

REPORT

Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: August 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Notice of intention to designate – St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street

LOCATION: 262 Randall Street

WARD: Ward 3

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RECOMMENDATION:

That a notice of intention to designate be issued under Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The property at 262 Randall Street contains St. John's United Church, a 19th and 20th century brick ecclesiastical building.
- Heritage planning staff have evaluated the property and consider the property worthy of conservation and heritage designation.
- It is recommended that the property be designated under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and that a notice of intention to designate be issued by Council.

BACKGROUND:

The property at 262 Randall Street is located at the southeast corner of Randall Street and Dunn Street in downtown Oakville. A location map and photos are attached as Appendix A. A draft Notice of Intention to Designate has been prepared by staff and is attached as Appendix B.

Staff are recommending that the property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as an individually designated property in order to conserve the historic St. John's United Church, which is considered to be of significant cultural heritage value. The draft Notice of Intention to Designate provides more details on the intent of the designation.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

The church property has cultural heritage value for its 19th century Gothic Revival church building and its 20th century Neo-Gothic Lusk Hall addition. These structures are well-executed examples of their styles and display a high degree of craftsmanship. The original church building contains the hallmark of Gothic Revival style, including the pointed lancet window, its steep roof with cross gables, buttresses, quatrefoil windows and date marker. The Neo-Gothic style used for Lusk Hall was a more understated version of the Gothic style, and Lusk Hall contains many of the features typical of this style, including decorative buttresses, a parapet with a battlement motif, monochromatic brickwork, a multiplicity of muntins in the windows, and arched doorways and windows.

The subject property has cultural heritage value for its direct associations with St. John's United Church and its roots as a Methodist Church. The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Oakville was established in the early 1830s and finally settled in the current structure in 1877 which has been its home ever since. The property is also directly associated with the development of Oakville throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Many individuals who played a significant role in the development of Oakville attended the church and made important contributions to the church and the town over the years.

The property also has contextual value as a landmark within downtown Oakville. The church building is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of downtown as an integral part of its fabric. St. John's United Church is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings and not only provides a physical link to Oakville's past but continues to define the downtown area in the present.

These physical, historical and contextual associations are considered to be significant enough to merit designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It is therefore recommended that Council issue a notice of intention to designate the property under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Staff will continue to work with the Trustees of St. John's United Church Oakville who have been working with staff on the designation of the property.

A separate staff report on this matter will be presented to Planning and Development Council on September 13, 2021.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

If notice is to be issued for the designation of the property, notice will be given in accordance with section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

(B) FINANCIAL

None

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The Legal Department and will be consulted on the designation as necessary.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- enhance our cultural environment
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

A Climate Emergency was declared by Council in June 2019 for the purposes of strengthening the Oakville community commitment in reducing carbon footprints. The retention and conservation of St. John's United Church contributes to the town's initiatives to reduce carbon footprints.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Photos of St. John's United Church

Appendix B – Draft Notice of Intention to Designate

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