

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)  
69 LONG BRANCH AVENUE - ST

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

The property at 69 Long Branch Avenue, formerly known as the St. Agnes' Church 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

The property at 69 Long Branch Avenue, located on the north-east corner of Long Branch and Marina avenues, is part of the St. Agnes church complex which occupies two properties. 69 Long Branch Avenue includes the gable-roofed church building with a spire, and a flat-roofed entry lobby. The adjacent property at 24 Marina Avenue contains the rectory. A flat-roofed, two-storey chapel-office building spans across both properties, linking the church and rectory. Completed in 1958, to the designs of Murray Brown & Elton Architects, the buildings are brick-clad.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The former St. Agnes' Church has design value as a representative example of the Ecclesiastical Modern style which emerged in Toronto's church architecture following World War II. The style is evident in the integration of traditional ecclesiastical building elements such as the gable-roofed rectangular church with long vertical windows, and the baptistery with spire. These traditional elements are given a Modern rendering evident in the flat-roofed entry lobby and chapel/office buildings, cantilevered roofs and projecting wall planes, the patterning of the window glazing bars, and materials including grey-colour brick and porcelain-enamelled spandrel panels. The consistency of this integration of traditional elements with a Modernist style are evident from basic design through to details represents a high degree of artistic merit.

The church and chapel-office block have historic value for their association with the growth and development of Long Branch from a Victorian summer resort to an independent village to a lakefront neighbourhood in the City of Toronto. The former St. Agnes' Church grew from being a temporary religious Anglican community housed in a tent in 1919 to an independent parish with a full complement of church facilities and programmes that played a significant role in the Long Branch community for 85 years. It is also valued for its association with the noted Toronto architectural practise of Murray Brown & Elton Architects. The firm designed a number of Long Branch buildings including the library, and A. Gresley Elton was a member of St. Agnes' parish, a member of the Long Branch Planning Board as well as being a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

The church complex has contextual value and is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the Long Branch neighbourhood. Situated on the north-east corner of Long Branch and Marina avenues, and a distinctive feature in the vista from

Lakeshore Road to the waterfront, the church is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked with its surroundings. With its landscaped set-back, composition of building elements, including the prominent spire and adjacent rectory property at 24 Marina Avenue, the St. Agnes Church complex is a landmark in Long Branch.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property located at 69 Long Branch Avenue are:

- The placement, set back and orientation of the building as it is located within its property boundary on the north-east corner of Long Branch Avenue and Marina Avenue.
- The massing of the building which is composed of a gable-roofed building (church) on a rectangular plan with a flat-roofed narthex (entry), spire, and part of the flat-roofed, chapel-office block which is also partially located on the rectory property at 24 Marina Avenue.
- The grey brick cladding
- On the north elevation, the diamond pattern of crosses created by raised brick headers in a rose-coloured brick
- On the south elevation of the church, the large central window with its diamond and square patterned mullions
- On the east, west and north elevations of the church, and the south elevation of the narthex, the long narrow rectangular window openings with the mullions creating a pattern of alternating rectangular window panes
- The porcelain-enamelled spandrel panels between the basement level and first floor level windows
- On the east elevation of the flat-roofed chapel/office block the arrangement of seven long narrow window openings composed of three square glazed panes and the small triangular bay-window
- The three square windows in the spire
- The spire with its copper cladding, vents and the Chi-Rho symbol at the top
- The copper eaves details
- The west entry with its glazed elevation and
  - at the upper level the mullion pattern featuring a large central pane surrounded by smaller panes
  - the spandrel panel above the doors, which contained the porcelain-enamel panel with the words St. Agnes Church and featuring two side panels with an open book and a lamb, and which has been modified
  - The double entry door opening with sidelights
- The corner stone with the date 1958 and letters AMDG on the south-east corner of the narthex
- The chimney
- The paved entry court on the east side of the church between the church, chapel/office building and rectory.
- On the interior, the church sanctuary with nave and the brick pilasters and laminated beams in the ceiling