

On **January ****, 2025, Oakville Town Council resolved to amend Heritage Designation By-law 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” for the following property under Section 30.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended:

St. John’s United Church
262 Randall Street, Oakville, Ontario
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

Purpose and Effect of Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment of By-law 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” is to clarify the statement explaining the property’s cultural heritage value or interest and the description of the property’s heritage attributes.

The following is the amended 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, as well as its Memorial Garden. 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 church is a well-executed example of its style and displays a high degree of craftsmanship.

The Neo-Gothic style used for Lusk Hall was a more understated version of the Gothic style, prevalent in the first half of the 20th 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.

The church property also has cultural heritage value for its Memorial Garden located on the south side of the church building and the west side of Lusk Hall. Designed by architect George Farrow, the Memorial Garden was constructed in 1986 and is delineated by a low brick wall containing a paved area, scattering grounds and commemorative plaques. The pavers were designed to mimic the arched windows of the church and the plaques on the wall of the church building resemble shields. At the entrance to the garden is the highly visible carillon tower, designed by Ron Baird, one of Canada’s most renowned and successful sculptors. The 14-metre-tall steel tower houses electronic carillon bells and is topped with a kinetic eagle weathervane with a cross.

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 Memorial Garden, including its scattering grounds, garden wall, plaques, carillon tower and oak tree, were built in memory of the church's early members, including the Shroeder, Leonard and New families.

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 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.

The following is the amended 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."

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 Memorial Garden and courtyard on the southwest portion of the property:

- The oak tree in the middle of the courtyard, along with the accompanying bronze plaque noting it was planted in 1969 in memory of Gordon Leonard;
- The Memorial Garden, including low masonry walls and the presence of pavers mimicking the arched windows of the church;
- The metal carillon tower;
- The bronze 'shield' plaques on the wall of the church; and
- The bronze plaque commemorating the carillon bells and tower on the wall of the church.

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

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than **February ****, 2025. Objections must be directed to the Town Clerk at townclerk@oakville.ca or 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3.

Further information respecting this proposed designation is available from the Town of Oakville. Any inquiries may be directed to Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Supervisor of Heritage Conservation at 905-845-6601, ext.3875 (TTY 905-338-4200), or by email at carolyn.van@oakville.ca.

Issued at the Town of Oakville on **January ****, 2025.