



Report
Staff Report
 The Corporation of the City of Brampton
 5/21/2024

Date: 2024-05-01

Subject: **Heritage Conservation Plan Recommendation Report – 12061 Hurontario St, Ward 2**

Contact: Arpita Jambekar, Heritage Planner
Integrated City Planning

Report number: Planning, Bld & Growth Mgt-2024-407

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Arpita Jambekar, Heritage Planner, dated May 1, 2024, to the Brampton Heritage Board Meeting of May 21, 2024, regarding the **Heritage Conservation Plan, 12061 Hurontario Street - Ward 2**, be received; and
2. That the Heritage Conservation Plan, prepared by Giaimo Architects, dated January 17, 2024, be received;
3. That a Heritage Easement Agreement for the property at 12061 Hurontario Street be endorsed; and,
4. That the Heritage Protection Plan and Commemoration Plan, prepared by Giaimo Architects, recommended in the Heritage Conservation Plan be approved.

OVERVIEW:

- **12061 Hurontario Street is designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act under By-Law 30-2018 in 2018. The heritage resource is known as the Snelgrove Baptist Church**
- **This Heritage Conservation Plan was requested as a follow up to the Heritage Impact Assessment submitted and presented to the Brampton Heritage Board in 2022.**
- **The HIA recommended the “ruinification” and symbolic conservation of the Snelgrove Baptist church building be submitted to address issues such as stabilization and adjacent landscaping. A commemoration plan,**

exterior lighting plan and periodic site review strategies were recommended to complete this approach.

- **The Heritage Conservation Plan, Commemoration Plan and Heritage Building Protection Plan have been prepared to outline the actions that will be undertaken for the continued use of the site and preserve the cultural heritage value of the heritage property. This includes plans for physical improvements proposed for stabilizing the building, lighting plan, an abstract interpretation of the former bell tower and commemoration and recommendations for post-maintenance to protect and monitor the heritage building in short and long term.**
- **The Heritage Conservation Plan is considered to be complete as per the City's Terms of Reference.**

BACKGROUND:

Site History

The Snelgrove Baptist Church ("the church") was built in 1904 and opened in 1905 as the third iteration of a Baptist church in the village of Snelgrove. The original name for the village located at the crossroads of Hurontario Street North and Mayfield Road was Edmonton, but when the Canadian National Railway was built, confusion arose between Edmonton in Alberta, and Edmonton in Ontario. The Snell family were well-known cattle farmers in the area, and after discussion within the community, their name was used to rename the village to Snelgrove.

The congregation reached its peak in 1914, and steadily declined after that. This was due, in part, to the impacts from the two World Wars on the community. The church closed its doors in 1946. It was reopened for a short time in 1959 but was forced to close them again soon after. Following the 1959 closure, the church went through a few changes in ownership until it was purchased by the Church of Archangel Michael and St. Tekla in 1992 for use by their growing congregation.

Conservation History

In 2017, a Site Plan Application was filed for the construction of a new church on the property. The approved Site Plan Agreement included conditions related to the restoration and conservation of the church.

In support of a request to demolish the Snelgrove Baptist Church that was submitted in 2020, the property owner was required to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). This HIA determined that the Snelgrove Baptist Church satisfies two criteria for Designation under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act in the categories of Design/Physical Value and Historical/Associative Value(see Attachment 2 for HIA)

Given the Cultural Heritage Value of the building, it was determined that the demolition would not go ahead but that other methods of use or commemoration would be considered. Through discussions between City staff and the applicant, it was determined that the process of “ruinification” would be the most appropriate.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Giamo Architects was retained by the owners of the property to complete a Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) for the “ruinification” of the Snelgrove Baptist Church. The HCP provides details of the measures that will be undertaken as part of the stabilization and commemorative ruinification of the building. Ruinification involves decommissioning the building, including disconnecting it from services and fully securing it, then allowing it to decay naturally over time as it stands as a monument.

This process is described in the report as:

“Symbolic conservation of the heritage building to allow for the continued use of the site and preserve the cultural heritage value of the heritage property. The proposed strategy would involve retaining the building in-situ in its entirety, with the selective removal and salvage of a few components, and a blind window approach. The conservation strategy also includes commemorative, interpretive lighting.”

The statement of significant design/physical value for the designation of the church building included a charming square wooden bell tower with pillars, balustrade and frieze. It has since been removed. However, the proposed conservation plan includes an abstract interpretation of the former bell tower, which would be constructed as a light steel frame.



Fig: Former bell tower, 1978. Region of Peel Archives



Fig: Proposed commemorative 'ghost' bell tower

The proposed heritage lighting plan outlines the approach for the nighttime illumination and enhancement of the heritage attributes of the former Snelgrove Church and its status as a landmark along Hurontario Street.

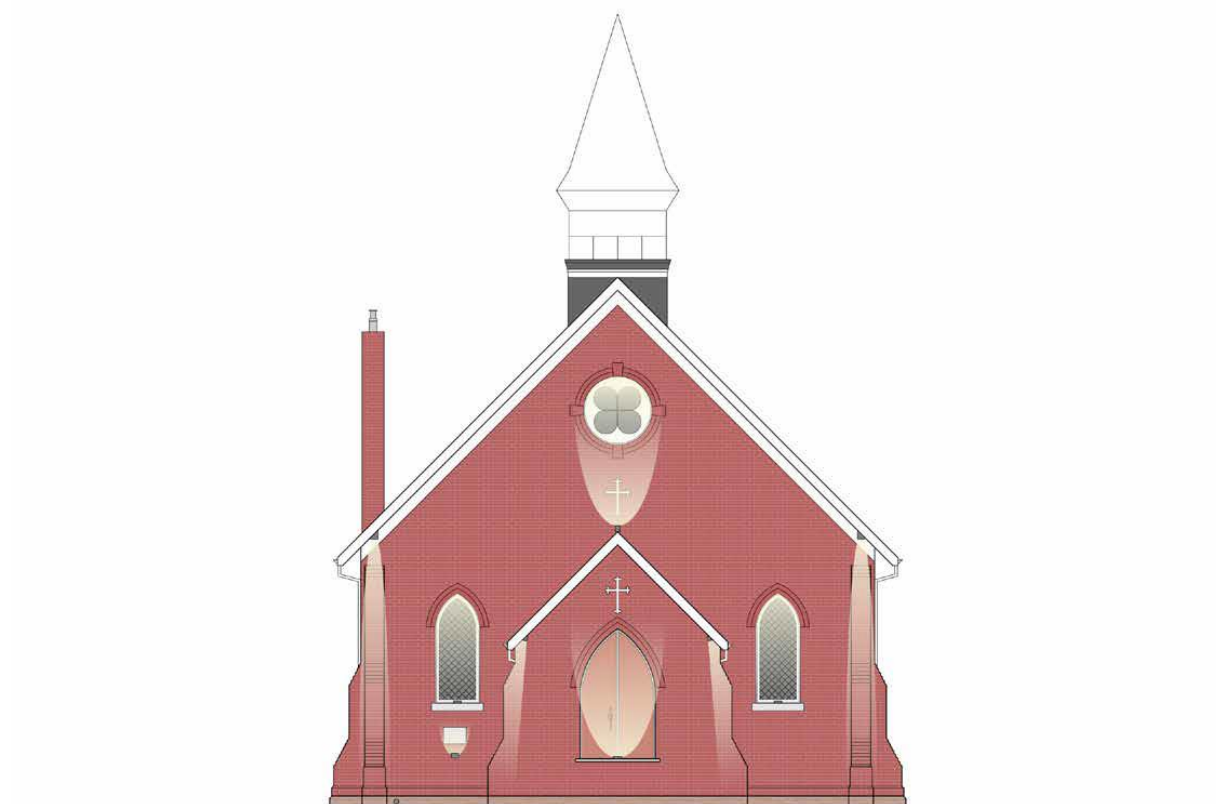


Fig. Conceptual lighting plan, west elevation.

The Snelgrove Baptist Church is currently Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the Designation will remain in place following the completion of the conservation works. Properties that are Designated on the City's Register of Cultural Heritage Resources are entitled to certain financial incentives related to care and maintenance of the building such as the Heritage Incentive Grant.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

Other Implications:

None.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

The approval of the Heritage Conservation Plan noted within this report supports the Culture & Diversity Focus Area. The Conservation Plan and recommendations therein facilitate the conservation of a rare and unique heritage resource that contributes to the understanding of Brampton's early history and helps create a sense of place, belonging, and community identity.

CONCLUSION:

Heritage staff recommend the acceptance of the Heritage Conservation Plan and Heritage Building Protection Plan for the Snelgrove Baptist church to facilitate its conservation, commemoration, and protection.

Authored by:

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Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Heritage Conservation Plan of Snelgrove Baptist Church by Giaimo, dated January 17, 2024
- Attachment 2 – Heritage Impact Assessment of Snelgrove Baptist Church by Giaimo, dated March 16, 2022