

630 Spadina Avenue - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

Date: October 1, 2024

To: Toronto Preservation Board

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

Ward: 11 - University Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 630 Spadina Avenue under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value according to the Statement of Significance which includes a description of Heritage Attributes found in Attachment 1.

The property at 630 Spadina Avenue (Knox Presbyterian Church) is located on the west side of Spadina Avenue, approximately 30 metres south of Harbord Street, at the eastern boundary of the Harbord Village neighbourhood. The property contains a 1909 neo-Gothic style church with a 1907 Sunday school wing at the rear, a 1961 modernist-style church hall (Fellowship Centre), and 1961 modernist-style chapel. A location map and current photograph of the heritage property is found in Attachment 2.

The property has been an active place of worship since 1907 with each of the three structures having been designed and built for Knox Presbyterian Church. The church and Sunday school, designed by Toronto architect James Wilson Gray, features a neo-Gothic exterior and interior while the church contains stained glass windows crafted by the firms of N.T. Lyon Company and Robert McCausland. The chapel, built 52 years later with the Fellowship Centre, was designed by the significant architectural firm of John B. Parkin Associates, and features a unique design with atypical square plan, low slung brick clad walls and curved roof.

The property was listed on the City's Heritage Register on April 27, 2006.

A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, if it meets two or more of the nine criteria.

Staff have determined that the property at 630 Spadina Avenue has cultural heritage value and meets five of the Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

In accordance with 3.1.6.50 of the Official Plan and the City's Protocol for the Identification and Review of Heritage Places of Worship, Heritage Planning Staff met with Knox Church to seek their opinion on the heritage attributes of the property which are the liturgical elements to be identified in the designating by-law. Knox Church considers all interior spaces of the church, Sunday school and chapel to be liturgical elements.

On May 18, 2018, an Official Plan Amendment application (18 161814 STE 20 OZ) was submitted to the City to redesignate Neighbourhoods to Mixed-use to permit a 14-storey residential building. A Notice of Complete Application was issued on May 21, 2018. A zoning bylaw amendment application has yet to be submitted.

The Prescribed Event occurred on this property before January 1, 2023, therefore, Section 29(1.2) 2 of the Ontario Heritage Act does not apply to require Council to issue a notice of intention to designate within 90 days of a prescribed event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 630 Spadina Avenue under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance for 630 Spadina Avenue (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1, to the report, October 1, 2024, 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

City Planning confirms there are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council included the subject property at 630 Spadina Avenue on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in on April 27, 2006.

[Inclusion of Three Properties on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties - Harbord Village Area Study – 630, 644 and 646 Spadina Avenue \(Knox Presbyterian Church, Harry Armstrong House and Dr. Gilbert Gordon House\) \(Ward 20 - Trinity-Spadina\)](#)

POLICY AND REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Provincial Plans and Policies

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

Further, the policies and definitions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) identify the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage evaluation and heritage conservation will be implemented.

[Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/government/provincial-planning-statement-2024)

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

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

Official Plan

The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime and provides policies to guide decision making within the City. It 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. The Official Plan should be read as a whole to understand its comprehensive and integrative intent as a policy framework for priority setting and decision making. The Official Plan can be found here:

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

The Official Plan includes the following policies pertaining to Heritage Places of Worship:

3.1.6.47 Religious heritage properties constitute a substantial portion of the City's cultural and architectural heritage. Those religious heritage properties that remain in active use for worship purposes will be subject to the policies of this Section of the Plan which, in the event of any conflict, will take precedence over the other policies of this Plan.

3.1.6.48 Religious properties may be listed on the Heritage Register and designated under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act. The designating by-law shall be consistent with the policies of this Official Plan.

3.1.6.49 The liturgical elements of any religious heritage property in active use for worship shall be excluded from the heritage conservation provisions of this Plan. For the purposes of this section, “liturgical element” means a building element, ornament or decoration that is a symbol or material thing traditionally considered by a religious organization to be part of the rites of public worship.

3.1.6.50 Faith groups will advise the City as to the identified liturgical elements to be identified in the designating by-law.

3.1.6.51 So long as the place of worship remains in active use for religious purposes interior alterations related to the rites of worship including removal, alteration or installation of structures, fixtures and/or liturgical elements will not be subject to the heritage policies of this Plan.

3.1.6.52 If a heritage review is required for the interior alterations not related to the rites of worship it will be undertaken by the City and faith groups with the mutual goal of conserving the property’s cultural heritage values and respecting and protecting the faith group’s rites of worship.

3.1.6.53 The City will, in consultation with faith groups, establish a protocol to implement these policies.

Regarding section 3.1.6.53, the Protocol for the Identification and Review of Heritage Places of Worship can be found here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-79018.pdf>

COMMENTS

Evaluation Analysis

The following evaluation analysis is based on the comprehensive research conducted on the property at 630 Spadina Avenue (see Attachment 3) and provides the rationale for the recommendation(s) found in this report.

The property at 630 Spadina Avenue meets the following 5 out of 9 criteria:

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Designed in the neo-Gothic style, the combined church and Sunday school has design value as a fine and representative example of an ecclesiastical building that displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Following the turn of the 20th century, the neo-Gothic style 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 19th century. This can be seen in the church's pointed arch fenestration, triple entrance portal, buttresses, bell tower, and restrained use of ornamentation found at the entrance portals, window hood molds, and corbels in the gables.

The sanctuary and vestibule are also representative of the neo-Gothic style, featuring pointed vault ceilings supported by quatrefoil columns with corbelled capitals, carved woodwork, and stained-glass windows with tracery.

The Sunday school at the west end of the church continues the neo-Gothic styling with its segmentally pointed arch windows, pointed arch entrances and cross gables featuring lancet openings.

The chapel, located south of the main church building, has design value as a unique example of a modernist ecclesiastical building from the mid-20th century, distinguished by its small scale, atypical square plan, low slung brick clad walls and curved roof.

The adjacent exterior cross also has design value as part of John B. Parkin Associates design intent for the Fellowship Wing and chapel. Flood lit at night an enlarged image of the cross was projected onto the intentionally blank eastern elevation of the Fellowship Wing.

The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

The church has value for its high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. While more restrained in its use of ornamentation than churches constructed in the Gothic Revival style, the high-quality rock-faced limestone cladding, carved stone details, and east (principal) elevation featuring large central tripartite stepped stained-glass windows above triple entrance portals with ornamental gables, archivolts and colonettes, exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship. The high degree of craftsmanship extends to the interior where Gothic elements are expressed through finely wrought plasterwork, carved woodwork, and stained glass.

The north and south staircases featuring finely carved woodwork with Gothic motifs within the interior of the Sunday school wing are valued for their high degree of craftsmanship.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The property has value for its direct association with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, as the church is home to Toronto's oldest Presbyterian congregation. Established in 1820, it was originally known as the Presbyterian Church of York. In 1904, the church sold its original property on Queen Street between Yonge and Bay Streets to purchase the property at 630 Spadina Avenue, which was located closer to the residential areas where its congregants resided.

Designed by architect and Knox Church member James Wilson Gray, the church that exists today was constructed between 1906 and 1909. Since its construction in 1961, the chapel has hosted and been used in the seeding of new and emerging congregations throughout Toronto.

The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

The church is valued for its association with architect James Wilson Gray (1864-1922) who designed many prominent residential, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings in Toronto during his nearly four-decade career. Among these works were Heintzman Hall (1910) at 195 Yonge Street, St. Andrew's College (1903) in Rosedale, the Riverdale Presbyterian Church (1921) at Pape Avenue and Harcourt Street, and the Scottish Memorial Cairn and Monument (1891) in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Gray was also responsible for designing the 1912 Confederation Life Building in Winnipeg which is a National Historic Site. Completed in 1909, the church exemplifies Gray's restrained application of ornamentation in his revivalist designs.

James Wilson Gray was also a prominent member of Knox Presbyterian Church where, during his lifetime, he was an active member of the congregation where he served as a church elder. A stained-glass window honoring James Wilson Gray is located in the north transept of the church. Unveiled in 1922, it was crafted by Robert McCausland Limited.

The property is also valued for its association with the architectural firm of John B. Parkin Associates who designed the chapel. One of Canada's leading and most prolific modernist firms in the 1950s and 1960s, it contributed to the construction of many significant buildings in Toronto during this period. Constructed in 1961, the chapel exemplifies the firm's work at this time which was chiefly aligned with International Style modernism with its square form, ribbon windows and balance of vertical and horizontal lines.

The property is further valued for its association with the stained-glass makers N.T. Lyon Company and Robert McCausland Limited which produced the church's intricate stained-glass windows. Both firm's works are widely recognized as among the finest in Canada, gracing historic landmarks throughout the country including Canada's Parliament Buildings as well as Toronto's Saint Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Saint James Cathedral, and Old City Hall.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

Knox Presbyterian Church is a landmark on Spadina Avenue and citywide as an active place of worship serving Toronto's oldest Presbyterian community and its members throughout the city.

See Attachments 1, 2 and 3 of this report for the Statement of Significance; Location Map and Photograph; and Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources pertaining to the

property at 630 Spadina Avenue, as all of these documents are integral to the recommendations made in this staff report.

Prescribed Event Status

As of July 1, 2021, Section 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act restricts City Council's ability to give notice of its intention to designate a property under the Act to within 90 days of a "Prescribed Event".

A prescribed event is a point of time when the application for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application has been deemed complete and the City Clerk provides notice of that complete application to the public in accordance with the Planning Act. The prescribed event is not the date a development application is deemed complete or when an application is made to the City. A prescribed event, including any prescribed exceptions, are defined under O. Reg 385/21.

If a new or subsequent Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application is submitted on the same property, the Prescribed Event date is reset to the new date the City Clerk issues notice to the public of the new or subsequent complete application.

The Prescribed Event occurred on this property before January 1, 2023, therefore, Section 29(1.2)2 of the Ontario Heritage Act does not apply to require Council to issue a notice of intention to designate within 90 days of a prescribed event.

On May 18, 2018, an Official Plan Amendment application (18 161814 STE 20 OZ) was submitted to the City to permit a 14-storey residential building containing affordable ownership and student residence units, as well as privately-owned public space. The application proposes the removal of the 1961 modernist-style church hall (Fellowship Centre) and 1961 modernist-style chapel. The 1909 neo-Gothic style church and 1907 Sunday school wing at the rear would be retained in-situ. A Notice of Complete Application was issued on May 21, 2018.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is required for all development applications that affect listed and designated properties to determine how a heritage property is proposed to be conserved. Designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the property and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance.

The subject property is adjacent to the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District and the listed properties at 644-646 Spadina Avenue.

In preparing this report, Heritage Planning staff met with Knox Church representatives to seek their determination of which heritage attributes are to be identified as liturgical elements in the designation by-law. Knox Church considers "all interior spaces of the Church, Sunday School and Chapel to be liturgical elements."

CONCLUSION

Staff have determined that the property at 630 Spadina Avenue meets 5 out of 9 criteria in Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. As such, the property merits designation and staff recommend that Council support the designation of this property to conserve its cultural heritage value.

The Statement of Significance: 630 Spadina Avenue (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1 to this report comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate.

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation)
Attachment 2 – Location Map and Current Photograph
Attachment 3 – Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources

**630 SPADINA AVENUE
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)**

ATTACHMENT 1

Description

The property at 630 Spadina Avenue (Knox Presbyterian Church) is located on the west side of Spadina Avenue, approximately 30 metres south of Harbord Street, at the eastern edge of the Harbord Village neighbourhood. The property contains a 1909 neo-Gothic style Church with a 1907 Sunday school wing at the rear, a 1961 modernist-style church hall (Fellowship Centre), and 1961 modernist-style chapel.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Design Value

Designed in the neo-Gothic style, the combined church and Sunday school has design value as a fine and representative example of an ecclesiastical building that displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Following the turn of the 20th century, the neo-Gothic style 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 19th century. This can be seen in the church's pointed arch fenestration, triple entrance portal, buttresses, bell tower, and restrained use of ornamentation found at the entrance portals, window hood molds, and corbels in the gables.

The sanctuary and vestibule are also representative of the neo-Gothic style, featuring pointed vault ceilings supported by quatrefoil columns with corbelled capitals, carved woodwork, and stained-glass windows with tracery.

The Sunday school at the west end of the church continues the neo-Gothic styling with its segmentally pointed arch windows, pointed arch entrances and cross gables featuring lancet openings.

The chapel, located south of the main church building, has design value as a unique example of a modernist ecclesiastical building from the mid-20th century, distinguished by its small scale, atypical square plan, low slung brick clad walls and curved roof.

The adjacent exterior cross also has design value as part of John B. Parkin Associates design intent for the Fellowship Wing and chapel. The artistry of the cross is fully experienced when it is flood lit at night, projecting an enlarged image of the cross onto the intentionally blank wall of the Fellowship Wing.

The church has value for its high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. While more restrained in its use of ornamentation than churches constructed in the Gothic Revival style, the high-quality rock-faced limestone cladding, carved stone details, and east (principal) elevation featuring large central tripartite stepped stained-glass windows

above triple entrance portals with ornamental gables, archivolts and colonettes, exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship. The high degree of craftsmanship extends to the interior where Gothic elements are expressed through finely wrought plasterwork, carved woodwork, and stained glass.

The interior of the Sunday school wing also features north and south staircases featuring finely carved woodwork with Gothic motifs.

Historical and Associative Value

The property has value for its direct association with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, as the church is home to Toronto's oldest Presbyterian congregation. Established in 1820, it was originally known as the Presbyterian Church of York. In 1904, the church sold its original property on Queen Street between Yonge and Bay Streets to purchase the property at 630 Spadina Avenue, which was located closer to the residential areas where its congregants resided.

Designed by architect and Knox Church member James Wilson Gray, the church that exists today was constructed between 1906 and 1909. Since its construction in 1961, the chapel has hosted and been used in the seeding of new and emerging congregations throughout Toronto.

The church is valued for its association with architect James Wilson Gray (1864-1922) who designed many prominent residential, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings in Toronto during his nearly four-decade career. Among these works were Heintzman Hall (1910) at 195 Yonge Street, St. Andrew's College (1903) in Rosedale, the Riverdale Presbyterian Church (1921) at Pape Avenue and Harcourt Street, and the Scottish Memorial Cairn and Monument (1891) in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Gray was also responsible for designing the 1912 Confederation Life Building in Winnipeg which is a National Historic Site. Completed in 1909, the church exemplifies Gray's restrained application of ornamentation in his revivalist designs.

James Wilson Gray was also a prominent member of Knox Presbyterian Church where, during his lifetime, he was an active member of the congregation where he served as a church elder. A stained-glass window honoring James Wilson Gray is located in the north transept of the church. Unveiled in 1922, it was crafted by Robert McCausland Limited.

The property is also valued for its association with the architectural firm of John B. Parkin Associates who designed the chapel. One of Canada's leading and most prolific modernist firms in the 1950s and 1960s, it contributed to the construction of many significant buildings in Toronto during this period. Constructed in 1961, the Chapel exemplifies the firm's work at this time which was chiefly aligned with International Style modernism with its square form, ribbon windows and balance of vertical and horizontal lines.

The property is further valued for its association with the stained-glass makers N.T. Lyon Company and Robert McCausland Limited which produced the church's intricate stained-glass windows. Both firm's works are widely recognized as among the finest in

Canada, gracing historic landmarks throughout the country including Canada's Parliament Buildings as well as Toronto's Saint Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Saint James Cathedral, and Old City Hall.

Contextual Value

Knox Presbyterian Church has value as a landmark on Spadina Avenue. Constructed in 1909, the church, with its grand scale and neo-Gothic architecture, stands out among the surrounding mix of late-19th century residences and modern institutional structures and high-rises. Knox Presbyterian Church also has value as a landmark for the greater Toronto area as an active place of worship serving Toronto's oldest Presbyterian community, which today serves members from throughout the greater Toronto area.

Heritage Attributes

Design or Physical Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the design and physical value of the property.

All heritage attributes located within the interior of the church, Sunday school, and chapel have been identified as "liturgical elements".

Church

Exterior

- The scale, form, and massing of the church, with cruciform plan, corner tower, and cross-gabled roof with slate shingles
- The pointed arch window and entrance openings with stone voussoirs, sills, and hood moulds
- The quarry-faced, random ashlar sandstone cladding and buttresses with smooth faced ashlar sandstone accents
- The carved stone elements including hood mouldings, corbels, pinnacles, and buttress caps
- The square tower with corner buttresses, lancet windows, and belfry with paired pointed arch openings on all four elevations
- The raised triple portal entrance with pointed arch openings featuring carved stone colonnettes, archivolt, tracery, and gables with gargoyles, quatrefoils, and finials on the principal (east) elevation

Interior

- The pointed arch window and door openings with wood tracery
- The pointed arch groin vaults with decorative plaster work supported by quatrefoil columns with corbeled capitals
- The one storey volume of the narthex with finely carved north and south balcony staircases
- The triple height volume of the church including nave, transept, apse, arcaded side aisles, and balcony
- The pipe organ with decorative front pipes and carved wooden organ case

- The tripartite stained-glass windows located at the east wall of the nave and the south wall of the transept
- The tripartite stained and coloured glass windows at the north wall of the transept
- The stained-glass clerestory windows in the apse
- The stained and coloured glass windows in the north and south aisles

Sunday School

Exterior

- The form, scale, and massing of the wing with rectangular plan, hipped roof, and prominent gabled dormers with chimneys
- Buff brick cladding and voussoirs
- Smooth faced ashlar sandstone quoining, lintels, and sills
- Pointed arch and flat headed window and entrance openings

Interior

- North and south staircases with carved oak newel posts, turned balusters, balustrades, and decorative handrails
- First floor hallway with oak millwork and perpendicular pointed arch entrance to Winchester room with oak doors, tracery, and plaster hood mold with decorative label stops

Chapel

Exterior

- Scale, form, and massing with its atypical square plan, corner buttresses, dark brick cladding and horizontal expanses of uninterrupted wall surface.
- Curved metal roof and finial of steel beams, topped with cylindrical light fixtures

Interior

- Vertical and horizontal ribbon windows fitted with coloured glass
- Wood panelled ceiling and exposed curved steel beams
- Dark brick cladding

Grounds

- Stone Celtic cross designed by John B. Parkin Associates

Contextual Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the contextual value of the property at 630 Spadina Avenue as it conveys the historical institutional and landmark character of the property:

- The set-back, placement and orientation of the building on the west side of Spadina Avenue

NOTE: The 1961 Fellowship Centre located at 630 Spadina Avenue is not considered a heritage attribute.

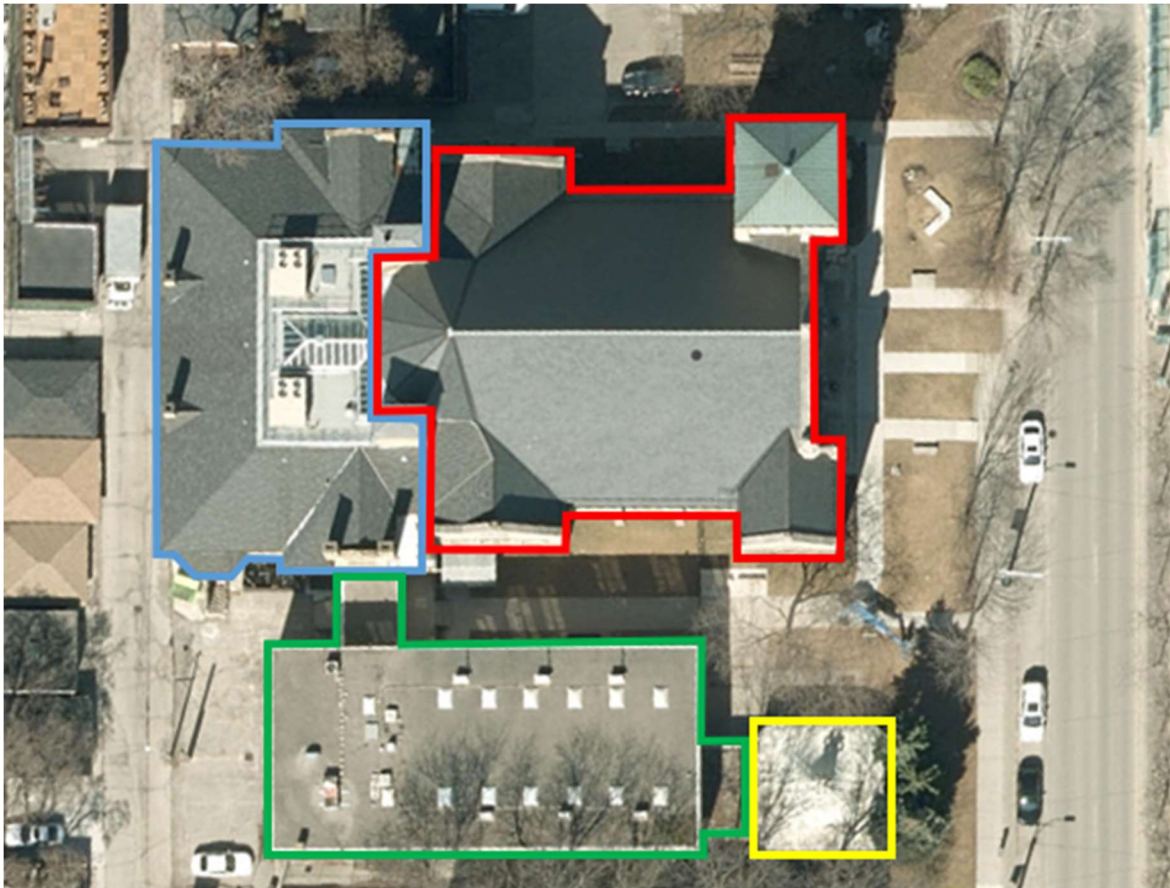
LOCATION MAP AND CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH

630 SPADINA AVENUE

ATTACHMENT 2



This location map is for information purposes only. The exact boundaries of the property are not shown. The red outline marks the location of the subject site (City of Toronto iView Mapping, annotated by Heritage Planning, 2024).



Aerial image of the property showing the Church (red), Sunday School (blue), Fellowship Centre (green), and Chapel (yellow). The exact boundaries of the property are not shown (City of Toronto iView Mapping, annotated by Heritage Planning, 2024).

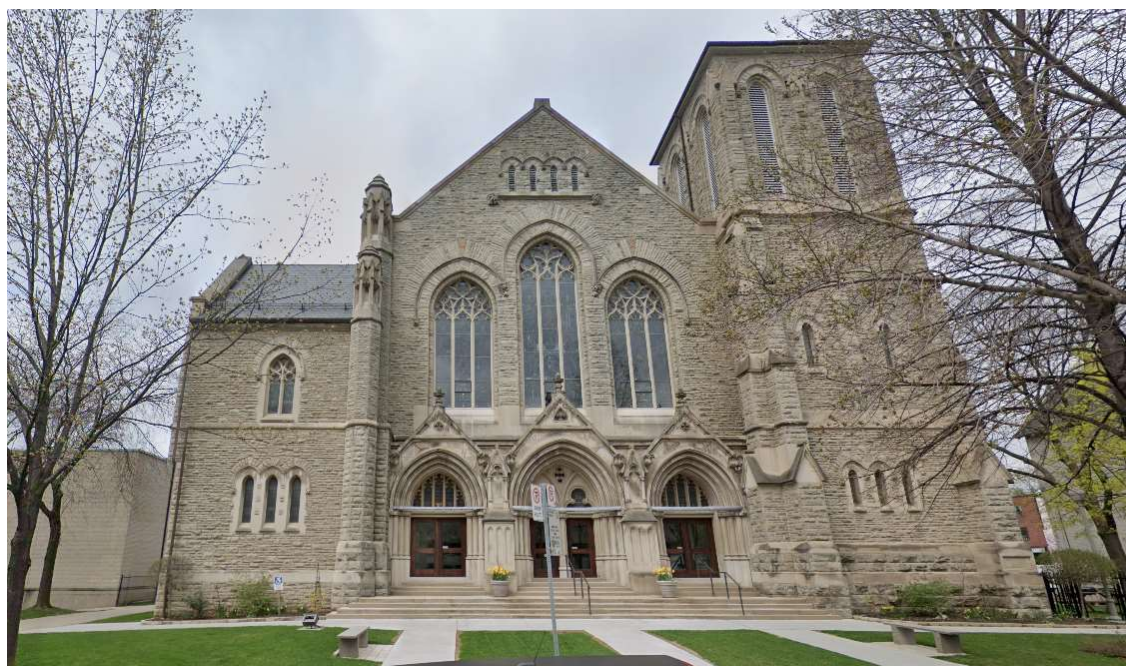


Principal (east) elevation of Knox Presbyterian Church (ERA, May 2023).

**RESEARCH, EVALUATION &
VISUAL RESOURCES
630 SPADINA AVENUE**

ATTACHMENT 3

In undertaking this research and evaluation, we recognize that 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.



Knox Presbyterian Church (Google, 2019).

1. DESCRIPTION

630 SPADINA AVENUE - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	
ADDRESS	630 Spadina Avenue
WARD	Ward 11 University—Rosedale
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	University
CONSTRUCTION DATE	1907-Sunday School; 1909-Church; 1961 Chapel
ORIGINAL USE	Church
CURRENT USE* (*This does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined by the Zoning By-law	Church
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/DESIGNER	James Wilson Gray (Sunday School and Church); John C. Parkin (Chapel)
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	1961 Fellowship Centre and Chapel
LISTING DATE	April 27, 2006

2. ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06 CHECKLIST:

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The following checklist identifies the prescribed criteria met by the subject property at 630 Spadina Avenue for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if the property meets two 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.

630 SPADINA AVENUE-KNOX CHURCH

1.	The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	✓
2.	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	✓
3.	The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A
4.	The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	✓
5.	The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	N/A
6.	The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	✓
7.	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	N/A
8.	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	N/A
9.	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	✓

3. RESEARCH

This section of the report describes the history, architecture and context of the property. Visual resources related to the research are located in Section 4. Archival and contemporary sources for the research are found in Section 5 (List of Sources).

i. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The following section outlines the history and facts related to the properties which are the basis for determining historical or associative value of Criteria 4, 5 or 6 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

Knox Presbyterian Church

Knox Presbyterian Church was founded in 1820, when Reverend James Harris established the first Presbyterian congregation in the Town of York. Originally known as the Presbyterian Church of York, the congregation first met in a brick potato house on property donated by Jesse Ketchum which ran from Richmond Street West to Queen Street West, mid-block between Bay and Yonge Streets. In 1821, the congregation built a modest church fronting on Richmond Street West. Following its destruction by fire in 1847, a new and much larger church (designed by architect William Thomas) was constructed in 1848. Constructed to face Queen Street West instead of Richmond Street West, the church was located within a residential district north-west of Toronto's commercial district located south of Adelaide Street and east of Yonge Street.

By the end of the 19th century, the residential character of the area surrounding the church had become commercial as Toronto's downtown commercial district expanded westward.¹ This included the 1894 six storey Robert Simpson Company flagship store immediately to the east at the corner of Yonge and Church Street. With dwindling attendance due to the migration of its congregants to the residential districts north of College Street, the decision was made in 1899 to sell the property on Queen Street West and purchase a new site in the vicinity of Knox College at Spadina Crescent.² In 1904, the Queen Street property was purchased by the Robert Simpson Company for \$206,000. Soon after the last services were held on July 9, 1905, the church was demolished and replaced by the 1908 annex to the Robert Simpson Company building.

630 Spadina Avenue

Following the sale of the former Queen Street property in 1904, the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church voted to select a new church site that would bring the church closer to its congregation.³ Of the three potential locations identified, the congregation chose a site on the south side of Willcocks Street, however when the site was found to be unsuitable, the current site on Spadina Avenue was chosen and purchased by the trustees of Knox Presbyterian Church for \$32,153 in 1905.⁴

In 1905, architect James Wilson Gray, an elder of the church, was commissioned to design a new church building on Spadina Avenue. On May 12, 1905, *The Globe* notes "The new edifice will be constructed of stone, with a seating capacity of 1,500. There will be no galleries. The style of the building will be of the beautiful decorated Gothic description of the middle ages, and present a very handsome and imposing

1 ERA 2024, p.56.

2 Fitch, 1971, p.44; *The Globe* Oct 3, 1904, p.12.

3 ERA 2024, p.56.

4 Ibid.

appearance.”⁵ The original design included a spire atop the northeast tower which was to be built as funds became available but was never built. The building's restrained use of ornamentation is consistent with the neo-Gothic style in the early-20th century which is distinguished from the earlier, highly decorative Gothic Revival.

Following the issuing of a building permit in 1906,⁶ the rear Sunday school wing was completed in 1907, at which time the cornerstone for the sanctuary was laid. In 1908, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Sir William Mortimer Clark, donated the church bell, which was installed in the nearly complete structure.⁷ Completed in late 1908, the sanctuary was officially opened with a service of dedication on January 10, 1909.⁸ Complementing the neo-Gothic architecture, a series of fine stained glass windows by N.T. Lyon Glass Company were installed in 1909.⁹ Over the following decades, new stained glass windows, commissioned by congregants, were installed. Notable among these is the memorial stained glass window in the north transept fabricated by Robert McCausland Limited in 1922 in honour of Knox Church's architect and church elder James Wilson Gray.¹⁰

In 1956, extensive renovations were undertaken to the sanctuary.¹¹ The following year, in light of the proposed Spadina Expressway, the church decided to remain in its current location due to its advantageous position in proximity to the expanding University of Toronto and the influx of new immigrants in the surrounding area.¹² In 2017, Knox Church initiated a comprehensive site and facilities renewal program to support the congregation's continued use of the church and Sunday school for the next 100 years.

James Wilson Gray

The church is valued for its association with architect James Wilson Gray whose works include several notable buildings including the c.1910 Heintzman Hall at 195 Yonge Street, Toronto, which is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the c.1912 Confederation Life Building in Winnipeg, a National Historic Site. Completed in 1909, the church exemplifies Gray's restrained use of ornamentation in his designs. James Wilson Gray holds further significance to the church community where, during his lifetime, he was an active member of the congregation where he served as a church elder.

N.T. Lyon Company

After apprenticing at McCausland Studios during the 1860s and 1870s, Nathaniel Theodore Lyon established N.T. Lyon Company in 1881, which quickly became the second largest producer of stained glass in Toronto.¹³ The company would operate for

5 The Globe, 12 May 1905, pg.12.

6 City of Toronto Archives, Building Permit No. 5609, 1906.

7 Knox 200.

8 Ibid.

9 The Globe. 30 Jan 1909, p. 22.

10 Hill, James Wilson Gray, n.d.

11 Knox 200.

12 ERA 2024, p. 58; Knox 200.

13 SenCA+ Magazine, August 23, 2023.

five decades, producing thousand of pieces of stained glass for churches, banks, institutions, and government buildings until being absorbed into Robert McCausland Limited in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Among the company's most notable works are the stained-glass skylights in the foyers of the Senate and House of Commons in Canada's Parliament Buildings.¹⁴

Robert McCausland Limited

Founded by Jospheh McCausland in 1856 as McCausland and Bullock, today Robert McCausland Limited is the oldest stained-glass studio in the Western Hemisphere.¹⁵ Among its earliest commissions were a series of the stained glass windows at the University of Toronto's University College in 1858.¹⁶ Credited with producing the earliest and most numerous examples of Canadian stained glass, it was Jospheh's son Robert (1856-1923) who would gain national recognition through the creation of the c.1885 stained glass dome above the banking hall of the Bank of Montreal building at the corner of Toronto's Front and Yonge Streets, which was recognized as a National Historic Event by the Government of Canada in 1991.¹⁷ In 1897, the stained glass department was separated from the other McCausland enterprises, with Robert assuming control. That same year, the newly formed firm's first commission that Robert created on his own was the large stained-glass window at the main staircase landing of Toronto's Old City Hall.¹⁸

Fellowship Wing and Chapel

In 1956, Knox Church assumed responsibility for the Baraca Club which was founded in the early-20th century as a youth outreach organization. Renamed the Knox Youth Centre, the 1911 clubhouse on Bancroft Place was expropriated by the University of Toronto. In 1960, Knox Church entered into a contract to build a new wing and chapel to the south of the existing church building for programming associated with youth outreach on land occupied by the Knox Fellowship House (formerly the Knox Rest Home).¹⁹ The Fellowship Wing and chapel, designed in the modernist style by the architectural firm of John B. Parkin and Associates,²⁰ were officially opened in 1961.²¹ The Fellowship Wing included a gym, bowling alley, kitchen, lounge, common room, office, library. Connected to the Fellowship Wing by a glassed-in breezeway, the chapel was constructed to "seed new congregations".²² As part of the architect's design, a large Celtic cross was placed beside the chapel. Illuminated at night, its silhouette was projected onto the eastern wall of the Fellowship Centre at night.²³

14 Ibid.

15 Robert McCausland Ltd., n.d.

16 Hamilton and Richardson, 2024.

17 Parks Canada, 1991.

18 Barteet, Kazi, and Gonzalez, 2021, pp. 37,43.

19 ERA, 2024, p. 61.

20 Hill, John B Parkin and Associates, n.d.

21 Knox 200, n.d.

22 Ibid.

23 Fitch, 1971, pg. 145.

John B. Parkin Associates

Founded in 1947 by brothers John B. and Edmund T. Parkin, along with John C. Parkin (no relation), John B. Parkin Associates would become the largest mid-20th century architectural firm in Canada.²⁴ A leading proponent of modernist design, the firm contributed to the design of some of Canada's most significant modernist structures including Toronto City Hall (1965), with Viljo Revell; the Ottawa Train Station (1966); and the Toronto Dominion Centre (1969), with Mies van der Rohe.²⁵

ii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following section provides an architectural description and analysis related to the property which will establish the basis for determining design or physical value of Criteria 1, 2 or 3 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

Church Building

The church building 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. Based on the Gothic style which was common between the 12th and 16th centuries in Europe, it is characterized by pointed arched windows and vaulted ceilings, tall thin columns, and buttresses.²⁶ Unlike the earlier Gothic Revival style that emerged in England in the first half of the 19th century, the neo-Gothic style eschewed the architectural exuberance of High Victorian Gothic, replacing the rich ornamentation and polychrome of the latter with a monochrome palette and restrained use of carved stonework. Advances in construction techniques also saw the use of machine cut stone and the use of buttresses as decorative, rather than structural, elements.²⁷

Church Building Exterior

The church building features a shortened cruciform plan comprising a narthex, nave flanked by single side aisles, transept, and apse. The structure rises three storeys above a raised base with pointed drop arch window openings featuring wood tracery, smooth and quarry faced stone voussoirs and hood molds along the east, north and south elevations, and five clerestory apsidal windows with wood tracery along the west elevation. The structure is faced in ashlar cut quarry faced stone with smooth finished stone accents including hood molds, voussoirs, buttress caps, string courses, corbels, and front entrance portals. The shortened cruciform plan is covered by a steeply pitched slate-clad cross-gable roof with semi hemispherical bay at the west end over the apse. On either side of the apse are two substantial buff brick chimneys.

The principal (east) elevation is comprised of a central section flanked by a square four storey tower to the north, and a two and a half storey stairwell annex to the south. The central section, which extends across the width of the nave, features a large gable with

²⁴ McMordie, 2015

²⁵ Ontario Association of Architects, 1975; Canadian Architect, 1 May 2011.

²⁶ Cambridge Dictionary

²⁷ Ontario Heritage Trust

four lancet openings. Below this is a large tripartite stepped window situated above a triple portal entrance with pointed drop arch openings framed by carved stone colonettes, archivolts, tracery and gables with gargoyles, quatrefoils and finials. The tower, forming the northeast corner of the church building, features corner buttresses with lancet windows at the east and north elevations topped by a flat roofed belfry with paired pointed arch openings with louvers at all four elevations. The stairwell annex, forming the southeast corner of the church building, features a pointed drop arch window at the second storey above tripartite lancet windows at the first storey on the principle (east) elevation. The south elevation features a gable with lancet window above a pointed arch window at the second storey and tripartite lancet windows at the first storey.

West of the tower and stairwell annex the north and south elevations of the structure are identical. Set back from the tower and stairwell annex, the sections of the north and south elevations corresponding to the nave feature three bays of two storey tall, pointed drop arch windows separated by quarry faced buttresses with smooth finished stone caps. Moving west the sections corresponding to the north and south ends of the transept feature shallow projecting wings with tripartite stepped pointed drop arch windows below a cross gable with lancet opening. The rear (west) elevation is fully integrated into the Sunday school wing save for the apse's pointed arch clerestory windows which are located under a large skylight that is part of the Sunday school.

Church Building Interior

The interior of the church building features a narthex at the east end of the structure followed by the sanctuary space. The narthex, rectangular in shape and located at the east of the structure, functions as a vestibule between the exterior, accessed by the triple portal front entrance, and the sanctuary, by three matching pairs of glazed interior double doors with arched transoms. The narthex features triple pointed arch cross vaults with decorative plaster ribs supported by single colonnettes with corbelled capitals. Pointed arch openings at the north and south ends provide access to the stairwells in the stairwell annex and tower. Featuring finely carved woodwork, the north and south staircases provide access to the balcony of the sanctuary which is located above the narthex.

The sanctuary space features a nave flanked by side aisles, transept and shallow apse at the west end. The east end features a balcony extending over the narthex. The nave is three bays long at the main level, extending to four bays at the balcony level above. The nave is enclosed by a large central vault that continues above the central section of the transept, terminating at the apse. The east end of the nave (principal exterior elevation) features a large tripartite stepped stained-glass window above the balcony.

The side aisles are three bays long and, along with the north and south ends of the transept, are separated from the central vault of the nave by an arcade of pointed-arch cross vaults supported by quatrefoil columns with corbelled capitals. Each of the side aisle bays features a single pointed arch window, while the north and south ends of the transept each feature a tripartite stepped windows of a slightly smaller scale than those at the east elevation. The apse features a large organ with finely carved organ case below a vaulted ceiling containing five, pointed arch clerestory stained glass windows.

In front of the organ, at the centre of the transept, is the altar, which is raised three steps above the raked floor.

Stained Glass Windows

The church building contains a large collection of decorative and stained-glass windows. The decorative glass windows, found throughout the building, feature stylised leaves and flowers in pastel greens and pinks at the top and bottom of green tinted squares of leaded textured glass. The sanctuary contains an exceptional collection of stained-glass windows produced by N.T Lyon Company, including those installed in 1909, and Robert McCausland Limited, including the 1922 James Wilson Gray memorial window in the north transept.

Upon their unveiling in 1909, The Globe described the stained glass windows as “the most perfect examples of stained glass art in the country” noting “the designs and treatment of the various figure subjects were all original and drawn at the studios of the N.T. Lyon Glass Company, especially for these windows, and not, as is usually the case, copied from some of the old masters, so that they can be properly called Canadian art and are quite worthy to be placed among the latest and best of their kind, especially the window in memory of the late Jesse Ketchum and reflect the greatest credit upon this old established firm.”²⁸

Sunday School Exterior

The Sunday school wing, located at the west end of the church building, rises three storeys above a raised basement. Rectangular in plan and clad in buff brick it features a hipped roof with large central laylight, providing light to a large, coloured glass skylight and the apsidal windows in the church building. The structure features segmental pointed arch windows with brick voussoirs and stone sills on all three elevations, while the windows at the southwest corner of the first storey feature flat headed windows with stone lintels and sills. The structure is organized into two volumes, an eastern half that corresponds to the structure’s interior circulation, and the west half, which corresponds to the structure’s programmable space.

The eastern half of the structure projects approximately six feet beyond the north and south elevations of church building and are faced with the same ashlar cut quarry faced stonework of the church building. The north and south elevations are centred around gothic arched entrances which lead to the structure’s north and south stairways which feature short tripartite windows at the first landings followed by large double height windows at the second landings. Above the second landing windows are prominent triangular brick dormers with tripartite lancet windows. The south dormer is framed by matching chimneys at the east and west corners while the north dormer only has a chimney at its east corner. Flanking both sides of the stairwell windows are single windows symmetrically organized at each storey.

The north and south elevations of the western half of the structure are set back approximately four feet from the north and south elevations of the eastern half and,

²⁸ The Globe, 30 Jan 1909, pg.22

along with the rear (west) elevation, feature paired and individual segmental pointed arch windows. The south end of the rear elevation features two pairs of flat headed windows while the south elevation features tripartite flat headed windows and a three-sided bay with flat headed windows.

Sunday School Interior

The interior of the east half of the Sunday school features matching switchback oak staircases at the north and south ends which feature richly carved newel posts and columned balustrades. Rising three storeys, both staircases feature large landings between floors with coloured leaded glass windows, with the landings between the second and third storeys featuring large double height pointed arch windows with wooden tracery. Connecting the staircases at the first storey, a north-south running hallway provides access to offices and the sanctuary to the east, and rooms in the west half of the Sunday school. At the first storey the west half includes offices, kitchen, and a large reception room (Winchester Room), that latter two of which features leaded coloured glass windows. At the second and third storeys, the staircases provide access to both levels of the two storey Goforth room which features a two-storey atria surmounted by a large, coloured glass laylight.

Fellowship Wing

The Fellowship wing is a two storey flat roofed structure with a rectangular plan and white brick cladding. Constructed to house a gymnasium, hall, and recreation space, the building's east (principal) and south elevations feature blank walls while the west (rear) and western half of the north elevation feature tall rectangular windows. The Fellowship wing is accessed by two breezeways, on its east and north elevations, with the east breezeway connecting to the chapel and the north breezeway connecting to the church building.

The Fellowship wing does not contain any heritage attributes.

Chapel

The chapel is a small one storey structure with a square plan that features dark brown brick walls, narrow vertical and horizontal coloured glass windows, and a dramatic concave roof terminating at a square skylight surrounding by vertical steel beams fitted with up and down light fixtures. The north, south, and east elevations are identical, while the west elevation features a centred entrance that is accessed by a glazed breezeway connecting the chapel to the Fellowship Centre.

Supporting the roof are pairs of metal beams located at the corners on the underside of the roof that rest on paired dark brown brick buttresses that form the corners of the structure. Set at 45 degrees to the exterior walls, they are separated by vertical window openings. Horizontal windows separate the top of the exterior walls from the roof.

The interior comprises a single open space featuring dark brown brick walls with vertical coloured glass windows located at the corners, and horizontal coloured glass windows between the walls and roof. The ceiling follows the form of the roof. Finished in thin

wood strips, the curved support beams terminate at a square skylight above the centre of the interior space.

iii. CONTEXT

The following section provides contextual information and analysis related to the property which is the basis for determining contextual value of Criteria 7, 8 or 9 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The property is located on the west side of Spadina Avenue approximately 30 metres south of Harbord Street at the eastern edge of Harbord Village. To the east is the University of Toronto St. George Campus while to the west is the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District.

Originally surrounded by late-19th century residences, the character of the area surrounding the property along Spadina Avenue has undergone significant change, with high-rise mixed-use developments to the north and large-scale institutional buildings to the east, including the University of Toronto's Warren Stevens Building (1980) and Graduate Residence (2000) at the southeast and northeast corners of Spadina Avenue and Harbord Street respectively. South of the property is the mid-20th century four storey St. Vladimir Institute, while to the north, at the southwest corner of Spadina Avenue and Harbord Street are a pair of 1890s Queen Anne style semi-detached residences. West of the property, the neighbouring residential neighbourhood located within the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District has retained its late-19th century residential character.

The City of Toronto Property Data Map attached (Attachment 2) shows the site of the property at 630 Spadina Avenue.

4. VISUAL RESOURCES



Figure 1 1908 postcard of Knox Presbyterian Church (Toronto Public Library).



Figure 2 Image for reference showing principal (east) elevation of Knox Presbyterian Church (Google, 2019).



Figure 3 Detail of central section of principal (east) elevation showing triple entrance with pointed arch openings featuring carved stone colonnettes, archivolts, tracery, and gables with gargoyles, quatrefoils, and finials (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 4 Detail of square tower with corner buttresses, lancet windows, and belfry with paired pointed arch openings (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 5 North elevation of Church and Sunday School (Heritage Planning 2024).



Figure 6 Westerly section of north elevation of Church and north elevation of Sunday School (Heritage Planning 2024).



Figure 7 Easterly section of south elevation of the Church showing stairwell annex and section of nave (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 8 Easterly section of south elevation of the Church showing nave, transept, and south elevation of Sunday School (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 9 View looking northeast showing the west (rear) and south elevations of the Sunday School (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 10 Rear (west) elevation of Sunday School. Note that the rear of the Church and front of the Sunday School share a common party wall (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 11 1956 image of Church sanctuary looking east (Canadian Architectural Archives).

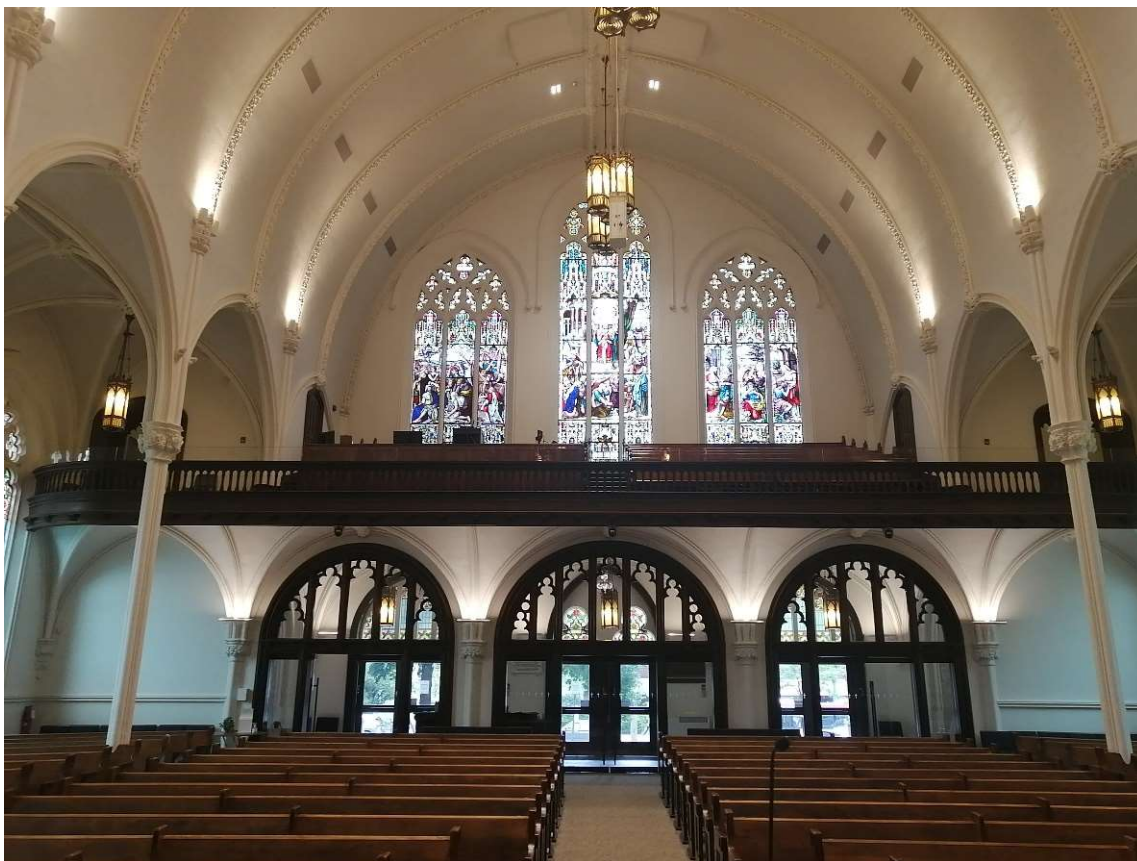


Figure 12 Church sanctuary looking east showing stepped tripartite stained-glass windows, triple entrance, and balcony (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 13 1956 image of Church sanctuary looking west from balcony (Canadian Architectural Archives).



Figure 14 Image of Church sanctuary looking west from balcony showing apse, with organ and apsidal windows, vaulted ceiling, altar, side aisles and transepts (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 15 South aisle and transept with vaulted ceilings supported by quatrefoil columns and windows featuring coloured and stained glass (Heritage Planning, 2024).

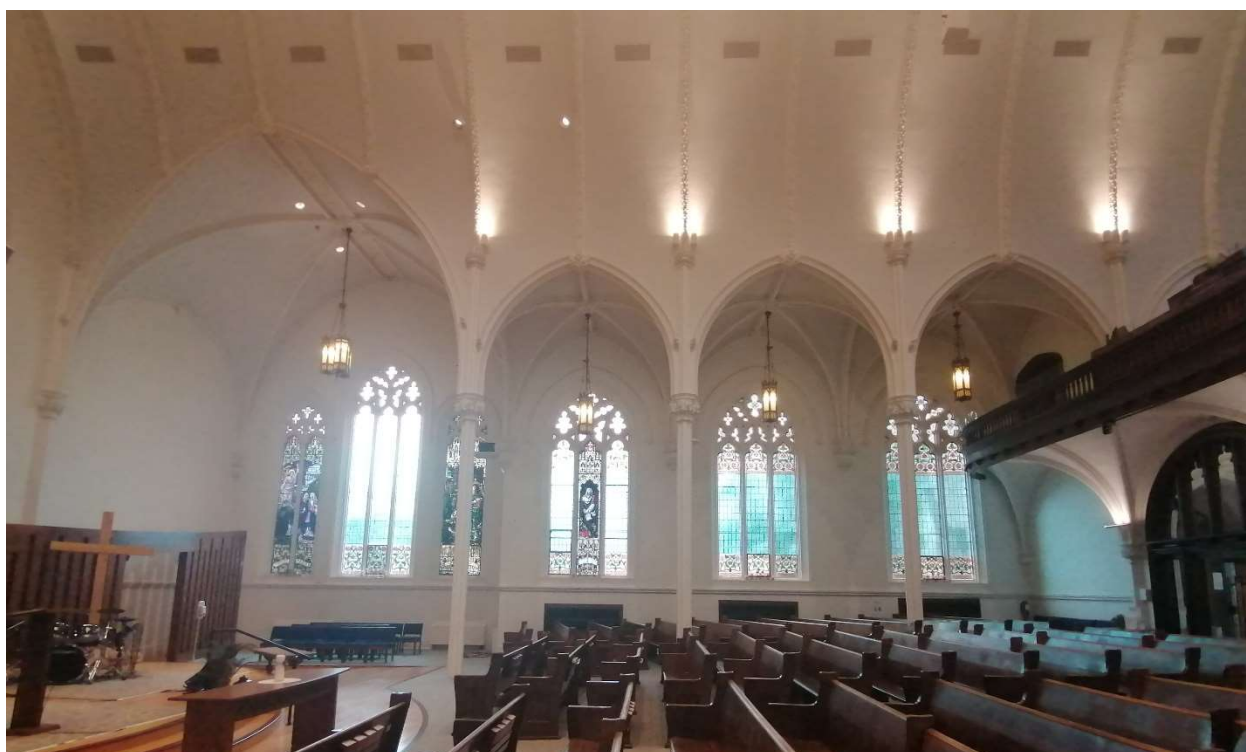


Figure 16 North aisle and transept with vaulted ceilings supported by quatrefoil columns and windows featuring coloured and stained glass (Heritage Planning, 2024).

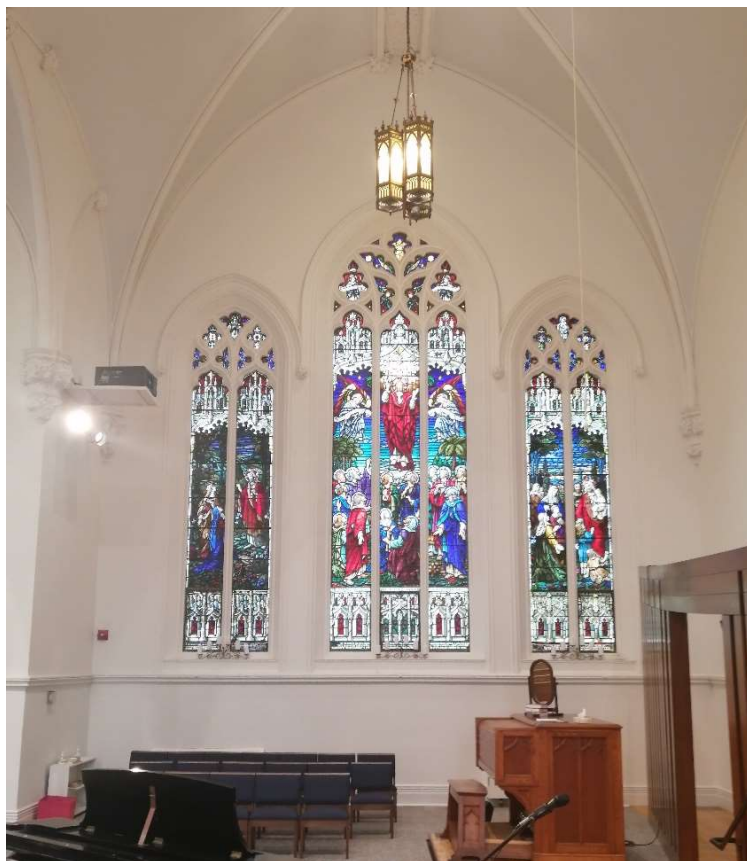


Figure 17 South transept showing vaulted-arch ceiling and tripartite pointed-arch stained-glass windows with wooden tracery (Heritage Planning, 2024).

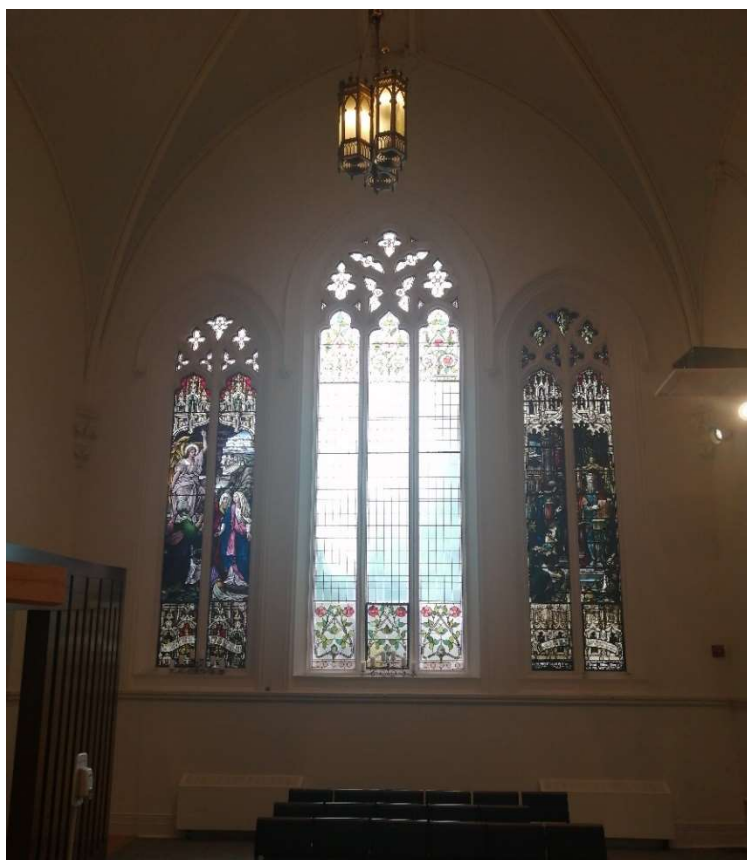


Figure 18 North transept showing vaulted-arch ceiling and tripartite pointed-arch stained-glass windows with wooden tracery. The easterly window (left) is dedicated to James Wilson Gray who designed Knox Presbyterian Church (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 19 Section of south aisle showing decorative plasterwork including vaults, strapwork, capitols and drip moulds (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 20 Narthex showing pointed arch openings and vaulted ceiling looking north towards stairwell annex featuring finely carved staircase (Knox, 2019).



Figure 21 Narthex landing of north stairwell featuring finely carved woodwork (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 22 Sunday School first storey hallway looking north with entrance to Winchester Room to the right (Heritage Planning, 2024).

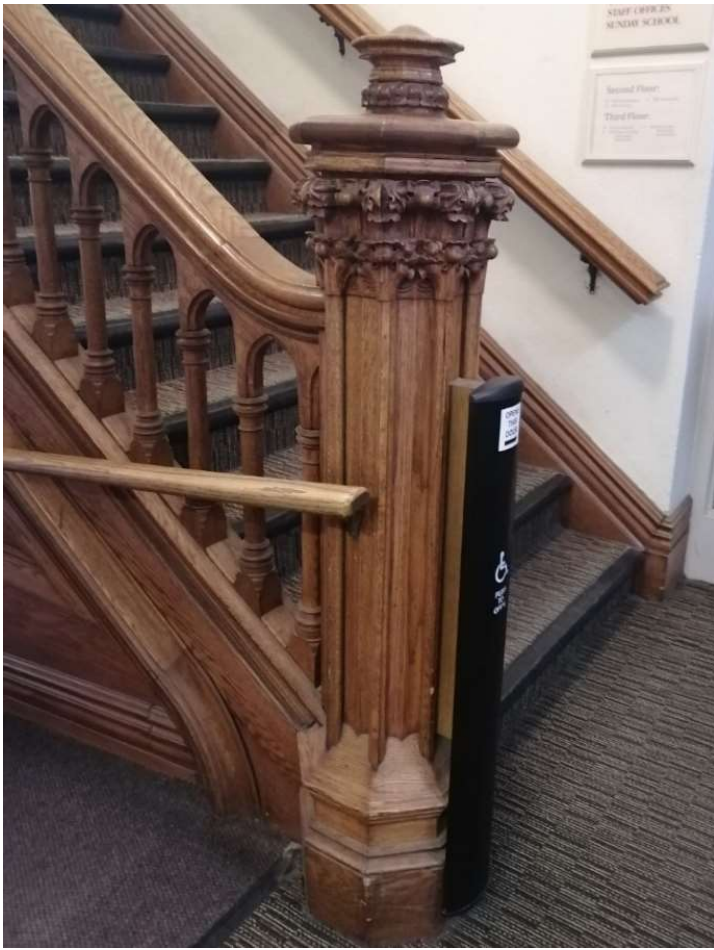


Figure 23 Sunday School stairway detail showing finely carved newel post (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 24 Sunday School south stairwell landing featuring pointed arched window with tracery and coloured glass.



Figure 25 1960s photograph of Knox Presbyterian Church with Fellowship Centre and Chapel to the left (Toronto Archives).

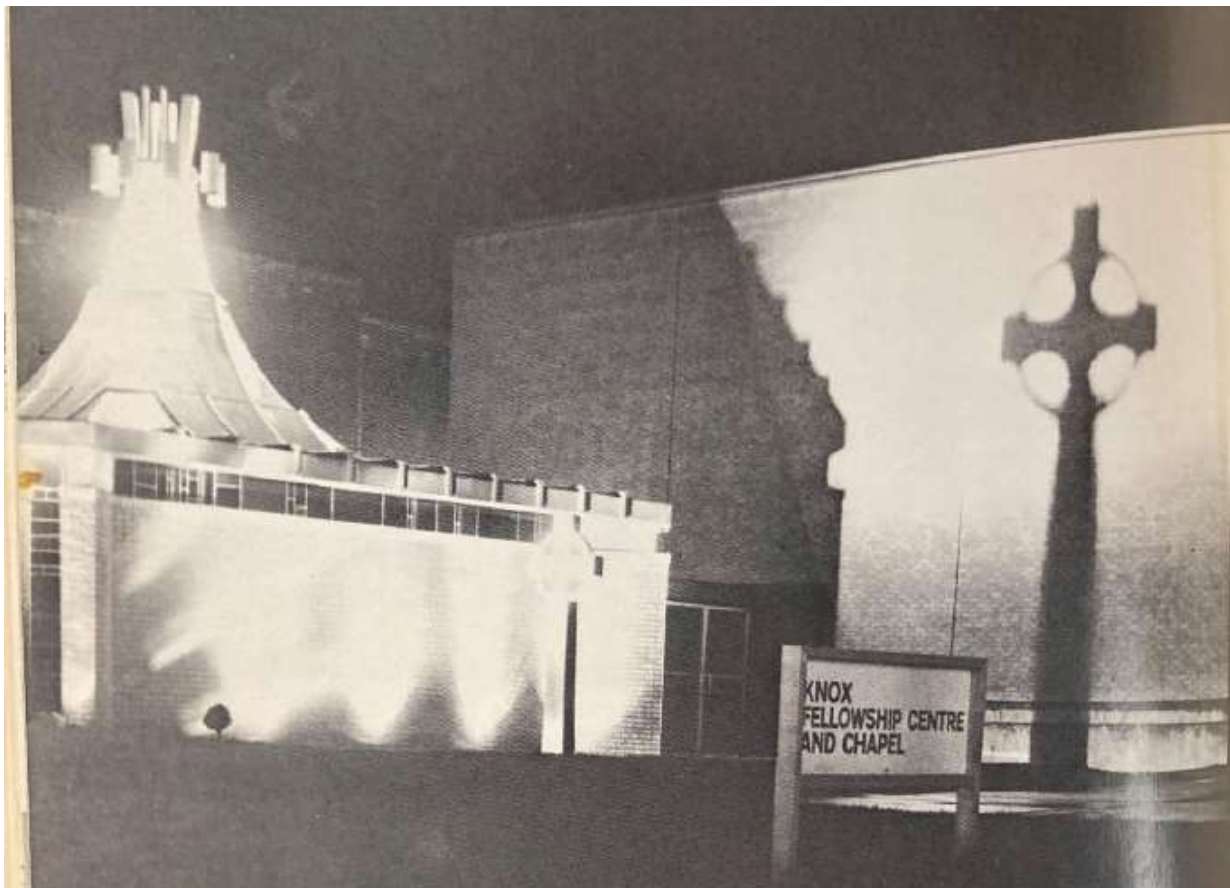


Figure 26 Undated image of Fellowship Centre and Chapel showing illuminated cross and projection (Fitch, 1971).



Figure 27 Southwest view of Chapel featuring corner buttresses, dark brick cladding, and curved metal roof. The 1961 Cross is in the foreground (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 28 Southeast view of Chapel featuring corner buttresses, dark brick cladding and curved metal roof with finial of steel beams and cylindrical light fixtures. The Celtic Cross installed in 1961 is in the foreground (Heritage Planning, 2024).



Figure 29 Interior of Chapel showing dark brick cladding, and horizontal ribbon windows fitted with coloured glass, wood panelled ceiling and exposed curved steel beams (Heritage Planning, 2024).

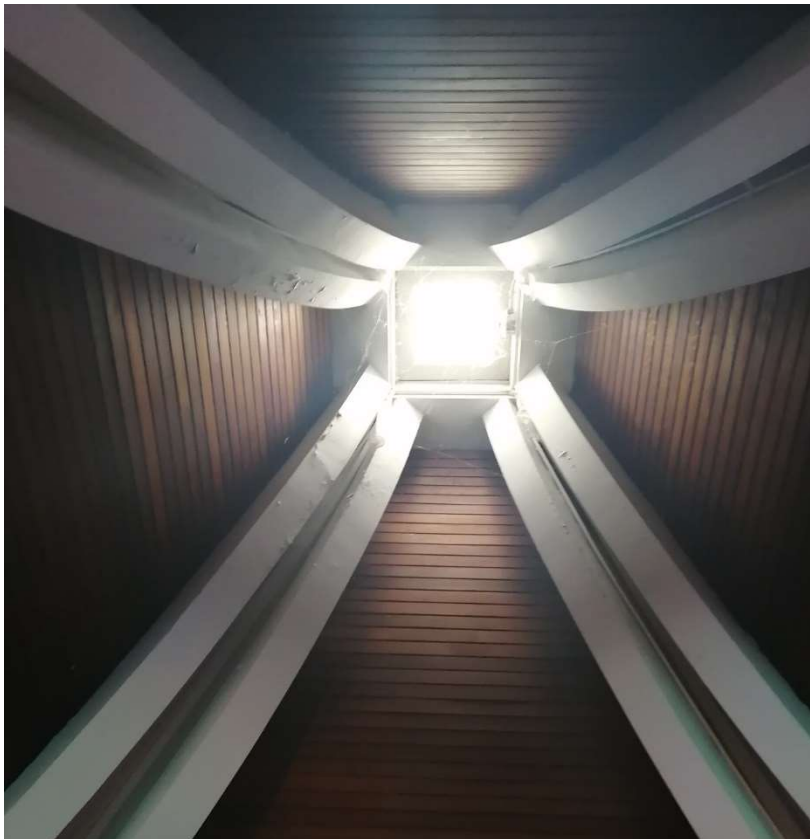


Figure 30 Chapel ceiling featuring wood cladding, exposed curved steel beams, and central skylight (Heritage Planning, 2024).

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