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Ontario Heritage Trust

Notice of Intention to Designate a Heritage Property

The Town of Saugeen Shores intends to designate St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 47 Albert Street North, Southampton, further described as TP PT LOT 1 E ALBERT, as a Heritage Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design and Physical Value:

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a representative and early example of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style featuring a rectangular form with buttressed walls, a pitched roof and centre gable, two square towers, evenly-spaced paired lancet windows, and a large decorative gothic window headed with elegant interconnecting tracery. As a Pre-Confederation building, it survives with fewer than eighteen buildings that were constructed in Southampton before the end of 1862 (roughly twenty six date from 1867 and earlier). In addition to being the earliest example of a Gothic Revival ecclesiastical building in Southampton, St. Andrew's is representative of the small number of Pre-Confederation places of worship built in Gothic Revival Style that survive in Ontario.

Historical and Associative Value:

The property is valued for its association with the early settlement and founding of Southampton (beginning in 1848) by Presbyterian pioneers mainly of Scottish origin. It is also valued for its association with the early establishment of the Presbyterian Church in Southampton (1851), through the dedicated efforts of pioneers, many of whom were prominent in the community for their contributions in other areas (e.g., as entrepreneurs, survey engineers, ship captains, master mariners, government agents, and political representatives (reeves, wardens, and provincial politicians). Among notable pioneers closely associated with the Presbyterian Church were Captain John Spence, Alexander McNabb, Captain Angus McAulay, Peter McGregor, Alexander Sproat, Captain Dan McLeod, Thomas Adair, and Agnes Tolmie). St Andrew's Church formed the first congregation in Southampton, and continues to hold services in the subject building at 47 Albert St N, which is the oldest ecclesiastical building in Southampton being used as a church today.

Contextual Value:

The property is important in defining and supporting the overall character of Southampton, which markets itself as "The Oldest Port on the Bruce." It also supports and helps to define the historic character of Albert St. N. through its alignment with properties to the north and south. This section of Albert St. N, stretching from the Saugeen River to High St., presents thirty residential and commercial buildings, five of which are Pre-Confederation, and twenty-two of which were constructed more than a century ago.

The property is visually and historically linked to other historic buildings on the Albert St corridor/parkway; and it is also visually linked with High St., as its two corner towers stand out

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prominently on the horizon looking south, in alignment with the clock tower of the historic former Town Hall on the southeast corner of High St. and Albert St. S.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to the value of the property at 47 Albert St. N. as representative of its Gothic Revival Style include:

- The scale, massing, and rectangular plan, with the main body of the church rising as one extended storey under a steeply pitched gable roof with the gable end facing (west) on Albert St North.
- The buff-brick cladding on walls reinforced with brick-stepped buttresses.
- The paired lancet windows on the sides and façade, and on both front towers.
- The brick corbels on the front gable and the double front towers.
- The north-west corner tower with elevated entrance, with a two-storey high paired lancet windows on the north side, a 3rd-storey parapet with paired lancet unglazed window openings (west side), topped with a flat roof and four capped brick posts.
- The south-west corner tower with elevated entrance, with a two-storey high paired lancet window on the south side, paired lancet window openings on the west facade, and topped with a four-sided steeple.
- The large Gothic arch window with headed with interconnecting tracery on the front façade.
- The stone-and-concrete foundation.

Contextual Value

Attributes that contribute to the contextual value of 47 Albert St. N. as defining and supporting the character of the streetscape of Albert St. N., relevant to its historical and visual links to its surroundings include:

- The placement and orientation of the building, with its primary entrance on Albert St. N.
- The setback from Lansdowne St. (north side) allowing for unobstructed views of the building for anyone looking southward (e.g., from one block to the north).
- The setback from the property immediately to the south, allowing for access to light through the paired lancet windows on the south elevation of the building.

Exclusions:

Following is a list of architectural features that have been modernized as well as liturgical features, and chattels other items, which are modernizations lacking in historical architectural value, and therefore should be excluded from heritage protection:

1. Rear addition (east end of the building). The addition from 1891 is no longer recognizable, having been expanded on three sides, and altered dramatically. It is no longer considered an historical attribute.
2. Glass front doors in both towers. Not historical.
3. The organ (electrified with computerized components in 2012) and chimes.

4. Interior walls and wainscoting, ceilings, floors, staircases, doors, and cornices, all of which have been changed and modernized over the years.
5. Lighting fixtures (Gothic-style pendant lanterns date from 1967).
6. All chattels: furnishings, including pews, chairs, pulpit, desks and tables, storage cupboards, appliances, textiles.
7. Church signs and front flowerbed, which are of neither historical nor contextual value.
8. Liturgical stained-glass windows (that are not protected under the Ontario Heritage Act) include the fixed stained-glass windows on the north and south sides and on the front façade of the building.

Further information respecting this notice of intention to designate the property is available by contacting the Town of Saugeen Shore Clerk.

A notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the Clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in the newspaper (date of publication is June 6, 2023).

The Clerk may be reached at Town of Saugeen Shores, 600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820, Port Elgin, Ontario, N0H 2C0, by email at clerk@saugeenshores.ca, or by phone at 519-832-2008 ext. 104.

Dated June 6, 2023

Dawn Mittelholtz

Clerk, Town of Saugeen Shores