

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council  
Item TE7.4, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on  
July 16, 17 and 18, 2019

## **CITY OF TORONTO**

### **BY-LAW 1635-2019**

**To designate the property at 300 Bloor Street West as being of cultural heritage value or interest.**

Whereas the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 300 Bloor Street West as being of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 300 Bloor Street West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to designate the property, and has caused the Notice of Intention to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas no notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality; and

Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule A to this by-law;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

- 1.** The property at 300 Bloor Street West, more particularly described in Schedule B attached to this by-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
- 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 300 Bloor Street West at and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Enacted and passed on November 27, 2019.

Frances Nunziata,  
Speaker

Ulli S. Watkiss,  
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

**SCHEDULE A****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
REASONS FOR DESIGNATION  
300 BLOOR STREET WEST**

The property at 300 Bloor Street is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value.

**Description**

Located at the north-west corner of Bloor Street West and Huron Street, the property at 300 Bloor Street contains a complex of religious buildings, first known as the Bloor Street Presbyterian Church and, as of 1925, the Bloor Street United Church, which has undergone a series of alterations designed by various architects between 1888 and 1962. The first building, including a church and Sunday school, was designed by the architect George W. E. Field and constructed between 1886 and 1888. It forms the north-east corner of the church complex. Within a year of the building's completion, in response to the growing population of the recently annexed Annex neighbourhood, a new church, designed by William R. Gregg, was constructed to the south of the first building and completed in 1890. The new church features a prominent corner tower which continues to be a landmark at the north-west corner of Bloor Street West and Huron Street. In 1908-1909, the first building, then used exclusively as a Sunday school, was extended to the west providing more accommodation for the school and included the church hall. The extension was undertaken by the firm of Wickson & (Alfred) Gregg.

In 1927, the church's principal (south) elevation and main entrance was impacted with the widening of Bloor Street. This resulted in the redesign of the south elevation by Wickson & Gregg and entailed the removal of the grand staircase and the relocation of the three entry arches to a new single storey entry pavilion to the west. The church's narthex was given a minimal expansion to the south and nine small arched windows replaced the original three entry arches. Between 1927 and 1954, a single-storey wing accommodating a kitchen and nursery was added to the north of the 1909 Sunday school extension. In 1954, a fire damaged the church and the church interior was reconstructed with a new structural system of arches and an extended choir space by the firm of Bruce, Brown and Brisley with the guidance of Professor I. S. Nairn of the University of Toronto. In 1956, Professor Nairn had a stone lintel carved with the name "Bloor Street United Church" located in the entry pavilion with the original church doors. Between 1954 and 1962, a series of stained glass windows were added to the church interiors including the main worship space, the narthex and corner entries. The latter commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the church and resulted in the great south window which celebrates the theme of ecumenism.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 300 Bloor Street West is valued as an excellent representative of a late 19th century Gothic Revival Presbyterian church complex. The characteristics of the Presbyterian church-type are represented in the hall form of the church with the u-shaped gallery and a Sunday school adjacent to the principal internal wall accommodating the organ and pulpit. The Gothic Revival elements are evident in the spires, buttresses and lancet-shaped windows tempered by the late 19th century taste for rusticated red Credit Valley sandstone, with contrasting smooth buff-coloured Ohio sandstone trim and polished granite columns, the sense of mass in the proportions and the asymmetry of the two towers. The exterior of the complex was transformed through a series of additions and alterations between 1886 and 1927 by three different firms of architects yet retains a consistent Gothic Revival style which is due to the high level of design and craftsmanship with which each succeeding project was undertaken to create a unified whole.

The property at 300 Bloor Street West is valued for its historical association with the 1925 union of the Methodist Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches resulting in the founding of the United Church of Canada, as Dr. George Campbell Pidgeon, minister of the Bloor Street Presbyterian Church (1918-1948) and the last moderator of the Presbyterian Church would become the first moderator of the United Church of Canada. The property is valued for yielding information about the active social service provided by the congregation which from its earliest days and through various outreach programs, championed the needs of the disadvantaged and strove for an ethical role of the congregation within society. The congregation have supported refugees, adopted the 1995 Declaration of Affirmation of inclusivity regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, and have promoted reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people. The congregation shares its space with the Alpha Korean United Church and the City Shul, a Reform congregation.

The property is valued for its association with the earliest development of the Annex neighbourhood in the 1880s when it acquired its characteristic urban pattern and architectural form. The property is also valued as it demonstrates the work of the two prolific Toronto architectural firms. William R. Gregg, (alone and in partnership with Alfred Gregg) was renowned for a large number of church commissions in Toronto and across Ontario. Wickson & (Alfred) Gregg were known for their substantial residential commissions as well as institutional and industrial works. Alfred Gregg was a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Located at the north-west corner of Bloor and Huron Streets, with its prominent corner tower, the church is a landmark viewed from four directions along Bloor and Huron streets. With its late 19th-century picturesque massing built of rusticated Credit Valley sandstone, the church complex defines and maintains the characteristic architectural character and scale of the Annex neighbourhood. Constructed between 1886 and 1890 with later extensions in 1909 and 1927, the complex is historically, functionally, physically and visually linked to its surroundings.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Bloor Street United Church property are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on its property at the north-west corner of Bloor Street West and Huron Street in the Annex neighbourhood

- The setting of the building at the edge of the public sidewalk with a small enclosed landscaped courtyard to the west of the church building faced by the school and the west elevation of the church
- The scale, form and massing of the complex which is composed of a two-and-a-half -storey, L-shaped building on a raised basement with two towers, two single-storey additions on the west and north elevations, the projecting gable-roofed entry on the east elevation, the steeply pitched gable roofs and dormers, as well as a conical roof on the west tower and four pinnacle roofs on the east tower
- The materials which include rusticated Credit Valley sandstone, red mortar joints, smooth and rusticated buff-coloured Ohio stone, brick and copper and wood doors and window frames
- The architectural details which include the two cornerstones with the dates 1886 and 1889, the buttresses, stone headers, sills and window surrounds, stone trim on the buttresses, a stone band with a dentil course on the church building, corbels with gable ends featuring trefoils on the Huron Street entrance and decorative banding on the towers
- The three entry arches, originally located in the south wall of the church prior to the Bloor Street widening in 1927, now located in the single story entry pavilion including the Ohio stone arches with their string mouldings and sprocket details, the red granite columns with buff stone composite capitals framing doorways with transoms with Gothic tracery
- The doors with their diagonal panels and decorative iron strapping and matching door pulls
- The black metal lanterns with their Gothic-patterned glazed sections on the single storey entry porch
- The openings in the towers with their louvres, the leaf patterns at the cornice of the west tower
- The window openings with their Gothic tracery, various lancet shapes, cusped heads, flat arched openings with scalloped profiles on the wood frames

#### Interior

- The door, staircase and hand-rail in the south-east tower

The following heritage attributes have been identified as liturgical elements by the Bloor Street United Church:

- The stained and leaded glass windows including
  - those of the church interior, east south and west elevations, the narthex and stair towers, and particularly
    - the two lancet windows depicting the evangelists
    - the south tripartite rose window depicting ecumenism
    - the nine windows in the narthex depicting the various historic Canadian leaders of the United Church
    - the two transom windows above the doors in the east and west stair tower
    - the stained glass windows in the east elevation of the first (1888) church-Sunday school
    - the leaded glass windows over the 1890 east entrance to the church and Sunday school

**SCHEDULE B**  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

PIN 21212-0059 (LT)

LOT 46 W/S HURON STREET, LOT 1 N/S BLOOR STREET, PART OF LOT 2 N/S BLOOR STREET, REGISTERED PLAN M2

PIN 21212-0058 (LT)

LOT 47 W/S HURON STREET, REGISTERED PLAN M2

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

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