

## **PUBLIC HEARING #1**

### **Whitman Cemetery Company, South Williamston**

### **AGENDA**

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024

**Place:** Municipal Administration Building, 752 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, NS

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#### **Welcoming Remarks – Warden Alex Morrison**

The purpose of a Public Hearing is to permit members of the public to make their views known to Council, via oral submissions concerning, solely, the application before Council.

This public hearing has been called in accordance with Section 15 of the *Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act*. At the end of the public hearing the Public Hearing will be closed and Council will convene Public Hearing #2.

Before Municipal Council agrees to include a property in the Annapolis County Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties, a public hearing is held where the registered property owner is given the opportunity to ask questions of Council regarding the heritage registration.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to discuss heritage registration of the Whitman Cemetery Company, who are requesting municipal heritage property registration for 6878 Highway 201 in the community of South Williamston (PID No 05123609) more commonly known as the Whitman Cemetery.

Council also uses this time to explain what heritage registration means and to ensure that the property owner is aware of and in complete agreement with the registration of their property as a municipal heritage property.

All questions and comments throughout the public hearing are to be addressed to the Chair.

#### **Re: Whitman Cemetery Company, Property Registration Application**

##### ***Presentation by Staff – Application Specifics and Request – L. Bent***

- We have received application for consideration of including the Whitman Cemetery Company property located at 6878 Highway 201, South Williamston in the Registry of Municipal Heritage Properties.
- Included with this agenda is the staff report submitted to the Heritage Advisory Committee at their meeting of July 2, 2024 for reference.
- While there was an evaluation of the property conducted, the property is a Category III designation. This evaluation is scored a 82 points of 100 and is considered to have historical significance to not only the community of South Williamston but to surrounding communities as well. The Whitman Cemetery property was established in 1783.

*Acknowledgement of Property Owner by the Warden with the representatives of the Whitman Cemetery Company.*

- Heritage registration is a legal process enabled through the Provincial Heritage Property Act by which the Whitman Cemetery Company property is deemed to be significant to Annapolis County by being identified for its historical and cultural value.
- The identification process is called registration, which in itself is a legal device that offers protection against substantial alterations or demolition of a registered heritage property.
- Operationally then, an encumbrance, by way of the Notice of Registration, is placed on the property and registered in the Registry of Deeds.
- Thus any substantial change to the exterior of the property (such as removal of headstones over 100 years old) of a registered heritage property requires the approval of Annapolis County Municipal Council before any work is begun.
- Do you acknowledge, understand and accept these conditions of municipal heritage registration?

*Call for Oral Presentations (open discussion from the floor – public)*

*Call for questions or comments from Council Members*

*Next Steps – L Bent*

- The usual process for this type of application when the public hearing is complete Council would add an item to the agenda and if affirmative would make a motion to include the Whitman Cemetery Company property in the Annapolis County Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties and deposit a Notice of Registration in the Registry of Deeds. This Notice of Registration provides the description that it is not to be demolished or the exterior altered without Municipal approval as part of that review, the Heritage Advisory Committee is required to be consulted and Council may grant/refuse or attach conditions to the demolition or substantial alteration. Substantial penalty may be sought and the Municipality has the right to apply to the Court to ask for a fine and a reinstatement order.

*Closing Comments*

*Adjournment (Warden)*

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANNAPOLIS COUNTY  
STAFF REPORT**

**TO: Heritage Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Linda Bent**  
**DATE: June 17, 2024**  
**SUBJECT: Whitman Cemetery Company - Heritage Property Registration Review**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

A site investigation of the Whitman Cemetery Company was conducted on June 17, 2024 by Annapolis County Planning & Inspection Services Staff.



Based on a detailed review of the specifics of this application for Heritage Property Registration and local community history, it is my finding that the Whitman Cemetery Company (circa 1783) scores a total of 82 out of a possible 100 points; thereby placing the Whitman Cemetery property in a category denoting ***“a priority in the registration process”***.

**APPLICATION SPECIFICS**



An application request for Heritage Property Registration of the Whitman Cemetery Company: located in the community of South Williamston, Annapolis County was received on April 19, 2024.

The application was submitted by Sheena Charlton, Secretary, on behalf of the Whitman Cemetery Company (attached to this report).

The particulars of this property are as follows:

- a. Civic Number: 6878 Highway 201, South Williamston
- b. PID No. 05123609, Assessment Account No. 04912934
- c. Deed Reference: Book 48, Page 273, Registration Date: January 1, 1856
- d. Also known as: Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Valley West Cemetery or Whitman-Cunningham Cemetery

## **DISCUSSION**



This property has historically been known as the 'church lot' since 1783 and once housed the Valley West Meeting House. The Meeting House sat on the flat ground near the road and was an imposing 40 feet x 60 feet building that served the communities of South Williamston, parts of Nictaux, Lawrencetown and Inglisville. The area, during this time was known as Pleasant Valley and references to this name can be found in deeds to this day. Unfortunately, with the establishment of other Baptist churches in Inglisville, Nictaux and Lawrencetown, the need for this building diminished and once the new baptist church was completed in Lawrencetown, Valley West Meeting House was removed. A portion of this building was re-purposed as a barn on private property in Inglisville. The last funeral service held was for the great grandson of Edward Whitman, the original settler of this area. The following picture shows the commemorative sundial in the location of the building donated by the Cunningham Family.



Edward Whitman was born in Stow, Massachusetts and came to Nova Scotia in 1760 with his parents (John & Mary Whitman) on the Charming Molly. "Deacon" John Whitman, a Planter, was granted a large tract of land upon his arrival in Nova Scotia (along with many others). Unfortunately, Deacon John died in 1763 leaving his wife to raise their 11 children (all under 15) and his land tract was distributed to his sons one of which was Edward Whitman.

According to Charles Farnam's book *"The Descendants of John Whitman of Weymouth"*, published in 1889, Edward moved his family 'upriver' to Lawrencetown area where he acquired 3000 acres of land. The land grant was the second division of the township of Annapolis; his farm extended from the west side of the Lawrencetown lane to the church lot, so-called, running five miles south, containing about 3,000 acres. It is said that in order to amicably adjust his father's estate, he took this tract, then considered almost worthless, and that when the title was passed, he offered to sell the entire plot for "a thousand hemlock boards, a pair of pumps and a felt beaver hat but found no bidder; he settled down on this unattractive tract and by his industry and energy, soon rendered himself independent; he had a tannery just below the road, on the Whitman Brook, said to have been the most complete establishment in the county. This was continued by his son Oldham. Edward engaged in trading and in dealing in land; he was highly esteemed in the community and was once elected representative to the provincial assembly, but declined to serve a second term; was said to be a very corpulent man, weighing at death over 300 pounds; there is a family tradition that at his funeral it was found necessary to take out the window frame in order to get the coffin out of the house. He died January 15, 1822, and is buried in the Cemetery.



The cemetery property is set in an idyllic location, being surrounded by well-kept grounds with many mature trees. At one time, according to local history there was evidence of an old willow tree near the site of the former Valley West Meeting House which some feel was planted by the Acadians.

The cemetery property sits high above Highway 201 and has an amazing view of the North Mountain.

Whitman Cemetery is more than just a burial ground; it is a historical repository that offers insights into the lives and legacies of the area's early settlers. Its preservation is crucial for maintaining the cultural heritage of South Williamston and ensuring that future generations can connect with their local history.

It should also be noted that not only does the Whitman Cemetery recognize several prominent local families (Whitman, Cunningham, Barteaux, Banks, Beals, etc,) it also includes graves of local veterans from various conflicts including the First and Second World Wars. There is a memorial on site dedicated to these heroes.

In discussion with Kevin Barrett, Heritage Property Coordinator for NS Communities Culture Tourism & Heritage, it is not uncommon for cemeteries that have stones older than 100 years to be recognized as either a municipal or provincial heritage property.

Whitman Cemetery is a key historical landmark in South Williamston reflecting the area's past through its gravestones and monuments. It serves as both a genealogical treasure trove and a symbol of the community's enduring connection to its history and a final resting place for many of the County's early settlers and their descendants.



## **ALTERATIONS**

Very little has changed with the appearance of the Whitman Cemetery property aside from the demolition and removal of the once imposing Valley West Meeting House in 1897 and of course new burials that continue to take place. One of the desires of the property owners for the Heritage Registration is to enable them to apply for provincial grants to repair and restorage the older stones (more than 100 years old) in order to continue to honour those who have come before us.

## REPAIRS

Overall, Whitman Cemetery property is in an excellent state of repair. It is recognized that the older stones need repair, restoration or a general cleaning. Many stones have grey and orange lichen, along with mold and mildew. Some stones need standing back up or straightening.



The designation as a Municipal Heritage Property will assist the Whitman Cemetery Company to be eligible for provincial grants for repairs and restoration.

Photo Credit:

Denise Rice, local historian and

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

(<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2530910/whitman-cemetery>)

## RECOMMENDATION

As part of the heritage property evaluation conducted on June 17, 2024, an evaluation scoring sheet was completed. The summation of the three scoring subcategories defines a total scoring category. With a total of 82 points, the Whitman Cemetery Company rates a Category 1 designation, scoring in this category denotes the property rates: **"a priority in the registration process"**.

It should be noted that the applicants requested that the entire property be registered. According to the provincial mapping information, the property is approximately 1.47 acres in total area.

Therefore, it is my recommendation that the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend to Municipal Council that the entire property known as the Whitman Cemetery Company be considered for registration as a municipal heritage property.

Attachment: Application from Whitman Cemetery Company

## **HERITAGE PROPERTY EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The Heritage Property Registration Process is designed to provide a framework that the Annapolis County Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) can use to assess the individual significance and character of potential buildings, streetscapes, and historical sites for future designation or registration as heritage properties. This uniform set of criteria will allow for a rational grading of heritage properties established at different times while reflecting different historical development eras of Annapolis County.

### **CATEGORY I: DEVELOPMENT ERA AND AGE**

This section of criteria has two sub-categories. The first describes a heritage property as acquainting the viewer with a particular era in history. In addition, the property may also represent a time of socio-economic development, creating an atmosphere of past events. The second criteria deals strictly with the age of the heritage property.

Potential heritage properties which are important due to their age usually commands a recommendation for "Automatic Designation" (A.D.) for registration as a heritage property. However, "Automatic Designation" does not mean the property is registered as a heritage property, but rather it is automatically recommended to be registered as a heritage property, pending other criteria requirements. (Essentially by assigning A.D. status this will render the preliminary request form as academic.)

In close association with the age of the property is the relation to an "Era of Development". Therefore a heritage property representing the "Planters" or "Loyalists" era is listed as being excellent, yielding 25 points. Two separate criteria under this section are developed because a property may represent an era of development but not actually be old regarding the original construction material (e.g. reconstruction of the Grist Mill).

#### **a. Development Era**

	<b>Era</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Description - Points</b>
1)	Micmac	1604 (Prior)	Hunting and Gathering "Automatic Designation"
2)	French Acadians	1605 - 1755	French/English Wars "Automatic Designation"
3)	New England Planters	1755 - 1800	Nova Scotia Divided into Loyalists and British Five Counties (1759) Settlement Colonization Significant "Excellent - 25"
4)	Transportation, Education, Religion, Population and Economic Establishment	1800 - 1840	General Growth and Development of County "Very Good - 15"
5)	Industrial Growth (e.g. Shipbuilding, Trade)	1840 - 1890	Age of Sail, Prosperous Years in all Facets of County Life "Good - 8"
6)	Stagnant to Declining Years, First World War	1890 - 1914	County Losing Prominence as Focal Point of Trade and Development, Decentralization "Fair/Poor - 2"



**b. Age**

Age of Property	Description - Points
Pre 1812	"Automatic Designation" Before the War of 1812
1812 - 1840	Excellent - 20
1840 - 1890	Very Good - 10
1890 - 1914	Good - 3

**CATEGORY II: ARCHITECTURAL**

The second set of criteria deals with the architectural merits of heritage properties in Annapolis County. This section is broken down into the architectural sub-categories of construction, design, site, alterations, conditions and style.

- a. Construction: Rare or only one existing of this architectural type in Annapolis County is considered very important in this category. As well as the method of construction involving a particular framework or materials used if they are to be considered as being notable or unique. It is important to make assessment according to the number of survivors of this type of construction. Therefore if structure is perfect and is an extremely early example, but there are many examples in the County, then it (the property) becomes less important.
- b. Design: An assessment of the property's general attractiveness involving the workmanship and craftsmanship, described as an exceptional example of design to the County's built environment is to be considered. Also, how the design contributes to general aesthetic qualities of the property is considered. Design is related to the function that the building had and the technology of the time, artistic merit or otherwise uniqueness of its design.
- c. Site: Does the heritage property occupy its original site of construction? Ranges vary from: 1) structure has not been moved; 2) placed on new foundation in its original location; 3) relocation but on original site area in close proximity to original location; and 4) has been moved to a new site. In this case, an assessment of group range 1 will be given the highest ranking.
- d. Alterations: Consider the extent to which the building is altered from its original construction, and degree to which this is viable, especially from the outside casual observer (includes the impact from weathering). Two or more alterations call for a very low score. However, each alteration should be judged on their own merits according to age and sensitivity to the main structure. Range of description include a property that is unchanged by alterations to one which has totally lost its character.
- e. Condition: Consider the building's structural condition and the state of repair that the building is in, concerning its main fabric, roof and impact of future additions. Generally speaking, the assessment criteria will relate to the exterior of the building. Changes, alterations additions, etc. should be noted in the comments section.
- f. Style: Does the property have the ability to reflect a notable, rare, unique or early example of architectural style in history (e.g. Gothic Revival, Classical Architectural Styles). Comparison to other similar styles plus the purpose of the designer should be elements in the decision to assess a point score. Therefore the number of designs surviving will play a role in the determined value of a heritage property.

### CATEGORY III: HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

This evaluation deals with the property's association with an individual of local, provincial or national significance. In addition, can the property be associated with a local or nationally known architect and events. Other considerations include the property's value to represent a wide range of cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial history. It is suggested to consider the property's usefulness as a teaching and cultural asset.

- a. **Individual:** Is the property associated on a community, provincial or national level, with a person, group, institution, or organization which has made a significant contribution in history or has an interesting life (e.g. involved in local daily routines, took part in notable activities or events). It is important to rationally assess the significance of each person, group, organization, or institution separately according to a set of criteria. The significance of this criteria should be of reasonable age (e.g. dating back two generations or so). Evaluation is conducted according to the property's degree of connection with a noted person, group, organization, or institution.
- b. **Event:** The property's association with an event that has previously made a significant contribution to the local county communities, provincially and on a national scale. Again this scoring is dependent upon the property's ability to associate itself to an event of local, provincial and national significance.
- c. **Landmark:** The building is a familiar structure of the past or present, possessing sentimental value which consequently has the result of transcending the building's function. The property becomes inseparable from the public's perception of cultural history and lifestyle of Annapolis County (conduct a possible public survey). Grading should follow from the structure's ability to represent the community or County as a symbol, to the property not being familiar or conspicuous.
- d. **Environment:** Does the property contribute to the local environment and site considering the visual character of the site or local area. This compatibility of the property in relation to the local area or site may change with time and as the surrounding area builds up, the property being evaluated may lose some of its prominence. Grading should range from the property's most to least important characteristic, regarding the contribution of the building in establishing the dominant character of the area and the specific characteristics of the site itself.

### CATEGORY IV: TOTAL SCORE

It is important to note that while individual scoring categories of a sub-category may in total exceed the maximum score permitted of a sub-category; however, in no instance, can this individual scoring total exceed the designated sub-category maximum.

The final purpose of the evaluation system is to determine the relative value of each heritage property. Therefore it is important to clearly define the general categories which classify each property. Three total score categories are discussed:

**Category 1:** Consists of properties with points in the range of 75 - 100. Heritage properties in this category have priority in the registration process (heritage properties with more points have higher priority).

**Category 2:** Consists of properties with points in the range of 74 - 45. These properties have a lower priority than Category 1; however, they still have potential for registration.

**Category 3:** Consists of properties with points in the range of 44 and below and are said to have some value with regards to the local environment. These properties may not be as important in rural areas as it is in urban concentrations.



**III. Historical Association**

- a. Individual \_\_\_\_\_ 0 to 20 [ 5 ]
- b. Event \_\_\_\_\_ 0 to 20 [10 ]
- c. Landmark \_\_\_\_\_ 0 to 20 [10 ]
- d. Environment \_\_\_\_\_ 0 to 10 [ 7 ]

**Category III: Subscore a to d** **Range 5 - 35 [ 32 ]**

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**TOTAL SCORE** [ 82 ]

Total Score Category: 1 2 3

Comments:

- 1. Property Size Recommended Entire property  
Total Property Size 1.47 acres
- 2. Date of Construction Lot Surveyed and designated as the "Church Lot" in 1783
- 3. Alterations former site of the Valley West Meeting House which was built in 1845 and measured 40 feet x 60 feet and removed/demolished in the late 1890s due to other community churches being built in Inglisville and Lawrencetown
- 4. Building Condition No buildings on site. The property is in very good condition and well maintained
- 5. Repairs Needed old headstones need some restoration
- 6. Future Renovations Planned upon registration as a municipal heritage property, provincial grants will be applied for to restore the older headstones by a professional
- 7. Architectural Style/Details of Note N/A

Recommendations by Assessor: Category 1 – "A Priority in the Registration Process"



1:2,500

0 25 50 100  
Meters

Municipality of the County of Annapolis  
PO Box 100  
Annapolis Royal, NS  
B0S 1A0

April 19, 2024

Whitman Cemetery Company  
PO Box 158  
Lawrencetown, NS  
B0S 1M0

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find enclosed an Application for Heritage Property Registration for the Whitman Cemetery, located in South Williamston. The board of directors for the Whitman Cemetery Company have unanimously agreed that the application should be submitted. After meeting with Linda Bent in Annapolis Royal, the application has been completed as per her recommendations with some questions left unanswered, as they are not relevant to a cemetery property. Also find enclosed a copy of a map and some photos relating to the Whitman Cemetery. As a board, it is our understanding that a property must have heritage status to qualify for Provincial Government Grants. We are interested in pursuing that opportunity to have professional surface restoration work done to affected gravestones in the cemetery. To that end, it is our hope that you will deem the Whitman Cemetery as worthy of municipal heritage property recognition.

On behalf of our board, I sincerely thank you for your consideration. If you require further information, please contact me at the address or phone number noted on the first page of this application.

Kindest Regards,



Sheena L. Charlton  
Secretary  
Whitman Cemetery Company

**APPLICATION FOR HERITAGE PROPERTY REGISTRATION**

Municipality of the County of Annapolis  
PO Box 100  
ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, NS  
B0S 1A0

Date: April 19, 2024

**Attention: The Warden and Councillors of Annapolis County**

I/We, Whitman Cemetery Company of P.O. Box 158 Lawrencetown, NS B0S 1M0 are the registered owner(s) of  
Whitman Cemetery, east of #6844 Hwy 201, South Williamston  
Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, and do hereby make application to register our property:  
~ the entire property or ~ part of the property  
as a Registered Municipal Heritage Property, pursuant to the Annapolis County Heritage Property By-law and the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act.

Sheena L. Charlton  
Registered Owner (s)

(902) 824-3703  
Home Phone Number  
Cell

Sheena L. Charlton  
Registered Owner (s)  
Secretary  
Whitman Cemetery Company  
Suggested property name:

Business Phone Number

Name remains as Whitman Cemetery

\*Please Note: Along with this application is a questionnaire, please answer all the questions to the best of your knowledge. The completed questionnaire must accompany this application for your application to be considered complete. Failure to supply this information may result in your application being delayed.

### HERITAGE REGISTRATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The following is a list of questions that will assist in documenting the history and historical association of your property. As part of the registration process of a heritage property in Annapolis County, a report is prepared for the Annapolis County Heritage Advisory Committee for their consideration. It is asked that you complete this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge. Where possible, it is helpful to provide supporting documents concerning your property such as old deeds, newspaper articles, photographs, etc. Please send only copies of these documents rather than originals.

It would also be helpful if the assessor could meet with you in your home so that you might point out special features which add to the authenticity of the dating of construction.

\* Please see addendums to question answers on "Continued" pages 1-5.

1. When was the building(s) constructed?

The Whitman Cemetery is beautifully perched on a serene hilltop, encircled by a roundabout drive and nestled among hardwood trees. It is steeped in rich history with its gravestones marking the resting places of local →

2. Who constructed the building(s)?

The earliest gravestone commemorates Colonel Christopher Prince who died in 1799. As for the Valley West Meeting House, James Franks was the construction foreman.

3. Why was the building(s) constructed originally and what was the building(s) used for over time?

Explain with specific dates, persons or events.

Families from South Williamston and Hughesville had been attending Nictaux Baptist Church prior to 1845. Nictaux's congregation was comprised of members from a large area extending from Paradise to Berwick and from the Bay of →

4. Where did the materials used in the construction of the building(s) come from?

Many of the gravestones in the Whitman Cemetery date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and appear to be made of "white stone", a dolomite limestone also called "segar marble". White stone contains magnesium and is porous, →

5. How much did it cost to construct the building(s)?

6. What is the overall condition of the building(s)?

The goal of all gravestones regardless of size, design, or material is to commemorate individuals whose graves they mark for future generations. To that end, there are about 240 gravestones in the Whitman Cemetery →

7. What repairs are needed to restore the building(s) to the original condition (especially repairs needed to the exterior of the structure)?

The Whitman Cemetery remains an active burial ground in a country setting that is a peaceful and pleasant place for family and friends to visit to remember their loved ones. The grounds of the cemetery are kept well →

8. Is the building(s) on the original site of construction, if not, where was the original site?

Large granite posts mark the property lines of the Whitman Cemetery, which is situated on the church lot first surveyed in 1783. →

9. Has the building(s) ever burnt down, if so, when?



HERITAGE REGISTRATION QUESTIONNAIRE CONTINUED

10. Has the exterior of the building ever been structurally altered or cosmetically altered from its original appearance? Please note the type of alteration(s) and the date(s).

11. Were there any other building(s) removed from the property?

Valley West Meeting House gradually lost its usefulness over time with the construction of other churches nearby, including the Lawrencetown United Baptist Church in 1873, Hughesville United Baptist Church in 1882, and the →

12. Does the building(s) have a distinct design unique in the local area?

13. Why was the particular style or design of the building(s) chosen by the builder?

14. How do other building(s) in the local area compare to your building(s) in terms of age, condition, style, design, etc.?

15. Does your building(s) relate to a specific individual, group, organization or institution of note in local, provincial or national history? Explain.

Edward Whitman (1752-1822) was born in Stow, Massachusetts and is buried in the Whitman Cemetery. His father was Deacon John Whitman, a New England Planter, who sailed from Massachusetts to Annapolis Royal →

16. Does your building(s) relate to a specific event(s) in history which was notable on a local, provincial or national level? Explain.

The Whitman Cemetery came into existence with the rapid growth in population of the area in the years following the Expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. In 1758, Governor Charles Lawrence →

17. How did or does now the surrounding property relate to your building(s)? Please explain in terms of original land parcel size, subdivision of the property over time and the use or change in use of the property over time.

Although the original church lot was about 414 acres, the Whitman Cemetery now covers an area of only approximately one to two acres. There is a page wire fence around its perimeter with farm fields on three sides and the →

18. If you answered on the Application for Heritage Property Registration that it is your intent to register only a portion of your property, please explain what portion you wish to have registered and why. Please attach a site plan of your property describing in detail the dimensions, area, existing buildings, driveways, fence lines, brooks, streams, rivers or other distinctive features along with a north reference point to further explain your intent.

Heritage Registration Questionnaire Continued Page 1

① Annapolis County residents dating back as far as the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1783, a church lot was surveyed for Valley West Church and Cemetery by William Morehouse, Deputy Crown Surveyor for Annapolis County. The parcel of land was 414 acres and was located on what is now the #201 Highway in South Williamston and may have been part of an original land grant belonging to Deacon John Whitman, a New England Planter. The Valley West Meeting House, as it was named, was built some years later in 1845. It measured 40 by 60 feet and was located directly in front of the cemetery, which was already an existing burial ground by that time. And so, the Whitman Cemetery, formerly known as Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Valley West Cemetery, and Whitman - Cunningham Cemetery, still sits on that same historical church lot.

③ Handy shore to New Albany. Over time, divisions were made and new churches were organized in outlying communities. Nictaux members who were migrating to those newly established churches were amicably recommended and dismissed from Nictaux Baptist Church. The Valley West Meeting House was one of those churches and more conveniently served the spiritual needs of the people living in South Williamston and Inglisville. Methodists in the area also used it for their church services, as well as revival meetings and funerals. With the location of the cemetery directly behind the church, services and burials for deceased loved ones were more easily conducted. Names of ministers, most of whom travelled from Nictaux to serve the Valley West Meeting House and the cemetery, are as follows: Rev. Willard D. Parker, Rev. J. E. Bell, Rev. J. Parker, Rev. Nathaniel Vidito, Rev. S. V. Rand, Rev. Cox, and Rev. Burditt.

Heritage Registration Questionnaire Continued Page 2

(4) therefore it is susceptible to lichens and to the external elements. By the late 1800's and early 1900's, granite became a more popular choice of material for gravestones in the cemetery. It is harder, more durable, and less likely to deteriorate. Also, there were three granite quarries operating in the local area at that time including John Cline, Middleton Granite and Marble Company, and Thebert Rice.

(6) and the majority are structurally sound. They vary in size and design and include columns, piers, obelisks, lecterns, grass markers, and vertical steles (slabs). All are engraved with names, birthdates, and dates of death. Some are inscribed with meaningful biblical passages or epitaphs. Many others are intricately carved with significant symbols such as a weeping willow tree, a cross and crown, an open Bible, a drape with tassels, a hand pointing upward, flowers, leaves and vines, and scrolling. The names of the carvers are also evident on some of the gravestones and they are: S. P. Osgood of Saint John, NB; T. Dearness of Saint John, NB; and O. Whitman of Bridgetown, N.S.

(7) manicured during the warmer months from early May to the end of September each year. The repairs that are required are to the surfaces of the gravestones themselves. Some of them are covered with patches of orange or yellow lichen. Grey lichen completely covers others, making it impossible to read the lettering. Mold and mildew are quite prevalent and have stained many of the older "white stone" monuments so that they appear black and dirty. Professional cleaning would be very advantageous to help restore those gravestones.

## Heritage Registration Questionnaire Continued Page 3

(11) Englishville Methodist Church in about 1890. In 1897, Valley West Meeting House was dismantled and the materials were repurposed to construct a barn on what was then Robert Best's property in Englishville. However, the cemetery remains as a tribute to those Annapolis County pioneers who first settled in South Williamston and Englishville and to all those who followed. As well, Whitman Cemetery will continue on into the future as an active burial ground and a final resting place for anyone who chooses it to be so.

(15) on the "Charming Molly" in 1760. Edward at the age of eight, his mother, and his siblings arrived soon after. Following Deacon John's death, Edward acquired his father's land grant of about 3000 acres further up the river from Annapolis Royal in the South Williamston and Englishville areas. Years later, Edward's grandson, the Honourable William Cagney Whitman (1809-1881) became a Member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia. He is buried in the cemetery. The Whitman Cemetery is not exclusive to only those with the surname of Whitman. Many Annapolis County family names are represented on the gravestones throughout the cemetery's history. Colonel Christopher Prince (1731-1799) was born in Kingston, Massachusetts and came to N.S. in 1760. He represented Granville Township in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly from 1772-1780. He also served as justice of the peace, colonel in the militia, and commissioner of roads for Annapolis County. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Edward Whitman's son, also named Edward, and the two were the parents of the aforementioned William Cagney Whitman. Abel Beals (1755-1830) was born in Hingham, Massachusetts and came to N.S. in the 1770's. He married Abigail Kent, whose father was Isaac Kent and had sailed to Annapolis Royal on the "Charming Molly" in 1760. Abel became a tax assessor for

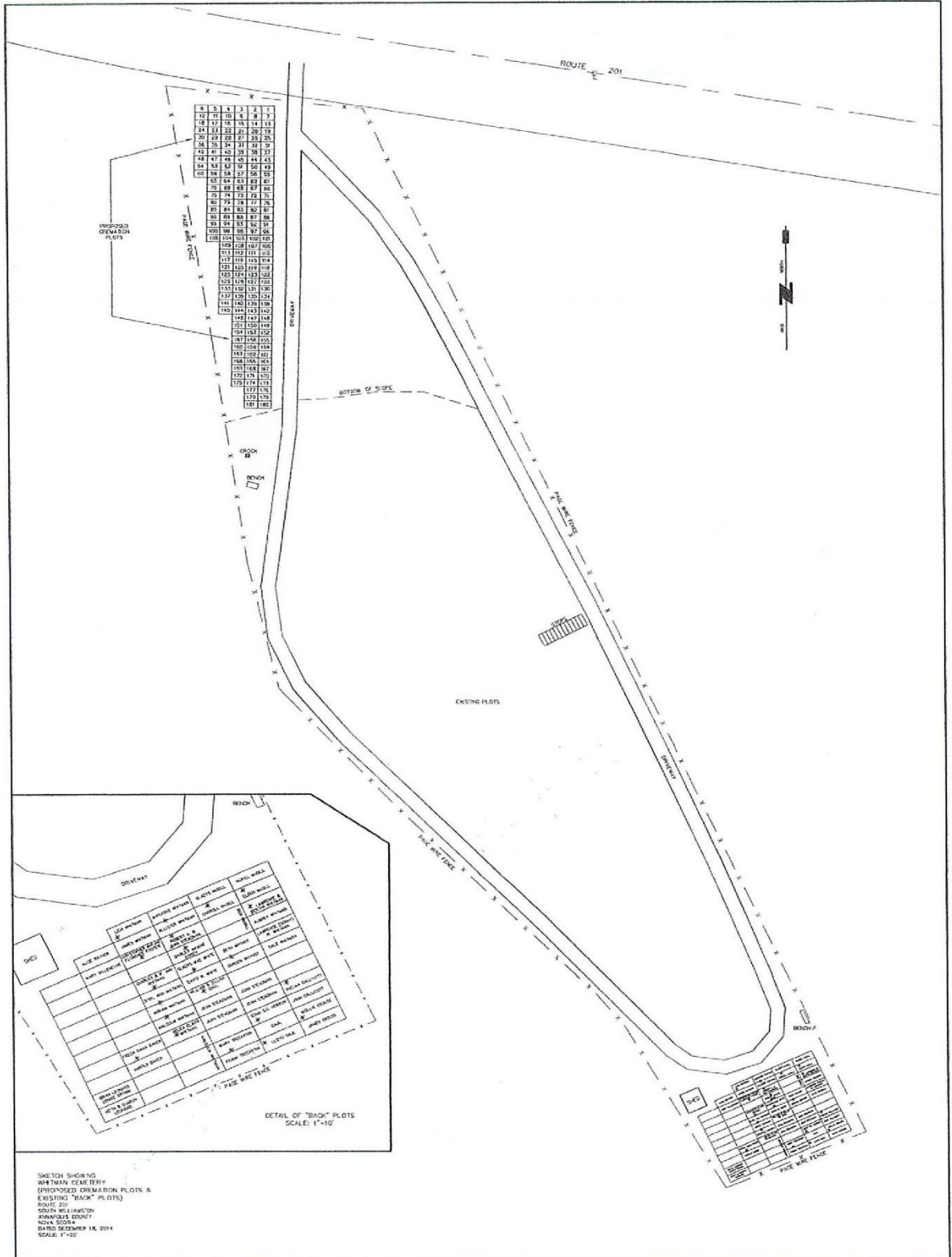
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(15) cont'd Annapolis Township in 1779. He was also often employed as commissioner for laying out and constructing roads. Dr. John Primrose (1801-1868) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and subsequently came to MD where he lived in Laurencetown and had a medical practice. Upon his death, Dr. Samuel Primrose acquired his father's practice as well as treated patients throughout the entire Annapolis County. Seth Bent (1810-1883) was the grandson of Samuel Bent who participated in The Battle of the Plains of Abraham in Quebec in 1759. Samuel was from Massachusetts where he returned after that battle. But in 1760, he sailed on the "Charming Molly" to Annapolis Royal and took up residence for the remainder of his life in the Granville Township. Georgia Cunningham (1888-1969) was born in Kentville and moved to Bridgetown in 1907, where she became an esteemed photographer at a time when that was an uncommon feat <sup>for women</sup>. She was a member of the Maritime Professional Photographer's Association and was awarded an honorary lifetime membership. There are many infants, children, and young adults buried in the Whitman Cemetery. Some causes of death were diphtheria, cholera, and consumption (TB), for which there were no vaccines or curative treatments at that time. Little ones and young siblings with such family names as Beals, Cowell, Daniels, Dobson, Dunn, Longley, Nauglar, and Whitman tragically died too early. As well, there are four WW I veterans, seven WW II veterans, and one regular service veteran buried in the Whitman Cemetery. Henry James Best, Ralph C. Connell, Aubrey Gaul, Herbert Layte, John Ayre Callicott, Christopher Mc Eune, Eldon McGill, Lawrence Nauglar, Lloyd Gaul, Lester Whitman, and David White were residents of Annapolis County and bravely served for their country.

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⑩ issued a Proclamation that was published in the "Boston Gazette", appealing to New England residents to come to Nova Scotia to take up land grants. The townships of Granville and Annapolis were established in 1759 and New England Planters began to arrive and settle in 1760. As previously stated, the church lot in South Williamston was surveyed in 1783 and burials began taking place thereafter.

⑪ # 201 Highway running parallel to its entrance.



Map of Whitman Cemetery  
 Incorporated in 1958

