

## Heritage Research and Evaluation Report

### 734 King Road – Temperanceville Methodist Church and Cemetery



1897

Part of Lot 66, Concession 1, King Township

Prepared by: Heritage & Urban Design, Planning & Building Services, 2025

## History

### The Hamlet of Temperanceville

The Temperanceville Methodist Church and Cemetery at 734 King Road is located at the northeast corner of King Road and Bathurst Street. The subject property is situated in the historical hamlet of Temperanceville, which was originally part of King Township, but is now within the urban boundary of Richmond Hill.

Prior to colonization and settlement, the land was most recently inhabited by the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron Wendat First Nations. Following the Toronto Purchase in 1787, the area was subdivided into townships, concessions, and lots. The subject property at 734 King Road is located within former Lot 66, Concession 1 of King Township.

The history of Temperanceville dates to the earliest days of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Love family, comprised of James and Mary Love and their two children, arrived in Upper Canada from Pennsylvania in 1803.<sup>1</sup> While the Loves initially settled on Yonge Street, in April of 1804 they bought all 210 acres of Lot 67 in King Township from the original patentee, Edward Wright.<sup>2</sup> The Loves were a devout methodist family, and it is believed that soon after arriving in King Township they began hosting religious services and Sunday school in their home on Lot 67.<sup>3</sup> A log church had reportedly been erected by the Love family around Bathurst Street and King Road by 1809,<sup>4</sup> and the small community that developed around this crossroads became known as “Love’s Corners”.

This early agricultural community expanded modestly during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A Presbyterian Church was erected at the southwest corner of King Road and Bathurst Street around 1859,<sup>5</sup> followed by a Temperance Hall at the northwest corner of the intersection around 1869.<sup>6</sup> These religious buildings were joined by a one-room schoolhouse on the northwest corner of Lot 67 sometime before 1860,<sup>7</sup> a post office and general store around 1871 (Figure 1), as well as a modest collection of local businesses including blacksmiths, carpenters, and a wagon maker.<sup>8</sup>

Sometime in the 1860s “Love’s Corners” was renamed “Temperanceville” in recognition of the community’s dedication to the Temperance movement. There were at least five different Temperance societies active in the community from the 1840s to the 1890s, and unlike many other crossroads communities in early Ontario Temperanceville never had an inn or hotel to promote the consumption of alcohol.<sup>9</sup> While the exact date of the community’s name change varies between sources, the earliest mention of “Temperanceville” found in primary archival records is in a *York Herald* article from July 1867 on the formation of a Sabbath School Teachers’ Association for the Richmond Hill vicinity.<sup>10</sup> By 1880 Temperanceville had its own correspondent in Richmond Hill’s *York Herald* newspaper, who reported on local news items in the community.<sup>11</sup> In 1887, the *Union Publishing Co’s Farmers’ and Business Directory* records that Temperanceville

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<sup>1</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 67, King Township (Richmond Hill).

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity” (1934), 1.

<sup>4</sup> “Temperanceville United Church,” Historic Churches of South York Region, accessed Jan 21, 2025, <https://edrh.rhpl.ca/cemeteries/churches/default.asp?ID=s09>

<sup>5</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 4.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 5.

<sup>7</sup> A schoolhouse is shown on Lot 67, Concession 1 of King Township (then owned by Robert Love) in the 1860 *Tremaine Map*, and is also recorded in the 1871 Census.

<sup>8</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 6-7.

<sup>9</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 6-7.

<sup>10</sup> “The Annual Union Sabbath School Celebration,” *York Herald* (Richmond Hill, ON), Jul 26, 1867.

<sup>11</sup> “Temperanceville,” *York Herald* (Richmond Hill, ON), Mar 11, 1880.

had around 75 inhabitants, a number that, according to directories, stayed relatively constant until 1900.<sup>12</sup>

Like many other small rural communities in Ontario, the crossroads community of Temperanceville eroded over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to shifting economic, social, and technological forces. The Temperanceville Post Office closed in 1930 when rural mail delivery began,<sup>13</sup> and most early structures associated with the community were either relocated or demolished to accommodate new infrastructure and development, including the widening of King Road in 1971.<sup>14</sup> Beginning in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the area was largely developed into suburban residential subdivisions. Today, only a few vestiges of the original crossroads community remain in Richmond Hill, including the Temperanceville United (formerly Methodist) Church at 734 King Road (1897), the Thomas H. Legge house at 22 Thomas Legge Crescent (1891), the James Carscadden House at 37 Chao Crescent (c. 1845; rebuilt 2011), and the Jane Carscadden House at 33 Betony Drive (c. 1875; rebuilt 2008).

### **The Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road**

Land Registry records show that the first owner of Lot 66, Concession 1 in King Township was Charles Sellock, who was granted the 210-acre property by the Crown in 1801. The property changed hands several times in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century before John Love bought the rear 100 acres of Lot 66 (fronting onto what is now Bathurst Street) from Leonard Wilcox for £800 in 1833.<sup>15</sup> John Love, the second son of early Temperanceville settlers James and Mary Love,<sup>16</sup> was a devout Methodist and supporter of the Temperance Movement, and soon after acquiring the farm property he sold a one-acre parcel at the northeast corner of King Road and Bathurst Street to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1835 for £5.<sup>17</sup> The deed of sale for the church property states that the parcel was intended to house a “meeting house or chapel and burying ground.”<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, while the church was to be used principally by the Methodists, the deed also specifies that “the regular Minister or Preacher of any other Protestant Denomination of Christians” may also be permitted to “preach and perform religious service in the said house” when not in use by the Wesleyan Methodists.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The Union Publishing Company, *The Union Publishing Company's Farmers' and Business Directory for the Counties of Dufferin, Ontario, Peel and York and Darlington Township: Vol. XII (1900)*, (Ingersoll ON: Union Publishing Company, 1900), 75.

<sup>13</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 12.

<sup>14</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 4.

<sup>15</sup> *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 66, King Township (Richmond Hill).

<sup>16</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity,” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 26.

<sup>17</sup> Deed of sale from John Love to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in British North America, 12 December 1835, Instrument No. 13220, King Township Deed Book 1, York (North), Ontario Land Registry, accessed via Family Search.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

Methodism, which was founded by a group of divinity students at Oxford in the 1720s led by John Wesley, was introduced to Upper Canada in the late 1700s.<sup>20</sup> The religion spread quickly throughout Upper Canada in the early 1800s due to its system of itinerant ministers serving multiple smaller congregations within a region or “circuit”.<sup>21</sup> This system was well-suited to the harsh pioneer environment, and made it possible to hold services in small communities with only a handful of members. As a result, many small methodist churches sprang up in modest cross-roads communities like Temperanceville during the 1800s.<sup>22</sup>

While the Methodist Church formally acquired the one-acre property on Lot 66 in 1835, some sources claim that there was a log cabin in use as a Methodist meeting house in the same location as early as 1809,<sup>23</sup> when the property was under the ownership of William Willcocks.<sup>24</sup> However, this claim cannot be substantiated by primary sources, and seems unlikely considering that Willcocks was a former wine merchant with vast land holdings throughout Upper Canada,<sup>25</sup> who may never have cleared or built on the west portion of Lot 66. Given that John Love bought the west half of Lot 66 in 1833, it is more likely that the first log church was erected on Love’s property around this time. The 1851 census (which was collected in early 1852) records that a log cabin housing the Wesleyan Methodist church and serving 150 people existed on Lot 66 by that time.<sup>26</sup>

In 1854, the congregation erected a new brick church measuring 30 by 40 feet beside the original log chapel, and the first service in the new church was held on December 24, 1854.<sup>27</sup> The Wesleyan Methodist Church on Lot 66 is depicted in a map of the area from 1860, which shows a modest cluster of buildings around what is now the intersection of King Road and Bathurst Street (Figure 2). Before the name of the community was changed to Temperanceville in the 1860s, the Methodist Church was known as “Love’s Meeting House” or “Love’s Appointment.”<sup>28</sup>

By the time of the 1871 census, the Temperanceville Methodist Church property is recorded as containing two buildings,<sup>29</sup> likely the 1854 brick church and the older log chapel. In 1884, the Temperance Hall originally located on the west side of Bathurst Street was sold and relocated to the Methodist Church property for use as a Sunday

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<sup>20</sup> Patricia Sommerville and Catherine MacFarlane, eds., *A History of Vaughan Township Churches* (Maple, ON: Vaughan Township Historical Society, 1984), 186.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 187.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 188.

<sup>23</sup> “History,” Temperanceville United Church Website, accessed Jan 30, 2025, <https://fc.churchwebcanada.ca/temperanceville#History>.

<sup>24</sup> *Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book*, York Region, Concession 1, Lot 66, King Township (Richmond Hill).

<sup>25</sup> Edith G. Firth, “Willcocks, William,” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003, accessed Jan 30, 2025, [https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/willcocks\\_william\\_5E.html](https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/willcocks_william_5E.html).

<sup>26</sup> *Census of Canada West*, 1851.

<sup>27</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity,” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 3.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>29</sup> *Census of Canada*, 1871.

school,<sup>30</sup> as well as for tea meetings, week-night activities and temperance rallies.<sup>31</sup> By the 1890s the Temperanceville Methodist Church was in a poor state of repair, with a weak foundation, cracking walls, and insufficient heating.<sup>32</sup> In early 1897, the congregation decided to build a new church, and work commenced immediately.<sup>33</sup> Eleven tenders were submitted to build the new Temperanceville Methodist Church, with the contract awarded to Richmond Hill builders L. Innes & Sons in March of 1897.<sup>34</sup> The church was completed later that same year at a cost of only \$2,400. In order to keep costs low, the congregation donated a substantial amount of labour and materials, with “the Preacher himself hauling bricks with a farmer’s team from the kiln at King City.”<sup>35</sup> The building masonry was completed by Alfred Jarson of King and the carpentry contractor was John Innes of L. Innes & Sons.<sup>36</sup> It is said that salvaged brick from the 1854 church was used to complete the inner walls of the new church.<sup>37</sup> The new church was built to house 200 members and was opened on November 21, 1897.<sup>38</sup> An article in the *Liberal* describing the opening service states:

“The church was crowded at every meeting, and the congregation responded liberally with good collections. The church is a beautiful structure, and the general expression of the public is that the contractors, Mssrs. L. Innes & Sons of Richmond Hill, are worthy of the greatest praise for the manner in which they did their work.”<sup>39</sup>

Another article in the *Liberal*, this time published on December 2, 1897 following a Thanksgiving dinner held to celebrate the church’s opening, describes the building as a “beautiful little church, which is an ornament to the place.”<sup>40</sup> The new church also contained a basement used for a variety of religious and social gatherings including Sunday School, the Women’s Missionary Society (later the Women’s Association), the Epworth League (later the Young People’s Society), musical showcases, church tea parties, tea meetings, and community dinners.<sup>41</sup> A 1934 history of the church also offers the following description of the 1897 building:

“The building is of red brick, forty-five feet in length and thirty-seven feet wide, with a choir chancel at the north end, and a small gallery at the south. It has stained glass gothic windows and a comfortable seating accommodation for two

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<sup>30</sup> “Temperanceville,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), May 29, 1884.

<sup>31</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 6.

<sup>32</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity,” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 4.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> “Locals,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Mar 25, 1897.

<sup>35</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity,” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 4.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> “Temperanceville,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Nov 25, 1897.

<sup>40</sup> “Temperanceville,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Dec 2, 1897.

<sup>41</sup> Rev. Garnet Watson Lynd, “Temperanceville United Church: Commemorating a Century and a Quarter of Christian Activity,” (unpublished manuscript, 1934), 4-19.

hundred. There is a substantial basement under the whole, with a kitchen at one end, and is used for suppers, Y.P.S., Sunday School and other meetings.”<sup>42</sup>

After the construction of the new church in 1897, the congregation no longer had a use for the former Temperance Hall relocated to the church property in 1884, and the structure was sold to Thomas Legge, who continued to use it as a Temperance Hall until it was converted to residential use in 1914.<sup>43</sup>

The cemetery is also a notable feature of the church property (see Figure 7) and it contains a number of headstones commemorating many of the community’s earliest families, including Love, Beynon, Hughey, and Saigeon. While the original church cemetery was said to have occupied nearly half of the church’s east lawn,<sup>44</sup> the congregation removed the headstones from their original locations in the 1930s and gathered them together on a mound at the southeastern corner of the lot.<sup>45</sup> The mound was later enclosed with a picket fence in the 1970s.<sup>46</sup> A commemorative plaque containing the names of those buried in the original Love’s Corners Methodist Burial Ground is now located at the entrance to the cemetery mound (Figure 17).

### Temperanceville United Church

In 1925, following the formation of the United Church of Canada, the subject building changed from a Methodist to a United Church. The church was formed from the union of various Protestant denominations, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and General Council of Local Union Churches. The push to unite the denominations emerged from a need to bring together the ministry and mission work being done both in the Canadian northwest and abroad.<sup>47</sup> As a result, the United Church’s doctrines evolved to incorporate that of the different churches. The union was historic, and the United Church became the largest Protestant Church in Canada.<sup>48</sup>

### The L. Innes & Sons Firm

Leslie Innes was a carpenter and builder born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland around 1827, who immigrated to Canada in 1854.<sup>49</sup> After initially working on the construction of the Northern Railway line from Toronto to Lake Simcoe’s Cook’s Bay,<sup>50</sup> Leslie Innes married Mary A. Ritchie of Thornhill in 1857.<sup>51</sup> The Innes’ first settled in Thornhill after

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 5.

<sup>43</sup> Diana Abdi, “A Brief History of Temperanceville,” (unpublished manuscript compiled for the Town of Richmond Hill Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, 1991), 6.

<sup>44</sup> “Temperanceville United Church Past and Present” (unpublished manuscript, 1985).

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> “United Church of Canada,” in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, Feb 2, 2010, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/united-church-of-canada>

<sup>48</sup> “United Church of Canada.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, February 2, 2010. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/united-church-of-canada>.

<sup>49</sup> “Golden Wedding,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON). May 16, 1907.

<sup>50</sup> “Died in his 92<sup>nd</sup> Year,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Jul 24, 1919.

<sup>51</sup> J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.



their marriage,<sup>52</sup> later moving to Gormley in Whitchurch Township sometime between 1861 and 1871.<sup>53</sup> Leslie Innes then moved to Richmond Hill around 1885,<sup>54</sup> where he founded the L. Innes & Sons firm with his eldest and youngest sons William and John (Figure 6), and took over operations of the Langstaff planing and saw mill at the west end of Richmond Street in 1886.<sup>55</sup>

Advertisements for the firm and their services and products can be seen throughout various issues of *The Liberal* from 1886 to the 1920s.<sup>56</sup> An advertisement from the 1902 *Metropolitan Railway Guide Book and Time Table* also provides a description of some of the L. Innes & Sons wood products at the time, stating:

“We manufacture all kinds of exterior and interior finish for houses, and keep in stock a large assortment of all kinds of Lumber: Shingles, Floorings, Sheeting, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Mouldings, etc. We manufacture mantles and work boards for hotels, and all kinds of church finish.”<sup>57</sup>

In addition to running the mills at the west end of Richmond Street, the Innes' were also highly skilled builders, who constructed numerous buildings in the Richmond Hill vicinity in the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The building and contracting division of the family business was led by Leslie Innes' youngest son, John. John Leslie Innes was born in Gormley on January 9, 1865<sup>58</sup> and received his education and training in York County.<sup>59</sup> John married Frances Furlong of Nottawa village (near Collingwood) in 1889,<sup>60</sup> and the couple moved to Richmond Hill sometime before 1891.<sup>61</sup> John was a School Board Trustee and served the Presbyterian community as secretary and manager for several years.<sup>62</sup> A mechanic by trade, John worked as a contractor for L. Innes & Sons and spearheaded many of the firm's most impressive building projects. John completed the Richmond Hill High School at 10268 Yonge Street in 1897, the same year that he was selected from 11 tenders to build the new Temperanceville Methodist Church. He is also recognized as both the architect and contractor for the M. L. McConaghy Public School at 10100 Yonge Street.<sup>63</sup> As he was a School Board trustee at the time the school was built, Innes did not accept any payment for his work and was awarded a gold watch and chain by the Board of Education and Village Council at the school's opening in 1915 as a token of thanks.<sup>64</sup> After a prolonged illness, John

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> *Census of Canada*, 1861, 1871, 1881.

<sup>54</sup> J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

<sup>55</sup> “Richmond Hill Planing Mills!” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Dec 2, 1886.

<sup>56</sup> “Shingles!” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Apr 13, 1899.

<sup>57</sup> Metropolitan Railway Company, *The Metropolitan Railway: Guide Book and Time Table* (Toronto: Metropolitan Railway Company, 1902).

<sup>58</sup> Death Certificate for John Innes, 27 Jun 1936, Los Angeles, California, accessed via FamilySearch.

<sup>59</sup> J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario* (Toronto: J. H. Beers & Co., 1907), 559.

<sup>60</sup> Marriage Registration for John Innes and Frances Furlong, May 8 1889, Simcoe County Marriage Registrations, Archives of Ontario, accessed via FamilySearch.

<sup>61</sup> *Census of Canada*, 1891.

<sup>62</sup> “Way Back in Liberal Files,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Feb 3, 1938.

<sup>63</sup> “New school opened, splendid reunion at Richmond Hill,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Mar 11, 1915.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

Innes and his family left Richmond Hill for California in 1920.<sup>65</sup> John Innes died in Los Angeles on June 27, 1936.<sup>66</sup>

### Architecture

Dating to 1897, the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road is a representative example of a late-Victorian vernacular “country church” building typology and architectural style, which combines Classically-derived form and symmetry with restrained Gothic Revival detailing. As many country churches throughout Ontario were intended to serve the modest needs of small, rural communities, they are typically simple in form with sparse detailing, and many lack a tower or steeple. While the subject building’s simple rectangular plan, centered southern entrance, and balanced arrangement of bays and window openings are rooted in the Classical stylistic tradition, its steeply-pitched front-gabled roof, Gothic-arched windows and doors, stained-glass windows, brick buttresses, and red brick cladding with restrained decorative brickwork are hallmarks of late-Victorian Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture.

The Temperanceville Methodist Church is located at the northeast corner of King Road and Bathurst Street, with its principal elevation and entrance oriented south to face King Road. The church features a rectangular plan, single-storey massing, and a steeply pitched front-gabled roof with boxed eaves. The church is clad in red brick laid in common bond and stands on a raised fieldstone foundation, whose height provides room for large above-grade basement windows. The raised basement is an important feature of this church, given that archival records confirm that the space served a central religious and social function by hosting Sunday school and other church and community events.

Immediately above the foundation, the church features a projecting 5-course brick plinth, from which stepped brick buttresses rise on each elevation. The buttresses also have fieldstone bases that are extensions of the main foundation. On the church’s principal (south) elevation, the buttress bases at the east and west corners incorporate sandstone blocks. The easterly block is inscribed with “1897” and the westerly with “METHODIST”.

The building’s first-floor windows are Gothic arched, while basement windows are segmentally arched. Gothic-arched windows feature wooden lugsills and brick voussoirs composed of a row of stretcher brick topped by a row of header bricks, and contain historical wooden window units. These units feature a narrow band of panes around the periphery, and are divided horizontally into three parts of equal height, the bottom third being the lower sash of the double-hung window.

The building’s principal (south) elevation is symmetrically organized into three bays, with a central Gothic-arched doorway flanked by two small Gothic-arched windows containing historical units. While the door and transom are modern replacements, the

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<sup>65</sup> “Register,” *Liberal* (Richmond Hill, ON), Sep 16, 1920; Death Certificate for John Innes, 27 Jun 1936, Los Angeles, California, accessed via FamilySearch.

<sup>66</sup> Death Certificate for John Innes, 27 Jun 1936, Los Angeles, California, accessed via FamilySearch.



doorway arch is decorated by brick banding, composed of a row of stretcher brick, a row of diagonally-set brick in a sawtooth pattern, topped by a row of header brick. High in the gable wall above the front entrance is a large, circular opening infilled with horizontal louvres. It is possible that a rose window once occupied this opening, or that the congregation had planned to install a rose window in the future.

The side (east and west) building elevations are identical to each other, with three bays of symmetrically-arranged windows divided by brick buttresses. First-floor windows are Gothic-arched and larger than the windows on the front elevation, while basement windows are segmentally arched. While all Gothic-arched windows on the church's east and west elevations contain historical wood units, all basement window units on these elevations appear to be modern replacements.

The rear (north) wall of the church is also symmetrically divided into three bays, separated by brick buttresses. While this elevation is partially obscured by a one-storey concrete block addition constructed in 1974,<sup>67</sup> the original openings remain fully exposed. The central bay features a tripartite window composed of tall, narrow Gothic-arched stained-glass windows, the middle of which is taller than the flanking openings. Based on archival photographs, the original stained-glass units appear to have been replaced with new stained glass sometime after the 1990s. The eastern bay of the north elevation features a single small Gothic window with a historical wood unit, while the western bay features a raised segmentally-arched door accessed by concrete steps.

At the rear of the building, the eastern slope of the roof contains a single-stack red brick chimney decorated with a projecting plinth, and a corbelled cap.

While staff were not able to access the interior of the church, photographs from the church's website indicate that the interior features a gothic-arched chancel behind the altar at the north end of the church (Figure 14). This chancel is trimmed with decorative wood molding and contains a raised platform and the tripartite stained glass window also visible on the north elevation from the exterior. The church's south entry vestibule also contains the datestone from the Wesleyan Church that was replaced by the current building in 1854 (Figure 15).

## Context

The Temperanceville Methodist Church is sited in a prominent and highly visible location at the northeast corner of King Road and Bathurst Street. West of the subject property in the Township of King, both King Road and Bathurst Street feature a predominately 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural agricultural character, comprised of large tracts of sparsely developed land scattered with century farmhouses that are typically well set back from the road. However, east of Bathurst Street in Richmond Hill, the surrounding context has seen substantial development since the early 2000s, and now features a predominately suburban residential character. Notably, however, the 'four corners' of

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<sup>67</sup> "Temperanceville United Church: Past and Present," (unpublished manuscript, 1985).

King Road and Bathurst Street have remained relatively undeveloped and still contain a substantial amount of open green space and vegetation.

### **Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06 – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06, the prescribed provincial *Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg. 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

Criteria applicable to the property are outlined below, along with explanatory text.

**1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.**

Dating to 1897, the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road has physical value as a representative example of the late-Victorian vernacular “country church” building typology and architectural style, which combines Classically-derived form and symmetry with restrained Gothic Revival detailing. While the subject building’s simple rectangular plan, centered southern entrance, and balanced arrangement of bays and window openings are rooted in the Classical stylistic tradition, its steeply-pitched front-gabled roof, Gothic-arched windows and doors, stained-glass windows, brick buttresses, and red brick cladding with restrained decorative brickwork are hallmarks of late-Victorian Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture.

**2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.**

N/A

**3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.**

N/A

**4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.**

The Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road has historical and associative value for its direct links to both the historical Hamlet of Temperanceville and to the Methodist Church that was fundamental to the community’s genesis in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The crossroads community of Love’s Corners (now Temperanceville) was founded by the Love family at the intersection of Bathurst Street and King Road in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Loves were devout Methodists and supporters of the Temperance movement who hosted religious services and gatherings in their home just

north of the subject property as early as 1804. John Love granted the subject property to the Wesleyan Methodists in 1835 for the erection of a church and cemetery, and the property has been associated with the Methodist church since this time. Methodism, founded in England by John Wesley in the 1720s, flourished in rural Upper Canada in the early 1800s due to its unique system of itinerant ministers serving multiple smaller congregations within a region or “circuit.” This system resulted in the establishment of many small Methodist churches in modest crossroads communities like Temperanceville throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While the Methodists built the current church to replace an older building in 1897, the subject property has been a significant nucleus for religious and community life in Love’s Corners/Temperanceville since the 1830s. Today, the Temperanceville church and cemetery stand as rare remnants of the historical crossroads community that once existed at Bathurst Street and King Road.

The Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road also has historical and associative value for its direct associations with the United Church of Canada. Like other United Churches across the country, the Temperanceville United Church was formed because of a union between Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and General Council of Local Union Churches in 1925 to bring together the churches’ ministry and missionary work in Canada and abroad. As a result of the union, church congregations combined and grew, and the church’s doctrines evolved. The Temperanceville church has housed a United Church congregation since 1925 and continues to function as a significant religious and social gathering space for the local community.

**5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.**

N/A

**6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.**

N/A

**7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.**

N/A

**8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.**

N/A

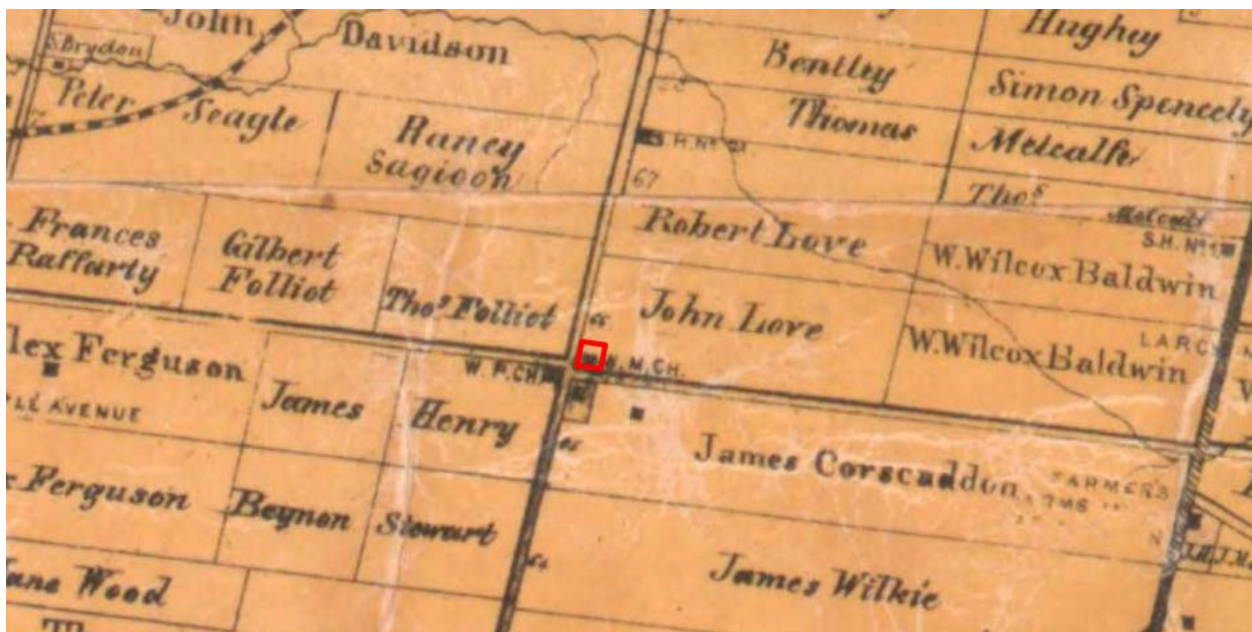
### **9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.**

The Temperanceville Methodist Church has contextual value as a local landmark in the historical hamlet of Temperanceville, which was established as “Love’s Corners” around the intersection of King Road and Bathurst Street in the early 1800s. The church is sited in a prominent and highly visible location at the northeast corner of King Road and Bathurst Street, where it has served as a nucleus and marker for the local community for over 125 years. The church is regarded as a local landmark due to its distinct historical character, longstanding role as a religious and community gathering place, and prominent scale and location at the ‘four corners’ of King Road and Bathurst Street.

## Maps and Photographs

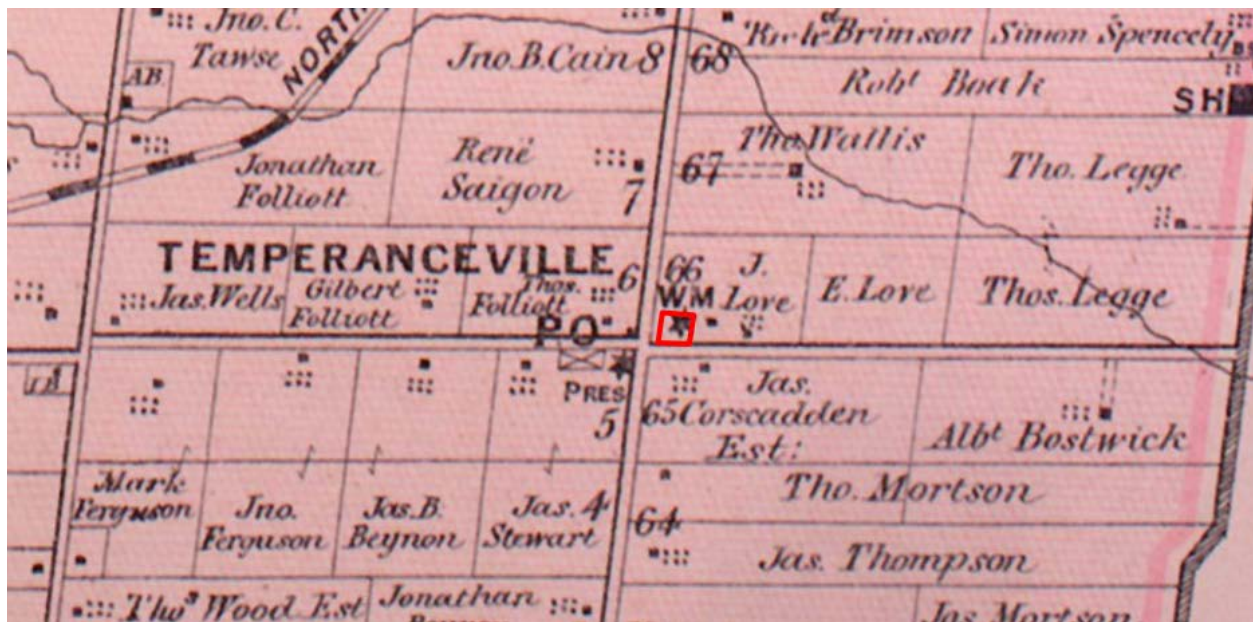


**Figure 1** Archival photograph of the first Temperanceville general store on the south side of King Road, west of Bathurst Street. This photo would have been taken before the store burned down in 1900. (Source: Gillham, *Album of Oldies*)

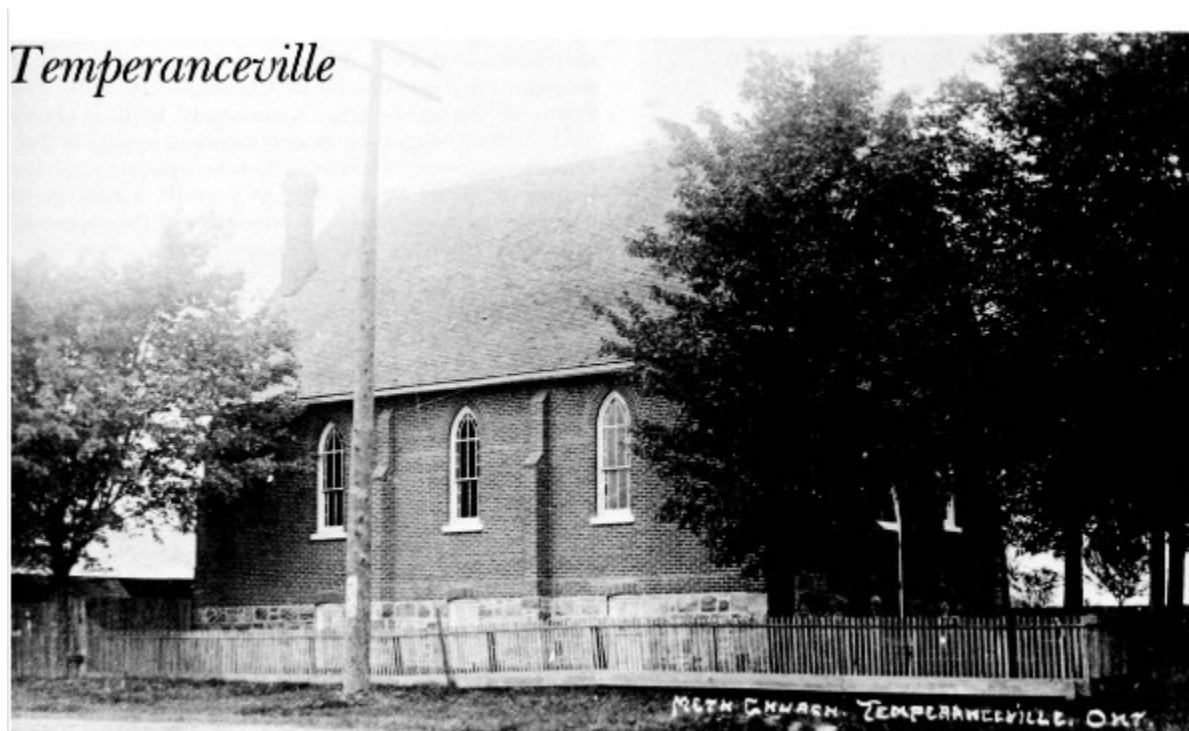


**Figure 2** Detail of the 1860 *Tremaine Map of York County*, showing the approximate location of the subject property at 734 King Road (in red). Note that the map indicates the presence of a Wesleyan Methodist Church (shown as "W.M.CH.") on the site at the time (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).

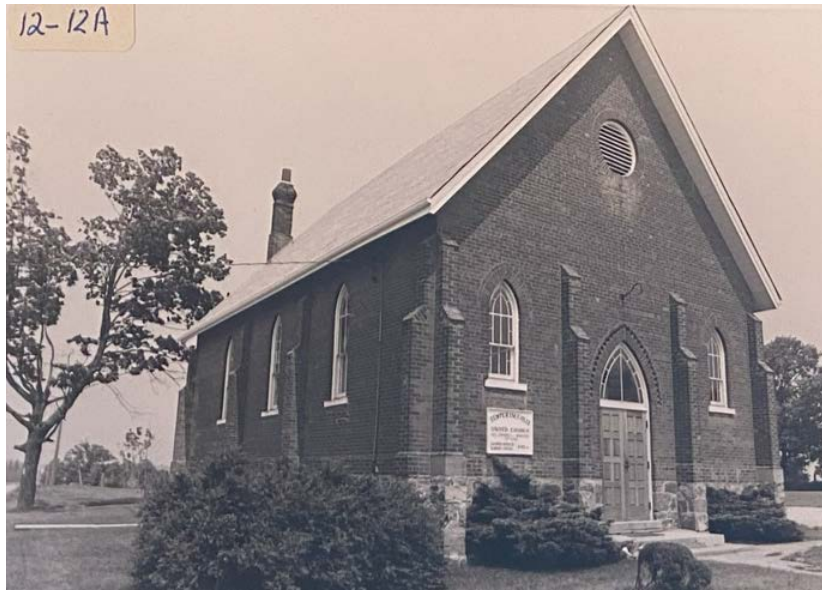




**Figure 3** Detail of the 1878 Miles & Co. Map of Richmond Hill showing the approximate location of the subject property at 734 King Road (in red). Note that the map indicates the presence of a Wesleyan Methodist Church (shown as a star with “WM”) on the site at the time (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).



**Figure 4** c. 1920 postcard of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road, looking northeast from the corner of King Road and Bathurst Street. (Source: Gillham, *Album of Oldies*)



**Figure 5** 1984 photograph of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road, looking northeast from the corner of King Road and Bathurst Street. (Source: *City of Richmond Hill D12 File for 734 King Rd.*)



**Figure 6** 1907 photograph of Leslie and Mary Innes and their three sons on the porch of Leslie Innes' home at 124 Richmond Street. (Left to right) Top: Alexander, John L. and William Innes. Bottom: Leslie and Mary Innes (Source: Richmond Hill Public Library Local History and Genealogy Collection).





**Figure 7** 2024 aerial photograph showing the subject property at 734 King Road outlined in red. The Temperanceville Methodist Church building is indicated in orange, and the cemetery mound is indicated in blue. Note that headstones from the original cemetery were relocated to the current cemetery mound in the 1930s (Source: Esri Canada, annotated by HUD).



**Figure 8** Current photograph looking north, showing the south (front) elevation of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 9** Detailed photograph of the westerly sandstone block inscribed with “METHODIST” on the church’s south elevation. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 10** Detailed photograph of the easterly sandstone block inscribed with “1897” on the church’s south elevation. (Source: HUD, 2025)





**Figure 11** Current photograph looking northeast, showing the west (side) elevation of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 12** Current photograph looking west, showing the east (side) elevation of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 13** Current photograph looking south, showing the north (rear) elevation of the Temperanceville Methodist Church at 734 King Road. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 14** Undated interior photograph of the Temperanceville Methodist Church, showing the gothic-arched chancel behind the altar and tripartite stained glass windows at the north end of the church (Source: <https://fc.churchwebcanada.ca/temperanceville#History>).





**Figure 15** Current interior photograph of the church's south entrance vestibule, showing the datestone of the 1854 Wesleyan Methodist Church that was replaced by the current building in 1897. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 16** Current photograph from the church grounds looking east towards the cemetery mound located at the southeast corner of the property. (Source: HUD, 2025)





**Figure 17** Photograph of the plaque located next to the entrance to the cemetery mound commemorating the original Love's Corners Methodist Burial Ground (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 18** Current photograph looking southeast from the entrance to the cemetery mound, showing the relocated gravestones. (Source: HUD, 2025)





**Figure 19** Photograph showing the relocated gravestone of John Beynon in the cemetery mound, dating to 1847. (Source: HUD, 2025)



**Figure 20** Context photograph looking southwest towards the church from the north side of King Road, east of Bathurst Street. (Source: HUD, 2025)





**Figure 21** Context photograph looking northeast towards the church from the southwest corner of Bathurst Street and King Road. (Source: HUD, 2025)

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