

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes

Introduction and Description of Property

The properties at 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road meet 6 out of 9 criteria presented in Ontario Heritage Act Regulation 9/06 and therefore are of cultural heritage value for design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual reasons. Accordingly, the municipality may designate the properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Description

The property at 1371 Elgin Street (St. Luke's Church) comprises a one-storey church building constructed in 1834 and a nineteenth-century cemetery. 0000 Lakeshore Road comprises a related strip of land with an allée of trees extending to Lakeshore Road. The frame construction church was built in a Carpenter Gothic style with a steeply pitched front gable roof. The cemetery forms a "U" around the north, east and west sides of the church building. The property is located midblock on the south side of Ontario Street between Nelson Avenue and Burlington Avenue and extends past Elgin Street to Lakeshore Road in the downtown core of the City of Burlington.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design or Physical Value

St. Luke's Church and Cemetery at 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road is an early ecclesiastical landscape, defined by a church building centred on axis with a processional avenue and with cemetery extending north of the church building. The church is a representative example of the Carpenter Gothic style in the City of Burlington. The church building, which was the first to be built in the settlement of Wellington Square, was built in 1834. The burial ground on the property was also the first formal cemetery established in Wellington Square until the time of Confederation in 1867. Although the church building has undergone several alterations beginning in the late nineteenth century, the overall form, function and style of the church has been maintained. As the first church constructed in Burlington, the church offers the earliest example of Carpenter Gothic architectural style in Downtown Burlington and is the last remaining intact example of this form of church architecture in the downtown core. The interior of the church was most substantially altered in 1899 when the roof line was altered, galleries were removed, and panelling and electric light fixtures were added to the nave walls. Following those changes, the interior has evolved and expanded but generally reflects this period of development. The narthex of the building, representing one of the most contemporary additions to the church, was expanded in 1983 using sympathetic materials on the interior, such as brick and wood beadboard panelling. The location and orientation of Church Avenue, the narrow strip of land that extends south from the church building to Lakeshore Road providing views to Lake Ontario, is a unique element of the church

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property. Church Avenue has been lined with trees since the 1840s, becoming a defining feature within the landscape.

Historical or Associative Value

St. Luke's Church and Cemetery at 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road is associated with Burlington's early beginnings, first as Brant's Block and through its direct associations with Elizabeth Brant. It is also associated with prominent settlers of Wellington Square. The property has direct associations with the Brant, Kerr and Bates families through the donation of land and raising funds for the construction of the church in the mid nineteenth century, during the formative period of development for the settlement of Wellington Square. The Brant and Bates families were early settlers with a prominent role in the establishment of Wellington Square. Further, as the only formal cemetery within Wellington Square until the late 1860s, many of the early settlers and founding families within the settlement are buried on the St. Luke's Church grounds.

The cemetery located on the property has the potential to yield information that could contribute to an understanding of the local nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Anglican community in Burlington. The property is additionally associated with the formal establishment of Anglicanism in Burlington. Several important figures within the community have served as leaders within the church. Dr. Thomas Greene, the first and longest serving rector of the church, was an active member in the Nelson Township community and through his service is associated with the property and the development of the ecclesiastical community in Burlington. Greene's wife Katherine was responsible for the planting of the acacia trees along Church Avenue which have been maintained throughout the property's long history. The property is also associated with George Tebbs, rector of the church from 1918 to 1942, was a well-known member of the Burlington community.

Contextual Value

The property at 1371 Elgin Street, St. Luke's Church and Cemetery, is a landmark in Downtown Burlington, and has remained a meeting place for the local community since its construction to present day. The boundaries of the church property have been maintained since the land was donated for the construction of a church in the early nineteenth century. Originally, the property was located within a rural setting, west of the growing core of Wellington Square, which sprang outwards from Brant Street. As the settlement grew into a village, residential subdivision expanded into the lands surrounding the St. Luke's Church and Cemetery property. As the church property was a defining and identifying feature in the area, the residential area that now surrounds St. Luke's Church is referred to in the City of Burlington's 1997 and 2020 Official Plans as "St. Luke's Neighbourhood", demonstrating that the property serves as a landmark and identifying feature in the area. Additionally, the subject property is physically and historically linked to its surroundings, having served the local community as a religious meeting place and cemetery for over 180 years and which continues to evolve to meet the needs of its

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congregation, sustaining the complex's important and dynamic cultural heritage values. The cemetery remains a tangible link to early members of Burlington's community. Further, the church building retains the physical connection to its surroundings on the property, including the cemetery and the tree-lined Church Avenue that connects the Lakeshore Road providing uninterrupted views to Lake Ontario

Description of Heritage Attributes

Design or Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road as a representative example of Carpenter Gothic style and as an early example of an ecclesiastical landscape in the City of Burlington include:

- The simple rectangular massing of the 1834 portion of the church under a steeply pitched roof, expressive of the Carpenter Gothic style; evolved footprint in a rectangular-cruciform shape, adapted to accommodate the growing needs of the congregation;
- Steeply pitched gable roof over the nave and chancel;
- Symmetrical arrangement of the primary façade, excluding the contemporary washroom addition (west);
- Stained-glass windows;
- Open truss ceiling in the nave;
- Wood panelling in the nave and chancel;
- Uninterrupted view of Lake Ontario from the south elevation of the church building;
- Cemetery grounds on the north, east and west sides of the church; and,
- Row of mature trees running along each side of Church Avenue south of Elgin Street.

Historical or Associative Value

Attributes that contribute to the value of the property at 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road for its contribution to an understanding of the historical development of Downtown Burlington and the establishment of the Anglican community in the area include:

- The siting of the church building within the property;
- Location of the cemetery grounds surrounding the church building on its north, east, and west sides;
- The strip of land known as "Church Avenue" connecting the church building to Lakeshore Road, providing an uninterrupted view to Lake Ontario; and,
- Row of mature trees running along each side of Church Avenue south of Elgin Street.

Contextual Value

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Attributes that contribute to the contextual value of 1371 Elgin Street and 0000 Lakeshore Road as it maintains and defines its physical and historical landmark presence within the community include:

- The church building and cemetery within the established property boundaries;
- The strip of land known as “Church Avenue” connecting the church building to Lakeshore Road, providing an uninterrupted view to Lake Ontario, including its alignment and axial relationship to the primary entrance of the church structure; and,
- Row of mature trees running along each side of Church Avenue south of Elgin Street.