

## **415 Broadview Avenue - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act**

**Date:** October 14, 2022

**To:** Toronto Preservation Board

**From:** Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning

**Wards:** Ward 14 - Toronto-Danforth

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 415 Broadview Avenue under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value.

Anchoring the northeast corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue in the Riverdale neighbourhood and located directly across from the Don Jail, the property at 415 Broadview Avenue contains a Place of Worship completed in 1907 for the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church. Designed by the Glasgow School of Art-trained Scottish architect, Andrew Sharp, who built numerous early-20th century heritage churches across Toronto, is directly linked to the founding of the Scott Mission, which continues to provide important social outreach programs and services. Today St. John's Presbyterian Church is valued as a local landmark.

The subject property at 415 Broadview Avenue was one of three properties on Broadview Avenue which were listed on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in 2009 as part of a group associated with the historical development of properties on Broadview Avenue in the Riverdale neighbourhoods north and south of Gerrard Street East.

Staff have completed the Research and Evaluation Report for the property at 415 Broadview Avenue and determined that the property meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value. As such, the property is a significant built heritage resource.

In June 2019, the More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 (Bill 108) received Royal Assent. Schedule 11 of this Act included amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act. The Bill 108 Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act came into force on July 1, 2021, which included a shift in Part IV designations related to certain Planning Act applications. Section 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act now restricts City Council's ability to give

notice of its intention to designate a property under the Act to within 90 days after the City Clerk gives notice of a complete application.

The owner provided a waiver to the City on February 4, 2022 that waived the time period in which City Council must make a decision in respect of the matter under the Ontario Heritage Act.

On January 20, 2022, a development application was submitted to the City seeking permission to construct a 10-storey building adding to, and modifying, the existing heritage church building onsite. The development scheme proposes 4,892.98 square metres of residential gross floor area (GFA), as well as 683 square metres of non-residential space to be allocated to the church congregation. (21 251348 STE 14 OZ). The application is currently under appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the property and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning recommends that:

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 415 Broadview Avenue under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance; 415 Broadview Avenue (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 3, to the report, October 14, 2022, from the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning;
2. If there are no objections to the designation, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the Bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

At its May 26, 2022 meeting, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted item TE33.27: 415 Broadview Avenue - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications - Preliminary Report, as amended, including directing Planning staff to take all necessary measures to conserve with Heritage Planning staff on the cultural heritage value and heritage attributes of the property over the long term and to invite staff from the Housing Secretariat, Heritage Planning and Transportation Services to attend and comment at the Community Consultation Meeting.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.TE33.27>

On September 30 and October 1, 2009, City Council adopted the recommendation to include the property at 415 Broadview Avenue, on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.TE27.101>

## **BACKGROUND**

---

### **Heritage Planning Framework**

The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of good planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy and equitable communities. Heritage conservation in Ontario is identified as a provincial interest under the Planning Act. Cultural heritage resources are considered irreplaceable and valuable assets that must be wisely protected and managed as part of planning for future growth under the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2020). Heritage Conservation is enabled through the Ontario Heritage Act. The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime, the Planning Act, the Ontario Heritage Act and provides policies to guide decision making within the city.

Good planning within the provincial and municipal policy framework has at its foundation an understanding and appreciation for places of historic significance, and ensures the conservation of these resources are to be balanced with other provincial interests. Heritage resources may include buildings, structures, monuments, and geographic areas that have cultural heritage value or interest to a community, including an Indigenous community.

The Planning Act establishes the foundation for land use planning in Ontario, describing how land can be controlled and by whom. Section 2 of the Planning Act identifies heritage conservation as a matter of provincial interest and directs that municipalities shall have regard to the conservation of features of significant architectural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest. Heritage conservation contributes to other matters of provincial interest, including the promotion of built form that is well-designed, and that encourages a sense of place.

The Planning Act requires that all decisions affecting land use planning matters shall conform to the Growth Plan and shall be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, both of which position heritage as a key component in supporting key provincial principles and interests.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>

The Provincial Policy Statement provides policy direction on land use planning in Ontario and is to be used by municipalities in the development of their official plans and to guide and inform decisions on planning matters, which shall be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement. The Provincial Policy Statement articulates how and why heritage conservation is a component of good planning, explicitly requiring the

conservation of cultural heritage and archaeological resources, alongside the pursuit of other provincial interests. The Provincial Policy Statement does so by linking heritage conservation to key policy directives, including building strong healthy communities, the wise use and management of resources, and protecting health and safety.

Section 1.1 Managing and Directing Land Use to Achieve Efficient and Resilient Development states that long-term economic prosperity is supported by, among other considerations, the promotion of well-designed built form and cultural planning, and the conservation of features that help define character. Section 2.6 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology subsequently directs that "significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved". Through the definition of conserved, built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscape and protected heritage property, the Provincial Policy Statement identifies the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage conservation will be implemented.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020>

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2020) builds on the Provincial Policy Statement to establish a land use planning framework that supports complete communities, a thriving economy, a clean and healthy environment and social equity. Section 1.2.1 Guiding Principles states that policies in the plan seek to, among other principles, "conserve and promote cultural heritage resources to support the social, economic, and cultural well-being of all communities, including First Nations and Metis communities". Cultural heritage resources are understood as being irreplaceable, and are significant features that provide people with a sense of place. Section 4.2.7 Cultural Heritage Resources directs that cultural heritage resources will be conserved in order to foster a sense of place and benefit communities, particularly in strategic growth areas.

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe>

The Ontario Heritage Act is the key provincial legislation for the conservation of cultural heritage resources in Ontario. It regulates, among other things, how municipal councils can identify and protect heritage resources, including archaeology, within municipal boundaries. This is largely achieved through listing on the City's Heritage Register, designation of individual properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, or designation of districts under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act gives municipalities the authority to maintain and add to a publicly accessible heritage register. The City of Toronto's Heritage Register includes individual heritage properties that have been designated under Part IV, Section 29, properties in a heritage conservation district designated under Part V, Section 41 of the Act as well as properties that have not been designated but City Council believes to be of "cultural heritage value or interest."

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90o18>

Ontario Regulation 9/06 sets out the criteria for evaluating properties to be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The criteria are based on an evaluation of design/physical value, historical and associative value and contextual value. A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more

of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>

The Ontario Heritage Toolkit provides guidance on designating properties of municipal significance, including direction on the purpose of designating heritage properties and information about how the Provincial Policy Statement and the Ontario Heritage Act provide a framework for the conservation of heritage properties within the land use planning system. In June 2019, the More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 (Bill 108) received Royal Assent. Schedule 11 of this Act included amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). The Bill 108 Amendments to the OHA came into force on July 1, 2021, which included, amongst other matters, amendments to the listing and designation processes. Guidance from the Province related to the implementation of Bill 108 Amendments is forthcoming.

[Ontario Heritage Tool Kit \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca)

The City of Toronto's Official Plan contains a number of policies related to properties on the City's Heritage Register and properties adjacent to them, as well as the protection of areas of archaeological potential. Indicating the integral role that heritage conservation plays in successful city-building, Section 3.1.5 of the Official Plan states that, "Cultural heritage is an important component of sustainable development and place making.

The preservation of our cultural heritage is essential to the character of this urban and liveable City that can contribute to other social, cultural, economic and environmental goals of the City."

Policy 3.1.6.4 states that heritage resources on the City's Heritage Register "will be conserved and maintained consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, as revised from time to time and adopted by Council."

Policy 3.1.6.6 encourages the adaptive re-use of heritage properties while Policy 3.1.6.26 states that, when new construction on, or adjacent to, a property on the Heritage Register does occur, it will be designed to conserve the cultural heritage values, attributes and character of that property and will mitigate visual and physical impacts on it.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>

<https://www.historicplaces.ca/media/18072/81468-parks-s+g-eng-web2.pdf>

## COMMENTS

---

While the research and evaluation of the property referenced above is, in staff's determination, sufficient to support the designation of the property at 415 Broadview Avenue, it should be noted that public access to the City of Toronto Archives remained limited during the preparation of this report due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic e.g. Research Hall is open on an appointment basis only, at a limited capacity, and that new

and additional relevant information on the subject properties further expanding on their heritage value may be forthcoming following increased access to these archival records and may provide further information to be incorporated in the final version of a Part IV designation by-law.

## 415 Broadview Avenue

### Research and Evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06



Current image showing the principal (west) and south elevations of St. John's Presbyterian Church.

## 1. DESCRIPTION

<b>415 Broadview Avenue</b>	
ADDRESS	415 Broadview Avenue
WARD	Ward 14 – Toronto-Danforth
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	PLAN M95, Lots 1 to 6
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	Riverdale
HISTORICAL NAME	St. John's Presbyterian Church
CONSTRUCTION DATE	1907; east addition to Sunday School, 1914
ORIGINAL OWNER	St. John's Presbyterian Church
ORIGINAL USE	Place of Worship
CURRENT USE*	Place of Worship
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/DESIGNER	Andrew Sharp, Architect

DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION/MATERIALS	See Section 2
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	See Section 2
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	See Section 2
CRITERIA	Design/physical, historical/associative, contextual
HERITAGE STATUS	Listed (2009)
RECORDER	Heritage Planning: Liz McFarland
REPORT DATE	October 2022

## 2. BACKGROUND

This research and evaluation section of the report describes the history, architecture and context of the property at 415 Broadview Avenue, and applies evaluation criteria as set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06, under the headings of historical/associative, design/physical and contextual value to determine whether it merits designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest. The application of the criteria is found in Section 3 (Evaluation Checklist). The conclusions of the research and evaluation are found in the Conclusion of the report. Maps and Photographs are located in Attachment 1. The archival and contemporary sources for the research are found in Attachment 2. The Statements of Significance are contained in Attachment 3.

### i. HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Key Date	Historical Event
	The area now known as the City of Toronto is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit (1805), and the Williams Treaties (1923) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.
1794	Lots 14 and 15, in the First Concession east of the Don River are granted to John Cox and John Scadding.
1798	Timothy Skinner Sr. is ordered to "open a road on the other side of the bridge over the Don between Cox's and Scadding's farms to your mills in the best and most convenient place you can The road, first known as "Mill Road" is now Broadview Avenue
1802	Chewett's map shows Scadding's Bridge, the saw and grist mill and future location of 415 Broadview Avenue (Image 2)
1856	Following John Scadding's death, the City of Toronto purchases the north half of Lot 15, north of Gerrard Street and develops this land with the Don Jail (1858-1864), an industrial farm and Riverdale Park which opened in 1880. The east side of Broadview Avenue, largely occupied by Lot 14, develops steadily near Queen Street East on the south and the Danforth to the

	north, but the sections adjacent to Broadview though subdivided with residential streets and lots develop more slowly.
1880	Riverdale Park opens
1884	Riverdale is annexed to the City of Toronto
1886	A small congregation of St. James's Square Church rent a small cottage for worship on the east side of Broadview Avenue, south of Gerrard St E
1888	St. John's Presbyterian congregation is established and the first church erected (replacing the earlier meeting house)
1903	Goad's Historical Map shows the future location of the current church at the northeast corner of Broadview and Simpson avenues (Plan M95, Lots 1-6) (Image 3)
1907	The current church building is completed to the designs of architect Andrew Sharp and the date-stone laid on June 1 of the same year
1908 Jan 5	The current church is dedicated and officially opened
1908	Dr. Rev. John McPherson Scott establishes the Presbyterian Mission to the Jews located at 56 Terauley Street, later relocated to 165-176 Elizabeth Street (1913)
1913	Goad's Historical Map indicates the recently completed St. John's Presbyterian Church for the first time (Image 4)
1914	East addition to the Sunday School at 415 Broadview Avenue is completed
1920	Rev. John McPherson Scott dies; the Presbyterian Mission to the Jews is renamed The Scott Institute by its superintendent, Rev. Morris Zeidman
1941	The Scott Mission, also named in honour of the Dr. Rev. Scott, is established by Rev. Zeidman at 724-6 Bay Street
1948	The Scott Mission is relocated to the west side of Spadina Avenue north of College Street
1961	The current Scott Mission building at 502 Spadina is completed to the designs of Basil G. Ludlow, and continues to provide a variety of outreach programs and services today

## ii. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following section outlines the history and facts related to the properties which are the basis for determining 'Historical and Associative Value' according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

### Riverdale Neighbourhood

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue is located on the east side of Broadview Avenue in the Riverdale neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup> Broadview Avenue is an important Toronto road

---

<sup>1</sup> Riverdale now comprises two distinct neighbourhoods, North Riverdale and South Riverdale which are separated by the historic boundary of Gerrard Street. The western edge of North Riverdale is characterized by the long stretch of Riverdale Park East along the Don Valley and the curvilinear route of Broadview Avenue as it passes by the park on the west and the houses overlooking the park on the east.



whose physical form is reflective of a rich history created by many different factors over millennia. It was originally part of an ancient system of trails and waterways, now known as the Toronto Passage, established by Indigenous peoples over centuries and extending from the Humber to the Don and Rouge Rivers, connecting Lake Ontario with Georgian Bay. Unlike other major Toronto streets, such as Queen Street or Bloor/Danforth which were created as part of an orthogonal grid system surveyed in 1793 following Lieutenant Governor Simcoe's selection of the location for Town of York, Broadview Avenue has evolved over time as an integration of many factors. These include the Don River and its landscape as it flowed to Lake Ontario, the dramatic rise of its eastern escarpment and the adaptation of a trail created over thousands of years by Indigenous peoples. Like other former ancient trails in the city, such as Davenport Road, Weston Road, Vaughan and Scarlett Roads, Broadview Avenue's irregular route arose in response to topography rather than a surveyor's grid.<sup>2</sup>

The trail evolved into a more formal road at the time of the settlement of the Town of York. In the same year the site was selected for the capital of Upper Canada, Lieutenant Governor Simcoe promised two brothers, Isaiah Skinner (1762- 1823) and Aaron Skinner, that if they established a saw mill at their own expense the land would be theirs. By 1795 the mill was established on the banks of the Don River on Lot 13 in the Second Concession, north of today's Danforth Avenue. The saw mill was the beginning of the historic Todmorden Mills.

Roads were a primary necessity for the new capital; a means of defense, communication, trade and settlement. Overseers were appointed to ensure the maintenance of these routes. In 1798, James Playter was elected overseer and gave an order requiring Timothy Skinner Sr. (1737-1815), the brothers' father, to "proceed to open a road on the other side of the bridge over the Don between Cox's and Scadding's farms to your mills in the best and most convenient place you can."<sup>3</sup> Broadview Avenue evolved from a trail integrated in the broad network of the Toronto Passage, to a more localized function connecting the nascent Town of York with the Skinner mills, the earliest mill site of the town. The road's first English names, Mill Road and Don Mill Road reflected this important function.

Mill Road (Broadview Avenue) extended from the Bay Road on the east side of the Don northwards, crossing the second concession (now Danforth Avenue) to Pottery Road where it turned west down the slope towards the mills which by 1802 were known as the Don Mills.<sup>4</sup> The Bay Road, also known as Kingston Road and later as Queen Street East, led westwards from Mill Road to the bridge which crossed the Don River giving access to the Town of York via King Street.

As James Playter decreed, Mill Road passed between the properties owned by John Scadding and John Cox. Scadding's property was Lot 15, the first on the east side of the Don River and was a long rectangular lot of over 200 acres at it stretched from the Second Concession to the north, across Queen Street and south to the lake front. To

---

2 Myrvold, p. 2

3 Ibid, p. 3-4.

4 Scadding, p. 156

the east and parallel to Scadding's was Lot 14, granted to John Cox. Where it crossed the Bay Road, the Mill Road followed the grid of the surveyed lots running between Lots 14 and 15 but as it headed north, from a point marked by today's Gerrard Street, it deviated from the orthogonal property boundary and followed the old trail on the ridge of the escarpment following the original curvilinear route which crossed back and forth between the two properties.

Both Scadding and Cox built log cabins on their properties. Scadding's was completed in 1794 and Cox's before 1807.<sup>5</sup> In 1879, Scadding's cabin was transported to the Canadian National Exhibition by the York Pioneer Society. Cox's house, at 469 Broadview Avenue, is still in its original location and represents one of the earliest surviving houses in the city. It was included on the City's Heritage Inventory in 1981 and designated in 1995.

Following John Scadding's death, the City of Toronto purchased the north half of Lot 15, north of Gerrard Street and developed the land with the Don Jail (1858-1864), an industrial farm and Riverdale Park which officially opened in 1880.<sup>6</sup> The east side of Broadview Avenue, largely occupied by Lot 14, developed steadily near Queen Street East on the south and the Danforth to the north, but the sections adjacent to Broadview developed more slowly, though subdivided with residential streets and lots.

The fledging community that developed east of the Don River on Lots 14 and 15 and south of the Danforth Road, as it was then named, was informally known as Don Mount and Riverside, with access to the city limited to a few bridges. The Grand Trunk Railway (later Canadian National Railway) extended its line across the district in the mid-19th century, opening the area to residential, commercial and industrial development.

In 1884, the City of Toronto annexed the area roughly bounded by the Don River and Danforth, Greenwood and Eastern Avenues as Riverdale. At the same time, the former Mill Road between Queen and Danforth was renamed Broadview Avenue "because of its spectacular views" overlooking the park and river.<sup>7</sup> Annexation delivered municipal services, while a streetcar line along Broadview Avenue to the Danforth connected the area with the downtown core and served the new residential subdivisions adjoining the route. However, it was the completion in 1918 of the Bloor Street Viaduct that accelerated the development of the district, which was promoted as "East Rosedale" for the number and quality of upscale residential developments adjoining the Broadview and Danforth corridors.<sup>8</sup>

---

5 Scadding built a second log house in 1818.

6 Riverdale Park continued on the west bank of the Don, where part of the City-owned land was reserved as the second location of Toronto General Hospital (1856)

7 Myrvold, p. 11

8 The subdivisions along Broadview Avenue were dubbed "Doctors' Row" for the number of medical practitioners who moved to this community

## **St. John's Presbyterian Church**

"The great work of the [St. John's Presbyterian] Church is the evangelization of the world, and her key-note should be that this should speedily be accomplished." - Annual Meeting Session, January 1895

In 1886, just two years after annexation, a small cottage on the east side of Broadview Avenue, south of Gerrard Street East, was rented by a group of St. James's Square Church congregants for local worship. In spring 1887, a preaching service was begun by Mr. John Scott, an undergraduate in college at the time and a missionary in connection with St. James's Square Church. The following year, a proper church was built, replacing the earlier meeting house on site and the 27-member congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church was established on November 22, 1888 by the authority of the Presbytery of Toronto.<sup>9</sup> (Images 5-6)

In 1904, the congregation purchased the current property at the northeast corner of Broadview and Simpson avenues, and construction began in April 1907 for the current building to the designs of architect, Andrew Sharp. When the completed church was dedicated on January 5, 1908, the congregation had spent a total sum of \$59,210 on the lot and new building comprising their permanent location.<sup>10</sup> (Image 7)

While congregation numbers have declined in past decades, St. John's Presbyterian Church continues today to provide liturgical and social services to the local community.

### **Rev. Dr. John McPherson Scott**

John McPherson Scott (1859-1920) was born in the town of Ayr in the Waterloo Region of Ontario and attended the University of Toronto, graduating in 1877 with a B.A. degree in philosophy. He returned to theological studies at Knox College and was ordained a minister in 1889. He was granted a Doctor of Divinity by the Theological College of Montreal. Rev. Dr. Scott became the pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Riverdale where he had served as a "missionary student" with the parish's founding in 1886. As pastor, Scott led the construction of the new parish church, completed in 1907 at the subject location. (Image 8-9)

While serving as a pastor to his parish in Riverdale, Rev. Dr. Scott also served as a missionary throughout his life, establishing the Presbyterian Mission to the Jews, in the Ward in Toronto in 1908.<sup>9</sup> He also opened missions in Quebec to convert Roman Catholics to Presbyterianism,<sup>11</sup> as well as a Presbyterian Mission to the Jews in Montreal and travelled as a missionary through Asia in 1912-1913. On December 23, 1914, while walking along Broadview Avenue, near his home, Rev. Dr. Scott was subjected to an assassination attempt. Six shots were fired at him, three missed, two were deflected by a steel glasses case in his breast-coat pocket, but the sixth hit him in the hip. The attack was widely reported in the press and it emerged that his attacker,

---

<sup>9</sup> This first church building was enlarged twice (1890 and 1896) before the current building was constructed in 1907 at Broadview and Simpson avenues.

<sup>10</sup> All information under this sub-heading is gathered from the unpublished booklet, "St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto: 1888-1913".

<sup>11</sup> Rome, p. 5

described as a "religious fanatic" was in fact Harry Asher, a Jewish Romanian immigrant, who was a member of the Presbyterian Mission in Montreal and had been employed by Rev. Dr. Scott.<sup>12</sup> As Scott had fired Asher when he found him unfit for the work, the subsequent attack on Scott was interpreted as an act of revenge "driven by a grudge."<sup>13</sup> Rev. Dr. Scott died of pneumonia on February 15, 1920.

### **The Presbyterian Mission to the Jews and the Scott Mission**

The Presbyterian Church had a number of foreign and home mission offices in the City of Toronto in the early 20th century. The Scott Mission emerged from the Presbyterian Mission to the Jews which was established by Rev. Dr. Scott in 1908. Scott appointed Rev. Shebetai Benjamin Rohold, a convert to Presbyterianism and fluent in Yiddish and Hebrew, as the superintendent of the Mission. The Mission was located at 56 Terauley Street in St. John's Ward, 'The Ward,' known for its large community of immigrants, some living in dire poverty.

The Presbyterian Mission to the Jews offered a variety of free services including "a medical dispensary with a nurse, a night school with English classes, a nursery, reading room and employment service. It also offered gospel services, Bible classes and prayer meetings with free Sunday morning breakfasts."<sup>14</sup> In 1913, to accommodate increased need, a new building was constructed at 165-67 Elizabeth Street at the north-east corner of Elm Street and included a gymnasium. (Image 10)

Such missions began to emerge across Canada and specifically in Toronto in the 1890s and grew in number in the early 20th century "in response to the thousands of new Eastern European Jewish immigrants in The Ward."<sup>15</sup> Three missions were located in The Ward. Documents indicate that the local Jewish community believed that the proselytizing took advantage of their poverty by offering goods and services, access to employment, and toys for their children.<sup>16</sup> In 1911, in response to this situation a riot erupted when, "a crowd of hundreds of enraged residents hurled stones and debris at a local missionary named Reverend Sabatai (sic) Rohold"<sup>17</sup> who was preaching at the corner of Elizabeth and Agnes (Dundas) Street. The police intervened, citizens were hurt, and eight Jewish immigrants were arrested. They were subsequently released on bail raised by the local rabbi and supported by the community. Similar protests occurred in other cities.<sup>18</sup> The success of conversion rates of the missions was very low. The missions evolved and continued to provide services for the poor, expanding their focus to assist locals and immigrants from a wide variety of countries and religious faiths.

After Rev. Dr. Scott's death in 1920, and the return of Rev. Rohold to Jerusalem, Rev. Morris Zeidman (1895-1964) was appointed as the new superintendent of the Presbyterian Mission to the Jews. In recognition that the focus of the Mission had

---

12 The Montreal Daily Star, December 25, 1914.

13 The Toronto Daily Star, December 25, 1914.

14 Gladstone.

15 Scheinberg, p. 51. "The Ward" refers to an area in St. John's ward bound by Queen, College and Yonge streets and University Avenue.

16 Scheinberg, p. 54-5 and Rome, p. 10

17 Scheinberg, p. 51.

18 See Rome for a more complete documentation.

evolved to serve a broader group of people of various religions, Rev. Zeidman changed the name to the Scott Institute, retaining the association with Scott.<sup>19</sup> With his wife Annie, a wide variety of ministries were conducted at the Institute combining Christian services with community outreach for all ages and types of need. In 1930, at the start of the Great Depression, the Zeidmans operated a soup kitchen which fed over 1,000 men a day.

In 1941, Rev. Zeidman resigned from the Scott Institute and started a new non-denominational Christian urban mission providing community services in Toronto, relocating to 724-6 Bay Street. He recognized Rev. Dr. Scott once again with the name The Scott Mission. In 1948, The Scott Mission moved to 502 Spadina Avenue. By 1960, the Mission was serving 4-5,000 meals a day. In April of that year, Rev. Zeidman received the Toronto Citizen of the Year Award from Mayor Nathan Phillips in recognition of the Mission's service to the community. In 1961, a new building at this location was completed to the designs of the architect Basil G. Ludlow. The Scott Mission continues to provide a variety of outreach programs and services today.<sup>20</sup> (Images 11-12)

### **Architect: Andrew Sharp (1875-1966)**

Scottish-born architect Andrew Sharp (1875-1966) studied at the Glasgow School of Art and apprenticed with Sir John James Burnet, a prestigious Scottish architect whose designs included the King Edward VII Galleries of the British Museum. In 1900, Sharp relocated to Montreal to work as the chief assistant to architect Robert Findlay, a former member of Burnet's Glasgow staff. Sharp moved to Toronto in 1902 where he spent eight years with the notable architectural partnership of Darling and Pearson. As chief draughtsman, Sharp's association with Darling and Pearson came during the period when the firm designed a number of projects associated with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, including the gates to Trinity College (in its Queen Street West location), the entrance to St. James' Cemetery on Parliament Street, and the Parish House at St. James' Cathedral.

In addition to the subject property at 415 Broadview Avenue, Sharp is credited with the designs of several neighbourhood churches while in the employ of Darling and Pearson, including St. Aidan's Anglican Church on Queen Street East in the Beaches, Deer Park Presbyterian (later United) Church on St. Clair Avenue West and St. Barnabas Anglican Church on Danforth Avenue (all recognized on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register). In 1910, Sharp and fellow Scottish-trained architect James Hodge Brown opened a joint practice that lasted until 1919 and produced a range of buildings, including St. Clement's Anglican Church at 175 Jones Avenue in Leslieville (1914; designated in 2010). Prior to 1923 when he moved to Los Angeles, Sharp embarked on a short-lived partnership with Herbert Horner that specialized in classically-designed bank branches across Canada. Sharp later became a movie set designer for Warner Brothers Studios in California.

---

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.scottmission.com/about/history/>

<sup>20</sup> Blumbergs Charity Data

### iii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following section provides an architectural description and analysis related to the property which will establish the basis for determining 'Design and Physical Value' according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

St. John's Presbyterian Church is designed in the Neo-Gothic style (also known as Modern Gothic) that enjoyed widespread popularity across various types of institutional architecture in Ontario in the 1910s-1930s. Early 20th-century Neo-Gothic styling is traced back to England in the 1800s, to a small group of architects who eschewed High Victorian Gothic and looked back instead to the less ostentatious Perpendicular style of the late Middle Ages for its easy abstraction and harmonizing with modern building materials. Defining features of the style are long, low symmetrical masses, crenellated towers and distinctively Gothic fenestration, which may include oriel or bay windows. Gone is the polychrome of 19th-century Gothic Revival, to be replaced by monochrome limestone or brick.<sup>21</sup>

St. John's Presbyterian Church rises two storeys above a raised base with window openings along the north and south elevations. Constructed of solid brick with red brick facing, the structure is trimmed with red brick, Ohio stone and wood. The long rectangular plan is covered by a steeply-pitched gable roof that features two extended brick chimneys on the north and south slopes. The principal (west) gable end of the roof terminates in a parapet wall with a three-storey, spireless, brick tower centred in front of the gabled elevation. At the tower's base, three shallow stone steps lead to two pairs of entrance doors surmounted by leaded stained glass transoms and all surrounded by a grand, three-centred archway with splayed brick detailing. Above the west entries, a single large, pointed-arched window opening is highlighted by stained glass with ornate wooden tracery, a splayed brick surround and denticulated detailing below. Three tall, narrow and segmental-arched windows are stepped back from the lower two levels of the tower, just beneath the roofline, and framed by double height buttresses at the north and south ends. At the southeast corner of the tower rises a three-storey, octagonal turret containing the tower stairwell. Flanking the centred tower, the north and south transepts are covered by hipped roofs and feature single lancet windows on their west elevations. The side walls of the church (north and south) contain symmetrically-arranged, segmental-arched window openings with brick headers and stone sills. These openings, corresponding to interior bay divisions of the nave, are double-height with upper and lower windows separated by a blank wooden spandrel and containing stained glass windows with wooden tracery.<sup>22</sup> (Images 13-18)

At the rear (east) end of the church, a rounded chancel terminates the nave, while a Sunday School wing extends two storeys on a raised base contains a secondary entrance and fronts onto Simpson Avenue at the southeast corner of the building. Moving from west to east along the south elevation of the Sunday School wing, the two-storey bay window with a crenellated roofline, and three additional flush bays were completed with the rest of the church in 1907. An additional brick chimney and two bays projecting further east and south toward Simpson Avenue were completed in 1914.

---

<sup>21</sup> Maitland et al, 166.

<sup>22</sup> Several stained glass panes have been removed from their openings around the church over time due to damage and are currently replaced by plain glass or plywood.

(Images 19-21) Original architectural drawings and construction specifications for the 1914 Sunday School extension describe the great attention paid to seamlessly knitting together the two halves using the same brick, bond, stone and fenestration styling. (Image 22) Interesting to note is Sharp's use of the same two-storey bay window and projecting Sunday School massing at the southeast end of his design for St. Clement's Anglican Church (1914) which is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. (Image 23)

The church nave is primarily accessed by the main entrance doors at the west end. The church contains a series of interior spaces: the narthex which traditionally contains a robing room in one of the transepts, and then the volume of the church which contains the nave, three rows of fixed wooden pews facing east toward the chancel with an organ and raised altar at the east end and a second-storey gallery at the west end (over the narthex). Wrapping around the east end of the chancel in a semi-circular shape is additional congregation space, more recently utilized for Sunday School offices.

The interior of the church itself is a single (double-height) volume, subdivided into bays along its long east-west axis by a series of arched beams fixed to a vaulted ceiling and supported on large brackets. Each bay of the vaulted ceiling contains two circular light fittings and each of the side aisle bays at the first storey level contain one fixture each.<sup>23</sup> Each bay contains a stained glass window, divided into three vertical panes that together portray stylized flora motifs. At the east end, the chancel is separated from the nave by a carved wooden rood screen and a change of level, accessed by stairs, to the elevated choir loft and sanctuary space. The pulpit, communion table and baptismal font are all constructed of carved wood with Gothic detailing including trefoil and quatrefoil motifs. A grand organ embodying approximately 2,500 pipes stands in the segmental-arched opening between the chancel and the semi-circular apse space, which terminates the building's east end and currently contains the Sunday School offices and upper gallery. (Images 24-37)

The projecting Sunday School wing at the building's south-east end contains two levels of unadorned interior classroom space that is connected to the semi-circular apse space of the church proper. The vestry office, including its original diamond-pattern, clear leaded glass window, is still located in its original position at the original (1907) west end of the Sunday School wing. (Images 38-42)

#### **iv. CONTEXT**

The following section provides contextual information and analysis related to the property which is the basis for determining 'Contextual Value' according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The City of Toronto Property Data Map attached as Image 1 (Attachment 1) shows the site of the property at 415 Broadview Avenue.

The property is located at the northeast corner of Broadview and Simpson avenues in Riverdale, the former municipality on the east side of the Don River that was annexed by the City of Toronto in 1884. Situated between Gerrard Street to the south and

---

<sup>23</sup> Current pendant light fixtures are not original.

Danforth Avenue to the north, this curvilinear section of Broadview retains the traces of the ancient Indigenous trail that followed the ridge on the east side of the Don River valley and was part of the historic waterways and trails that formed the Toronto Passage. It also retains the mid-19th century history of the City of Toronto as it expanded east across the Don River retaining the open landscape of Riverdale Park as a public amenity and locating the Don Jail and the House of Industry, to the south of the park, at the city's outer limits. These were joined by the House of Refuge, later the mid-century modern Riverdale Hospital, now the Bridgepoint Health Centre, with its adaptive re-use of the jail. (Figures 21-27)

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue was one of three properties on Broadview Avenue which were listed on the City's Heritage Register in 2009 as part of a group associated with the historical development of properties on Broadview Avenue in the Riverdale neighbourhoods north and south of Gerrard Street East.

### 3. EVALUATION AND APPLICATION OF O.REG 9/06 CRITERIA

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the Ontario Heritage Act: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the City of Toronto also uses these criteria when assessing properties for inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register. There are three categories for a total of nine criteria under O. Reg. 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

The evaluation table is marked "N/A" if the criterion is "not applicable" to the property or "✓" if it is applicable to the property, with explanatory text below.

#### 415 BROADVIEW AVENUE

##### DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

Design or Physical Value	
i. rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method	✓
ii. displays high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	N/A
iii. demonstrates high degree of scientific or technical achievement	N/A

##### *Representative example of a style and type*

Designed in the Neo-Gothic style, St. John's Presbyterian Church has design value as a representative example of an ecclesiastical building that displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Following the turn of the 20th century and a return to more simplified architectural designs, Neo-Gothic styling was popular for religious and educational buildings. With its monochromatic surfaces, overall balance, and less ostentatious medieval details including sparse religious symbolism, the style differs from the more elaborate Gothic Revival designs of the previous century. St. John's Presbyterian Church displays Neo-Gothic elements with the symmetrical organization of the principal



(west) elevation, the mixture of pointed-arch and segmental-arched openings, and the central, spireless tower with a decorative octagonal turret at its south-east corner.

The Sunday School wing at the east end of the church proper continues the Neo-Gothic styling and complements the church design with its similarly segmental-arched and flat-headed window openings and two-storey, tower-like projecting bay surmounted by a crenellated parapet with single embrasure on the south elevation. The eastern-most, two-bay portion of the Sunday School wing was added in 1914 and designed to seamlessly blend in with the style and materiality of the 1907 building.

The interior of the church is also representative of the Neo-Gothic style. This is evident in the vaulted form of the ceiling with its corbel brackets supporting curved beams, the second floor gallery area that curves around the south, west and north interior elevations, the stained glass windows with their illustrations and wood tracery, the raised floor height and altar screen at the east end to distinguish the hierarchy of the chancel over the nave, the wooden pews in the nave (including the gallery) the chancel chairs and pulpit, the wood panelling and the carved wood altar and baptismal font.

### **HISTORICAL OR ASSOCIATIVE VALUE**

Historical or Associative Value	
i. direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community	✓
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	✓
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community	✓

#### *Direct associations with a person who is significant to a community*

St. John’s Presbyterian Church is associated with Reverend John McPherson Scott (1859-1920), a person of significance to the Presbyterian community as he was a missionary and a pastor for 31 years at the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Riverdale, and oversaw the construction of the current church building completed in 1907. As part of his missionary work, Rev. Dr. Scott established the controversial Presbyterian Mission to the Jews in the Ward in 1908. Upon Scott's death in 1920 the mission evolved to become the Scott Institute with a broader community outreach program and subsequently the Scott Mission commemorating Rev. Dr. Scott in name. The Scott Mission continues to function as a Christian, non-denominational, urban mission which has provided significant community outreach services for over 80 years.

#### *Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture*

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue has associative value as the site of St. John’s Presbyterian Church, an institution of importance to the Riverdale community for 115 years. Through its social justice work, the congregation has supported local agencies

and people in need, and provided funding for projects in Africa, including wells, AIDS research and hunger elimination.

*Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect who is significant to a community*

The church is also linked to the practice of Scottish-born architect Andrew Sharp (1875-1966), who immigrated to Canada in 1900 following studies at the Glasgow School of Art. By 1902, he was chief designer in the office of Darling and Pearson, who were among Toronto's best-known architects in the early 20th century. During his tenure with the firm that lasted until 1910, Sharp's projects included Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto (1907). His name appears on the building permit issued for St. John's Presbyterian Church in March 1907. After leaving Darling and Pearson, Sharp embarked on a brief solo practice when he prepared the plans for St. Aidan's Anglican Church (1910) on Queen Street East (which is recognized on the City's Heritage Register). During a short-lived partnership with the Ottawa-based architect, James Hodge Brown, Sharp entered competitions for municipal buildings across Canada and, in 1911, designed Deer Park Presbyterian Church (later Deer Park United Church) in Toronto.

## CONTEXTUAL VALUE

Contextual Value	
i. important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area	✓
ii. physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	✓
iii. landmark	✓

*Important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area*

Located at the north-east corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue, St. John's Presbyterian Church is important as it defines and maintains and supports the institutional character of the intersection, which also includes the former Don Jail, a city-wide landmark, the Riverdale Library (1910) and the former Bank of Ottawa Branch (1911). Including the church at 415 Broadview Avenue, all of these adjacent properties are recognized on the City's Heritage Register.

*Physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings*

Constructed in 1907 and dedicated the following January, St. John's Presbyterian Church is visually, historically and functionally linked to its surroundings as it forms part of the built form evolution and growth of the Riverdale community since the congregation's founding in 1888, just four years following annexation of the community to the City of Toronto.

*Landmark*

St. John's Presbyterian Church is also valued as a local landmark on the northeast corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue in Riverdale. With its position on a

prominent corner lot, St. John's Presbyterian Church is viewed from Broadview Avenue, Gerrard Street East, and the adjoining residential neighbourhood.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue contains St. John's Presbyterian Church, which is valued for its well-executed and highly intact Neo-Gothic architectural design and association with the architect, Andrew Sharp, who built numerous early-20th century heritage churches across Toronto. This local landmark located on the east side of Broadview Avenue directly across from the former Don Jail forms part of the built form growth and evolution of the Riverdale community and is directly linked to the founding of the city's Scott Mission, which continues to provide important social outreach programs and services today.

Staff have completed the Research and Evaluation Report for the property at 415 Broadview Avenue and determined that the property meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. As such, the property is a significant built heritage resource.

The Statement of Significance (Attachment 3) comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate.

## **CONTACT**

---

Liz McFarland, BA Arch, MA, PhDc, CAHP  
Heritage Planner, Heritage Planning  
Urban Design, City Planning  
Tel: 416-338-0958; fax: 416-392-1973  
E-mail: [Liz.McFarland2@toronto.ca](mailto:Liz.McFarland2@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Mary L. MacDonald, MA, CAHP  
Senior Manager, Heritage Planning  
Urban Design, City Planning

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1 – Maps and Photographs  
Attachment 2 – List of Research Sources  
Attachment 3 - Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation) – 415 Broadview Avenue

**MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**  
**415 BROADVIEW AVENUE**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



Image 1. This location map is for information purposes only; the exact boundaries of the property are not shown. The arrow marks the location of the site. (City of Toronto iView mapping)

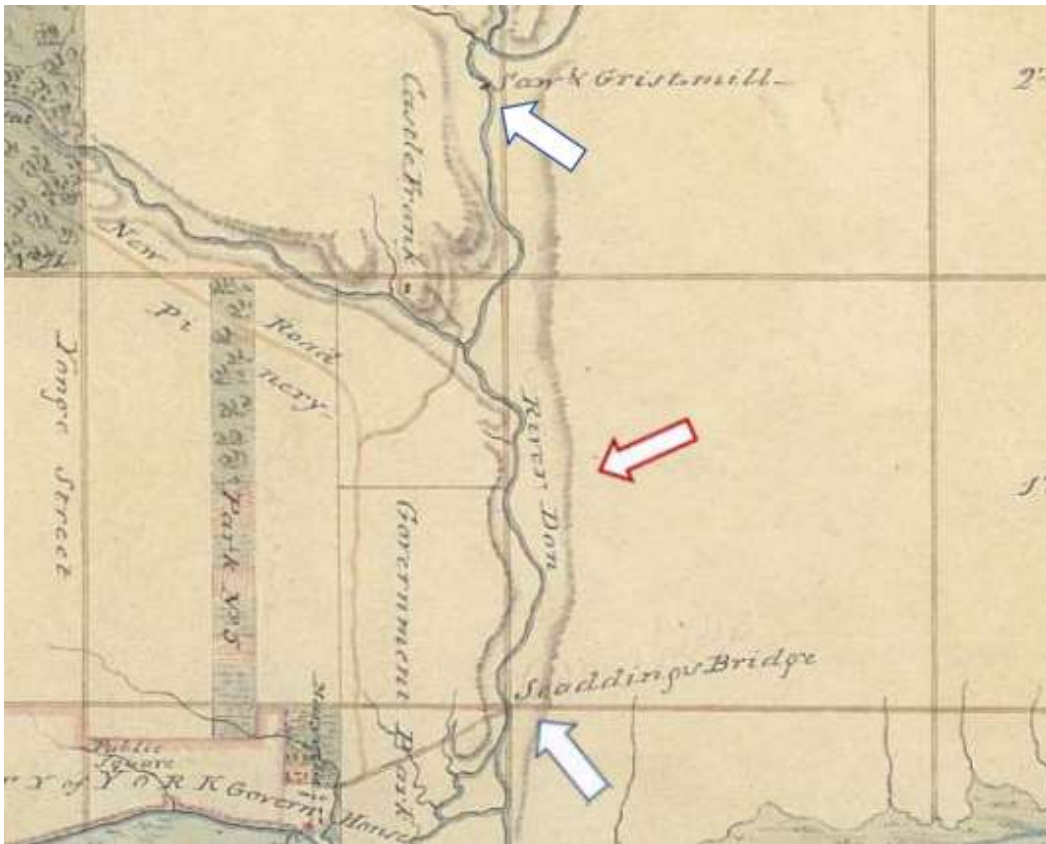


Image 2. 1802, detail of Chewett's map showing the ridge along the east side of the Don River, with "Scadding's Bridge" and the Saw and Gristmill noted (blue arrows) and the approximate location of 415 Broadview (red arrow). (Ng)

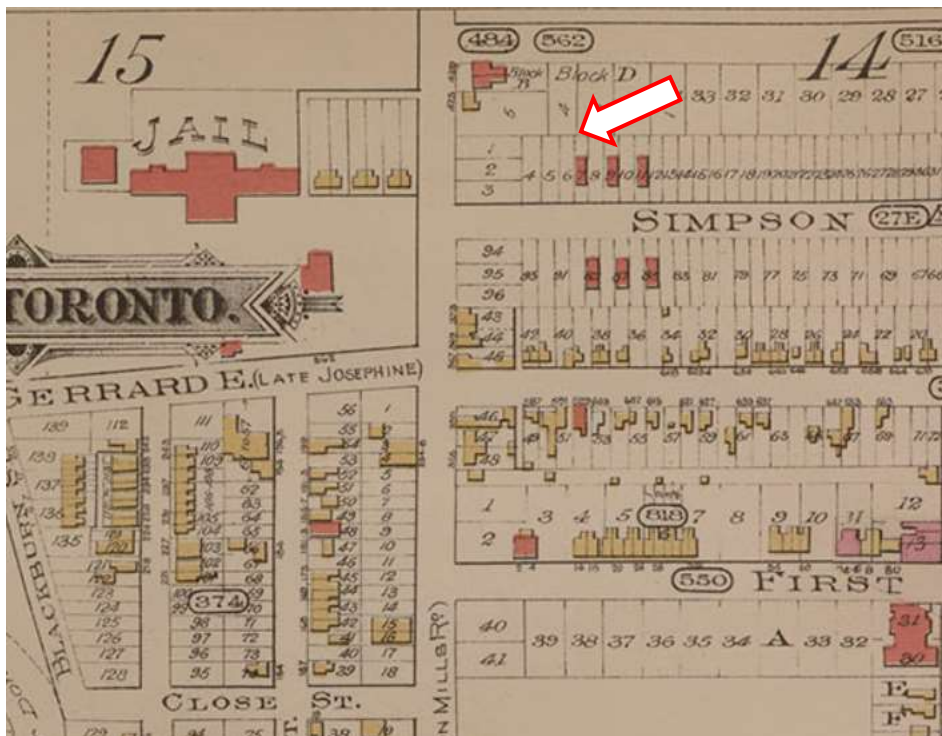


Image 3. 1903 Goad's map showing the future location of the subject property, which would include Lots 1-6 of Plan M95 (Ng)

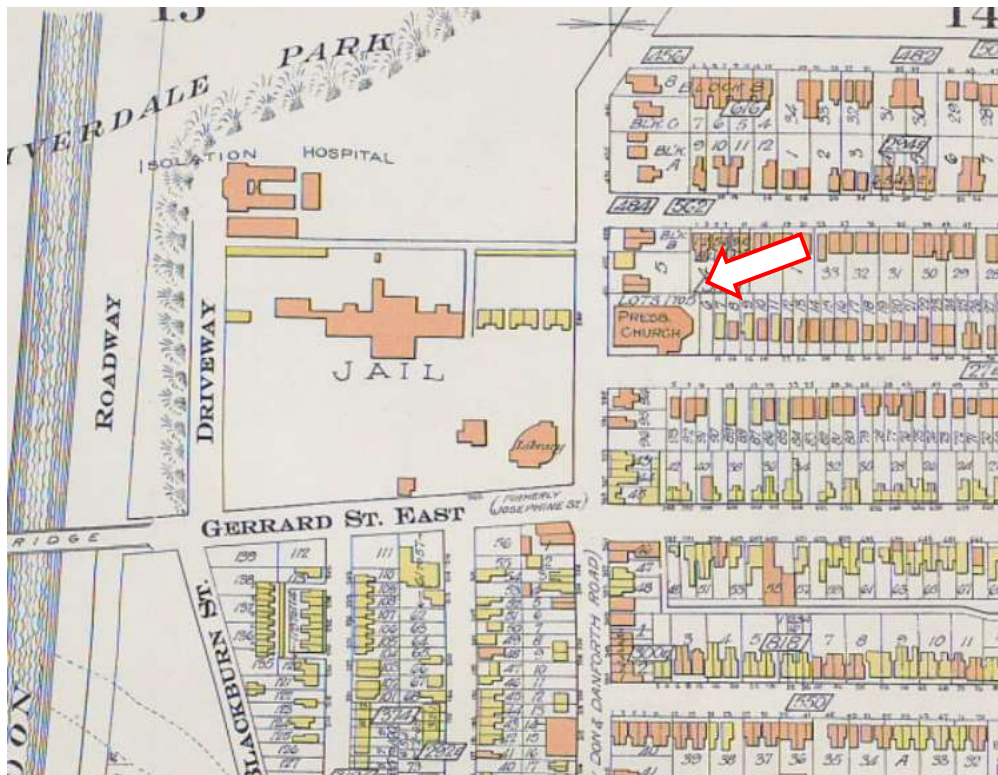


Image 4. 1910 Goad's Map showing the location of the recently completed church. (Ng)



Image 5. The first space rented for worship on the east side of Broadview Avenue, south of Gerrard Street East (then known as Ramblers Road). (St. John's booklet, 1913)



Image 6. First church building erected by the St. John's Presbyterian Church congregation that replaced their initial meeting house (St. John's booklet, 1913)



Image 7. The current church building located at 415 Broadview Avenue (St. John's booklet, 1913)



Image 8. Photo of the Dr. Rev. John McPherson Scott (St. John's booklet, 1913)



Image 9. Commemoration plaque to Scott located inside the church nave (Heritage Planning, 2022)





Image 10. 1913 Photograph of the Presbyterian Jewish Mission, located at 165-167 Elizabeth Street at the north-east corner with Elm Street. (Toronto Public Library - Toronto Star Archives)



Image 11. 1960 Photograph of the Scott Mission, located on the west side of Spadina Avenue, north of College Street. (TPL)



Image 12. The Scott Mission, 502 Spadina Avenue, opened in 1961 (Google Maps, 2020)



Image 13. Principal (west) elevation of the church with its centred tower and flanking transepts (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 14. Detail of the tower on the principal (west) elevation, showing the Neo-Gothic openings (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 15. The main entrance on the principal (west) elevation (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 16. The principal (west) and north elevations (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 17. Detail of the north elevation (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 18. The south elevation and secondary entrance at right (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 19. The 1907 Sunday School wing plus 1914 eastern addition at right (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 20. Detail of the southeast corner of the property, showing the 1914 addition to the Sunday School at left and the apse space at right. (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 21. Detail of the rear (east) elevation, showing the seamless integration of the 1914 Sunday School wing with the 1907 building. (Heritage Planning, 2022)

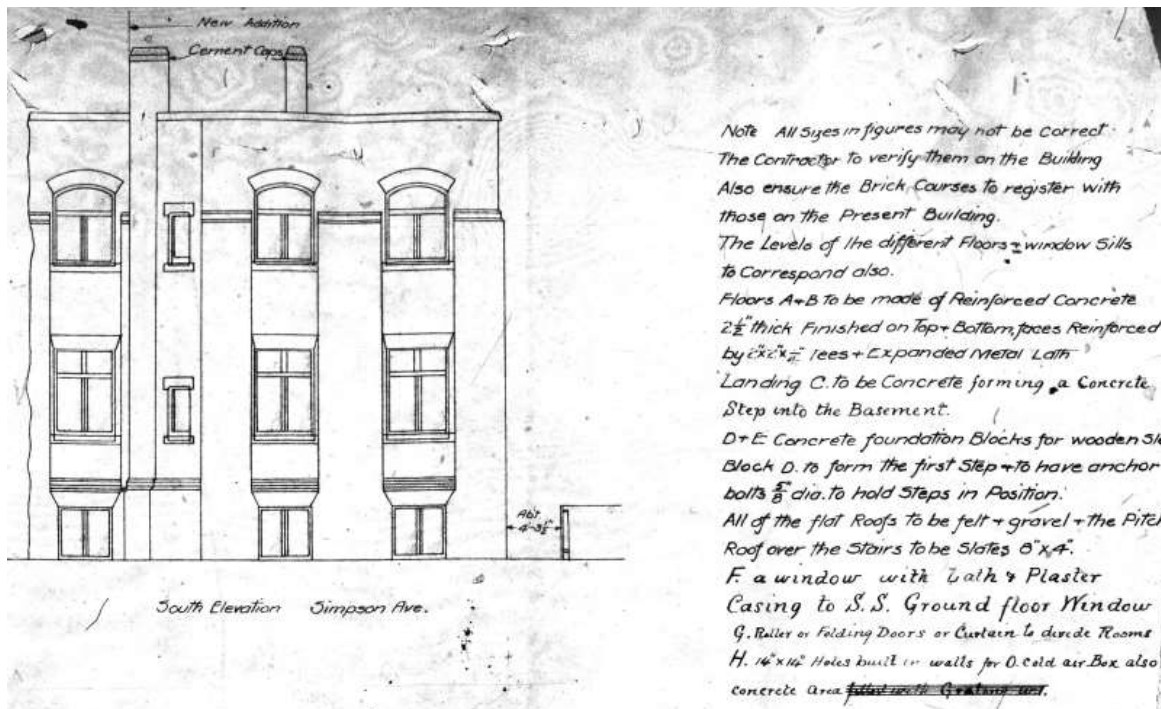


Image 22. 1914 architectural drawings and specifications by Andrew Sharp, showing the addition to the Sunday School and attention paid to its integration with the existing structure (Building Records)



Image 23. St. Clement's Anglican Church by Andrew Sharp, showing the same massing as St. John's with the Sunday School wing and two-storey bay window (indicated by the arrow). (Heritage Planning, 2022)





Image 24. The narthex, looking north. (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 25. The narthex, looking south. (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 26. Detail of transom and stained glass between the narthex and nave (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 27. Interior of the main entrance, looking out (west) at the former Don Jail site (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 28. Original interior, looking east toward the chancel (St. John's Booklet, 1913)



Image 29. Current interior, looking east toward the chancel (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 30. Original interior, looking west toward the gallery over the narthex (St. John's Booklet, 1913)



Image 31. Current interior, looking west toward the gallery over the narthex (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 32. Current photo of the nave, looking south Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 33. Current photo of the nave, looking north (Heritage Planning, 2022)

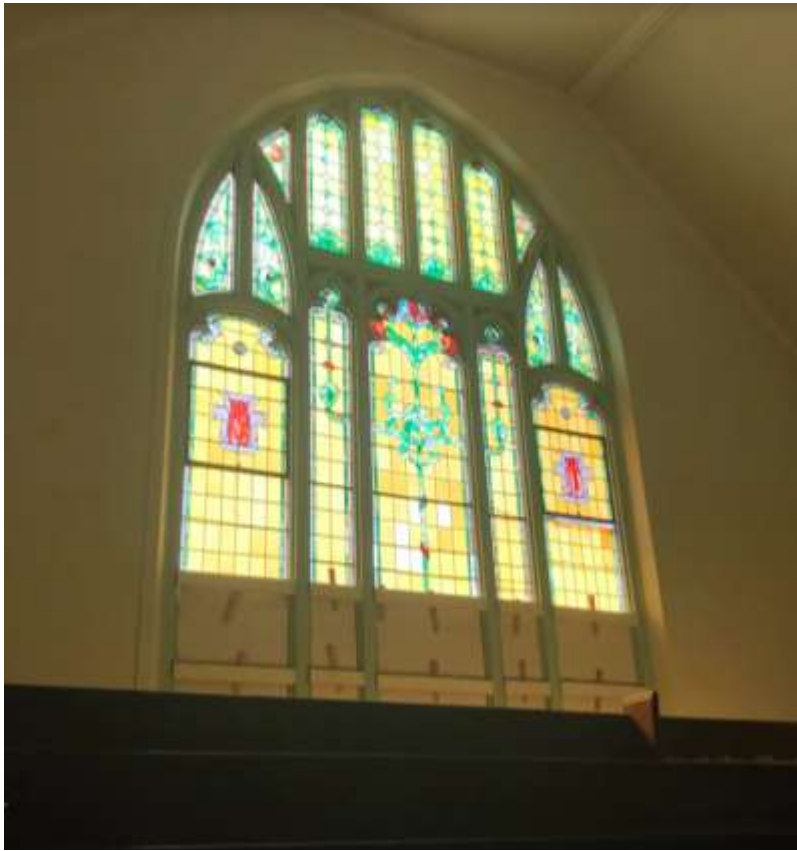


Image 34. The tower window in the gallery Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 35. Example of a stained glass window in the north and south bays of the nave (Heritage Planning, 2022)

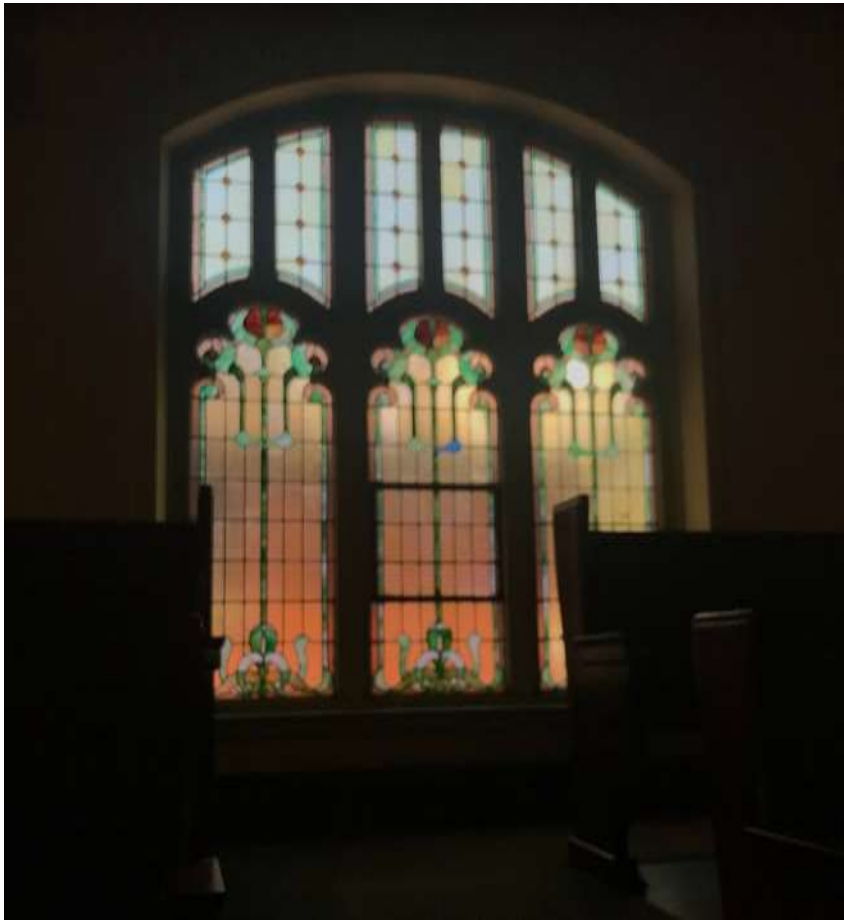


Image 36. Example of a stained glass window in the north and south bays at the gallery level (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 37. The carved wooden baptismal font and communion table (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 38. Original interior of the semi-circular apse space (ground and gallery levels) at the east end of the building (St. John's Booklet, 1913)



Image 39. Current interior of the semi-circular apse space (ground level) at the east end of the building (Heritage Planning, 2022)





Image 40. Current interior of the semi-circular apse space (gallery level) at the east end of the building (Heritage Planning, 2022)



Image 41. Original interior of the Sunday School wing (second storey level) (St. John's Booklet, 1913)



Image 42. Current interior of the Sunday School wing (second storey level) (Heritage Planning, 2022)

**Archival Sources**

- Abstract Index of Deeds, Plan 1676, Lot 15
- Archival maps and atlases
- Archival Photographs, City of Toronto Archives
- City of Toronto Building Records
- City of Toronto Directories

**Secondary Sources**

- Anon. "The Story of a Man and his 'Mission,' Toronto.com, March 3, 2008. The story of a man and his 'Mission' | Toronto.com
- Anderson, Kathryn, Heritage Planning, City of Toronto. Broadview Avenue Properties - Inclusion on the Heritage Inventory (April 15, 2009)  
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-23351.pdf>
- Ayr News, "Passing of a Native Ayrite: Rev. Dr. John McPherson Scott Succumbs to Pneumonia." March 4, 1920, p.1  
<https://generations.regionofwaterloo.ca/getperson.php?personID=I303641&tree=generations>
- Blumbergs Charity Data: The Scott Mission THE SCOTT MISSION - Charity Data
- Blumenson, John. Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms, 1784-Present. 1990.
- Bolduc, Denise, Mnawaate Gordon-Corbiere, Rebeka Tabobondung and Brian Wright McLeod, editors. Indigenous Toronto: Stories that Carry This Place. 2021.
- City of Toronto, T.O.IView Map. <https://insideto-map.toronto.ca/toinview/>
- ERA Architects Inc. 415 Broadview Avenue Heritage Impact Assessment (December 7, 2021)
- Filey, Mike. "J. McPherson Scott," Mount Pleasant Cemetery: An Illustrated Guide. Second Edition, Revised and Expanded. On Mount Pleasant Group Website,  
<https://www.mountpleasantgroup.com/en-CA/GeneralInformation/Our%20Monthly%20Story/story-archives/mount-pleasantcemetery/J%20McPherson%20Scott.aspx>
- Gladstone, Bill. "Christian Mission proselytized Jews in 'the Ward,' Canadian Jewish News, April 2015. Christian missions proselytized Jews in 'the Ward' – Bill Gladstone Genealogy
- Hill, Robert. Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada. Entry on Andrew Sharp  
<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/436>
- Lundell, Liz. The Estates of Old Toronto. 1997.
- Maitland, Leslie, Jacqueline Hucker and Shannon Ricketts, A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles, 1992
- McTeague, Marybeth, Heritage Planning, City of Toronto. 537 Broadview Avenue - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property Under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (August 21, 2021)  
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/pb/bgrd/backgroundfile-169921.pdf>

- Myrvold, Barbara. "Broadview Avenue - Danforth Avenue to Bate Avenue: an historical overview." prepared for Heritage Planning, August 2015.
- Ng, Nathan. Historical Maps of Toronto. <http://oldtorontomaps.blogspot.ca/p/index-of-maps.html>
- Rome, David "The Immigration Story II: Jacob's Opponents," Canadian Jewish Archives. 1986, vol. 37 The Immigration story / | BAnQ numérique
- Scadding, Henry. Toronto of Old. 1873, reprinted, 1966.
- Scheinberg, Ellen. "Missionary Work: the Fight for Jewish Souls," The Ward: the Life and Loss of Toronto's First Immigrant Neighbourhood, 2015. Scott Mission website: <https://www.scottmission.com/about/history/>
- St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto: 1888-1913. n.a., 1913
- The Montreal Daily Mail, "Clergyman is shot by man who had charge of Montreal Mission," Dec 25, 1914  
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=689&dat=19141225&id=RxQcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=nFUEAAAAIBAJ&pg=3863,3222048&hl=en>
- Toronto Daily Star, "Dodging Christmas bullets in 1914: Editorial," December 25, 1914.  
[https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2014/12/25/dodging\\_christmas\\_bullets\\_in\\_19\\_14\\_editorial.html](https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2014/12/25/dodging_christmas_bullets_in_19_14_editorial.html)
- White, Gerald Arthur. The Streets of Riverdale: An Illustrated History. 2012.

**415 BROADVIEW AVENUE  
ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue, St. John's Presbyterian 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**

Located in the Riverdale neighbourhood at the north-east corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue, just north of Gerrard Street East, the property at 415 Broadview Avenue (St. John's Presbyterian Church) contains a church and Sunday school wing designed in the Neo-Gothic style by architect Andrew Sharp and constructed in 1907. Founded in 1886, the congregation constructed its first church at Gerrard Street East and Bolton Avenue two years later. After enlarging the original church twice, the congregation acquired land at the northeast corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue in 1904, with construction of the present edifice commencing in 1907. The new church and Sunday School were dedicated on January 5, 1908. Now celebrating 115 years in its current location, St. John's Presbyterian Church continues to serve the Riverdale community.

The subject property was listed on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in 2009.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

Designed in the Neo-Gothic style, St. John's Presbyterian Church has design value as a representative example of an ecclesiastical building that displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Following the turn of the 20th century and a return to more simplified architectural designs, Neo-Gothic styling was popular for religious and educational buildings. With its monochromatic surfaces, overall balance, and less ostentatious medieval details including sparse religious symbolism, the style differs from the more elaborate Gothic Revival designs of the previous century. St. John's Presbyterian Church displays Neo-Gothic elements with the symmetrical organization of the principal (west) elevation, the mixture of pointed-arch and segmental-arched openings, and the central, spireless tower with a decorative octagonal turret at its south-east corner.

The Sunday School wing at the east end of the church proper continues the Neo-Gothic styling and complements the church design with its similarly segmental-arched and flat-headed window openings and two-storey, tower-like projecting bay surmounted by a crenellated parapet with single embrasure on the south elevation. The eastern-most, two-bay portion of the Sunday School wing was added in 1914 and designed to seamlessly blend in with the style and materiality of the 1907 building.

The interior of the church is also representative of the Neo-Gothic style. This is evident in the vaulted form of the ceiling with its corbel brackets supporting curved beams, the second floor gallery area that curves around the south, west and north interior elevations, the stained glass windows with their illustrations and wood tracery, the raised floor height and altar screen at the east end to distinguish the hierarchy of the chancel over the nave, the wooden pews in the nave (including the gallery) the chancel chairs and pulpit, the wood panelling and the carved wood altar and baptismal font.

The property at 415 Broadview Avenue has associative value as the site of St. John's Presbyterian Church, an institution of importance to the Riverdale community for 115 years. Through its social justice work, the congregation has supported local agencies and people in need, and provided funding for projects in Africa, including wells, AIDS research and hunger elimination.

St. John's Presbyterian Church is associated with Reverend John McPherson Scott (1859-1920), a person of significance to the Presbyterian community as he was a missionary and a pastor for 31 years at the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Riverdale, and oversaw the construction of the current church building completed in 1907. As part of his missionary work, Rev. Dr. Scott established the controversial Presbyterian Mission to the Jews in the Ward in 1908. Upon Scott's death in 1920 the mission evolved to become the Scott Institute with a broader community outreach program and subsequently the Scott Mission commemorating Rev. Dr. Scott in name. The Scott Mission continues to function as a Christian, non-denominational, urban mission which has provided significant community outreach services for over 80 years.

The church is also linked to the practice of Scottish-born architect Andrew Sharp (1875-1966), who immigrated to Canada in 1900 following studies at the Glasgow School of Art. By 1902, he was chief designer in the office of Darling and Pearson, who were among Toronto's best-known architects in the early 20th century. During his tenure with the firm that lasted until 1910, Sharp's projects included Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto (1907). His name appears on the building permit issued for St. John's Presbyterian Church in March 1907. After leaving Darling and Pearson, Sharp embarked on a brief solo practice when he prepared the plans for St. Aidan's Anglican Church (1910) at Queen Street East and Silver Birch Avenue (which is recognized on the City's Heritage Register). During a short-lived partnership with the Ottawa-based architect, James Hodge Brown, Sharp entered competitions for municipal buildings across Canada and, in 1911, designed Deer Park Presbyterian Church (later Deer Park United Church) in Toronto.

Located at the north-east corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue, St. John's Presbyterian Church is important as it defines and maintains and supports the institutional character of the intersection, which also includes the former Don Jail, a city-wide landmark, the Riverdale Library (1910) and the former Bank of Ottawa Branch (1911). Including the church at 415 Broadview Avenue, all of these adjacent properties are recognized on the City's Heritage Register.

Constructed in 1907 and dedicated the following January, St. John's Presbyterian Church is visually, historically and functionally linked to its surroundings as it is forms

part of the built form evolution and growth of the Riverdale community since the congregation's founding in 1888, just four years following annexation of the community to the City of Toronto.

St. John's Presbyterian Church is also valued as a local landmark on the northeast corner of Broadview Avenue and Simpson Avenue in Riverdale. With its position on a prominent corner lot, St. John's Presbyterian Church is viewed from Broadview Avenue, Gerrard Street East, and the adjoining residential neighbourhood.

## **Heritage Attributes**

### **Design and Physical Value – Exterior**

The following heritage attributes contribute to the design and physical value of the 1907 church and Sunday School wing as representative of the Neo-Gothic style:

- The form and massing of the church with a long, rectangular nave on a tight cruciform plan on a raised foundation
- The materials, with the red brick cladding, and brick, stone and wood detailing
- The square tower with corner buttresses centred on the west elevation with its octagonal turret (southeast), and brick detailing
- At the base of the tower, the main (west) entrance where two pairs of doors and multi-paned leaded stained glass transoms with wooden mullions are placed in a grand three-centred arch with splayed brick detailing
- The transept bays adjoining the main (west) entrance and tower with their hipped roofs
- The steeply-pitched gable roof with brick chimneys that covers the nave of the church
- the hexagonal apse at the east end of the building
- The north and south elevations of the nave, organized into symmetrical bays defined by brick buttresses
- The fenestration that combines pointed-arched and segmental-arched window openings and wood tracery, on the tower and the elevations of the church
- The original diamond-pattern clear leaded glass in the central vestry office window opening located at the second storey level of the projecting bay window on the south elevation
- The Sunday School wing at the east end, including its seamlessly integrated 1914 eastern addition, which has segmental-arched and flat-headed window openings, a secondary entry and crenellated two-storey tower-like projecting bay with single embrasure on the south elevation

### **Design and Physical Value – Interior**

The following heritage attributes contribute to the design and physical value of the interior of the 1907 church as representative of the Neo-Gothic style:

- The double-height volume of the church, including the gallery at the west end and the chancel and apse at the east end

- The church space with its vaulted ceiling and sequence of curved beams supported on large brackets
- The type and arrangement of the window openings and wood tracery
- The segmental-arched transoms above the doors between the narthex and the nave

### **Design and Physical Value – Liturgical Elements – Interior**

The following heritage attributes which contribute to the design and physical value of the interior of the 1907 church as representative the Neo-Gothic style and expressing elements of the Presbyterian faith have been identified as liturgical elements:

- The raised chancel area with rood screen and centred, high pulpit with carved wooden detailing including trefoil- and segmental-arched motifs
- Musical instruments, including the organ and organ pipes
- All seating in the church, including all chairs and pews
- All stained glass windows in the church

### **Historic and Associative Value**

The following heritage attribute contributes to the historic and associative value of the 1907 church as it represents the history and association of the congregation and its ministry with missionary services:

- The carved, stone dedication plaque commemorating the church's first Minister, Rev. John McPherson Scott (1887-1920)

### **Contextual Value**

The following heritage attributes contribute to the contextual value of the property at 415 Broadview Avenue as it conveys the historical institutional and landmark character of the property

- The set-back, placement and orientation of the building on a corner lot where it is viewed from Broadview Avenue, Gerrard Street East, Simpson Avenue, and the adjoining residential neighbourhood

N.B. The following are not identified as heritage attributes but are noted by the Church as liturgical elements: all lighting in the church; the piano, and any other instruments of use to the Church; plaques, artwork, hangings, trim, and other decorative items; as well as the carved wooden baptismal font and communion table