

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Report 7, Clause 103, adopted as amended, by City of Toronto Council on September 28, 29 and 30, 2005

Enacted by Council: February 2, 2006

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 16-2006

To amend former City of Toronto By-law No. 380-77, being a by-law to designate 103 Bellevue Avenue under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, by amending the reasons for designation.

WHEREAS By-law No. 380-77 designated the property at 103 Bellevue Avenue (St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation included in By-law No. 380-77 do not fully describe the architectural components of the building; and

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to amend designating by-laws to clarify or correct the statement explaining the property's cultural heritage value or interest or the description of the property's heritage attributes and to revise the language of the by-law to make it consistent with the requirements of the Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to amend By-law No. 380-77 by amending the reasons for designation; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as 103 Bellevue Avenue a Notice of Intention to amend By-law No. 380-77; and

WHEREAS the amended reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed amendments have been served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. By-law No. 380-77 is amended by deleting Schedule "A" and substituting Schedule "A" attached to this by-law.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "B" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.

- 3.** The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property at 103 Bellevue Avenue and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 2nd day of February, A.D. 2006.

DAVID R. MILLER,
Mayor

ULLI S. WATKISS
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

SCHEDULE “A”**AMENDED REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

The property at 103 Bellevue Avenue is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural resource value or interest. Located on the southeast corner of College Street and Bellevue Avenue, St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church was originally constructed in 1858 and rebuilt after a fire in 1865. Colonel Robert Brittain (sic) Denison commissioned the first church and financed its reconstruction on his family’s Bellevue estate, which was subdivided into a residential subdivision after 1853. The placement of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields in open space west of Spadina Avenue was highlighted by the widening of College Street through the area, and the layout of the surrounding streets so that the church terminated the southward vista on Brunswick Avenue.

A series of influential Toronto architects created the original design for St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, planned its rebuilding after the fire, and supervised the subsequent additions. Thomas Fuller, the English-born architect best known for co-designing the original Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, prepared the plans for the first St. Stephen’s. His designs were based on St. Michael’s Church (1230) in Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, which the publication “The Ecclesiologist” advocated as an ideal English Gothic church. In directing the reconstruction of St. Stephen’s in 1866, the local architectural partnership of Gundry and Langley retained portions of the west façade and the bell cote designed by Fuller. Henry Langley, as a solo practitioner and in partnership with others, was among the best known designers of ecclesiastical buildings in Toronto. Frederic W. Cumberland, whose projects included St. James’ Cathedral (1853), was a Warden of St. Stephen’s and oversaw the rebuilding process. The transepts were purportedly added in 1878. Eden Smith and Sons, among Toronto’s most prolific architectural firms, extended the nave eastward and designed a new chancel in 1890.

St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church contains an important collection of commemorative stained glass windows by artisans from three Toronto firms. Robert McCausland Limited installed the trio of windows on the north face of the north transept (chapel) in the late 19th century. In 1913, McCausland designed the large west window inscribed “noli me tangere” above the Bellevue Avenue entrance. The same firm added a panel depicting a pair of angels on the east wall of the north transept in 1919. The Dominion Stained Glass Studio is credited with the design of a window on the same wall. The N. T. Lyon Studio created the tripartite east (chancel) window in the late 1800s, as well as a panel on the south wall of the sanctuary in the early 20th century.

A Ryder organ, dated circa 1858, was installed at St. Stephen’s in 1906. The interior of the church was divided into two sections in the 1980s, with the east half devoted to the sanctuary and accessed from College Street, and the west portion housing the community hall and entered from Bellevue Avenue. During this period, a commemorative plaque was erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now the Ontario Heritage Trust).

Significance:

St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church is architecturally significant as one of Toronto's earliest churches with Gothic Revival detailing inspired by the Early English Gothic style. As originally constructed, rebuilt and extended, the design of the church represents the work of the leading architectural firms of the last half of the 19th century in Toronto.

St. Stephen's is historically important for its initiatives in community outreach. In 1927 under the direction of Canon J. E. Ward (St. Stephen's rector from 1925 to 1958), the congregation was the first to regularly broadcast church services on local radio station CFRB and via short-wave radio. During the following decades, the church hosted theatrical productions, including religious plays written and directed by Canon Ward and Earle Grey and performed by Dora Mavor Moore and other legends of the Canadian theatre. The parish established St. Stephen's Community House in 1960 as one of many social service programs it offered in the neighbourhood.

Contextually, with its prominent location on College Street at the north edge of the Kensington Market neighbourhood, the church is a local landmark. It faces former Fire Hall No. 8 at 132 Bellevue Avenue, dating to 1878 and recognized as a heritage property on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Church was listed on the first Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1973 and designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by By-law No. 380-77 on June 20, 1977.

Heritage attributes:

The heritage attributes of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church are found on the exterior walls and roof, and on the interior. The Gothic Revival detailing is evident in the buttresses and quoins, the pointed-arched door and window openings, the surrounds with labels and bosses, and the use of polychromy with red brick cladding highlighted by stone trim. The structure is covered by a steeply-pitched gable roof. The eaves extend to the level of the side aisles where they are angled outward to create a triangular silhouette at the west end of the building. Gabled dormers with stained glass mark the north and south slopes of the roof.

The end wall facing west toward Bellevue Avenue comprises the principal façade of the church. Corner buttresses ground the structure, while stout buttresses flank the main entrance and create strong vertical lines. The main entrance to the building is placed in the centre of the wall where a gabled frontispiece contains a surround with a pair of wood doors. The entry is surmounted by the large pointed-arch west window. Above, a diminutive pointed-arch opening is placed near the apex of the gable where the wall narrows to form a base for a covered bell cote. A secondary entry is introduced at the north end of this elevation.

The buttresses are repeated on the side elevations (north and south) where they organize pointed-arch window openings with tracery. A gable-roofed transept with pointed-arch window openings is positioned near the east end of both walls. A gabled frontispiece with an entrance is found directly west of each transept. At the east end of the building, the chancel with pointed-arch window openings rises two stories beneath a hip roof edged with corbelled brickwork and marked by a chimney.

On the interior, the sanctuary, designed with a nave flanked by side aisles, has been partially divided to create the west hall and several auxiliary spaces (the alterations are reversible). The sanctuary displays red brick surfaces, wood roof trusses, and brick piers and granite columns with stone detailing. Important features in the chancel (east) are the Casavant console, a historical pew and a memorial plaque from the first church. The distinctive organ is placed on the south side where the pipes (which rise from the basement where part of the hydraulic mechanism remains) display the original painted decoration. The metal light fixtures and the stained glass windows described above are included in the Reasons for Designation.

SCHEDULE "B"

PIN 21109-0142 (LT).

PT LT 3-4 PL D3 TORONTO, PT 8, 64R14920

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)