

AGENDA
THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ROOM #304
BY TELECONFERENCE

5:00 P.M.

JUNE 30TH, 2020

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

MINUTES

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on June 10th, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Trinity Anglican Church - 55 Southwick Street - Potential Heritage Designation

Draft Heritage Designation By-law **Pages 2-12**

Letter of Support - ACO St. Thomas-Elgin **Page 13**

Letter of Support - ACO London Region **Pages 14-15**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Heritage Home Inventory/Proposed Listed Properties

Designation By-laws - 423 Talbot Street and 47 Jonas Street

NEXT MEETING

To be determined

ADJOURNMENT

January 15, 2020

HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF 55 SOUTHWICK STREET, ST. THOMAS

PROPERTY: TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 55 SOUTHWICK STREET

Analysis for reasons for designation as provided by the Municipal Heritage Committee:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under The *Ontario Heritage Act* as it relates to the Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value of Interest. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets one or more of three criteria.

In applying these criteria to the facts relating to the property it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- 1) The property has design value or physical value because it,
 - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
 - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
 - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement

55 SOUTHWICK STREET, known as TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, is an exemplary building representing the economic, cultural and architectural values of the City of St. Thomas. Trinity Anglican Church (Figure 1) was built to replace the first Church of England in St. Thomas, which was that of the Old St. Thomas Pioneer Church located at 57 Walnut Street, which opened in 1824. Due to the overwhelming growth of the congregation, a new site was sought, and found at the northeast corner of Southwick Street and Wellington Street, in the latter portion of 1876. The property was donated for



Figure 1: Trinity Anglican Church (M. Litwinchuk, 2019)

this new church by the late George Kains. On “Trinity Sunday, May 27, 1877”, four years before St. Thomas became a city, the new Trinity Church with the seating capacity of 600 was opened for service. This spacious, Gothic edifice is still one of the most beautiful churches in this part of Canada (1).

While the Gothic Revival style left its mark on the construction of several religious denominations, the Anglican population in Canada was particularly fond of the gothic revival during the 19th century (2). This was evident in the design of Trinity Anglican Church by Architect, Gordon William Lloyd, which has extensive decorative trim on the outside of the building, complete with elaborate bargeboards with drilled decorations and pierced pendant roundels. The tower is ornamented with four pinnacles and a spire, stepped buttresses that gradually recede toward the tower, and the roof is steeply pitched (2). The asymmetrical tower placement creates a worship space that caters to the needs of a “Low” Church congregation. This broad, open, and spacious interior, with shallow chancel and transept, improved overall visibility and audibility (Figure 2) as the reverend faced the congregation. The pulpit was also placed partway down the centre of the nave close to the front pews, which was the most logical for a “Low” Church service (2).

Above the nave is a roof with exposed beams, which maintains a truthful exposure of materials, and cusped arches appear throughout the nave and aisle roofs. The elaborate nave roof speaks clearly of the English medieval Gothic church style. Trinity Anglican Church includes transept windows with their low register of lancets and upper rose, along with simpler columns throughout the nave arcade. The nave also contains original open seating, and the windows at Trinity Anglican include paired lancets based on Early English models, while the bay divisions are articulated with stepped buttresses (2).

Wood carvings adorn the main altar, altar rails, and lectern (Figure 3). While beautiful stained glass windows are found throughout the church, including large rose windows (Figure 4) and others depicting the life of Christ (Figure 5) (5).



Figure 2: Church Interior (M. Thurlby, 2014)



Figure 3: Detailed Wood Altar (R. Belanger, 2019)



Figure 4: Stained Glass Windows (R. Belanger, 2019)



Figure 5: Stained Glass Windows (R. Belanger, 2019)

Overall, the Trinity Anglican Church building is in relatively good condition, and is currently owned by the Anglican Diocese. Any repair and maintenance to the building in the future should ensure the protection of the original design, materials, windows, and finishes of the building.

- 2) The property has historical value or associative value because it,
- I. Has 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, or
 - III. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

Reflective of the Gothic Revival's dominance in Canadian church architecture at the time Trinity Anglican Church was constructed is the work of architect Gordon William Lloyd. He was born and trained in England, and designed several Anglican churches in the Gothic Revival style throughout the United States and southwestern Ontario. He had seventeen commissions in Canada and most of them were churches in southwestern Ontario. Lloyd was chosen as the architect for the new church, which had an estimated cost of \$21,000, and opened on Sunday, May 24, 1877 (2). The building was built with the hope that the bishop would be relocated to this parish giving it cathedral status (4). Sunday school still met at the old St. Thomas Pioneer Church, later moving to a rented building on Centre Street near Southwick, until the "Parish Hall" was erected in 1886. The first rector of Trinity Anglican church was "T.C. Des Barres from 1877 until 1878 (1).

Even though Lloyd designed Trinity Anglican Church as a “Low” Church congregation, he was also able to demonstrate his complete command of the principles of Gothic architecture. At Trinity, the chancel is clearly separated from the nave (Figure 6); the separation is further emphasized by the increased height of the chancel and the painted arch. Originally, scripture texts were painted on the chancel arch, but they have since then been replaced by a geometric design. To further illustrate the functional importance of the chancel, Lloyd provided visual cues by painting the ceiling and having a window design different from those throughout the nave. Lloyd also included more elaborate north and south trefoil transept arches. The altar is raised several steps above the chancel and is blocked off by an altar rail. There is also a medieval reredos behind the altar and two sedilia (2). The central window in the “Chancel”, directly over the altar, is a memorial to the beloved rector of the St. Thomas Church, Steven Benson Kellogg, under whose guidance, the planning of Trinity was carried out (1). The beautiful stained glass memorials windows in the nave were designed by Archdeacon J. W. J. Andrews, who was rector from 1915 to 1939 (6)

Lloyd favoured elaborate bargeboards with drilled decorations and pierced pendant roundels like on the west front at Trinity Church (Figure 7). The tower at Lloyd’s Trinity Anglican Church is ornamented with four pinnacles and a spire, stepped buttresses that gradually recede toward the tower, and the roof is steeply pitched (2).

There are many other artistic forms of various crosses within the rest of Trinity Church, symbolizing its ethnic beginnings in the English culture. Lloyd installed the “Celtic Cross” at the peak of the brick surrounding the Wellington Street entrance door (Figure 8). This “Cross” is a reminder of the antecedents in England – that is, “anti-St. Augustine” and his Roman Mission of the sixth century (1).



Figure 6: Trinity Church Interior (M. Thurlby, 2014)



Figure 7: Bargeboards and Pendant Roundels (M. Lindsay, 2019)



Figure 8: “Celtic Cross” above West Entrance

Lloyd's contribution to the Anglican population in St. Thomas was significant, since he designed an entirely new and iconic church for the rapidly growing congregation. Lloyd's Trinity Anglican Church demonstrates the significant impact of ecclesiological studies on church architecture in Canada in the latter half of the nineteenth century (2).

Trinity Anglican Church is also home to other significant heritage features that are important to the cultural heritage of St. Thomas. When the congregation moved to Trinity Anglican Church location in 1877, they took the original bell (Figure 9) from the Old St. Thomas Pioneer Church on Walnut Street (1). The large bell is 4 to 5 feet across, has great tone, was cast in the 1830s, and has been ringing on Sundays ever since (3). As a Centennial Project in 1977, a new Casavant, 17 stop, 23 rank pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$47,000, as is still in the church today (6).

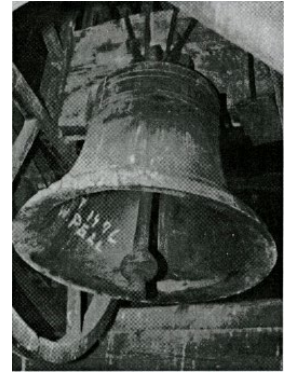


Figure 9: Church Bell

The colours of the "Elgin Regiment" (Figure 10), as well as the colours the "91st Battalion of Elgin" (Figure 11), St. Thomas' overseas unit during WWI, are displayed as a tribute to the fallen heroes of both the First and second World Wars (4).



Figure 10: Colours of the 91st Battalion of Elgin



Figure 11: Colours of the Elgin Regiment

The 91st Battalion of Elgin was formed on 25 October 1915, a year after Great Britain declared war on Germany. 940 men were trained for service under the command of Lt.-Col. Green, and it received its colours on 24 May 1916 after a parade through St. Thomas, which ended at Pinafore Park. A month later on 25 June 1916, the battalion was dispatched overseas after a march down Talbot Street that was witnessed by a crowd of 20,000 people. They traveled by train to Halifax, where on 28 June they set sail on the ship *Olympic*, arriving in Liverpool, England on 5 July. After ten days at Otterpool Camp,

the battalion was transferred to the 3rd Canadian Training Brigade and split up in order to provide reinforcement to other units that had been depleted of manpower. Meanwhile, recruiting still continued in Elgin County, and over 2,400 men from the area volunteered their service during the course of the Great War.

The church is also home to a piece of Canterbury Cathedral in Canterbury, Kent, (Figure 12) which is one of the oldest and most famous Christian structures in England and forms part of a World Heritage Site. It is the cathedral of the Archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the Church of England and symbolic leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The stone was brought to Canada to commemorate the 91st Overseas Battalion visit to the Cathedral in 1916 (Figure 13).



Figure 12: Canterbury Cathedral in Canterbury, Kent



Figure 13: Stone from Canterbury Cathedral

3) The property has contextual value because it,

- I. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
- II. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
- III. Is a landmark



Figure 14: Trinity (M. Thurlby), 2014)

Trinity Anglican Church is absolutely a landmark on Wellington Street, within the surrounding neighbourhood, and throughout the City of St. Thomas. With its exceptional architectural detail, ornate spire, beautiful stained glass windows, and close proximity to the street, it is easily one of the most visually striking buildings within the City of St. Thomas (Figure 14). The spire also provides a visual connection to the church and can be seen from long distances away. Many generations of residents have personal connections with the church, and it remains an important part of the cultural fabric of our community.

Sources:

- (1) "A Polite Parallelism of St. Thomas" by Leroy Harvey
- (2) "Two Churches by Gordon w. Lloyd (1832-1905): Trinity Anglican Church, St. Thomas, and New St. Paul's Anglican Church, woodstock, and the Ecclesiological Gothic Revival" by Loryssa Quattrociocchi, Southwestern Ontariothe Journal of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, 2015
- (3) "Tales from the Graveyard" booklet by Jeff Booth, 2008
- (4) "Churches and Schools Walking Tour" map, LACAC, 1996.
- (5) "Doors Open Ontario", Ontario Heritage Trust, 2010
- (6) "Spanning the Centuries", City of St. Thomas, October 2000









**ST. THOMAS-ELGIN**

c/o Laurence Grant, Iona, ON N0L 1P0

June 11, 2020

Russell Schnurr
Chair, St. Thomas Municipal Heritage Committee

Dear Russell Schnurr,

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, St. Thomas-Elgin branch, supports the designation of Trinity Anglican Church, one of the three large and prestigious places of worship within the municipality. Over many years I've had the opportunity to attend Lenten recitals at Trinity and one's eyes are inevitably drawn to the beautiful stained glass windows, soaring Gothic arches, the tremendous volume of space and the visual connections to the history of the Elgin Regiment.

This stunning structure and fixture of Wellington Street, needs to find a new vocation and I feel confident that imaginative entrepreneurs are considering how this building could be converted to other uses. Designation of the building and reference to its many heritage attributes would only enhance the value of such an undertaking to present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Laurence Grant,
President

Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin, Middlesex, London

Kaye Elgie, President, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



Architectural Conservancy Ontario – London Region Branch
 Grosvenor Lodge
 1017 Western Road
 London, ON N6G 1G5

Friday, June 26, 2020

To St. Thomas City Council

Re: Historical designation for Trinity Anglican Church property, 55 Southwick Street, St. Thomas

Dear Councillors,

ACO London Region has become aware of the closure and impending sale of the property at 55 Southwick Street, St. Thomas, containing the building known as Trinity Anglican Church. I am writing on behalf of Architectural Conservancy Ontario London Region (ACO London) to support the heritage designation request put forward by St. Thomas Municipal Heritage Committee.

Without repeating all the reasons for designation outlined by the committee, I would like to draw attention to the following:

- 1.The building is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style, massively popular in Ontario as for religious buildings in the mid-to late 19th century. No architectural style says Ontario like Gothic Revival and its survival is imperative to Ontario's architectural integrity.
- 2.Trinity's magnificent interior with exposed beams is reminiscent of English medieval Gothic, making it an architectural descendant of such monuments as Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.
- 3.Architect Gordon William Lloyd (1832–1904) designed numerous Anglican churches throughout the U.S. and Ontario from his home base in Windsor. Locally, he was the architect of: the Chapter House for Trinity Anglican Church, London (1872–3, demolished 1981); additions to St. John's Anglican Church, Strathroy (1875); New St. Paul's Anglican Church, Woodstock (1877–79); Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas (1881–2). St. Thomas can be proud to have two churches designed by this prolific architect.
- 4.The stained glass includes large rose and paired lancet windows. The window over the altar is a memorial to Rev. Steven Benson Kellogg of Old St. Thomas Church, under whose guidance Trinity was planned. Archdeacon J. W. J. Andrews, rector of Trinity from 1915 to 1939, designed the memorial windows in the nave.
- 5.The building is in good condition, its heritage aspects apparently well preserved.
- 6.The original bell from Old St. Thomas Church, cast in the 1830s, is still present, intact, and usable.

The best outcome would be for another Christian congregation to buy this church. If not, the building would be ideal for the following purposes, although I understand rezoning would be necessary:

- 1.A concert hall, such as Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church in London, now part of the Aeolian campus. Trinity's sanctuary, which seats 400–600, appears ideal for such a venue.
- 2.A restaurant, such as Revival House in Stratford, formerly The Church Restaurant, formerly Mackenzie Memorial Gospel Church.



The poorest outcome, aside from demolition, is for the church to be subdivided into apartments or offices, which would mean the partition of the superb sanctuary. Besides this, residential or commercial uses that divide the building into separate allow the space to be enjoyed by a few individuals only. The uses above would allow the public to continue to enjoy the space for years to come. The building would be an added tourist attraction for downtown St. Thomas, since concerts and restaurants would draw visitors from other communities, including London.

I urge St. Thomas City Council to protect Trinity Anglican by way of a heritage designation, with or without the new owner's consent. Please do not allow a "demolition by neglect" after which adaptive reuse becomes unreasonable and expensive. The fiasco of Alma College should not be repeated.

Since writing the above, it has come to my attention that the stained glass windows and the bell are among items excluded in the sale of the building and may be auctioned. The ideal place for the bell, if removed, would be in the predecessor building, Old St. Thomas Church. However, the stained glass is an important architectural feature of the church and its removal will be detrimental to the building's heritage significance. I recommend that the City of St. Thomas make every effort to prevent the windows' removal.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grainger
 President, London Region Branch
 Architectural Conservancy Ontario