



Report
Staff Report
 The Corporation of the City of Brampton
 2/18/2025

Date: 2025-01-30

Subject: **Heritage Permit Application Recommendation Report – 12061 Hurontario St – Ward 2**

Contact: Arpita Jambekar, Heritage Planner, Integrated City Planning

Report number: Planning, Bld & Growth Mgt-2025-118

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Arpita Jambekar, Heritage Planner, Integrated City Planning to the Brampton Heritage Board Meeting of February 18, 2025, re: **Heritage Permit Application Recommendation Report – 12061 Hurontario Street – Ward 2**, be received; and
2. That the Heritage Permit Application from Giaimo Architects, dated January 17, 2024, be received;
3. That the Heritage Permit application be approved, subject to following conditions, as recommended by Heritage staff:
 - I. that the architect provides detailed drawings & specifications for the proposed ghost bell tower, prior to construction;
 - II. that the architect and/or heritage consultant monitor construction work to ensure that original features are preserved wherever possible, and that all new work is compatible and completed to the same high standard as the existing.

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**
- **In 2020, the property owner applied to demolish the Church building. At that time a Heritage Impact Assessment was requested to address the impacts of the loss of the structure.**
- **The HIA recommended the retention of the building through a plan of “ruinification” and symbolic conservation. The HIA also recommended submission of a Heritage Conservation Plan and Commemoration Plan. The HIA was approved by the Brampton Heritage Board in 2022.**

- **The Heritage Conservation Plan, Commemoration Plan and Heritage Building Protection Plan have been prepared to outline the actions that will be undertaken for the stabilization and maintenance of the site through ruinification process. All three reports were presented to and approved by the Brampton Heritage Board in May 2024. This includes plans for physical improvements proposed for stabilizing the building, lighting plan, an abstract interpretation of the former bell tower, commemoration and recommendations for post-maintenance measures to protect and monitor the heritage building in the short and long term.**
- **The Heritage Permit application is submitted to undertake the implementation of the stabilization work proposed in the Heritage Conservation Plan.**

BACKGROUND:

The property at 12061 Hurontario Street (former Snelgrove Baptist church) is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act through By-law 30-2018 for its historic and contextual significance.

In 2017, a Site Plan Application was filed for the construction of a new church on the property at 12061 Hurontario Street. The approved Site Plan Agreement included conditions related to the restoration and conservation of the existing historic church building.

In 2020 the property owner submitted a request to demolish the Snelgrove Baptist Church and was required to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as directed in section 34 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act and detailed in City's Official Plan. The HIA, prepared by Giamo Architects in 2022, evaluated the cultural heritage value of the building and recommended the strategy of ruinification and symbolic conservation that allows retention of the building in-situ instead of demolition. The HIA was received by the Brampton Heritage Board on 22 March 2022.

A Heritage Conservation Plan outlining the actions to be undertaken for the adopted conservation approach and preserve the cultural heritage value of the property, was received by the Brampton Heritage Board on 21 May 2024.

A Heritage Permit application has been submitted to execute the stabilization and symbolic conservation of the heritage building to allow for the continued use of the site, as detailed in the approved Heritage Conservation Plan. The proposed strategy would involve retaining the building in-situ in its entirety, selective removal and salvage of a few components, and selective restoration and repair.

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 but declined steadily after that, due in part to the impacts on the community resulting from the two World Wars. The church closed its doors in 1946. It was reopened again for a short time in 1959 but was forced to close that same year. Following a few subsequent changes in ownership, it was purchased by the Church of Archangel Michael and St. Tekla (the current owner) in 1992 for use by their growing congregation.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Giamo Architects was retained by the owners of the property to apply for the Heritage Permit and undertake the work for the “ruinification” of the Snelgrove Baptist Church. The approved Heritage Conservation Plan (attachment 3) 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 so that it can continue to stand as a monument. The strategy also includes an abstract interpretation of the former bell tower in the form of a metal frame structure and a lighting Plan.



Fig. 1: Former bell tower, 1978. Region of Peel Archives



Fig. 2: 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.

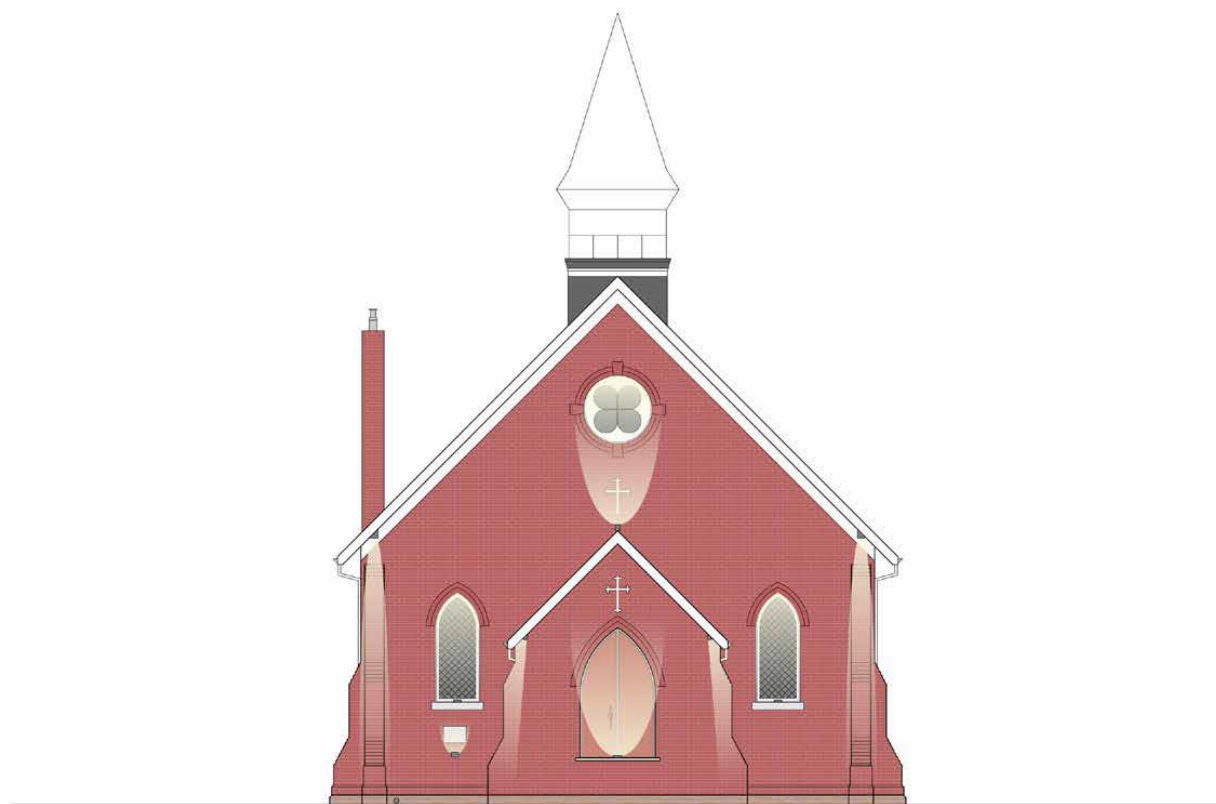


Fig 3. Conceptual lighting plan, west elevation.

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. The Heritage Permit Application and the submitted drawings as part of the permit application are acceptable.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

None

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 that the Heritage Permit Application for the Snelgrove Baptist church to facilitate its conservation, commemoration, and protection, be approved following the conditions recommended by the Heritage Staff.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

Arpita Jambekar
Heritage Planner
Integrated City planning

Jeffrey Humble, RPP, MCIP
Manager
Policy Programs and Implementation

Approved by:

Approved by:

Henrik Zbogar, RPP, MCIP
Director
Integrated City Planning Department

Steve Ganesh, RPP, MCIP
Commissioner
Planning, Building and Growth
Management

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Heritage Permit Application of Snelgrove Baptist Church by Giaimo, dated January 17, 2025
- Attachment 2 – Architectural Drawings Issued for Heritage permit, by Giaimo, dated January 17, 2025
- Attachment 3 – Heritage Conservation Plan of Snelgrove Baptist Church by Giaimo, dated January 17, 2024
- Attachment 4 – Highlights of the application