

Temple Baptist Church
Description

The property at 14 Dewhurst Boulevard 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 values. Temple Baptist Church (1913, 1925) is located on the west side of Dewhurst Boulevard just north of Danforth Avenue.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Temple Baptist Church is valued for its 120 year historic association with the Baptist Congregation which was first located in the Danforth neighbourhood on Jones Avenue south of Danforth Avenue circa 1893 and was originally known as the Jones Avenue Baptist Mission. The congregation relocated to its current site north of Danforth Avenue in 1913 constructing a new building which they called a "Sunday School" despite its multipurpose functions. With the renaming of the northern Jones Avenue as Dewhurst Boulevard, the congregation changed their name to Temple Baptist Church. The complex was expanded with the 1925 addition designed by George Thomas Evans, a Hamilton-based architect who specialized in churches and schools and was known for his publication on the various aspects of planning a Baptist church. The Baptist congregation had a continuous 120 year presence in the community until it relocated in October 2012, and sold the Dewhurst Boulevard property in 2013.

The 1925 portion of the Temple Baptist Church is a fine example of a revival of the Georgian Classical Style adapted for Post-Reformation churches in 18th century England. It is a rare example of the style in Toronto churches and especially within the Danforth neighbourhood. The elements of the style are seen in its simple rectangular form clad in red brick with two narrow side bays and a projecting wider central bay with light grey Credit Valley Stone details. The central bay features a pediment with a light-coloured metal cornice and entablature, to match the stonework, supported on four brick pilasters with stone capitals flanking three round-headed leaded glass windows, resting on a raised rusticated basement. Further stone details include the sills, pilasters, arch and curving keystone of the central window, the stone keystones, impost blocks and sills on the adjacent windows and the stone door and window surrounds on the side bays. The interior has the typical Post-Reformation simple and open rectangular hall, well-lit with maximum daylight and a wide structural span. It integrated the amphitheatre form typical of Toronto Baptist churches since the late 1860s. While the 1913 Sunday school, designed by Burke, Horwood & White, is an example of the use of Perpendicular Gothic Revival in educational institutions in Toronto c1910-1920, unsympathetic alterations have diminished its heritage value.

Built in 1925, the addition to the Temple Baptist Church is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the Danforth neighbourhood as it is part of the development that was spurred on by the completion of the 1917-9 Bloor Danforth Viaduct. It is physically, functionally, visually and historically related to its surroundings in the Danforth Avenue neighbourhood. Located on the west side of Dewhurst Boulevard between Danforth Avenue and Strathmore Street it is a significant 1920s landmark in the neighbourhood and is distinct from the surrounding residential and commercial properties.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes on the exterior of Temple Baptist Church are:

- The location of the 1925 portion of the building on its property, including its set back from Dewhurst Boulevard
- The scale, form and massing of the building including, its two-and-a-half storey height including a raised basement
- The east façade and its side returns with entablature and parapet as well as the windows on the north and south returns
- The materials, including the red brick with dark red mortar, grey Credit Valley stone and the metal entablature and cornice
- Stone details including the door and window frames, belt course, the sills, pilasters, arch with keystone, plain impost and keystone blocks and capitals
- Brick cladding including the recessed bands of the rusticated raised basement
- The door and window openings including the three double-height arched windows, two tripartite side windows, windows on the north and south returns, the basement window on the east façade and two entry doors
- Leaded windows with clear, green and mottled coloured glass
- Stone corner block with the date 1925
- Pairs of entry steps with side brick parapet walls and stone coping.
- The 1913 Sunday School is not included