

Description of Property – 353 Friel Street, Former École St-Pierre

The former École St-Pierre, 353 Friel Street, is a two- and one-half storey red brick building, located on the east side of Friel Street, to the north of Laurier Avenue East in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The former École St-Pierre has architectural value as a good example of a purpose-built school in Sandy Hill and an excellent example of Edwardian Classicism. Edwardian Classicism was popular, particularly for institutional buildings, in the early twentieth century and flourished until the First World War. Constructed in 1906, with an early addition in 1930, the architectural features of the former École St-Pierre that are characteristic of the style include its symmetrical composition, its brick exterior with strong stone base, and its decorative stone and cast-stone elements.

The former École St-Pierre has historical value for its associations with the early 20th century French Catholic residents of Sandy Hill, the changing demographics of Sandy Hill over the 20th and 21st centuries, and architect Felix Maral Hamel. École St-Pierre was constructed in response to increased enrollment at nearby schools and was Sandy Hill's first French Catholic school. Its 1930 addition is associated with the expansion of Franco-Ontarien education following the repeal of Regulation 17, which restricted French language instruction beyond the first two grades. The growth of the University of Ottawa throughout the 20th century prompted the conversion of larger houses into multi-unit residences to accommodate the growing student population. The adaptation of the former École St- Pierre into a community centre reflects pioneering community efforts in the 1970s to protect Ottawa's built heritage which was rapidly disappearing. Its subsequent adaptation into a multi-unit residence reflects the contemporary community character. The school is a representative work of local architect Felix Maral Hamel, who completed works for the Roman Catholic diocese in Ottawa including several schools in Hull and Ottawa between 1870 and 1907.

The former École St-Pierre was one of several early public amenities constructed in Sandy Hill after Ottawa became the National Capital of Canada. The development and evolution of the former school contributes to an understanding of the transition of the Sandy Hill neighbourhood from a 19th century suburb into an urban neighbourhood.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the former École St-Pierre as an example of a purpose-built school in the Edwardian Classicist style, include its:

- Symmetrical plan;
- Red brick cladding;
- Rock-faced stone foundation;
- Symmetrically arranged two over two sash windows;
- Rock-faced stone sills;
- Dressed stone lintels;
- Cast-stone front entrance with decorative carving and pressed metal detailing;
- Cast-stone string course;
- Cast-stone detailing at roofline including decorative carved date panel and inset square panels;
- Projecting metal cornice;
- Brick chimneys on side elevations with decorative inset panels;
- Mature trees on the front lawn;

The heritage attributes listed above are limited to the original 1906 building and the 1930 rear and front entrance additions. Later additions and the interior of the building are excluded.