

Statement of Significance

1433 Baldwin Street (CON 4 NS PT LOT 7)

Plan 99 Lots 61-63

Description of Historic Place

Burlington Central High School was Burlington's first secondary school and one of five historic schools within the city of Burlington. Central High School was originally constructed in 1922 and modified in 1929 in the Tudor Revival style of architecture. It is located on the north side of Baldwin Street at Brant Street and serves as a landmark at the gateway to Downtown Burlington.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

Central High School is an example of a 20th Century Tudor-Revival inspired brick school, originally constructed in 1922. Its cultural heritage value resides primarily in its historical/associative values and has significant contextual value. Additionally, the school has important architectural/design value in its depiction of the evolution of the delivery of education in Ontario.

Contextual Value:

Central High School is one of only four remaining historical school structures in Burlington and is Burlington's longest operating (and original) high school. It serves as both an important physical and anecdotal community landmark and asset. Together with Central Public School, the schools are an important and highly visible landmark at the entrance and exit to Downtown Burlington. Further, the school is rooted in its surrounding St. Luke's neighbourhood to the south, many of the homes within which pre-date the construction of the school. The relationship of the school to the former principal's house, across the street at 622 Locust Street, remains.

Historical or Associative Value:

Burlington Central High School has direct and significant associations with the development of the City of Burlington, Nelson Township, Wellington Square and the Village of Burlington. The construction of Central High School was a catalyst in advancing the education of Burlington residents, who had limited and inconvenient access to education prior to the construction of the school.

The land for Burlington Central High School was acquired from the Smith Family, a prominent local apple farming family. Baldwin Street, where the school is located, was named after one of the varieties of apples grown in the Smith orchards.

Central High School was Burlington's first high school and served as the only high school in all of Burlington until 1956. Central High School was a hub for community activity and was used by the community for extra-curricular activities.

Central High School made perhaps its largest impact on the community under the direction of Principle James MacFarlane Bates, who served Central High School and the community for almost 30 years and who remained living across from Central High School until the late 1990s.

Burlington Central High School is a cornerstone the city's culture and community. Central High School was a part of Burlington's formative historical years and is a significant part of Burlington's community history; it contributes immensely to the evolution of the community of Burlington.

Design or Physical Value:

Central High School's design or physical value is obtained through its depiction of the various additions and culture shifts of the last century. While little of the original 1922 structure remains visible, the school underwent a major renovation in 1929, which established the historical character of the front façade which remains legible today.

The front elevation does have design value in its expression of the Tudor revival style: specifically, the organization of the windows, some of the brick work and the front entrance arch, niche and projection as well as the remaining stone corner detailing are evidence of the building's former glory and establish the heritage character of the exterior of the building.

Heritage Attributes:

- Relationship to and setback from Baldwin Street
- Relationship to and setback from Central Public School
- Three storey structure
- Red brick construction
- Projecting three storey front entrance in the Tudor Revival style with simple stone arch and recessed entrance and niche
- Remnants of the stone corners and frame detail (front elevation, east side of the 1929 façade)
- Date stone on the rear elevation
- Stone lintels on the front elevation and stone banding on the front projection
- Turned stone markers on the front projecting entrance
- Front door transom and proportions
- Remains of the stone cap atop the projecting front entrance.
- Window organization and openings on the front façade
- Dichromatic brick banding (red and brown) on the front elevation

Prepared by: Jenna Puletto, December 2016