STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

47 Onward Avenue



Summary of Significance

☑Design/Physical Value☐Social Value☑Historical Value☐Economic Value☑Contextual Value☐Environmental Value

Municipal Address: 47 Onward Avenue

Legal Description: Plan 309 Part Lots 30, 34-38

Year Built: 1935

Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

Original Owner:

Original Use: Institutional – Religious (Church)

Condition: Good

Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

47 Onward Avenue is a mid-20th century building built in the Gothic architectural style. The building is situated on a 0.85 acre parcel of land located on the east side of Onward Avenue between Crescent Street and Weber Street East in the King East 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

47 Onward Avenue is recognized for its design/physical, historical/associative and contextual values.

Design/Physical Value

The design and physical values relate to the Gothic Revival architectural style of the building. 47 Onward Avenue is a notable example of a 19th century Gothic Revival church demonstrating the Decorated style that commonly includes windows that are decorated with foils, carved doors, and restrained leaf patterns (Kyles, 2016). Gothic Revival Churches can be divided into two groups: the pre-1841 romantic Gothic and the post-1841 churches influenced by the writings of Augustus Pugin and John Ruskin who felt Medieval architecture was the true architecture for the Christian world (Kyles, 2016). The composition of buildings influenced by the Gothic Revival architectural style often feature symmetrical plans, steep roof and gable pitches, and breaks in the continuity of elevations by projecting or recessed bays (Fram, 1988). The details emphasize verticality (Fram, 1988). The style represents the "beginning of the "true" ecclesiological church styles, for all denominations, featuring pointed arches and ornate carvings" (Frame, 1988).

Front Elevation (West Façade)

The front façade faces Onward Avenue, is built with varied coloured brick, and features a three bay wide symmetrical façade with buttresses between each bay and a steeply pitched front-gabled parapet roof.

The central bay features: varied coloured brick construction; stepped buttresses; the front-gabled parapet roof; large, pointed arch (lancet) leaded-glass window decorated with trefoils in the tracery and embellished mullions and muntins; stepped brick pointed arch (lancet) window surround with stone drip-mold, label stops and sill; and, one-storey projecting front entrance with stairs leading to an exterior vestibule with double wood doors featuring three lower wood panels and three upper leaded-glass lites, a leaded-glass transom and a stone entrance surround with a segmental arch and two half side-lites topped with the "OLIVET EVANGELIAL CHURCH" stone sign.

The left bay features: varied coloured brick; side view of steeply pitched cross-gable roof; pointed arch (lancet) window with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoir and stone sill; and, stone banding above the basement window.

The right bay features: varied coloured brick; side view of steeply pitched cross-gable roof; round leaded-glass window with tracery and brick surround; two flatheaded rectangular leaded-glass windows with continuous brick voussoir and continuous stone sill; 1935 datestone; stone banding above the basement window; and, a flatheaded rectangular basement window.

Side Elevation (North Façade)

The side elevation (north façade) is built with varied coloured brick and features four bays with two of the bays forming the steeply pitched cross-gable parapet roof. In addition, this elevation features: buttresses on either side of the north-west steeply pitched cross-gable parapet roof; pointed arch (lancet) windows with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoirs and stone sills on all four bays (four of five windows are fully visible from the exterior); flatheaded man door with steps to grass; stone banding above the basement windows; and, flatheaded rectangular basement windows.

Side Elevation (South Façade)

The side elevation (south façade) is built with varied colour brick and features two bays that are still fully visible post additions. In addition, this elevation features: buttresses on either side of the southwest steeply pitched cross-gable parapet roof; pointed arch (lancet) windows with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoirs and stone sills on all four bays (three of five windows are fully visible from the exterior); flatheaded window with brick voussoir and stone sill; stone banding above the basement windows; and, flatheaded rectangular basement windows.

A sympathetic addition was constructed to the south-east corner of the south façade in 2017. This addition is subordinate to the original building and distinguishes between old and new through location, roofline, door and window design and placement, and materials.

Historical/Associative Value

The historic and associative values relate to the original and current use of the building and its association with the Olivet United Church (originally the Olivet Evangelical Church). During the 1920s, two Evangelical churches served Kitchener: Zion, the mother church, and Calvary. On April 7, 1925, a Zion committee, consisting of Mrs. Mary Kaufman, A.L. Breithaupt, H.M. Cook, and E.E. Ratz, decided to explore opportunities for a church in the East Ward of Kitchener (Hirschman, C.A., 1939). The site on Onward Avenue was selected in 1931 and the mission was officially named Olivet, meaning Mount of Olives after one of the mountains associated with Jesus' ministry around Jerusalem, in 1932. The cornerstone for the building was laid on September 1, 1935 and dedication services were held on March 8 and 19, 1936 (Hirschman, C.A., 1939). The Olivet Evangelical Church joined the United Church of Canada in 1968. The Olivet United Church congregation of about 55-70 members led by Pastor Randy Banks ceased to exist in June 2015 when their building was sold to Rockway Mennonite Church (Thompson, C., 2015).

According to the Rockway Mennonite Church (2024) website, Pastor Ed Metzler spoke to 51 people when Rockway Mennonite Church held its first service at the Rockway Mennonite School on October 2, 1960. Howard Good became a part-time pastor between 1961 and 1967. The church was accepted as a congregation of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario in June 1962. John W. Snyder, a member from the congregation, was the part-time pastor/coordinator between 1967 and 1990 during this time the Rockway Mennonite Church's program was largely led by lay people within the congregation leading worship and preaching. In the mid-1970's Rockway Mennonite Church joined the Conference of Mennonites in Canada and the General Conference Mennonite Church leading to the merger of these denominations in the 1990's. The congregation met at Rockway Mennonite School between 1960 to 2005. In the fall of 2005, the congregation moved to a shared facility with Zion United Church located at 32 Weber Street West in Downtown Kitchener. Unfortunately, in 2015, the Zion congregation dissolved requiring Rockway Mennonite Church to search for a new space. In 2016, the congregation moved into the former Olivet United Church, marking the first time Rockway Mennonite Church owned its own building. At present, Rockway Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, the Mennonite Church Canada, and the Mennonite World Conference. Approximately 100 people attend on Sundays.

Contextual Value

The contextual value relates to the streetscape and linkages to the buildings surroundings. The building contributes to the continuity and character of the streetscape. The height and proportions of the building blend well with the residential streetscape, including the wide central island with mature

trees. The building is also physically and historically linked to its surroundings. At the time of construction, the building was located at the outer limits of residential development and the site was therefore selected to serve the East Ward of Kitchener.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage value of 47 Onward Avenue resides in the following heritage attributes:

- All elements related to the construction and the Gothic Revival architectural style of the building, including:
 - Roof and roofline:
 - Varied coloured brick construction;
 - Front (West) Façade
 - Three bay wide symmetrical façade with buttresses between each bay and a steeply pitched front-gabled parapet roof;
 - The central bay features:
 - stepped buttresses;
 - the front-gabled parapet roof;
 - large, pointed arch (lancet) leaded-glass window decorated with trefoils in the tracery and embellished mullions and muntins;
 - stepped brick pointed arch (lancet) window surround with stone drip-mold, label stops and sill; and,
 - one-storey projecting front entrance with stairs leading to an exterior vestibule with double wood doors featuring three lower wood panels and three upper leaded-glass lites, a leaded-glass transom and a stone entrance surround with a segmental arch and two half side-lites topped with the "OLIVET EVANGELIAL CHURCH" stone sign.
 - The left bay features:
 - side view of steeply pitched cross-gable roof;
 - pointed arch (lancet) window with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoir and stone sill; and,
 - stone banding above the basement window.
 - The right bay features:
 - side view of steeply pitched cross-gable roof;
 - round leaded-glass window with tracery and brick surround;
 - two flatheaded rectangular leaded-glass windows with continuous brick voussoir and continuous stone sill;
 - "1935" datestone;
 - stone banding above the basement window; and,
 - a flatheaded rectangular basement window.
 - Side (North) Façade
 - Four bays with two of the bays forming the steeply pitched cross-gable parapet
 - In addition, this elevation features: buttresses on either side of the north-west steeply pitched cross-gable parapet roof; pointed arch (lancet) windows with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoirs and stone sills on all four bays (four of five windows are fully visible from the exterior); flatheaded man door with steps to

grass; stone banding above the basement windows; and, flatheaded rectangular basement windows.

- o Side (South) Façade
 - two bays that are still fully visible
 - buttresses on either side of the south-west steeply pitched cross-gable parapet roof:
 - pointed arch (lancet) windows with tracery, leaded-glass, brick voussoirs and stone sills on all four bays (three of five windows are fully visible from the exterior);
 - flatheaded window with brick voussoir and stone sill;
 - stone banding above the basement windows; and,
 - flatheaded rectangular basement windows.

References

Hirschman, Carl A. (1939). *100th Anniversary 1839-1939 Zion Evangelical Church*. Zion Evangelical Church: Kitchener, Ontario.

Our History. (2024, July 12). Rockway Mennonite Church. https://rockwaymc.ca/welcome-2/our-history/

Thompson, C. (2015). Keeping the faith: Local churches are reinventing themselves in the face of aging congregations, buildings. KW Record: Kitchener, Ontario.

Photographs



Front Elevation (West Façade)



Building Viewed from the Corner of Onward Avenue and Crescent Street



Side Elevation (North Façade)



Side Elevation (South Façade)

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION FORM

47 Onward Aver	nue	Michelle Drake Recorder:	
Church, 1935, Description: (date of construction, architectural	June 5, 2024 —— Date:		
Photographs Attached: ☐ Front Facade ☐ Lef	t Façade □ Right Façade □ Rea	r Facade 🔲 Details	☐ Settin
Designation Criteria	Recorder – Heritage Kitchener Committee	Heritage Planning Staff	
1. This 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.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No Yes ⊠	
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No Yes □	
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement. * E.g constructed with a unique material	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No Yes □	
combination or use, incorporates challenging geometric designs etc.			

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. * Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
5. The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture. * E.g - A commercial building may provide an understanding of how the economic development of the City occured. Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ☒	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
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. * Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠

	supporting the character of an area.				
	* E.g It helps to define an entrance point to a neighbourhood or helps establish the (historic) rural character of an area.				
8.	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings. * Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown □ No □	N/A □ Yes ⊠	Unknown □ No □
9.	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark. *within the region, city or neighborhood.	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown □ No □	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown □ No ⊠
Notes	S				
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Additional	Recorder	Heritage Kitchener Committee
Criteria		
Interior: Is the interior arrangement, finish, craftsmanship and/or detail noteworthy?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □
Completeness: Does this structure have other original outbuildings, notable landscaping or external features that complete the site?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No ⊠ Yes □

Site Integrity: Does the structure occupy its original site? * If relocated, is it relocated on its original site, moved from another site, etc.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
Alterations: Does this building retain most of its original materials and design features? Please refer to the list of heritage attributes within the Statement of Significance and indicate which elements are still existing and which ones have been removed.	N/A Unknown No Yes	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
Alterations: Are there additional elements or features that should be added to the heritage attribute list?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No ⊠ Yes □
Condition: Is the building in good condition? *E.g Could be a good candidate	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠

for adaptive reuse if possible and contribute towards equitybuilding and climate change action.		
Indigenous History: Could this site be of importance to Indigenous heritage and history?	N/A □ Unknown ☒ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
*E.g Site within 300m of water sources, near distinct topographical land, or near cemeteries might have archaeological potential and indigenous heritage potential.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
Could there be any urban Indigenous history associated with the property?		
archival work may be required.		
Function: What is the present function of the subject property?	Unknown □ Residential □ Commercial □ Office □ Other □ -	Unknown □ Residential □ Commercial □ Office □ Other ⊠ Institutional − Religious/Church
* Other may include vacant, social, institutional, etc. and important for the community from an equity building perspective.		

Diversity and Inclusion: Does the subject property	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
contribute to the cultural heritage of a community of people?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
Does the subject property have intangible value to a specific community of people?		
* E.g Waterloo Masjid (Muslim Society of Waterloo & Wellington Counties) was the first established Islamic Center and Masjid in the Region and contributes to the history of the Muslim community in the area.		
	cional Criteria Examined	
Recommen	ndation	
Does this proper	rty meet the definition of a significant b	uilt heritage resource, and should it be designate t two or more of the designation criteria?)
	vn □ No □ Yes ⊠	,,
If not, please sel	ect the appropriate action for follow-up	
☐ Keep on the	e Municipal Heritage Register	
☐ Remove from	m the Municipal Heritage Register	

☐ Additional Research Required	
Other:	
General / Additional Notes	
TO BE FILLED BY HERITAGE PLANNING STAFF:	
TO BE TIEDED BY TIERUTAGE TEAUANING STATT.	
Date of Property Owner Notification:	