

## REASONS FOR DESIGNATION: 285-297 DANFORTH AVENUE

(also known as 60 Bowden Street)

(STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE)

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

### Description

The Danforth Baptist Church and Sunday School complex at 285-297 Danforth Avenue is located at the south-west corner of Danforth Avenue and Bowden Street, east of Broadview Avenue. Built in 1911 (Sunday school) and 1931 (church), the buildings are one-and-a-half-storeys on raised basements, with gable roofs, clad in multicoloured brick with stone trim and featuring two entrance towers.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 285-297 Danforth Avenue is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria stated in Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values.

The Danforth Baptist Church and Sunday School is a fine representative of the Perpendicular Gothic Revival style which became popular for ecclesiastical and educational facilities in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Toronto. The design and construction display a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. These qualities are evident in the plan of the church, the massing of the whole complex, the brick and stone detailing and the exposed wood trussed ceilings of the interior of the Sunday school and church.

The Sunday school and church are valued for their association with the history and evolution of the Danforth and the Danforth Baptist Church. The church and Sunday school reflect the social history and physical growth of the neighbourhood and are an integral part of its development. The church is valued for its association with the prolific church architect J. Francis Brown and as one of the final works of the architect J. W. Siddall.

The church and Sunday school have contextual value as they are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the Danforth neighbourhood and Avenue, through their built form, materials and details. Built in 1911 and 1931, they are historically linked with the Danforth's growth and development, contributing to the physical and visual character of the neighbourhood today. Situated at the south-west corner of Danforth Avenue and Bowden Street the tower, gable roof, large tracery window and decorative stone details make the church complex an important landmark within the neighbourhood and a significant contributor to the streetscape

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes on the exterior of the Sunday school and church at 285-297 Danforth Avenue Street are:

- The exact location of the buildings on the south-west corner of Danforth Avenue and Bowden Street including the landscaped set-back on Bowden Street and their orientation.

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- The form and massing of the buildings including their one-and-a-half storey height on a raised basement with the two towers, and gable roofs.
- The brick buttresses and on the north elevation, projecting brick planes
- The bricks including:
  - the multi-coloured brick cladding with its tones of yellow, gold and red and black.
  - the projecting black bricks on the Sunday school
  - the reddish-coloured mortar on the Sunday school and pale cream mortar on the church
- The stone details including:
  - the stone door frames, window frames, lintels and sills, belt courses, trim and capping on the buttresses and the stone coping on the parapet walls including the gables and towers.
- The fenestration including the arrangement in the elevations and type of windows: the broad arched traceried windows, the narrow lancet windows and the flat-headed windows, the clerestory windows in the Sunday school.
- The window glazing with leaded glass as well as glazing which combines leaded and stained glass.
- The church doors including the transom lights and door pulls

The heritage attributes of the Sunday school interior are;

- The main entry staircase with its balustrade
- The wood ceiling with its trusses
- The panelled doors in the Sunday school auditorium with the coloured leaded glass

The heritage attributes of the church interior are;

- The main entry staircase with its metal balustrade, metal structure and terrazzo treads
- The interior arrangement of the church main floor with its arches along the west and east walls
- The baptistery area with pulpit, choir area and baptistery with stained glass panel showing the baptism of Christ
- The wood ceiling with its trusses
- The carved bosses/imposts supporting the wood trusses in the church
- The window glazing with leaded glass, the flat-headed windows which feature diamond panes and the tracery windows which typically feature rectangular panes.