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DEC 21 2015



**Town of Whitby**

**Office of the Town Clerk**

575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8

[www.whitby.ca](http://www.whitby.ca)

December 17, 2015

**Sent Via Courier**

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Re: Passage of By-law to Designate R.A. Sennett Public School, 300 King Street, Whitby, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised that the Town of Whitby Council enacted By-law # 7074-15 at its meeting held on December 15, 2015 to designate the above noted property in the Town of Whitby, as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, O.18, Section 29.

A copy of the Notice of Passing of the by-law, in addition to copy of By-law # 7074-15 has been attached for your reference.

Further information regarding this matter may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Cassel".

Susan Cassel  
Deputy Clerk  
905-430-4300 ext. 2364  
[cassels@whitby.ca](mailto:cassels@whitby.ca)

Encl.

Copy: C. Harris, Town Clerk  
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning  
S. Ashton, Planner II, Planning Department  
J. Gilston, Committee Secretary



The Corporation of the Town of Whitby  
Office of the Town Clerk  
575 Rossland Road East  
Whitby, ON L1N 2M8  
[www.whitby.ca](http://www.whitby.ca)

# Town of Whitby Notice

## Notice of Passing of Heritage Designation By-law

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby enacted By-law # 7074-15 at its meeting held on December 15, 2015 to designate the following property in the Town of Whitby, as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Part IV, Section 29.

**R.A. Sennett Public School  
300 King Street**

**Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, Third Double Range, Plan H50032**

**Lot 17 and Part of Lots 18, 19 and 20, Third Double Range, Plan H50032**

**Part of Parts 1 and 2, Plan 40R-4729 being Gilbert Street, as closed by By-law D-84040, Plan H-50032  
Whitby, Ontario**

### Description of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

The cultural heritage value of the R.A. Sennett Public School is evident in its design, historical associations and contextual value. The R.A. Sennett Public School is a landmark in the neighbourhood and an important heritage asset for the Town of Whitby. Designed in a Classical Revival style, it is an excellent example of scholastic architecture constructed in Ontario in the early 20th century.

The R.A. Sennett Public School was designed by prominent architects, Chapman, Oxley and Bishop. The building remained unaltered until 1958, when additions were added to the north and south elevations. In April 1987, a gymnasium was added to the Henry Street elevation.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

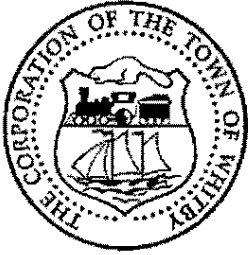
Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the R.A. Sennett Public School as a unique architectural former school landmark in Whitby include:

- Designed in the Classical Revival style popular in the early 1920s for scholastic architecture;
- Distinctive square plan one storey in height with a full height basement and low pitched hip roof with central square skylight and overhanging eaves;
- The roofline on the façade features a centrally positioned cupola. The cupola has a polygonal base with sections defined by pilasters and louvered panels topped with a polygonal shaped dome;
- Central entrance articulated with classical motifs including pilasters defined by a semi-elliptical arched shaped transom window with an asymmetrical radiating glazing bar system and central quoin; and,
- Tall, thin rectangular windows grouped in a six by six arrangement on the north, south, east and west elevations with plain sills and moulded lintels.

A copy of the by-law is available from the Office of the Town Clerk upon request.

Dated at the Town of Whitby this 18th day of December, 2015.

Christopher Harris  
Town Clerk  
Town of Whitby  
Phone: 905.430.4315  
Fax: 905.686.7005  
Email: [clerk@whitby.ca](mailto:clerk@whitby.ca)



# **Town of Whitby**

## **By-law # 7074-15**

### **Heritage Designation By-law**

Being a By-law to designate R.A. Sennett Public School, 300 King Street, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, Third Double Range, Plan H50032, Lot 17 and Part of Lots 18, 19 and 20, Third Double Range, Plan H50032, Part of Parts 1 and 2, Plan 40R-4729 being Gilbert Street, as closed by By-law D-84040, Plan H-50032, Whitby, Ontario as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

Whereas, in accordance with Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby considers it desirable to designate the property, hereinafter described to be of cultural heritage value and interest;

And Whereas, the Council of the said Corporation has caused notice to be served in accordance with Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act;

And Whereas, no person has served a notice of objection to the proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

Now therefore, the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Whitby hereby enacts as follows:

#### **1. General**

- 1.1. The property known as R.A. Sennett Public School, 300 King Street, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, Third Double Range, Plan H50032, Lot 17 and Part of Lots 18, 19 and 20, Third Double Range, Plan H50032, Part of Parts 1 and 2, Plan 40R-4729 being Gilbert Street, as closed by By-law D-84040, Plan H-50032, and more particularly described in Schedule 'A' attached to and forming part of this by-law is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and shall be listed in the register maintained for such purpose.

#### **2. Schedule(s)**

- 2.1. Schedule 'A' – Designation Statement and Report of 300 King Street, Whitby as prepared on December 8, 2014 by D. Gardner.

#### **3. Effective Date**

- 3.1. The provisions of this by-law shall come into force and take effect on the day of the final passing thereof.



Don Mitchell, Mayor



Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

**300 KING STREET,  
WHITBY, ONTARIO**

**DESIGNATION STATEMENT AND REPORT**

Prepared by Deirdre Gardner

December 8, 2014

## **DESIGNATION STATEMENT**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY 300 KING STREET, WHITBY, ONTARIO**

#### **R.A. SENNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL**

The R.A. Sennett Public School is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century one-storey with raised basement red brick school building dating from 1920-21 situated on the town block bounded by King, Dunlop, Henry and Gilbert Streets in Whitby, Ontario. This town block has been the location of a public school since 1854.

#### **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

The cultural heritage value of the R.A. Sennett Public School is evident in its design, historical associations and contextual value. The R.A. Sennett Public School is a landmark in the neighbourhood and an important heritage asset for the Town of Whitby. Designed in a Classical Revival style, it is an excellent example of scholastic architecture constructed in Ontario in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The R.A. Sennett Public School was designed by prominent architects, Chapman, Oxley and Bishop. The building remained unaltered until 1958, when additions were added to the north and south elevations. In April 1987, a gymnasium was added to the Henry Street elevation.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the R.A. Sennett Public School as a unique architectural former school landmark in Whitby include:

- Designed in the Classical Revival style popular in the early 1920s for scholastic architecture
- Distinctive square plan one storey in height with a full height basement and low pitched hip roof with central square skylight and overhanging eaves
- The roofline on the façade features a centrally positioned cupola. The cupola has a polygonal base with sections defined by pilasters and louvered panels topped with a polygonal shaped dome.
- Central entrance articulated with classical motifs including pilasters defined by a semi-elliptical arched shaped transom window with an asymmetrical radiating glazing bar system and central quoin
- Tall, thin rectangular windows grouped in a six by six arrangement on the north, south, east and west elevations with plain sills and moulded lintels



## **300 KING STREET, WHITBY**

Werden's Plan West of Brock Street, Lots 1,2,3,4,17,18,19,20  
Third Double Range

## **R.A.SENNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**

The R.A. Sennett Public School was built in 1920-21 on lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Werden Plan situated on the town block bounded by King, Dunlop, Henry and Gilbert Street in Whitby, Ontario. The block was the location of a public school since 1854. The Henry Street Public School was built on Lots 1 and 2 on the corner of Dunlop and Henry Street and was used as a public school from 1854 until 1920. The land was not recorded as being sold to the Whitby Board of School Trustees until 1858. The lot was originally part of the land holdings of Asa Werden (1779-1866), a prominent land owner who owned all of the land extending from Brock Street in the east to Henry Street in the west, Dundas Street to the north and Burns Street to the south. These lands were registered as Werden's Plan in 1854.

The R.A. Sennett Public School was designed by prominent architects, Chapman & Oxley in partnership with Roy Hartnoll Bishop. The building remained unaltered until 1958, when additions were added to the north and south elevations. In April 1987, a gymnasium was added to the Henry Street elevation.

### **CONTEXT**

In 1854, the Henry Street School included two rooms and faced Dunlop Street. The school was completed the year before the Town of Whitby was incorporated in 1855. There were only two other schools in Whitby during this period; a school house on Anderson Street and a brick schoolhouse built in 1851 in Port Whitby. The school enrolment for the Henry Street Public School was approximately 250 students when it was completed. By 1864, a second storey had been added to the school building due to increased enrollment. A wooden staircase provided access to the additional two classrooms on the second floor. As a result of this alteration, the entrance to the school was moved to Henry Street.

Overcrowding was still an issue after the additional classrooms were added. The Whitby Board of Education continued to acquire the adjoining lots in the block with the purchase of lots 3 and 4 from Elizabeth Kester on November 21, 1881. In 1893, the Henry Street Public School was condemned and deemed to be in dangerous condition because it had not been well-maintained. Lack of funds prevented the school from being repaired. It took many years before these issues could be addressed since there were not enough funds to build a new school.

By 1920, funds had been found to start construction on a new school. On July 4, 1920, the Henry Street Public School was destroyed by a fire that was started in the staircase. The insurance funds contributed to the construction costs for the new school.

The Board of Education voted to replace the Henry Street Public School with a new building on February 11, 1920. The school was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Chapman & Oxley in partnership with Roy Hartnoll Bishop. In August 1921, the school design was described in an article in *The Globe* as "unique and the school is one of the finest educational buildings recently constructed in

Ontario". The final construction cost of the school was \$55,000. The new school was a red brick building, one storey in height with a full height basement with separate basement level entrances on the north and south elevations.

A later purchase from Leonora Lawler of lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 was completed on February 25, 1930 and created the school yard to the south of the existing school building.

Due to increasing enrollment with the post-war growth of Whitby, in 1958, a decision was made to construct two wings on the north and south elevations of the building that would provide additional classrooms. The two wings cost \$87,275 and altered the original north and south elevations. They were positioned in the location of the former basement level access doors visible in archival photos. These new classrooms would be used in lieu of the basement classrooms that were opened in 1950. By the 1980s, the need for a gymnasium in the school was identified. In 1987, at a cost of \$650,000, a gymnasium was added to the Henry Street façade.

The first principal of the King Street Public School was Robert Allan Sennett from completion of the school in 1921 to his retirement in June, 1952. The school was renamed the R.A. Sennett Public School in honour of its first principal at a ceremony on September 29, 1979. At this point in the site history, it had been the location of a school for over 125 years.

With declining enrollment a review of the usage of the R.A. Sennett Public School began in 2009. The Durham District School Board decided to close the school in June, 2010.

## **ARCHITECTS, CHAPMAN, OXLEY & BISHOP**

The King Street Public School was designed by the architectural partnership of Chapman, Oxley & Bishop. Roy Hartnoll Bishop (1888-1948) was born in Toronto on August 4, 1888 to Charles and Mary Bishop and graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto in 1912. His father, Charles Hartnoll Bishop (1851-1924) was an architect and the Superintendent of Buildings for the Toronto Board of Education for thirty years from 1882-1915. During that period he was responsible for the design of many of the school buildings erected during a period when the city of Toronto was rapidly expanding.

Roy Bishop's student apprenticeship was completed with the firm Darling & Pearson in 1908-10. He later worked with the firms Chapman & McGiffin as a draftsman in 1910-12, and Sproatt & Rolph in 1912-14. In 1914, he went overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers as a Lieutenant and served in the First World War until 1918.

In 1919, his mentor, architect Alfred H. Chapman, formed a partnership with Bishop and another of his protégés, James Morrow Oxley forming the firm Chapman, Oxley & Bishop, Architects and Engineers. James Morrow Oxley was born in Halifax in September 1883 and graduated from the University of Toronto. Oxley served in WWI and had earlier been a partner in the structural engineering firm of Oxley and Harkness. Oxley had worked with Chapman on Knox College located on the University of Toronto campus, and the R.S. Williams Building located at 145 Yonge Street in 1912. Chapman, Oxley, and Bishop

completed a number of significant projects during the period 1920-26. Bishop left the firm in the early 1920s opening his own architectural practice. Chapman and Oxley remained in partnership until 1949.

The drawings for many of these projects are now part of the architectural drawing collection at the Ontario Archives as part of the Alfred H. Chapman Fonds and include ninety-two architectural drawings, sixty-two ink on paper drawings, and twenty-two blueprints. The collection also includes eight ink on linen drawings of the King Street Public School.

In 1924, Bishop opened his own office in Toronto, with a branch in Oshawa located at the corner of Bond and Mary Streets. Other Oshawa commissions included the General Motors Administration Offices on William Street East at Kenneth Avenue in 1927. In 1927, he also designed houses for General Motors employees on the streets Hillcroft, Grierson and Mary Street North and the Oshawa Arena on King Street West. Bishop also designed a factory for Skinner Company on Simcoe Street South at Wolfe Street in 1929. He partnered with Charles Dolphin to design a garage for Ontario Motor Sales at Mary and King Streets which later became the Oshawa Times building.

Bishop's most significant commission from the period was the Art Deco design for the Tip Top Tailors Clothing Company building on Lakeshore Boulevard in Toronto completed in 1929-30. Bishop joined the RCAF in 1940 and served in WW2, then resumed his practice in 1944. He became company architect for Dominion Stores Limited supervising their post-war plans for stores across Canada until his death in Toronto on December 28, 1948.

The 1958 additions to the King Street School were designed by a local architect, Herbert G. Cole who had completed projects including Streetsville United Church and Markdale Hospital. H.G. Cole completed a number of projects in Whitby including the United Church Sunday School (1955), Hebron Christian Reformed Church (1956 demolished in 2003), Palmerston Public School, the Kathleen Rose Memorial School (demolished in 2004), and the Dundas Street School addition in 1956.

The three thousand square foot gymnasium addition added to the Henry Street elevation of the school in 1987 was designed by Oshawa architect, Lennis Trotter.

## **ARCHITECTURAL STYLE**

The Classical Revival style was one of the most influential architectural styles incorporated into school buildings in Canada in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many religious, civic, and scholastic institutions were designed in the Classical Revival style and constructed during this period throughout Canada. The Classical Revival style was based on studies of Greek and Roman buildings. Classical Revival designs imparted classical scale and proportions to civic buildings.

## **R.A. SENNETT SCHOOL**

The R.A. Sennett Public School is a landmark in the neighbourhood and an important heritage asset for the Town of Whitby. Designed in a Classical Revival style, it is an excellent example of scholastic architecture constructed in Ontario in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The new school constructed in 1920-21 is one-storey in height with a full height basement and at the time of its construction it had a separate basement level entrances on the north and south elevations. The square plan is distinctive with a low

pitched hipped roof with central square skylight and overhanging eaves. Constructed in red brick with large windows, it is topped by an elaborate cornice with wide overhang and bracket detailing.

The basement level would allow for further classroom expansion if needed and the ample grouped window placement provided natural light. The school design included a central assembly hall on the main floor surrounded by six classrooms. The assembly hall was finished in wood panelling and incorporated a central skylight. The principal's office was located on the west side of the building. The first classroom designed specifically as a Kindergarten room in a Whitby school was located on the south-east corner.

The central entrance features classical motifs such as pilasters defined by a semi-elliptical arched shaped transom window with an asymmetrical radiating glazing bar system and central quoin. The roofline on the façade features a centrally positioned cupola. The cupola has a polygonal base with sections defined by pilasters and louvered panels topped with a polygonal shaped dome. The original sash windows were tall, thin rectangular windows, six over six in groupings of six. The original windows have been replaced. The plain sills and moulded lintels have been preserved.

## **OWNERSHIP HISTORY**

The R.A. Sennett Public School was built in 1920-21 on lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Werden Plan situated on the town block bounded by King, Dunlop, Henry and Gilbert Street in Whitby, Ontario. Lots 1 and 2 were purchased from prominent landowner, Asa Werden in 1858. With possible expansion in mind, the Whitby Board of Education continued to acquire the adjoining lots in the block with the purchase of lots 3 and 4 at the corner of Dunlop and King Street on November 21, 1881 from Elizabeth Kester. A later purchase from Leonora Lawler of lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 was completed on February 25, 1930 creating the school yard to the south of the King Street Public School.

Goad's Insurance Plan of the City of Whitby, 1901 (Revised June 1911) (Henry Street Public School at Arrow)