
19. Children of William G. & Ethel C. HAVERSTOCK:
Sarah Viola, 10 Feb 1905-12 Aug 1910
Henry T.M., 3 Aug 1908-23 Oct 1908
Everett G., 23 Jul 1911-18 Apr 1918
20. James ROMANS, 1864-1923
Minna S., his wife, 1864-1948
their children: Jennett L., 1887-1983
Edna P., 1899-1904
Douglas, 1901-1901
21. Susan M., d. 6 Dec 1898, aged 52; wife of George E. LANGILLE
22. Wilbur Charles WRIGHT, 1874-1960
Florence E., 1883-1939
Allen E., 1906-1907
23. James WRIGHT, d. 19 Jan 1911, aged 77
Catherine, his wife, d. 12 Apr 1898, aged 63
24. Norman ISNOR, killed at Vipond Mine, Timmons, Ontario,
15 Aug 1926, aged 54.
25. Clifford EISENHAUER, 1882-1943
May Victoria, his wife, 1890-1964
Ora Dell, d. 18 Sep 1934
26. John Nicholas HOLLAND, 1796-1866
Mary GOPP, his wife, 1789-1890
27. Ida L. THOMAS, 1871-1932
28. Frances J. EISENHAUER, 1871-1908
29. Samuel EISENHAUER, 1844-1936
Sarah, his wife, 1843-1928
Their children: Albert, 1869-1869
Naomi, 1867-1881
Aylesford, 1881-1881
Lydia, 1882-1893
Mabel, 1884-1893
30. A. Harrison EISENHAUER, 1885-1931
baby, 1915.
31. Thomas JOHNSTON, d. 1 Jun 1857, aged 88
32. Sophia Rosina SCHMIDT, 1867-1936
Annie W. SCHMIDT
Mary E. SMILVIN, aged 70
33. Charles E.W. SCHMIDT, barrister, d. 2 May 1874, aged 69

Figure 15: Index of graves at St. Nicholas Cemetery [page 2] (St. Nicholas Anglican, 1974)

ST. NICHOLAS ANGLICAN, HAMMONDS PLAINS/3

34. Sophia Mary, d. 2 Jan 1894, aged 72; wife of Charles E. SCHMIDT,
and dau. of John HUNT, Esq., of Lunenburg.
35. James Edmond SCHMIDT, d. 19 Feb 1899, aged 50
36. Henry A., 1846-1925; son of Charles & Sophia SCHMIDT
37. Lewis ROMANS, 1877-1935
Theresa, his wife, 1889-1964
infant son, 1932
38. James MELVIN, d. 17 Apr 1929, aged 84
Maria, his wife, d. 5 Nov 1912, aged 69
39. Margaret, d. 8 Apr 1876, aged 79; wife of Arthur McQUADE

INDEX OF SURNAMES

Boutilier 3, 4, 13, 15, 17
Eisenhauer 1, 9, 25, 28, 29, 30
Flynn 15
Haverstock 18, 19
Holland 26
Hunt 34
Isner 24
Johnson 5
Johnston 31
Lengille 7, 10, 21
McQuade 39
Melvin 5, 38
Pace 16
Refuse 8
Romans 12, 20, 37
Schmidt 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
Slauenwhite 11
Smilvin 32
Sugars 14
Thomas 27
Wamboldt 2
Wright 6, 22, 23

Dates of death range from 1857 and 1971.

—Terrence M. Punch/30 Apr. 1974

Figure 16: Index of graves at St. Nicholas Cemetery [page 3] (St. Nicholas Anglican, 1974)

Important / Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era

The church building at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road is highly representative of the east coast wooden church-building tradition and exhibits a modest Gothic Revival style with its steeply pitched roof and lancet windows. This style was most popular from 1800 through 1890, and can be readily found throughout Atlantic Canada. (Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Fitness Heritage Unit, n.d.) This particular example is made slightly more unique by its use of round-headed basement windows which are more commonly associated with the Italianate style. (Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Fitness Heritage Unit, n.d.)

Significance of Architect or Builder

St. Nicholas Church was built by the local community faithful, and its design is indicative of local vernacular traditions in church-building, with its simplified Gothic-Revival style, minimal ornament, and wooden construction. (Tufts, 1960) It is not associated with a known architect and/or builder.

Architectural Merit

Construction Type or Building Technology

The church building at 1608 Hammonds Plains is a two-storey building of light-frame, wooden construction. It is built atop a masonry foundation of coursed rubble, with one side of the foundation parged with board-formed concrete. The outside walls are now clad in vinyl siding but historical photos suggest the building was first clad in cedar shakes [see Figures 4, 10, & 26]. Historical photos also suggest this building originally had a cedar shingle roof, which has since been replaced with asphalt shingles [see Figures 4 & 26]. Many of the church windows exhibit a type of early rolled, white cathedral glass with a pattern very similar to that known as “quarry rolled” but without the fine ribbing shown in Figure 17. (Free, 2020)

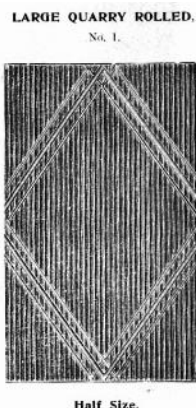


Figure 17: An early design for rolled cathedral glass very similar to that used in many of the windows of St. Nicholas church. (Free, 2020)



Figure 18: Two windows on the northern elevation, with upper sashes made of rolled white cathedral glass with a longitudinal diamond pattern similar to the pattern known as “quarry rolled”.(May 13, 2022)

Style

St. Nicholas Church at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road exhibits a simplified Gothic Revival style reflecting the fashions in architecture of the time (Archibald & Stevenson, 2003). The two-storey church building has a simple rectangular hall plan with two vestibules on the northern side and a projection on the eastern end. The very steep roof pitch is typical of the heavily exaggerated forms associated with later Gothic Revival (Penney, 1989). The minimal ornamentation and uncomplicated layout, as well as the thorough use of rolled white cathedral glass with pressed lozenge pattern, as opposed to more traditional stained glass, reflects the humble nature of this structure, which was built by the community faithful to serve their small rural community.

The eastern and western elevations feature large window clusters consisted of a tripartite arrangement of lancet windows, protected by storm sashes. While the northern and southern elevations feature smaller lancet windows. All the church windows are single-hung, one-over-one, except the tripartite main windows of the eastern and western elevations which appear to be fixed-sash. The southern elevation features a row of four round-headed windows in the basement. The church features a small belltower at the western end of the roofline, with a small belltower open to all four sides with gothic arched openings. All gothic arched windows are glazed with the aforementioned rolled, white cathedral glass with pressed lozenge pattern, excepting the lower panes of the two north-side windows, which are plain sheet glass. The pair of twin vestibules are fitted with gothic-arched double doors and squat, gothic arch windows on the easternmost and

westernmost vestibule walls. The basement of the church features a walk out entrance on the western side.

Character Defining Elements

CDEs of 1608 Hammonds Plains Road include, but are not limited to:

- Original wooden church building;
- Squared off apse on the east end of the church;
- Small surrounding cemetery;
- Steeply pitched gabled roof with projecting eaves;
- Coursed rubble foundations;
- Single-hung, wood-framed lancet windows on the first storey: two on the northern elevation and four on the southern elevation;
- Twin vestibules on the northern elevation with original gothic arched wooden double doors and short lancet windows on the outermost sides;
- Use of rolled white cathedral glass with pressed lozenge pattern in lancet windows;
- Large tripartite arrangement of lancet windows on eastern and western elevations, with storm sashes;
- Four round-headed, single-hung, wood-frame basement windows on the southern elevation; and
- Small belltower at the western end of the roof.



Figure 19: View of the southeast elevation (May 13, 2022)



Figure 20: View of the northern elevation (May 13, 2022)



Figure 21: View of the western elevation (May 13, 2022)



Figure 22: View of the eastern elevation (May 13, 2022)



Figure 23: View of the southern elevation (May 13, 2022)



Figure 24: View of the surrounding cemetery grounds (May 13, 2022)

Architectural Integrity

Layout, Additions, and Changes

The church building at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road has a fair level of integrity as concerns its layout, additions, and physical changes. As mentioned previously, the addition of a small belltower was made in 1937, though this addition, by virtue of its age and historical connection to the Schmidt family, should be considered to contribute to the character defining elements of the present church, not to detract from them. (Townsend, 1990) In 1949, the church was converted from a centrally-located wood burning stove to furnace heat, and a brick chimney was installed at the northeast corner of the building [contrast Figures 4 & 26 with Figure 19]. Otherwise there have been no further additions to the structure and no changes in layout. The western foundation wall was at some point parged with board-formed cement. In the 1980s the church installed new vinyl siding to replace what was at one time original cedar shakes [contrast Figure 4 with Figure 19]. (Townsend, 1990) The present asphalt shingle roof is similarly non-original and the church appears to have originally had a cedar shingle roof [contrast Figure 4 with Figure 23].

Condition

The church building at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road has a fair level of integrity as concerns condition. Three basement windows have been boarded up, and the present state of these windows could not be assessed by staff during the site visit [see Figure 23]. All other windows appear to retain their original sashes and framing [see Figures 19 through 24]. The coursed rubble foundations exhibit cracks and gaps where mortar has been lost, and the cement parging on the western elevation shows some damage to the northwest corner [see Figures 21 & 22]. The vinyl siding is generally in good condition, except for some wind-damage on the western elevation and typical fungus growth on the shaded northern elevation, the latter of which is only an aesthetic concern [see Figure 20]. The sets of three lancet windows on the eastern and western elevations are in good condition owing to the installation of protective storm sashes [see Figures 21 & 22]. The windows on the southern and northern elevations by contrast show heavy weathering with substantial paint loss and aged wood; however, the wood does not appear to exhibit any obvious signs of rot [see Figures 18, 21, 22, & 23]. The doors on the northern elevation exhibit weathering and some minor damage [see Figure 20]. The roof on the northern elevation is in fair to good condition, while the roof on the southern elevation is in fair to poor condition [see Figures 20 & 23]. The belltower appears to be in fair condition but some of the mouldings once present have since been lost [contrast Figure 21 with Figure 26]. The cemetery is fairly well maintained, with only a few damaged headstones, and most headstones in good, legible condition [see Figure 24].



FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION

Figure 25: Exterior photos of the front and rear of St. Nicholas, taken in 2018 by Turner Drake & Partners.
Note that all four basement windows are shown to be intact in 2018.



Figure 26: Photo showing St. Nicholas in 1938 before the road widening and before the installation of a furnace, but after the construction of the belltower.(Unknown artist, 1938) Note the detailing on the belltower which has since been lost.

Relationship to Surrounding Area

1608 Hammonds Plains bears a relationship to the surrounding neighbourhood through its consistency with the neighbourhood's modest scale, its prominent positioning as a landmark, and also through the vicinity's development patterns, which to some extent reflect the history of the original 1786 Hammonds Plains land grant, as well as two of Hammonds Plains' founding families, the Thomsons and the Johnsons (Follini, 2015; Rosinski, 1994).

Cursory study of the deed history for the neighbouring lands to the east, west, and south of the church and cemetery, now known as the Veinot properties and zoned for industrial and/or mixed use, suggests these lands have been mostly passed through members of the Thomson family, one of Hammonds Plains' founding families see Figure 33]. These lands, and those of the church and cemetery, ultimately derive from the 200-acre Lot #7, granted to Nicholas Smith in the original 1786 Hammonds Plains land grant [see Figure 32].(Beaupre-McPhee, 2022) The two houses to the north and northwest of the church also fall within the original lands of Lot #7.(Beaupre-McPhee, 2022) The white, two-storey home to the northwest of the church roughly corresponds with the supposed location of Thomas Johnston's inn, the first inn to be opened in Hammonds Plains [see Figure 31].(Evans, 1993). Survey plans show this building and its smaller neighbour to be at least pre-1958 [see Figure 34].(Nolan, 1958) And the style of the building, particularly the window framing, is very consistent with that of its neighbour, as well as that of the Samuel Thomson property which existed prior to 1920.(Nixon, 2019) However, staff cannot assert with certainty that this is in-fact the former inn. It does appear, however, that the boundaries of the

house lots to the north and northwest of the church likely derive from the original Lot #7 boundaries north of Hammonds Plains Road [contrast Figure 32 with Figure 34].

Unusually, almost half of the church is located partially in the right-of-way of Hammonds Plains Road [see Figure 2]. This is owing to the expansion of Hammonds Plains Road as a highway in 1955.(Robb, 2017) Prior to this expansion there was a much greater distance between the church and the road [see Figure 26].(Unknown artist, 1938) The church's proximity to the road also aids in its visual prominence as a landmark for the area [see Figure 35].



Figure 27: View looking north across Hammonds Plains Road from St. Nicholas, showing the former Orman Roman [later Margaret Grandy] house. (May 13, 2022)



Figure 28: View looking east from St. Nicholas, showing low-density homes in the distance and the neighbouring parking / materials storage lot. (May 13, 2022)



Figure 29: View looking west from St. Nicholas, showing low density homes and the entrance to the neighbouring industrial lot. (May 13, 2022)



Figure 30: Close ups of nearby homes demonstrating the low-rise, low-density typology of the church's surroundings. Former Mike Smith / Fullerton House [left] and former Orman Roman [later Margaret Grandy] house [right] (May 13, 2022)



Figure 31: Section of Hammonds Plains from Church's 1865 Map of Halifax County, with the Johnson inn lot highlighted by an arrow.(Church, 1865)

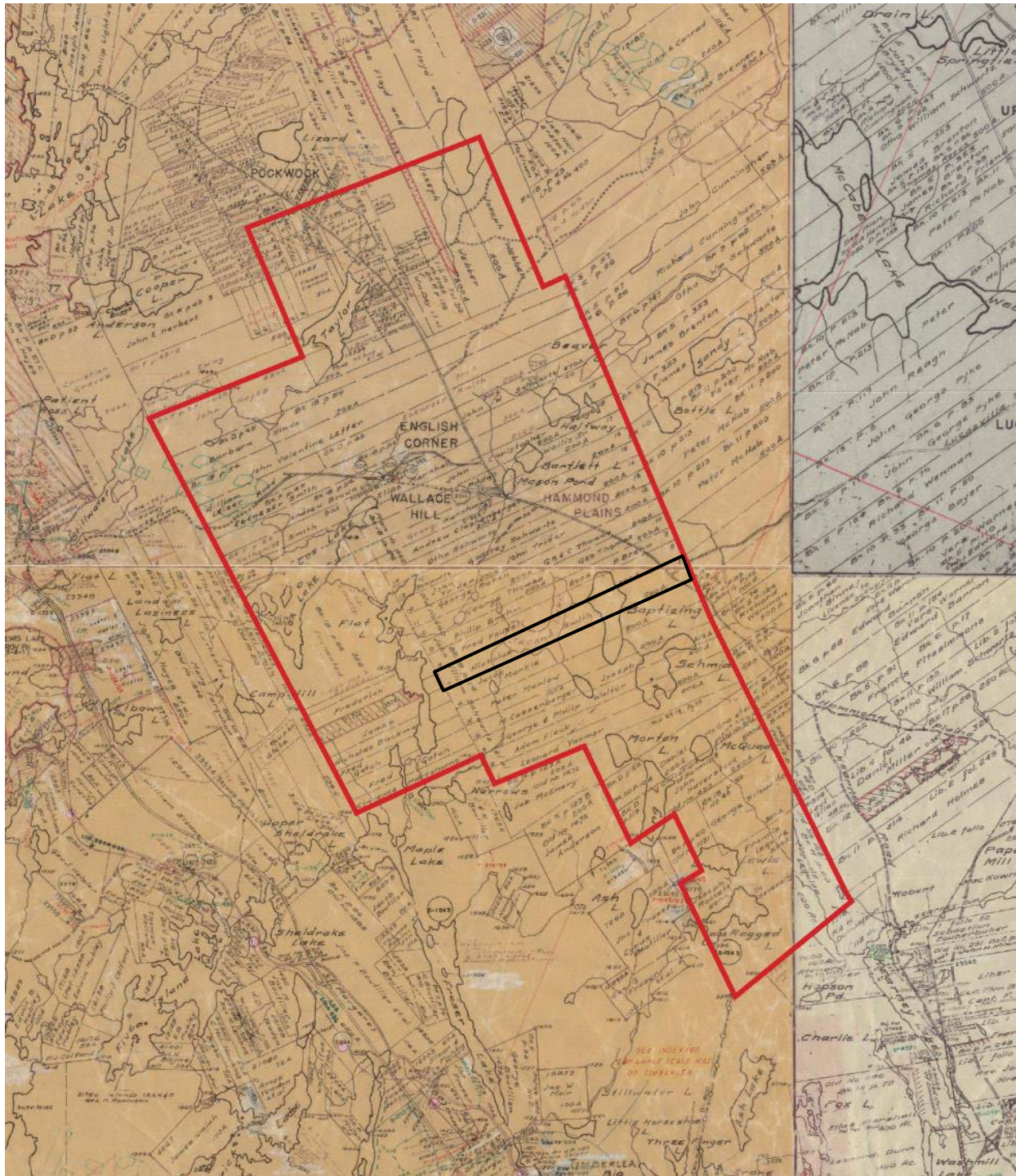


Figure 32: Section of a composite map showing the original boundary of Hammonds Plains per the 1786 land grant in red and the original boundary of Lot #7 granted to Nicholas Smith in black.(Beaupre-McPhee, 2022)

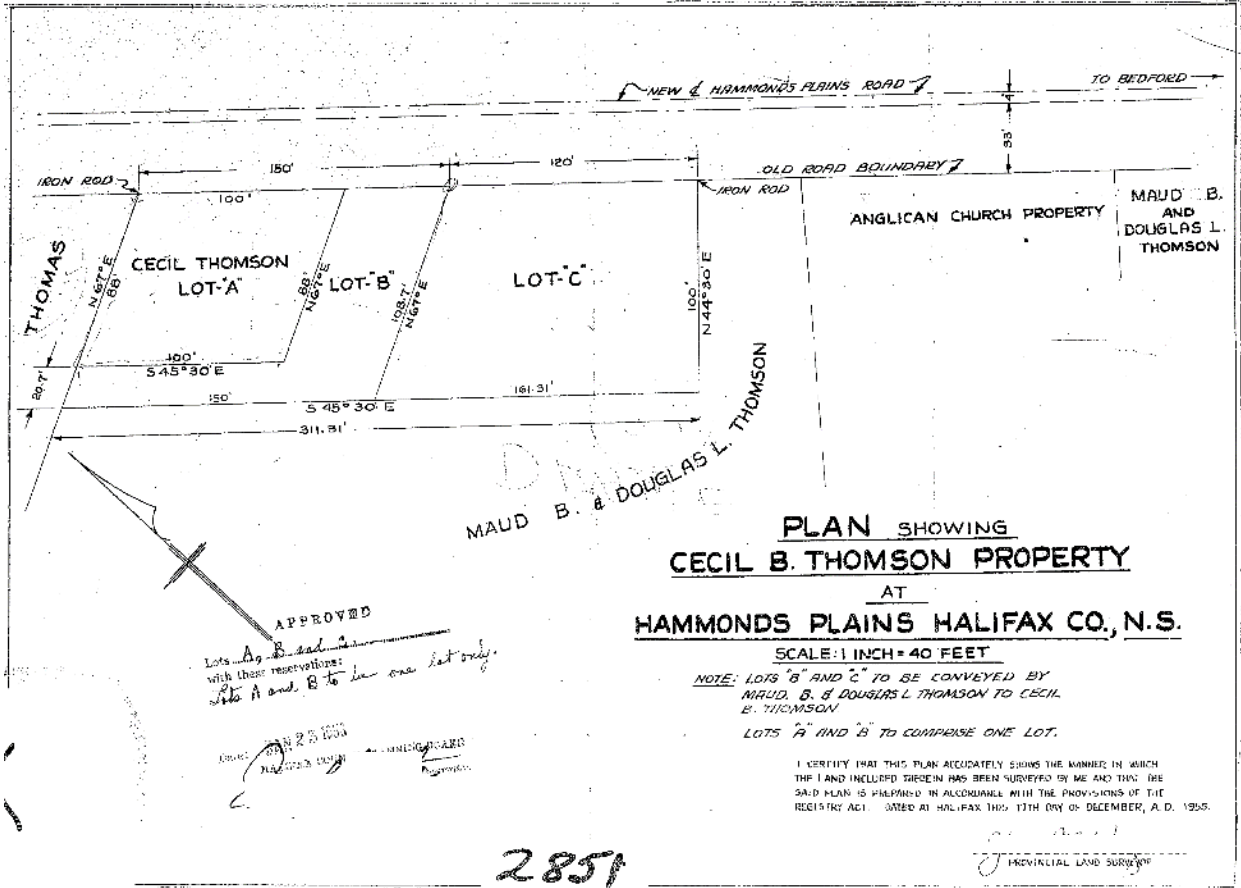


Figure 33: Plan showing lands belonging to members of the Thomson family surrounding the St. Nicholas Church property. (McKenzie, 1956)

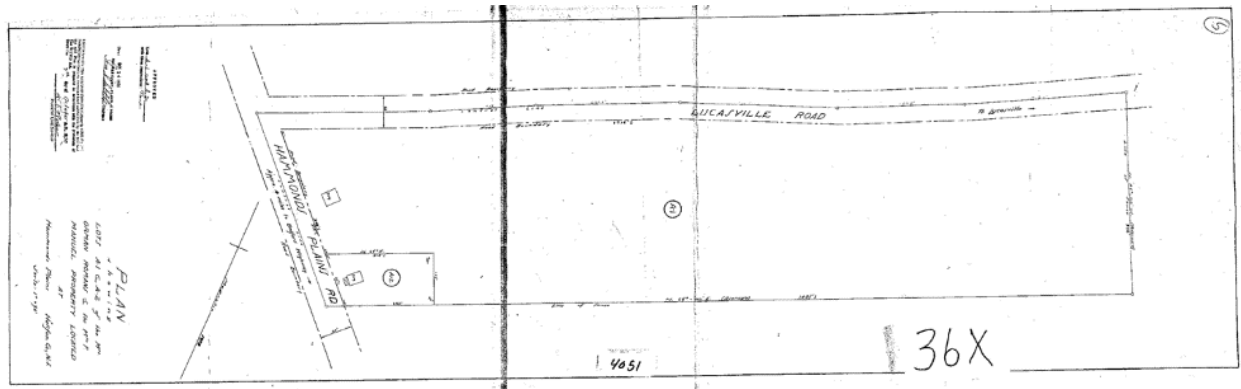


Figure 34: Plan showing lands to the north and northwest of the St. Nicholas Church Property. The length of this property appears to be derived from the northern boundary line of the original Lot #7 (Nolan, 1958)



Figure 35: View of Hammonds Plains Road looking west, with St. Nicholas featuring as a prominent landmark. (June 6, 2022)

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Attachment 2

Scoring for Case H00526: Request to Include the church building and cemetery at 1608 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	13
2A. Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups	15
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	3
4A. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	3
4B. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	9
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	59