



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE

### BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-136

#### **A by-law to designate St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, chapter O.18, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

**WHEREAS** the council of the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, by resolution passed on September 13, 2021, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at: 262 Randall Street Oakville, ON and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, and further, has caused the notice of intention to be published in the Oakville Beaver, being a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality;

**WHEREAS** no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served on the municipality by October 25, 2021, being the last date for filing an objection;

#### **COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the following real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A", is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest, for the reasons set out in Schedule B:

St. John's United Church  
262 Randall Street  
Town of Oakville  
The Regional Municipality of Halton

2. That the attached Schedules form part of the by-law.

3. And that the Town Solicitor be authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" at the Land Registry Office.

PASSED this 7th day of December, 2021

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MAYOR

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CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO  
BY-LAW 2021-136

In the Town of Oakville in the Regional Municipality of Halton, property description  
as follows:

St. John's United Church  
262 Randall Street  
LTS A & B & PT LTS D & E BLK 4, PL 1, PT 1, 20R17371; OAKVILLE. S/T EASE IN  
FAVOUR OF PT LTS D & E, BLK 4, PL 1, PT 2, 20R17371 OVER PTS 1 & 2,  
20R17445 AS IN HR611286.  
Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton

SCHEDULE “B” TO  
BY-LAW 2021-0136

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description of Property – St. John’s United Church, 226 Randall Street

The St. John’s United Church property is located at the southeast corner of Randall Street and Dunn Street in downtown Oakville. The property contains a 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century brick church building known as St. John’s United Church.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

*Design Value or Physical Value*

The church property has cultural heritage value for its Gothic Revival church building and Neo-Gothic Lusk Hall addition. These structures are well-executed examples of their styles and display a high degree of craftsmanship.

The Gothic Revival style was prevalent in Ontario from 1830-1900 and very common in churches of all Christian denominations. In the latter half of the century, during which time the St. John’s United Church building was constructed, the style was influenced not only by Gothic architecture from England but from central and southern Europe as well. The subject church building contains the hallmark of this style, the pointed lancet window, which is embellished throughout with polychromatic brickwork that echoes the window’s pointed arch. The church’s Gothic Revival style is also evident in its steep roof with cross gables, buttresses, quatrefoil windows and date marker, as well as the Gothic style details in the dichromatic brickwork.

The Neo-Gothic style used for Lusk Hall was a more understated version of the Gothic style, prevalent in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and most common in scholastic buildings. Whereas Gothic style churches were heavily decorated in picturesque details like lancet windows pointing to the heavens, Neo-Gothic structures adopted some of the Gothic elements but applied them on a simpler and often larger scale for institutional buildings. 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.

#### *Historical Value or Associative Value*

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 after two decades of church services being organized by saddle-bag preachers, or circuit riders. The church built its first structure in the 1830s and after being moved to a handful of buildings, 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 original 1877 church building and the 1923 Lusk Hall together have been significant buildings within the church community itself, but also within the larger community of Oakville. In addition to regular church services and group meetings, the space has hosted innumerable events such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, fundraisers – ordinary but significant occasions that are fundamental to the everyday life of a small town community.

#### *Contextual Value*

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. As is the case in all small Ontario towns, as Oakville was when the structure was built, churches and their easily recognizable steeples are significant and familiar landmarks that define a downtown area. 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.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of the property which embody the cultural heritage value of St. John's United Church include the following, as they relate to the north, east, south and west exterior elevations of the 1877 church building:

- The form of the T-shaped building formed by the sanctuary and rear vestry/Sunday School wing, including its steeply pitched gable roofs, parapets, truncated chimneys below the roofline, and brick and stone buttresses;
- The dichromatic red and buff brick walls in Common Brick Bond, including headers and other decorative brickwork;
- Fenestration of the original door and window openings;

- Set of historic wood doors on northwest corner of the vestry/Sunday School wing, including metal brackets;
- All historic wood, stained glass, and leaded glass windows, including wood trim and stone sills;
- Wood quatrefoil date marker reading “1877 A.D.”;
- Wood louvered vents with associated stone lintels and sills;
- Exposed wood roof eaves on vestry/Sunday School wing;
- Stone coping on parapets and buttresses;
- Lakestone foundation where it is exposed above grade; and
- Slate roof.

Key attributes of the property which embody the cultural heritage value of St. John’s United Church include the following, as they relate to the interior of the 1877 church building:

- The remaining elements of the original gallery, including its structure, decorative woodwork and metalwork, and cast iron columns supporting it.

Key attributes of the property which embody the cultural heritage value of St. John’s United Church include the following, as they relate to the north, east, south and west exterior elevations of the 1923 Lusk Hall:

- The two storey rectangular form of the building, including its polygonal bay window projection on the west elevation, and brick buttresses;
- The red brick cladding in Common Brick Bond, including red brick headers and decorative angled brickwork on the parapet;
- Fenestration of the original door and window openings;
- The Gothic design of the wood portions of the windows;
- Stone window sills;
- Stone date marker reading “Lusk Hall 1923 A.D.”.

The 1952 one-storey vestibule and the 1967 one-storey rear wing are not considered to be heritage attributes.