



OAKVILLE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 2025-061

A by-law to amend By-law 2021-136, being a by-law to designate St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS section 30.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended (OHA), authorizes the council of a municipality to amend a by-law designating property made under section 29 of the OHA to: clarify or correct the statement explaining the property's cultural heritage value or interest or the description of the property's heritage attributes; correct the legal description of the property; or otherwise revise the language of the by-law to make it consistent with the requirements of the OHA or the regulations;

WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Oakville on December 7, 2021 passed By-law 2021-136, being "A by-law to designate St. John's United Church at 262 Randall Street as a property of cultural heritage value or interest";

WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Oakville on January 20, 2025, after consultation with the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee, approved a proposal to amend By-law 2021-136 to clarify the statement explaining the property's cultural heritage value or interest and the description of the property's heritage attributes;

WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, by resolution passed on January 20, 2025, 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 amend By-law 2021-136, pursuant to the requirements of subsection 30.1(4) of the OHA, and further, has caused the notice of intention to amend the by-law to be published on the town's website in accordance with the town's *Ontario Heritage Act* Alternative Notice Policy;

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed amendment was served on the municipality February 24, 2025, being the last date for filing an objection;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to subsection 30.1(7) of the OHA, the Council of the Town of Oakville may now pass the proposed amending by-law;

COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That Schedule “B” of By-law 2021-136 be deleted and replaced with Schedule “B” attached hereto; and,
2. That the Town Solicitor be authorized cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the designated property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and to be registered against the property described in Schedule “A” at the Land Registry Office.

PASSED this 17th day of March, 2025

MAYOR

CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO
BY-LAW 2025-061

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

PIN: 24813-0366

SCHEDULE “B” TO
BY-LAW 2025-061

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Description of Property – St. John’s United Church, 262 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 19th and early 20th 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, 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.

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;
- Limestone 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.

For the purposes of clarity, the 1952 one-storey vestibule and the 1967 one-storey rear wing are not considered to be heritage attributes.