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City of Orillia

BOX 340 - ORILLIA, ONTARIO
L3V 6J1

OFFICE
OF THE
CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR

September 15, 1980.

REGISTERED

The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
77 Bloor Street West,
TORONTO, Ontario.
M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: City of Orillia Designating By-law Number 1980-260

Please find enclosed the following:

1. A copy of By-law Number 1980-260, a by-law to designate St. James Anglican Church as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest, together with a copy of the Reasons for Designation.

These documents are forwarded to you pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, Section 29(6).

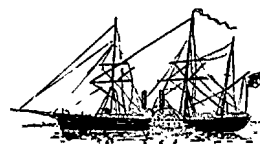
Yours truly,

Laura S. Lee (Mrs.),
Assistant Clerk.

/sc
Encls.



CITY ON THE LAKES - BIRTHPLACE OF CENTRAL ONTARIO



A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH AS BEING OF
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest;


AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Orillia has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as St. James Anglican Church and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

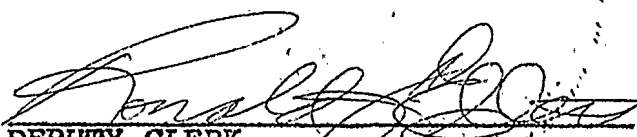
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT St. James Anglican Church, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, be and it is hereby designated as being of architectural and historic value or interest.
2. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Registry Office for the division of Simcoe.
3. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally
passed this 8th day of September A.D. 1980.


MAYOR


DEPUTY CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 1980- 260 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Orillia in the County of Simcoe and being composed of Lots 6 and 7 on the south side of Coldwater Street as shown on a plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Simcoe as Plan Number 8.

IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario
Heritage Act, 1974

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF By-law Number
1980- , a by-law to designate
certain property pursuant to the
Act.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

HISTORY

The first religious services in Orillia were held in the Indian Council Chambers known as the "Old Mission House," which was erected by the government. By 1857, the urgent need for a new place of worship resulted in the construction of a stone church with a seating capacity of 300. It was during this period, under Rev. Thomas Boulton Read, that the Orillia Church became known as St. James. By the late 1880's this stone structure was found to be inadequate, and rather than add to it, the Church was torn down and in 1891 was replaced with a structure capable of seating 780 people. 1903 saw the erection of a new Sunday School Building on the site of the Old Mission House. This building served as a "hostess house" for soldiers during World War II. Disaster struck St. James in 1905 in the form of fire which destroyed the Church's interior, including the organ. Charred beams in the basement ceiling are still evident. Plans for the restoration were formed immediately and the Church reopened within six months, complete with a restored organ. During the 1950's St. James underwent many changes and alterations. The interior was completely redecorated, and an addition which joined the Church and the Sunday School Building together underwent dedication and opening ceremonies in May of 1966.

The Church was designed by Mr. W.H. Croker, the same architect who designed the nearby Fire Hall and YMCA. The structure is of a solid brick construction laid in a stretcher bond fashion, sitting on a cut stone foundation. Typically, the Church employs a Gothic Revival style, with a single offset tower on its front facade. The exterior walls of the Church are comprised of a variety of features which include buttresses, plinth, and elaborate corbelling and imbrication. Limestone is used to create several string courses, and to adorn the tops of the buttresses and exposed gable ends. All structural openings are gothic or centre pointed in shape. The building's larger windows employ limestone sills, quoins, radiating voussoirs, and labels which are finished with terra cotta rosettes.

The secondary windows maintain brick for the voussoirs and labels. Stained and leaded glass is used extensively throughout the Church. All entrances to the Church are marked with heavy wooden doors with gothic shaped transoms above. The narthex at the front of the Church was built in 1970, replacing a small porch. It was designed by Mr. Robert Sinclair, an Orillian architect, as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Wright. Built largely of limestone and old brick, the upper walls have been constructed of wood and boast several leaded glass windows. The roof is gable shaped surrounded by decorative wood trim similar to that found on the eaves of the main Church structure. The roof of the Church is a steep gable with smaller cross gables, and is covered with several layers of asphalt shingles. A campaign is presently underway to raise money to strip and reshingle the roof as leaking has become a problem. The roof line between the main gable and the bell tower consists of crenellated parapets made up of limestone blocks. The main gable itself is flanked by two large round brick and limestone projections. The spire is sheathed in slate and carved wood trim. Metal finials and crosses are used to decorate the spire and gable peaks.

The Sunday School Building was erected in 1903. This large two storey structure is also of a solid brick construction. The hip shaped roof has a large centre gable on each of its facades. Each corner of the building consists of a multi-storied bay, the main entrance is located at the base of one of these bays. All of the structural openings are either rectangular or centre pointed in shape. On the main forcade there is one large gothic window in which the glass has been removed and replaced with wood and decorated with a wooden cross sometimes during the 1950's. The only other changes to the exterior of the building are to the entrance where the main doors and steps have been replaced. The Sunday School Building is located off to the left and slightly behind the Church, and in 1956 an addition was designed by Switzer and West which joined the two structures together. Hardly visible from the street, this addition houses offices, parlor and a kitchen. Through the use of red brick the building has been incorporated with the original structures without creating a strong contrast.