

St. Clement's Anglican ChurchDescription

The property at 175 Jones Avenue 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. Located on the east side of Jones Avenue, south of Gerrard Street East, St. Clement's Anglican Church was completed in 1914.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

St. Clement's Anglican Church exhibits design value as a representative example of a church with features from the Victorian Gothic Revival style that was favoured by Anglican congregations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With its scale, pitched roof with belfry, characteristic pointed-arch window openings and lancet windows, and decorative detailing (including roof brackets and corbelled brickwork), the church exemplifies Gothic Revival design as a familiar symbol of spiritual and social interaction for its congregation and community.

Historically, St. Clement's Anglican Church is valued as an institution of significance in Leslieville where it served the spiritual needs of its parishioners and the social needs of the neighbourhood for over a century. The church is associated with the evolution of Leslieville as it changed from a hamlet identified with market gardens and the brick making industry, to the thriving suburban community that emerged between 1884 and World War I after its annexation by the City of Toronto brought the municipal services and transportation links that spurred its residential, industrial, commercial and institutional development.

St. Clement's Anglican Church is also linked to the career of Scottish-born architect Andrew Sharp, who practiced in Toronto between 1902 and 1923. Following training at the Glasgow School of Art and affiliations with well-known architects in Scotland and Montreal, Sharp spent eight years as the chief draughtsman for the notable Toronto architectural firm of Darling and Pearson. During his tenure there, Sharp was involved with several projects for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, and his name appears on the designs for many recognized heritage churches, including Deer Park Presbyterian (later United) and St. Aidan's Anglican. This experience likely contributed to his selection as the architect for St. Clement's, which is the only identified church designed by Sharp during his partnership with James Hodge Brown between 1910 and 1919. Contextually, St. Clement's Anglican Church is physically, visually and historically linked to Leslieville where it was constructed during the period when the community was developing as a residential suburb east of the Don River and downtown Toronto. With its highly visible presence on Jones Avenue where it is viewed from both Dundas and Gerrard streets, St. Clement's Anglican Church is a local landmark in the neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 175 Jones Avenue are:

- The church building
- The scale, form and massing
- The rectangular plan that rises one extended storey and features shallow gabled transepts (north and south)
- The brick construction with red brick cladding and brick, artificial stone, limestone and wood details
- The steeply-pitched gable roof with flared eaves, brackets and, near the west end, a belfry
- The detailing on the principal (west) facade with a stepped parapet and brick piers with gablets
- The two entrances on the west facade, where pairs of wood doors are placed in round-arched surrounds with corbelled brickwork and stone detailing
- The fenestration, with pointed-arch window openings and lancet windows on the west, north and south facades
- On the west facade, the round opening with louvers, and the datestone marked “To the Glory of God – 1913”
- The placement of the church building on the east side of Jones Avenue where it is viewed from both directions along the street