

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST AND DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Description of Property

The 2.15 hectare property municipally addressed as 1175 Main Street East is comprised of a two-storey brick building constructed in 1919 known as the Hamilton Memorial Public School. The property is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street East and Ottawa Street North, in the Crown Point West Neighbourhood in the City of Hamilton.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The two-storey brick school located at 1175 Main Street East, known as the Hamilton Memorial Public School, was constructed in 1919. It has design and physical value as a representative example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture as applied to an urban elementary school, which displays a high degree of craftsmanship through the decorative patterned brickwork and elaborate stone entrance surrounds. The property is also a rare example of a Hamilton school building with a central auditorium with covered skylight and a rare surviving example of a school built to commemorate the dead of the First World War.

The historical value of the property lies in its association with the development of Hamilton's East End in the early twentieth century and the desire of Hamiltonians to memorialize the First World War. The subject property also reflects the work of prominent Hamilton-born architect George Hutton (1881-1942).

Contextually, this property is important in defining the residential character of the surrounding neighbourhood of Crown Point West. It is historically, visually, and functionally linked to its surroundings, being on its original location at the intersection of Main Street East and Ottawa Street North. This large and distinctive structure situated along a major thoroughfare has been well-known to generations of Hamilton students and is considered a local landmark.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key attributes that embody the physical value of the property as being a representative twentieth-century Collegiate Gothic brick school, a rare example of a Hamilton school building with a central auditorium, its association with the desire of Hamiltonians to memorialize the First World War, and in demonstrating a high degree of craftsmanship, include:

- All elevations and roofline of the two-storey 1919 original school building, including its:
 - Rectangular plan with blind end pavilions;
 - Brick facades with stone accents;

- Crenelated brick parapet with stone accents and moulded cornice;
 - Main entrance on the front (south) elevation, including its:
 - Projecting frontispiece topped by carved stone tablets with floral motif flanked by carved stone spires;
 - Carved date stone reading “1914- Memorial School-1918” with floral motif;
 - Projecting entryway in the centre of the frontispiece with crenelated stone parapet with brick accents featuring carved stone spindles and the former coat of arms of the City of Hamilton showing the Steamship, Beaver and Beehive; and,
 - Recessed gated opening below the parapet with elaborate stone moulding under a pointed arch with the words, “We gave Our today for your tomorrow/ We died that you might live” in relief above the arch;
 - Projecting decorative brick panels on the front (south) elevation, including its:
 - Dichromatic brickwork in lozenge pattern with floral stone accents;
 - Horizontal and vertical stone banding with quoins; and
 - Stone tablet with floral motif flanked by stone spires;
 - Projecting entrances on both side (east and west) elevations, including the:
 - Pointed arch door openings;
 - Recessed entrances with stone moulding;
 - Elaborate stone reliefs with a floral motif and shaped transom; and,
 - Brick pilasters supporting the raised parapet with carved stone spindles and stone plaques, each entrance having the name of a different famous Canadian soldier: Major-General Sir Edward W. B. Morrison; General Sir Arthur Currie; Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae; and Lieutenant-Colonel William A. Bishop;
 - Horizontal stone banding; and,
 - Grouped windows with stone window surrounds.
- Interior features of the central auditorium in the 1919 original school building, including its:
 - Coffered ceiling supported by Composite order capitals on brackets;
 - Mural banner over the stage reading, “That our youth may ever remember the valiant men of Hamilton who died in the Great War, this school is a memorial”;
 - Moulded proscenium over the stage;
 - Seventeen painting plaques bearing the names of First World War battles in which Canadian troops participated, arranged under the arched openings of the second-floor gallery;
 - Alternating coat of arms of Canada and the United Kingdom arranged on columns supporting the second-floor gallery between painted plaques; and,

- Sixteen bronze plaques, each bearing the names of 132 Hamiltonians who died in the First World War, arranged on columns below the coat of arms.
- All elevations and roofline of the two-storey 1921 Manual Arts Building annex, including its:
 - Brick facades with stone accents;
 - Crenelated parapet with dichromatic brick decorations, moulded cornice, and carved stone reading “Manual Arts”;
 - Former entrances with brick pilasters topped with capstones supporting carved stone spires;
 - Horizontal stone banding; and,
 - Stone window surrounds with quoins.
- The concrete plaque reading “Manual Training”, originally part of the entrance to the 1921 annex and relocated to the east elevation of the single-storey 1994 brick addition.

The modern gymnasium, built 1970, and single-storey addition, built 1990 to connect the 1919 original school to the 1921 Manual Arts Building annex, are not considered to have heritage value or interest.

Key attributes that embody the contextual value of the property as a defining feature of the historical character of the Crown Point West Neighbourhood include its:

- Location at intersection of Main Street East and Ottawa Street North;
- Deep setbacks of the original 1919 building from Main Street East and Ottawa Street North; and,
- Shallow setback of the 1921 Manual Arts Building annex to Ottawa Street North.