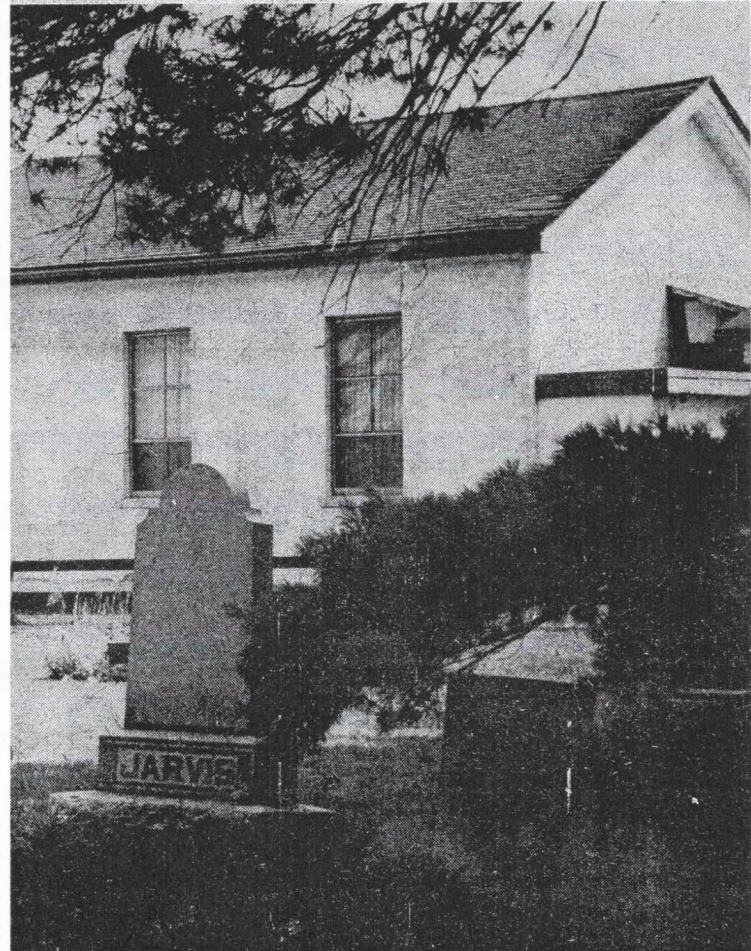


Street Methodist Church honored

their 22nd dist Church, now the West. The building standing on the Wesleyan Methodist circuit as early as 1816. The Griffith brickyard was one of the first manufacturing industries in the Westminster area. In recognition of the area's history, the London branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has compiled a list of early pioneers buried in the Brick Street cemetery. Among the names can be found Phoebe McNames, the heroine of the Battle of Reservoir Hill in the War of 1812 as well as Mary and Cyrenus Hall, founders of Byron.



church, 362 Com- contains the graves of many Westminster and er Brick Street Byron area pioneers. yard beside it

minster were included on the Wesleyan Methodist circuit as early as 1816. The first appointed minister for the congregation was one John Hamilton followed by David Youmans and Caleb Swazey the following year.

The cemetery near the church, which is one of the oldest in the London area, had its first interment in 1813. Before the present church building was erected, members of the congregation met in an early Brick Street school.

AREA
The church's name comes from the fact Concession 1, Westminster township, was commonly known as Brick Street in recognition of a number of brickyards in the area.

The first of these was Ezra and Nathan Griffith's brickyard which opened in 1816. The bricks were sold for the construction of chimneys, rather than homes themselves, and the first brick house didn't appear in the London area until 1819.

The Griffith brothers accepted one cow as the going rate of exchange for the bricks needed to build a chimney.

The Griffith brickyard was one of the first manufacturing industries in the Westminster area.

COMMUNITY
Over the years, the cemetery, church and school came to form the nucleus of a growing community. In 1960, the old Brick Street Public School was sold to the church congregation for \$1 in order to keep the building in the community.

In 1963, the Brick Street United Church congregation amalgamated with the neighboring congregation of Mount Zion United Church. In August, Brick Street church was sold to the London congregation of the Free Reform-

ed Church of North America, a Dutch Protestant church.

In recognition of the area's history, the London branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has compiled a list of early pioneers buried in the Brick Street cemetery.

NAMES
Among the names can be found Phoebe McNames, the heroine of the Battle of Reservoir Hill in the War of 1812 as well as Mary and Cyrenus Hall, founders of Byron.

The historical plaque will be unveiled August 16 at 2:30 p.m., and Rev. Orlo Miller will recall some of the highlights of the area's history.