

Carleton Public School

Description

The property at 2054 Davenport Road is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. According to Toronto District School Board records, Carleton Public School was completed in 1914 on the northwest corner of Davenport Road and Osler Street. It was later known as the South Building of Carleton Village Public School.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Carleton Public School is a representative example of an early 20th century educational building with features of Edwardian Classicism. The style, initiated during the reign of Edward VII, was popular before World War I with its restrained Classical detailing. Carleton Public School is distinguished by its irregularly-shaped plan, designed to highlight the angle created by the intersection of Davenport Road and Osler Street, and a distinctive bow window.

Historically, Carleton Public School is an institution of significance to the community. The 1914 school replaced an earlier building (1899) that served the Carleton neighbourhood, one of three communities that joined together as the Town of West Toronto Junction in 1889. Following its amalgamation with the City of Toronto, the area continued to grow as its strong industrial core attracted workers and a demand for housing, churches and schools. It was later renamed Davenport Road Public School and, beginning in 1989, was known as the South Building of Carleton Village Public School following a merger with Osler Senior Public School.

Carleton Public School is associated with the practice of Toronto architect F. E. Belfry, who was known for his plans for educational buildings in the city. Belfry previously designed Oakwood Collegiate (1910) and Regal Road Public School (1913), with the latter property designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Contextually, Carleton Public School is a landmark on the northwest corner of Davenport Road and Osler Street where it is positioned on an elevated site overlooking the intersection. In the vicinity, Davenport-Perth United Church (built in 1901 and now a community centre) at 1900 Davenport Road is designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of Carleton Public School related to its cultural heritage value as a well-designed example of Edwardian Classicism that is a neighbourhood landmark are:

- The scale, form and massing
- The irregularly-shaped plan, which extends three stories above a raised base
- The red brick cladding, with brick, artificial stone and wood detailing
- The flat roofline that is marked by an extended cornice, brick parapet and stone detailing
- On the south and east elevations, the frontispieces with segmental-arched pediments and stepped parapets above
- At the base of the frontispieces, the entrance surrounds with Classical detailing and three-part transoms
- The fenestration with flat-headed window openings
- The wood sash windows with divided-light uppers
- The angled southeast corner with a bow window
- The banded brickwork and stone band courses on the lower storey
- The angled west elevation and the rear (north) wall, where the cladding, detailing and fenestration is repeated from the east and south facades

The additions to the school complex, dating to the 1960s and 1970s and located on the southwest end of the property are not included in the Reasons for Designation.