

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

73 YOUNG STREET



Summary of Significance

- ☒ Design/Physical Value
- ☒ Historical/Associative Value
- ☒ Contextual Value

- ☒ Social Value
- ☐ Economic Value
- ☐ Environmental Value

Municipal Address: 73 Young Street
Legal Description: Plan 401 Part Lots 1, 3-5 and 7
Year Built: 1900
Architectural Style: Gothic
Original Owner: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Original Use: Church
Condition: Good

Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

73 Young Street is an early 20th century building built in the Gothic architectural style. The building is situated on a 0.98 acre parcel of land located on the east side of Young Street between Duke Street West and Weber Street West in the City Commercial Core Planning Community of the City of Kitchener within the Region of Waterloo. The principal resource that contributes to the heritage value is the church.

Heritage Value

73 Young Street is recognized for its design/physical, historical/associative and contextual values.

Design/Physical Value

The design/physical value of 73 Young Street resides in its Gothic architecture. Laid out in the shape of a Latin Cross, the church exhibits extensive use of decorative brick and stone moulding, buttresses, and circular brick tiles. The overall symmetry of the church is reflected through similar façades and fenestration patterns throughout the building.

Front/Main Façade (West Elevation)

The main façade of the church can broadly be divided into three sections:

The left most section is a three-storey tower of red brick construction with two brick buttresses on either end and with a brick corbel table on the third storey. There are two long arched windows with tracery on the arches. The first-storey has a single two-over-two arched window. The ground floor level also has a big arched window with decorative detailing and tracery. There is a band of decorative stone bandcourses on each storey. All the windows have decorative stone moulding and trefoil detailing.

The central part of this elevation contains two big arched doors with tracery with stone detailing. The first storey has a gable end with a cross at the top and brick quoining one the roof slopes towards the peak. Above these doors is a statue of Virgin Mary in the centre, with two circular rose brick tiles on each side. On the second and third storeys, there are two decorative stone arches with gable peaks on either end, with a large central decorative stone arch containing a large central rose window with tracery, and a decorative rose brick wall tile and smaller arched windows underneath it. This section also has a gable end with a cross with brick quoining.

The right most section of this façade includes two square buttressed towers with conical peaks topped with small crosses with a total height of four (4) storeys. The first storey includes a door with decorative tracery and stone detailing. The second and third storeys also contain arched windows with tracery with the top of the tower containing three arched but segmented windows. There are decorative stone bandcourses on each storey of the tower.

Side Façade (North elevation facing Weber Street)

This façade includes a three-storey tower following the same fenestration and decorative pattern from the left-most section of the front façade, except instead of a door, the first storey has a small arched window with decorative stone moulding. The central part of this façade is only one-storey, and has four (4) buttresses, with gable peaks and decorative brick arches, dividing the façade into 5 bays. Each bay contains a large arched stained glass window with tracery with two small arched windows on either side of them. At the end of this façade is a large rose window with a gable peak with decorative brick quoining. There also seems to be an arched entry way on this façade in front of the left side corner-most bay.

Rear Façade (East elevation facing Ontario Street North)

This façade is generally semi-circular with brick buttresses on the upper storey, dividing this façade into five (5) bays on each storey. There is a circular window with tracery, with a chimney with decorative brick detailing. There also seems to be wooden addition on this façade which was added probably after the church was built. On the ground storey, each bay contains three (3) arched windows with a soldier course and sills. At the end of the fifth bay, there a rectangular extension with arches windows and sills.

Side Façade (South Façade Facing Duke Street)

This façade includes a circular window with tracery on one end, with a section protruding from the rest of the façade. This section has a gable peak with a cross and a large circular rose window with tracery, stone moulding and a small arched window underneath that. Following a similar façade pattern as the elevation facing Weber Street, the central part of this façade includes four (4) buttresses with brick gable peaks and brick arches, dividing this section into 5 bays. Each bay contains large arched stained-glass windows with tracery and decorative stone moulding. On the other side of this façade are two squared buttressed towers with conical peaks topped with small crosses. The first storey includes a small arched window with decorative stone moulding. The second-storey includes a larger window with decorative stone moulding and tracery. The third storey includes two windows with trefoil tracery and decorative stone detailing. The tower peak includes three arched windows with decorative stone moulding and brick corbelling.

Historical/Associative Value

The historic and associative values of 73 Young Street relate to the original owner and use of the property and buildings, and the contributions they made to Kitchener's history. This land has always been used a church and contains one of the oldest churches in Kitchener.

The church today sits on land that was purchased on August 16, 1854 from David Weber for \$200.00. Prior to the formation of St. Mary's Parish, the few Catholic families travelled to St. Agatha Church to attend mass. In 1852, Kitchener (Berlin) was chosen to be the county seat. Since this was chosen to be the leading community, the Jesuits chose the this area to make a community centre. Father Rupert Ebner S.J., who was the spiritual leader from 1848 to 1856, encouraged the Catholics of Strassburg Williamsburg, Bridgeport, and Lexington to unite with those of Berlin to build a church, and the group agreed. On September 17, 1854, the cornerstone was laid by Bishop DeCharbonnel of the Toronto Diocese. The church was completed in 1856, blessed by Bishop Farrell, the first Bishop of Hamilton, and was given the title of St. Mary of the Seven Dolours. The original church measured 80 by 40 feet with additions being constructed in the next few years.

On June 26, 1892, a meeting held in the church resulted in a discussion for funding the construction of a new church because of crowding and it was decided that the church would collect monthly funding to fund the new church. By 1899, the church had sufficient funds to purchase the adjoining land from John Fennell for \$7,500.00. On

September 30, 1900, Bishop T. J. Downing laid the cornerstone and in the late autumn of 1903, the church was completed. It had been planned by Arthur William Holmes of Toronto. It's date of construction, having been built at a time when Kitchener was Berlin, makes this church one of the oldest churches and buildings in Kitchener, thus having significant historical and associative value.

Arthur William Holmes

This building also has significant associative value related to Arthur William Holmes, the architect of the Church, who devoted most of his career to designing buildings for the Roman Catholic Church in Southern Ontario. Holmes was born in London, England in 1863 and received his early education there. He then went on to train with George Edmund Street (1824-1881), the 'innovative master of the High Victorian style' in England. Holmes emigrated to Canada in 1885 and opened an office on Adelaide Street in Toronto. Initially, he worked with Joseph Connolly, first as a student then as a draftsman. During this time, he converted from Protestant to Catholic, which would have profound effects on his career. Upon entering into a partnership with Albert A. Post in July 1891, together they executed several designs for Catholic churches in communities around the Toronto Region. With the death of Joseph Connolly in 1904, Holmes became the successor of his former mentor, and Holmes then dominated the field of ecclesiastical design for Roman Catholic Churches in southern Ontario until 1940. Some of his works include: Holy family Roman Catholic Church at King Street West in Toronto, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church on Queen Street East in Toronto, St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Toronto, St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church in Preston, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Welland.

Contextual Value

The contextual value of 73 Young Street relates to the physical, historical, functional and visual links to the building's surroundings. The building is located on the block bounded by Duke Street West, Young Street, Weber Street West and Ontario Street. The west portion of this block has been historically owned by St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Historic buildings still present on the block include: the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church; the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Presbytery; and, the Lutherwood's Betty Thompson Youth Centre (historically known as the Notre Dame Convent). In addition, the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church has a strong visual presence, including important views, on Duke Street and Young Street as the building occupies a large site slightly elevated on a hill. This church building has also been recognized as a landmark within the City of Kitchener.

Other Values

Social Value

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church has significant social value as a place of worship that has been in Kitchener for over a century. This building has been providing these services for over 100 years and has become a landmark and a place of importance in the

community. Places of worship often provide intangible community value as a place where people gather and are often a central piece of a community.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage value of 73 Young Street resides in the following heritage attributes of the Gothic architectural style:

- All elements related to the construction and architectural style of the building, including:
 - all elevations of the building
 - The scale and massing of the building;
 - Roofline;
 - plan of building in the shape of a Latin cross;
 - red brick, including brick buttresses and other brick details;
 - stone decorative details, including surrounding windows, on the buttressed towers and sills;
 - gothic pointed arch door and window openings, including:
 - gothic pointed arch windows with tracery;
 - four sets of double wood doors with hinges on the front elevation;
 - stained glass windows;
 - rose window and statue of the Virgin Mary above front doors;
 - rose windows on the transepts;
 - two square buttressed towers with conical peaks topped with small crosses; and;
 - decorative circular brick tiles above rose windows and on either side of statue of Mary;
 - trefoil stone details;
 - Rusticated stone foundation; and
 - All other decorative elements on all elevations of the building.
- All elements related to the contextual value of the building;
 - The original location of the building at the intersection of Weber Street West and Young Street.

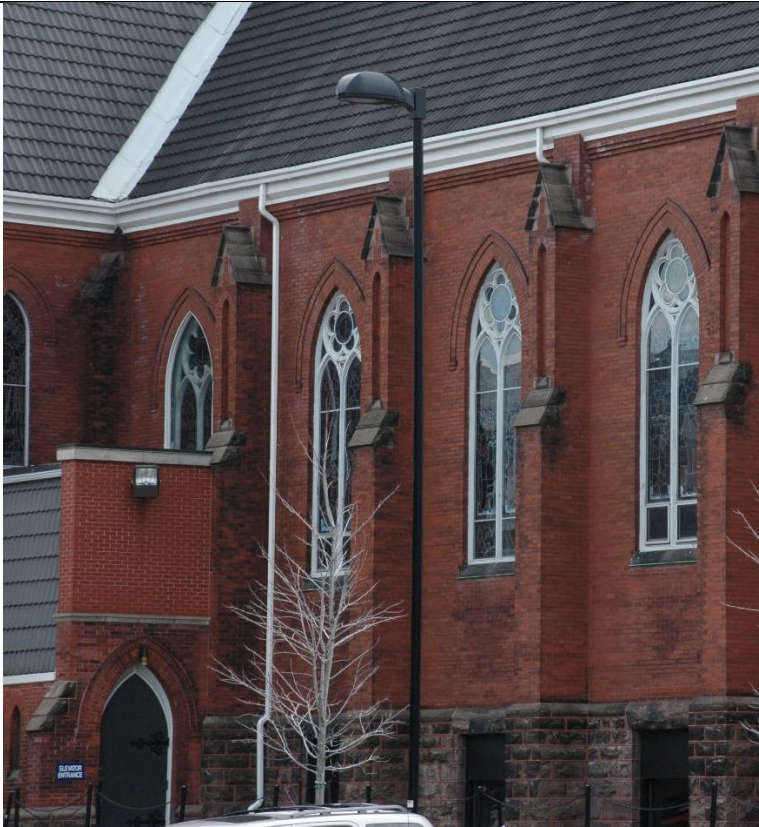
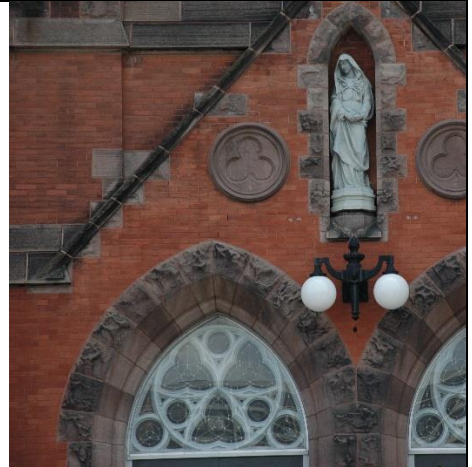
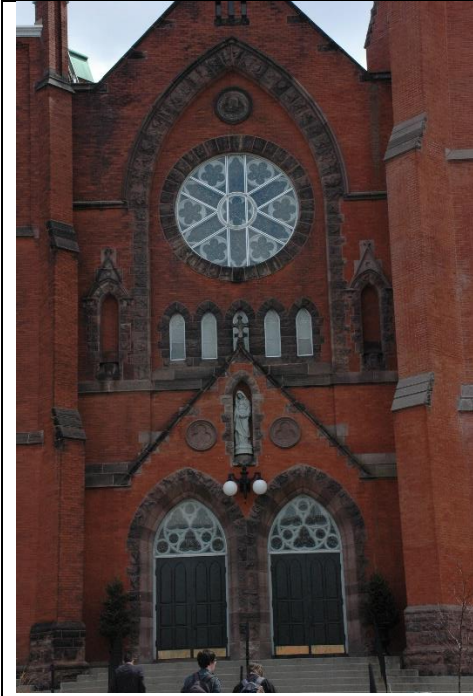
Photographs



73 Young Street – Front (west) Façade



73 Young Street – Front (west) and North Façade



73 Young Street – Architectural Detailing



73 Young Street –East Façade (looking towards Ontario Street North)



73 Young Street – South Façade (looking towards Duke Street)

