

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 313 Main Street, Village of Schomberg

Legal Description: Plan 87, Lot 48

Brief description: 1-storey brick-clad vernacular structure with Gothic influences

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 313 Main Street meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 569/22 for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.



Name: Schomberg Presbyterian Church
Date Built: c. 1895
Location: West side of Main Street, south of Dr. Kay Drive
Condition: Good

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Physical/Design Value

- A good representative and surviving example of a brick clad 1-storey vernacular church with Gothic revival influence
- Decorative stained-glass gothic revival windows and window openings
- Course flagstone/fieldstone foundation
- The symmetrical 3-bay organization of ground floor openings on the buildings principal (east) elevation

**Several of the structure's interior features also contribute to its cultural heritage value, including:*

- Tongue and groove "cove" ceiling;
- Original wooden floorboards;
- Original curved wooden pews;
- Wainscotting with painted-on wooden grain; and
- Ornate hardware including the decorative metal door hinges

Historical/Associative Value

- Direct connection to the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian religious communities and their history in Schomberg
- Connection to Joel Lloyd, a prominent early settler of Schomberg
- Connection to early Ontario settlers and architectural styles
- This property has had over 130 years of continuous use as a religious and cultural gathering place in the Village of Schomberg

Contextual Value

- The subject property reflects some of the earliest settler architecture and siting, giving insight into settler practices
- The subject property is contextually linked to King Township's cultural history and demonstrates the history of early cultural practices in King
- The subject structure has contextual value as it is historically linked to the Lot and Concession it was built upon
- The subject structure has contextual value as it historically linked to the historic village of Schomberg, as well as the local Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian communities
- Longstanding religious and cultural use creates a significant historical link to the local community

DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

Gothic Revival architecture is a historically influential style, with many prominent examples. The Gothic Revival became common in Canada in the early 19th century and rose to become the most popular style for major projects throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Throughout Canada many of the most prominent religious, civic, and scholastic institutions are housed in Gothic Revival style buildings.¹

Dating to 1895, the Schomberg Presbyterian Church at 313 Main Street has design and physical value as a good and well-maintained representative example of a one-storey, rectangular, front-gabled red brick veneer vernacular frame building with Gothic Revival influence. The building has retained many of its original architectural details expressing the Gothic style, including its simple floor plan, steeply pitched gables, pointed/arched stained-glass windows, and transom topped with decorative brick voussoirs. The exposed foundation is composed of coursed fieldstone, adding a robust and tactile base to the otherwise restrained design. The symmetry of the façade, coupled with understated decorative details, gives the building a modest yet dignified character, befitting its religious purposes.

The structure has also retained several of its interior features as well. These interior features include a tongue and groove cove ceiling, which enhances the acoustics of the interior, original wooden floorboards, original curved wooden pews, wainscoting with painted-on wooden grain, and original decorative hardware including the door hinges. The interior also features a designated area for a full immersion baptismal tank.

Furthermore, the subject structure showcases a fascinating layering of history and craftsmanship. Notably, the current structure is believed to have been constructed around and utilizing a former building, likely a former church. During renovations in 1995, following damage to the existing structure, the former building was revealed under the brick-cladding. This uncovered structure appeared to be disassembled into six pieces and reconstructed within the current building. It is believed that this structure is the remains of a former Methodist Church, which is further discussed in the Historical section below.

Archival photographs from 1995, capture this intriguing event and provide visual evidence of the former building's presence. These photographs suggest that the former structure was likely neo-classical in style. This is evidenced by the shape of the former window openings and the wooden boards fashioned to resemble beveled stonework. The incorporation of this former structure within the existing building highlights a unique blend of architectural elements and historical continuity, contributing to the overall significance and charm of the subject structure.

HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

313 Main Street

The property at 313 Main Street originated as part of a 200-acre lot, known as Lot 34 of Concession 9. The subject property is located on the west side of Main Street, south of Dr. Kay Drive. Land registry records indicate that the 200-acre lot was first patented from the Crown by Joel Lloyd in 1844. In the same year, Joel began to sell and subdivide the property and sold 50 and a half acres of the east half of Lot 34 to Thomas Brown for £400. In 1859 Thomas

¹ Retrospective Vaughan. "Gothic Revival," n.d. <https://www.retrospectivevaughan.ca/gothic-revival-and-neo-gothic>.

Brown sold a portion of those 50 and a half acres to Joel Lloyd and Trustees, for the purpose of establishing a Chapel. It is likely that Thomas leased the property to Joel Lloyd and the Trustees during this time as it was sold by Thomas Brown to Garrett Brown in 1865 for £8000.²

Archival sources indicate that the first regular church services held by the Baptist denomination in Schomberg were held in a little “six-square” Methodist Church. This is likely the Church that Joel Lloyd and the Trustees had constructed, as the Chain of title records indicate that upon the sale of the property to Joel and the Trustees, there is a noted remark pertaining to its association with the Methodist Church.

Joel Lloyd, born in 1822 in Whitchurch, was the son of Jesse Lloyd, a significant early settler of King Township, who erected a saw and gristmill following his arrival to York in 1812 in Loyd town, of which he is the namesake. Joel received a common school education while young, and settled on part of Lot 34, Concession 9. Joel is noted in archival records as a member of the Methodist congregation.³ It is believed that Joel played a role in the acquisition of the subject property for religious use and potentially the erection of the “six-square” Methodist Church.

It is further indicated in archival sources that after the erection of a new Methodist Church in 1881, the Trustees of the Baptist Church purchased the property,⁴ which is corroborated in the chain of title history, which demonstrates that the subject property was sold by the Methodist's to the Trustees of the Baptist Church for \$450 in 1881. In 1895, a new Baptist Church was erected, which is the existing structure at 313 Main Street.⁵ It is believed that this new Baptist Church was constructed around and utilizing the former “six-square” Methodist Church.

In 1903 this property became known as part of Village Lot 48, of Plan 87, a plan for the Village of Schomberg. The 1904 and 1910 Fire Insurance Maps for Schomberg identify the subject structure as a Baptist Church, constructed out of frame, with a brick veneer.⁶ The Trustees of the Schomberg Baptist Church sold the property to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in 1929.

In 1995, during the filming of the movie “Night of the Twisters,” a staged explosion went wrong and caused damage to the existing structure. During the subsequent repair work, it was revealed that a former structure lay beneath the cladding of the existing building. This uncovered structure was found to be cut into six sections and reassembled.⁷ It is believed that this structure is what the archival sources refer to as the former “six-square” Methodist Church. Furthermore, archival images of the structure undergoing repairs after the explosion suggest the former structure was of the neo-classical architectural style, evident in the shape of window cut-outs that have been filled-in and replaced with the current gothic-revival windows. The neo-classical architectural style was popular in Ontario during the early to mid 19th century,

² Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book. York Region, Plan 87, Lot 48, King Township.

³ Mulvany, Charles Pelham. *History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario, Volume 2*. Toronto : C. Blackett Robinson, 1885. <http://archive.org/details/historyyork02unknuoft>. Pg. 406.

⁴ Sawdon, Herbert, and Jean Love. *Schomberg and Its School*. The Ryerson Press, 1928. <https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/Schomberg-and-its-school--S-S--No--14--King--2R3BF1OVBGVIO.html>. Pg. 24.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 1904 and 1910 Fire Insurance Maps of Schomberg, King Township Archives.

⁷ Archival Photographs, 1995.

pre-dating the popularity of the Gothic-revival style.⁸

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

The subject property has contextual value as the Church contributes to the 19th and early 20th century historic character of Schomberg's Main Street. The Schomberg Presbyterian Church at 313 Main Street is part of a collection of heritage properties along Main Street that are listed on the King Township Heritage Register including the Schomberg Community Hall at 325 Main Street, the Adams Mart House 331 Main Street, the Anderson Tegart House at 326 Main Street, the Traders Bank of Canada at 314 Main Street, and the Schomberg Post Office at 290 Main Street.

Furthermore, the Church complements and enhances the overall aesthetic of the neighbouring structures while maintaining a harmonious relationship with the village's traditional and distinct architectural style.

The subject property also has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. Serving as a central hub for community activities and social gatherings since its establishment in 1895, the Church's role in providing essential services, both spiritual and social, underscores its functional link to the local community.

Heritage Attributes:

Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as a representative example of a vernacular Gothic Revival church are:

- 1-storey massing and rectangular plan
- The symmetrical 3-bay organization of ground floor openings on the buildings principal (east) elevation
- Gothic revival arched stained-glass windows and window openings
- Course flagstone/fieldstone foundation
- The simplicity and sparsity of the building's design, representative of the values of restraint, discipline and frugality central to the denominations from which it originated

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as displaying a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit are:

- Tongue and groove "cove" ceiling
- Original wooden floorboards
- Original curved wooden pews
- Wainscotting and wooden fixtures with painted-on wooden grain
- Ornate hardware including the decorative metal door hinges

⁸ Blumenson, John J. G. *Ontario Architecture : A Guide to Styles and Building Terms, 1784 to the Present*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1990. <http://archive.org/details/ontarioarchitect0000blum>.

Historical and Associative Value

The Schomberg Presbyterian Church has direct associations with the local Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian congregations, and has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture by way of the following attributes:

- Historical association with the long-standing theme of religious worship in King
- Historical association with early settlers including the Brown and Lloyd families

Contextual Value

The Schomberg Presbyterian Church is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area, and is historically linked to its surroundings by way of the following heritage attributes:

- Location in the historic Village of Schomberg
- Placement on the subject property and orientation towards Main Street
- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the west side of Main Street
- The building's modest palette and architectural features, which contribute to the historical character of Main Street and the historic Village of Schomberg more broadly