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**NOTICE**

In accordance with procedure By-law 160-2004, and in the matter of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, and the matter of the lands and premises, formerly known as St. Mary's Catholic Church located at 19 John Street in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario:

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the City of Brampton intends to designate property situated at 19 John Street (formerly St. Mary's Catholic Church) in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

The former St. Mary's Catholic Church at 19 John Street is located on the south side of John Street east of Main Street South. The principle structure is a one-and-a-half storey vernacular masonry church. The layout of the principle structure is a simple rectangular shape. The structure has a front-gable asphalt roof with stepped roofline. A modest parking lot is located to the west of the principle structure.

**SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION**

The property at 19 John Street is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

**Design/Physical Value:**

The cultural heritage value of the former St. Mary's Catholic Church at 19 John Street is related to its design or physical value as a vernacular place of worship of modest scale and design. The simple masonry structure of the church is distinguished by a front gable roof that is bellcast at the eaves. On the façade, the roofline is stepped and features a large pointed arched window. A large pointed arched window is also found on the rear elevation, and both feature brick voussoirs. The side elevations are six-bays separated by buttresses. Each bay features paired 1/1 windows with concrete sills. A notable feature of the church is the date stone indicating "1909" as the construction date.

## **Historical/Associative Value:**

The former St. Mary's Catholic Church is associated with the resiliency of early residents, as well as the evolution and growth of the Catholic religion in Brampton. It is also associated with prominent residents John Lynch and Reverend Cyril Sullivan.

The long history of the Roman Catholic religion in Brampton started with meetings in John Lynch's home where one of the priests would come from St. Paul's in York to minister. Lynch was a prosperous businessman and farmer. He was the area's chief realtor, and as a lawyer specializing in real estate, he was involved in the legal affairs of many residents in Chinguacousy Township. John Lynch was from Vermont, and was involved in the Township's council before becoming the Village of Brampton's first Reeve in 1853. Lynch was instrumental in the growth of the Catholic Church in Brampton. Not only were meetings held in his home, he eventually donated land two blocks south of Queen Street East for the first church to be built, as well as a burial ground (now the St. Mary's Cemetery).

This first church, called the Guardian Angel's Church, was blessed on February 12, 1865. It had had no resident priest; instead priests would visit from nearby congregations over the church's 13 years of existence. The structure was destroyed by fire in July 1878. Its fate is tied to religious tensions in Canada, and arson was suspected in the church's demise. The insurance for this structure had expired, leading the congregation to raise funds to rebuild.

The resilient congregation continued meeting in a large room above a local store, and later in the Chisholm's Concert hall. The Old John Street Presbyterian Church (a new structure had been built on Church Street) was subsequently bought and renovated by the Roman Catholic Church. This building was rededicated on February 21, 1879.

The Catholic congregation remained there until 1910 when St. Mary's Church was built at 19 John Street. The church was constructed under the guidance and direction of Father Egan. On Wednesday November 3, 1909 the cornerstone of the new church was blessed by Reverend John Hand, as delegated by the Most Reverend Fergus Patrick McEvay, Archbishop of Toronto in the presence of a large number of citizens. The church was opened and blessed by Archbishop McEvay on February 20, 1910. The first resident Roman Catholic priest in Brampton, Reverend J.T. Egan, was appointed in 1919. He lived over a barbershop on Queen Street for two years until the rectory was built at 23 John Street. He was later succeeded by Fr. J. Coleman in 1937, and by Fr. T. McCabe in 1940.

The former St. Mary's Catholic Church is associated with Reverend Cyril Sullivan, who was appointed to St. Mary's in 1946 and served the parish for 26 years in a period of rapid growth and expansion of the church. Sullivan is also credited with starting the Brampton Catholic School board. A supporter of religious education, he brought together 300 parishioners to start the board. Sullivan's contribution to the community is recognized through the naming of a school and the local Knights of Columbus council in his honour. One of the parish's most notable undertakings was the building of the new St. Mary's Church on Main Street South in 1964, which replaced the John Street building.

The church at 19 John Street was later used as a meeting hall for the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal benefit society. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto recently sold the property to the Brampton Municipal Workers Building Society.

### **Contextual Value:**

The former St. Mary's Catholic Church also holds contextual value as it maintains, defines and contributes to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century character of John Street. Located across from a modern high-rise, the church is highly significant as a surviving vestige of Brampton's modest beginnings. The church and John Street are located in a potential Heritage Conservation District as identified in an HCD Feasibility study lead by George Robb Architect. It is located within the 'Four Corners' neighbourhood, the civic, religious and commercial heart of Old Brampton. The church is within close proximity to other listed and designated heritage sites, including St. Paul's United Church, The Boyle House, and First Baptist Church.

### **DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

The heritage attributes comprise all façades, architectural detailing, construction materials and associated building techniques, as well as significant landscape elements and important vistas. The detailed heritage attributes/character defining elements include, but are not limited to:

- Red brick exterior, laid in common bond pattern
- Front gable roof with bellcast eaves and stepped roofline on facade
- Cornerstone indicating "1909" as date of construction
- Pointed arch window with voussoirs on the façade and rear elevation
- Six-bay side elevations
- Buttresses
- Paired 1/1 windows with storm windows and concrete sills
- Wood soffits
- Two chimneys
- Located within the historic "Four Corners" area - the civic, religious and commercial heart of Old Brampton

The short statement of reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the detailed Heritage Report: Statement of Reason for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Please contact Katrina Guy, Heritage Coordinator, at 905-874-2618 to view this document, and for further information. Any objections to this proposed designation must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on **DATE** (within 30 days of the publication of this notice).

Date: **Month Day, Year**

Peter Fay, City Clerk

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