



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique. tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

# LEE, ROCHE & KELLY

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES

NICHOLAS B. ROCHE, B.A., LL.B.  
SEAN KELLY, B.A., B.P.E., LL.B.

ERNEST P. LEE, Q.C. (1929-1981)

6 DOMINION STREET  
P.O. BOX 990  
BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO  
POB 1C0

TELEPHONE 645-2286  
AREA CODE (705)

March 11, 1985

VIA REGISTERED MAIL

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

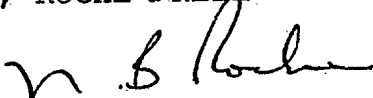
Dear Sirs:

Re: Town of Bracebridge - Designation of St. Thomas' Anglican  
Church as a Historical Site

We enclose herewith a Notice of Intention to Designate in connection  
with the above matter which we serve upon you.

Yours truly,

LEE, ROCHE & KELLY



Per: N.B. Roche

NBR:kam  
Encl.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE  
ACT, R.S.O. 1980, CHAPTER 337;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND  
PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL  
ADDRESS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337.

- (a) St. Thomas' Anglican Church,  
15 Mary Street, Bracebridge, Ontario

Reasons for proposed designation:

The present St. Thomas' stands on land which was given for the building of the Church by Mr. Arthur A. Mahaffy, who was later a member of the Provincial Legislature and became a Judge for the Muskoka District. The Church retains its original appearance as completed in 1896 except that a tower was added early in the century, (1903) and the vestry was extended in 1956. The vestry addition was designed to harmonize with the original building. Interestingly, the bricks used in the 1956 extension match the original bricks of the church, as they were salvaged from the Bracebridge Public School, another early Bracebridge building, when it was demolished to make way for a more modern structure. I understand that all of these rather distinctive red bricks were produced at a brick-kiln that operated here in Bracebridge for some years before and after the turn of the century.

Other points of interest with regard to St. Thomas' which ought to be noted are as follows:

The Church was designed by a Toronto Architectural Company, that of Mr. Charles J. Gibson, who served his architectural apprenticeship with a New York firm. Mr. Gibson, also designed Christ Church, Mimico, St. John's, Norway, the Earls Court Public Library, the Conservatory at the Horticultural Gardens. In that era it would have been an important achievement for a Congregation in a town such as Bracebridge, to have obtained the services of a solid and well-established architectural firm to design their Church.

In style St. Thomas' appears to be a picturesque representative of the Gothic or a modified Gothic from a Victorian point of view. It is a rather good representative of the architectural development resulting from the Oxford Movement's stress of traditional Gothic, as opposed to classical Greek or Georgian styles, enhancing the Liturgical renewal that began in the middle decades of the last century in England. This movement procured the type of lay-out of Nave-Chancel-sanctuary as we have it in St. Thomas'. Other architectural features of distinction are:

- a) The exposed interior wooden truss system with the large half-circle arches, resting on decorated hammer-beam truss wall brackets is truly admirable. Both engineers/architects and builders who have recently viewed the Church remark that such a combination is unusual and possibly fairly rare in this country.

- b) This truss-work is further enhanced by longitudinal arches, decorative 'trefoil' panels in the hammer-beam truss wall panels plus circular scroll-work above the main arches.
- c) The exposed brick-work is of interest. Each wall involves 2 single walls joined by hidden metal "headers" or "tie-pieces". (These walls are separated by an air-space) The Church has no interior panelling; the very carefully-laid brick inner wall being exposed. Some masons have described this brick-work as being of the "English-style", a builders term.
- d) The exterior brick buttresses enhance the structure, These buttresses together with the large steep roof coming rather low to the ground were other essential characteristics of the modified Victorian Gothic architecture.
- e) The siting of the building in the town is rather important in the street-scape;-across from the town Library, a Heritage Building, and diagonally placed to the very lovely town-park or common.
- f) The stained-glass windows harmonize with the colouring of the brick-work, and truss system. They are well designed.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Bracebridge before the 23rd day of April , 1985.

DATED at Bracebridge this 12th day of March , 1985.

"KENNETH C. VEITCH"  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk of the Corporation of  
 the Town of Bracebridge