

**Subject: Designation of Bible House at 315 Lisgar Street under Part IV of the
*Ontario Heritage Act***

File Number: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0014

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on 16 January 2024
and Council on 24 January 2024**

**Submitted on January 4, 2024 by Court Curry, Director, Right of Way, Heritage,
and Urban Design Services, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development**

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Ward: Somerset (14)

**Objet: Désignation de la Bible House, située au 315, rue Lisgar, en vertu de
la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

Dossier ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0014

Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti

le 16 janvier 2024

et au Conseil le 24 janvier 2024

**Soumis le 4 janvier 2024, par Court Curry, Directeur, Services des emprises, du
patrimoine, et du design urbain, Services de la planification, des biens
immobiliers et du développement économique**

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REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 315 Lisgar Street, the Bible House, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value attached as Document 5.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil d'émettre un avis d'intention de désigner l'édifice situé au 315, rue Lisgar, la « Bible House », aux termes de la Partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, conformément à la Déclaration de valeur sur le plan du patrimoine culturel jointe en tant que document 5.

BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared because designation under Part IV of *the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)* must be approved by City Council after consultation with the Built Heritage Committee.

The property at 315 Lisgar Street holds historical and architectural significance as a former Bible House designed in 1922 by architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt and built by Richard Alfred Kemp Edwards. The two-storey commercial building, constructed of buff brick, features a traditional storefront with distinctive design elements. Notable features include a hammered glass leaded transom window above the storefront window with Bible House written in stained glass, a decorative protruding sign reading "Bible House", and stone window surrounds and decorative stone details on the upper storey windows.

The property's architectural integrity has been well-preserved, reflecting its original design and function as a religious operation. It serves as a prime example of commercial architecture, with a retail space on the lower level and office and meeting space above (today residential space). The building's design is a testament to its historical function as a Bible House.

Located in the Centretown neighbourhood, the property is situated within an area that has evolved from a small cluster of houses and shops to a fully developed neighbourhood featuring a mix of residential and commercial structures. The Bible House's presence contributes to the urban layout of central Centretown and adds to the diverse architectural fabric of the area.

The evaluation of this property was prompted in 2022 when the update to the Centretown and Minto Park HCD Plan was taking place. Heritage Planning Staff identified this property for further review, as it was not within the existing boundaries of the Centretown Heritage Conservation District (HCD), nor listed on the City's Municipal Heritage Register. Because of the absence of heritage protection and the changes to the City's Heritage Register due to the implications of Bill 23, staff undertook a thorough review of the property.

DISCUSSION

Recommendation 1

The Official Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement and the *Ontario Heritage Act* all provide policy direction related to the designation of individual properties under Part IV of the *OHA*.

Official Plan

The Official Plan has policies related to cultural heritage in Section 4.5, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology. Section 4.5.1(3) states: "Individual buildings, structures, and sites shall be designated as properties of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*."

Provincial Policy Statement (2020)

Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) contains the following policy regarding the protection of cultural heritage resources: "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved."

Ontario Heritage Act

Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* provides municipalities with the authority to designate properties of cultural heritage value. Section 29 of the *OHA* sets out the process for the designation of individual buildings. It requires:

- that Council consult with its municipal heritage committee, and
- that the official Notice of Intention to Designate served on the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust contain a description of the property and its heritage attributes, as well as a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a statement that a notice of objection may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper.

Per the “*Ontario Heritage Act* Alternative Notice Policy”, the Notice of Intention to Designate will be published on the City’s website in both official languages. Document 5 contains the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for this property.

Ontario Regulation 09/06

Regulation 09/06 (see Document 3) establishes criteria to determine if a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets two or more of the nine criteria set out in the regulation.

Through research and evaluation, staff have determined that the property at 315 Lisgar Street meets five of the nine criteria. Detailed research and analysis are outlined in the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (see Document 4), and a brief analysis of each of the applicable criteria is provided below:

The 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.

The Bible House at 315 Lisgar Street has design value as a representative example of an early 20th commercial building in Ottawa, with unique ecclesiastical influences reflecting its original use as a Bible House. Constructed in 1922 for the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building exhibits typical characteristics of early 20th century commercial buildings including its brick cladding, traditional storefront with large display window, awning, and recessed entrance. The building exhibits unique ecclesiastical influences in its leaded and stained-glass windows, stone window surrounds and decorative stone details. Its original design as a Bible House is evident in the transom window with “Bible House” written in stained glass and the projecting decorative sign in the shape of a book that also says “Bible House.”

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.

The Bible House has historical value for its associations with the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society and Bible Societies worldwide. Originally owned and operated by the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building’s purpose centred around printing and distributing religious books and pamphlets. The building’s design and its historic function contributes to the understanding of the growth of Christianity in the early twentieth century in Ottawa and beyond.

The property has historical 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.

The property has historical value as a representative work of local architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt. Burritt's large portfolio in Ottawa encompasses a diverse range of projects, including churches, school, and private residences, most notably, Glebe Community Centre at 690 Lyon Street (formerly St. Paul's Methodist Church).

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Bible House has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Centretown. The commercial building is linked to the Bank Street commercial corridor, one of two important commercial streets in Centretown.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Bible House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings and is a surviving example of a 20th century commercial building. 315 Lisgar Street located in the Centretown neighbourhood between Bank and O'Connor is associated with the commercial development of the area. This area of Centretown features a mix of low and mid-rise, mixed-use buildings from the turn of the 20th century, primarily along the commercial avenues of Bank and Elgin Streets. Less common, is two storey commercial buildings on side streets like Lisgar, making the Bible House stand out as a rare example in the vicinity.

Conclusion

The property at 315 Lisgar Street meets five of the nine criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 09/06 for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Staff recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with implementing the report recommendation.

A person who objects to the Notice of Intent to Designate may serve a notice of objection as outlined in the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Council must consider any objection and may decide to withdraw the Notice of Intent to designate, or maintain its position regarding the intent to designate. Such consideration must occur within 90 days following the end of the objection period. If Council intends to proceed with designation, it must pass a by-law designating the property within 120 days following the publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Any person who objects to the by-law has a right of appeal to the Tribunal.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Ward Councilor is aware of the recommendation associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

The property owner was advised of the proposed designation of this property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on October 12, 2023. Staff have had correspondence with the owner and have offered to meet to discuss the designation. The owner is aware that the report is being brought forward to the Built Heritage Committee and staff have provided them with the details regarding participation in the committee process. The Councillor, Centretown Citizens Community Association and Heritage Ottawa have been notified of the proposed designation.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

The designation of this property under the *Ontario Heritage Act* does not impact the physical fabric of the building. While alterations to designated properties, including renovations to remove barriers for people with disabilities, require a heritage permit, the fees for these permits are waived and staff work with property owners to allow for accessibility retrofits.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATION

There are no direct asset management implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications.

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE STATUS

There are no application timelines associated with designations under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 Location Map

Document 2 Photos

Document 3 Ontario Regulation 09/06

Document 4 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

Document 5 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

DISPOSITION

If Council does not approve the recommendation, no further steps are required. If Council proceeds with the issuance of a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property located at 315 Lisgar Street, several actions must be taken:

- 1) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning Real Estate and Economic Development Department, to prepare the Notice of Intention to Designate. Office of the City Clerk, Council and Committee Services to notify the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust (10 Adelaide Street East, third Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3) of Council's decision to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 315 Lisgar Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 2) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning Real Estate and Economic Development Department to ensure publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate according to the requirements of Section 29 the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 3) If the City Clerk receives a Notice of Objection under Section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* within thirty days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate, the Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department is to prepare a report regarding the objection for consideration by Council within 90 days after conclusion of the objection period, according to Section 29(6) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 4) If the City Clerk does not receive any Notice of Objection under Section 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* within thirty days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate, or if City Council decides not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property after an objection has been served, the

Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department, is to prepare the designation by-law, under the authority of the approval of this report and Legal Services to submit to City Council for enactment within 120 days of the publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate as prescribed in Section 29(8) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

- 5) Office of the City Clerk, Council and Committee Services to cause a copy of the by-law together with a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property, to be served on the owner of the property and on the Trust according to the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department to ensure publication of the notice of the by-law in the newspaper according to the requirements Section 29(8)(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Document 1- Location Map



LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION
HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE

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REVISION / RÉVISION - 2023 / 11 / 02



315 rue Lisgar Street



Document 2 – Photos



315 Lisgar Street Entrance. Source: City of Ottawa



Bible House. Source: City of Ottawa



Lisgar Street Facing West. Source: City of Ottawa



311 and 315 Lisgar Street Ottawa. Source: City of Ottawa

Document 3 – Ontario Regulation 09/06

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Consolidation Period: From January 1, 2023 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 569/22.

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.

Criteria, s. 27 (3) (b) of the Act

1. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 27 (3) (b) of the *Act*. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Property that has not been designated under Part IV of the *Act* may be included in the register referred to in subsection 27 (1) of the *Act* on and after the day subsection 3 (2) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force if the property meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The 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.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
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.
5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
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.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) For clarity, subsection (2) does not apply in respect of a property that has not been designated under Part IV but was included in the register as of the day subsection 3 (2)

of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Criteria, s. 29 (1) (a) of the Act

2. (1) The criteria set out in subsections (2) and (3) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 29 (1) (a) of the Act. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Section 1, as it read immediately before the day subsection 3 (2) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force, continues to apply in respect of a property for which a notice of intention to designate it was given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the Act after January 24, 2006 and before the day subsection 3 (2) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) In respect of a property for which a notice of intention to designate it is given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the Act on or after the day subsection 3 (2) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force, the property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest set out in paragraphs 1 to 9 of subsection 1 (2). O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Criteria, s. 41 (1) (b) of the Act

3. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 41 (1) (b) of the Act. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), in the case of a by-law passed under subsection 41 (1) of the Act on or after the day subsection 5 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force, a municipality or any defined area or areas of it may be designated by such a by-law as a heritage conservation district under subsection 41 (1) of the Act if the municipality or the defined area or areas of it meets the following criteria:

1. At least 25 per cent of the properties within the municipality or defined area or areas satisfy two or more of the following:
 - i. The properties have design value or physical value because they are rare, unique, representative or early examples of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
 - ii. The properties have design value or physical value because they display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
 - iii. The properties have design value or physical value because they demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

- iv. The properties have historical value or associative value because they have a direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
- v. The properties have historical value or associative value because they yield, or have the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
- vi. The properties have historical value or associative value because they demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
- vii. The properties have contextual value because they define, maintain or support the character of the district.
- viii. The properties have contextual value because they are physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to each other.
- ix. The properties have contextual value because they are defined by, planned around or are themselves a landmark. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply in respect of a by-law passed under subsection 41 (1) of the Act on or after the day subsection 5 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force if a notice of a public meeting required to be held for the purposes of the by-law under subsection 41.1 (7) of the Act was given before the day subsection 5 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

(4) For clarity, the requirement set out in subsection 41.1 (5.1) of the Act,

- (a) does not apply in respect of a by-law under subsection 41 (1) of the Act that is passed before the day subsection 5 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* comes into force; and
- (b) does not apply in respect of a by-law under subsection 41.1 (2) of the Act. O. Reg. 569/22, s. 1.

Document 4 - Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EVALUATION REPORT

Building Name and Address: Bible House, 315 Lisgar Street

Construction Date: 1922

Original Owner: Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society



Figure 1: Bible House, 315 Lisgar Street, City of Ottawa 2023

Executive Summary

The property at 315 Lisgar Street holds historical and architectural significance as a former Bible House designed in 1922 by architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt and built by Richard Alfred Kemp Edwards. The two-storey commercial building, constructed of buff brick, features a traditional storefront with distinctive design elements. Notable features include a hammered glass leaded transom window above the storefront glass with Bible House written in stained glass, a decorative sign reading “Bible House”, and symmetrical stone trim on the upper storey windows.

The property’s architectural integrity has been well-preserved, reflecting its original design and function as a religious operation. It serves as a prime example of

commercial architecture, with a retail space on the lower level and office and meeting space above (today residential space). The building's design is a testament to its historical function as a Bible House.

Located in the Centretown neighbourhood, the property is situated within the Centretown area which has evolved from a small cluster of houses and shops to a fully developed neighbourhood featuring a mix of residential and commercial structures. The Bible House's presence contributes to the urban layout of central Centretown and adds to the diverse architectural fabric of the area.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets five of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Résumé

Le bien-fonds situé au 315, rue Lisgar doit son importance historique et architecturale à son ancienne fonction de librairie liturgique dessinée en 1922 par le lieutenant-colonel Clarence James Burritt, architecte, et construite par Richard Alfred Kemp Edwards. Cet édifice de deux étages en brique de couleur chamois présente une façade commerciale traditionnelle ornée d'éléments caractéristiques, dont les plus remarquables sont l'imposte en verre martelé surmontant la devanture vitrée et la mention « Bible House » inscrite dans le vitrail, l'enseigne décorative « Bible House » ainsi que les pierres de garniture symétriques bordant les fenêtres de l'étage supérieur.

L'intégrité architecturale de cette propriété a été bien préservée et évoque sa conception et sa fonction religieuse d'origine. Il s'agit là d'un excellent exemple d'architecture commerciale, avec son local de vente au détail au rez-de-chaussée et son espace de bureau et de réunion à l'étage (devenu espace résidentiel). La conception de l'édifice témoigne de sa fonction historique de Maison de la Bible.

La propriété se trouve dans un secteur du centre-ville où un petit regroupement d'habitations et de boutiques est devenu au fil du temps un secteur entièrement aménagé de bâtiments résidentiels et commerciaux. La présence de la Bible House contribue au caractère urbain du cœur du centre-ville et vient enrichir le tissu architectural varié du secteur.

La propriété a une valeur de patrimoine culturel du fait de son esthétique et de sa valeur associative et contextuelle. Elle satisfait à cinq des neuf critères de désignation en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*.

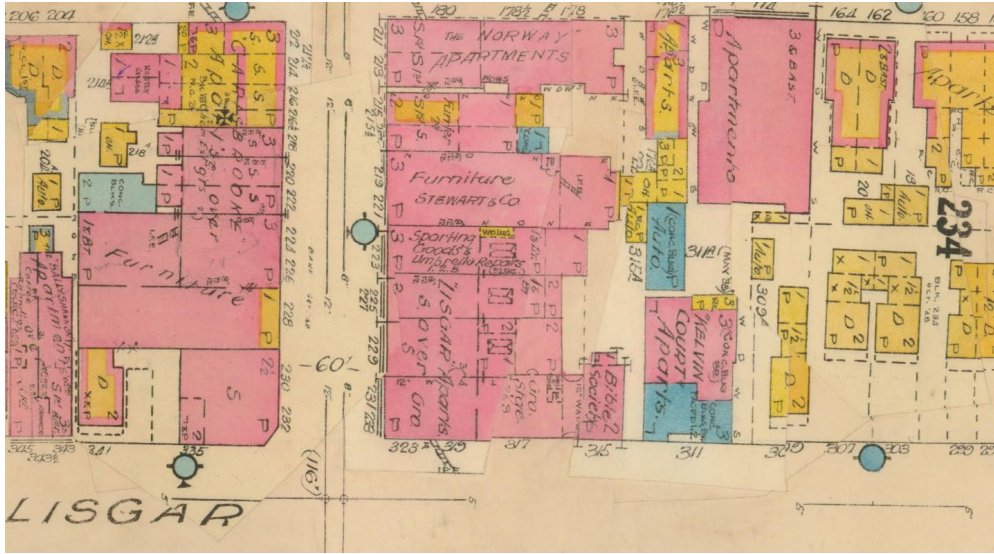
Architecture

315 Lisgar was constructed in 1922 as a Bible House for the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society. It is a two-storey commercial building with multi-wythe brown brick, a simple stepped parapet topped in stone, a flat roof, and a stone foundation. The building has a traditional storefront with a large display window and a hammered glass linear grid leaded transom window across the entire front façade. Above the display window, *Bible House* is written in stained glass and above that is an awning, typical of commercial buildings constructed pre-1950. Hidden underneath the awning is a decorative band of metal, with a quatrefoil motif on either end. Centrally located above the display window, is a decorative projecting sign in the shape of a book that says 'Bible House'¹. The recessed front entrance has been obscured with a new door, flush with the remaining façade, however the original fenestration and entrance pattern can be seen behind.

The upper storey is symmetrical in its windows, details, parapet and end pilasters. The second floor contains four narrow windows with leading and multiple lights. The windows have stone window surrounds, lug sills and horizontal stone mullions separating them from rectangular transoms above. An oversized smooth stone lintel and undulating stone banding on top off the windows. Below the parapet is a centrally located 1922 date stone, and a stone quatrefoil engraving on either side. All three elements are surrounded by decorative brickwork.

315 Lisgar has a high degree of architectural integrity, with much of its original design and materials intact. The building is simple, rectangular, and symmetrical with a traditional storefront typical of 20th-century commercial architecture. The details of the building including the stone window surrounds, hammered glass, and decorative brick and stone courses are characteristic of ecclesiastical architecture of the early 20th century. It is also a good example of a typical mixed-use building in the Centretown area, with a commercial storefront on the lower level and offices and meeting space on the upper level. The building's style and layout reflect its construction and use as a Bible House.

The building abuts its neighbor at 223 Bank Street and on the other side there is a laneway to access the rear of the building. On the side of the laneway there are large second storey windows. The building has been enlarged twice at the rear, once in 1956 and again in 1973, to accommodate the growing stock of religious merchandise²³. The rear two-storey addition, represents the continued evolution of the site, adding to the building's historical narrative.



Ottawa Fire Insurance Plans, City of Ottawa, 1948⁴

Architect

The Bible House was designed by well-known local Ottawa architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt and built by Richard Alfred Kemp Edwards. Burritt was a direct descendent of Daniel Burritt, a United Empire Loyalist who settled in Canada in 1785 and whose legacy lives on in Burritt's Rapids, Ontario a small village in the southern part of Ottawa. Shortly after Burritt was born in 1874, his family moved to Toronto. It was in Toronto that he began his career articling with Strickland and Symons. Following this, he worked as a draftsman before moving to Ottawa in 1898 to partner with Charles P. Band and Colborne P. Meredith, forming the firm The Architectural & Engineering Co. This partnership dissolved in 1906, prompting Burritt to establish his own independent architectural practice, which he maintained until 1923⁵. During this time, he was the creative force behind the design of the Ottawa Bible House⁶.

Burritt's architectural portfolio in Ottawa encompasses a diverse range of projects, including private residences, schools and churches such as the Glebe Community Centre at 690 Lyon Street (formerly St. Paul's Methodist Church)⁷. He did not appear to be confined to any singular architectural style. Besides his architectural work, Burritt had a significant presence in Ottawa military life, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. In 1939, he stepped up as a civilian volunteer in government engineering services⁵.

The builder of the Bible House, R.A Kemp, was the president and manager of the D. Kemp Edwards Ltd., a renowned lumber company in Ottawa⁸. His company was known to many people in the capital and Ottawa Valley in the 1900s.

History

The property has historical value for its direct associations with the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society and its contributions to the Centretown community.

Bible Societies are not for profit non-denominational Christian organizations dedicated to producing and distributing affordable copies of the bible. The first organization was formed to distribute bibles to soldiers and seamen in 1779. The later modern Bible Society dates to 1804 when Christians formed the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS), aiming to make holy scriptures accessible to all. This marked the emergence of auxiliary branches worldwide, dedicated to translating, revising, printing, and disseminating bibles at accessible prices.

Between 1838 and 1903, chapters emerged nationwide, facilitating the distribution of bibles. In 1837, the first Bible Society in Canada was founded in Prince Edward Island. It was not until 1872, that the Ottawa Auxiliary was established, operating initially from the James Hope and Sons building at 61-63 Sparks Street⁹. The auxiliary rented the space for publishing and selling bibles, with the mission of providing bibles to people in their native languages at affordable prices. In 1904, the Ottawa branch and counterparts nationwide united to form the Canadian Bible Society.



Lisgar Bible House, Rev(erend) McLean, 1956¹⁰

Following the lease on Sparks Street, the auxiliary temporarily occupied 294 Laurier Avenue, before outgrowing the space¹¹. The auxiliary required a permanent location to effectively serve as a hub for its activities. In 1922, the Bible House was constructed on the northern side of Lisgar Street at 315 Lisgar, nestled between Bank and O'Connor Streets. This property was formerly known as the Bowles property, and before that, the By family estate¹². In 1874, William C. Bowles secretary to the clerk, and later Chief of Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons, purchased the land at 311 – 315 Lisgar Street from the By family. In 1919, Bowles passed away and left the land to his family who sold part of the property to the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society in 1922 for the construction of a permanent structure¹³. This was a testament to Bowles active involvement with the Ottawa Auxiliary.

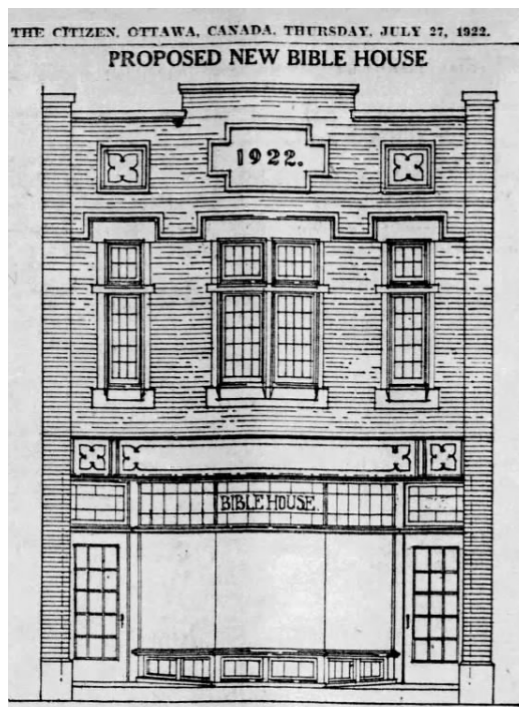
Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt was then commissioned to design the Bible House. The upper floor of the Bible House was designed for inter-denominational, religious, and educational meetings. Meanwhile, the lower level was used for religious publishing and sales. The organization was engaged in distributing books to armed forces personnel, supplying scriptures to Canadian soldiers bound for Korea, and annually providing thousands of bibles to new Canadians upon their arrival into the country.

In 1978, the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society transferred ownership of the property to the Canadian Bible Society, an auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Following this change, the building maintained its role as a Christian bookstore. From 1981 to 2014, the Salem Storehouse, a Protestant Christian bookstore occupied 315 Lisgar from 1981 to 2014¹⁴. Succeeding the Storehouse, the Inspirational Value Centre (IVC) opened. IVC was owner of Foundation Distributing Inc., the second largest supplier of Christian products. IVC ceased operations in 2019¹⁶. Presently, the Church of the Messiah operates within the building, upholding its original purpose as a religious building.

Context

315 Lisgar Street is located in the Centretown neighbourhood between Bank and O'Connor streets. Centretown grew significantly in the late 19th and early 20th century as the residential neighbourhood supporting Parliament Hill and the functions of the national capital. The neighbourhood grew from a scattering of isolated houses and shops in the mid-19th century to a fully developed neighborhood featuring a harmonious blend of residential and commercial structures by the First World War.

In the 1880s, horse-drawn streetcars travelled along Bank Street, and in 1891, the introduction of the electric street railway extended its reach as far south as Lansdowne Park, significantly enhancing accessibility to the growing Centretown area. With improved transit services, the 1880s saw the emergence of a cluster of commercial buildings along Bank Street. Over time, Bank Street evolved into the neighborhood's primary commercial thoroughfare, characterized by flat-roofed commercial structures that often-combined ground-level retail spaces with upper-floor apartments or offices¹⁷.



Proposed New Bible House, Ottawa Citizen, July 1922¹⁵

The neighborhood experienced its most significant growth between the 1880s and 1914 and maintained strong connections to Parliament Hill. Many of its residents worked either on Parliament Hill or in nearby shops and offices, establishing ties that continue to influence the neighborhood's layout and land use today. Located in close proximity to Bank Street, 315 Lisgar Street contributes to the dynamic streetscape with commercial use on the ground floor and offices on the upper storey. Notably, the Bible House stands out as a rarity, being one of the few remaining properties in the vicinity that's a two-storey mixed-use building with brick cladding.

The Bible House maintains a strong connection to the late 19th-century development phases of central Centretown, playing a pivotal role in shaping the urban layout of the area. The building serves as a representative example of the traditional commercial architecture that defines this neighborhood.

Evaluation using Ontario Regulation 09/06

1	The 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.	Yes	The Bible House at 315 Lisgar Street has design value as a representative example of an early 20 th commercial building in Ottawa, with unique ecclesiastical influences reflecting its original use as a Bible House. Constructed in 1922 for the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building exhibits typical characteristics of early 20 th century commercial buildings including its brick cladding, traditional storefront with large display window, awning and recessed entrance. The building exhibits unique ecclesiastical influences in its leaded and stained-glass windows, stone window surrounds and decorative stone details. Its original design as a Bible House is evident in the transom window with "Bible House" written in stained glass and the decorative sign in the shape of a book that also says "Bible House."
2	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	No	The Bible House is simple in character and does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit. The property does not meet this criterion.
3	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.	No	The property does not display a high degree of technical or scientific merit.

4	The property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	No	The property does not have direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, or organization that is significant to the community.
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.	Yes	The Bible House has historical value for its associations with the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society and Bible Societies worldwide. Originally owned and operated by the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building's purpose centred around printing and distributing religious books and pamphlets. This function contributes to the understanding of the Christian community and how Christianity spread across Ottawa and beyond, reflecting an era when Christianity grew in popularity.
6	The property has historical 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.	Yes	The property has historical value as a representative work of local architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt. Burritt's large portfolio in Ottawa encompasses a diverse range of projects, including churches, school, and private residents, most notably, Glebe Community Centre at 690 Lyon Street (formerly St. Paul's Methodist Church).
7	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or	Yes	The Bible House has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Centretown. The building serves as a representative example of the traditional commercial architecture that defines this neighborhood.

	supporting the character of an area.		The commercial building is linked to the Bank Street commercial corridor, one of two important commercial streets in Centretown.
8	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	Yes	The Bible House has contextual value because it is physically, function, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings and is a surviving example of a 20 th century commercial building. 315 Lisgar Street located in the Centretown neighbourhood between Bank and O'Connor is associated with the commercial development of the area. This area of Centretown features a mix of low and mid-rise, mixed-use buildings from the turn of the 20th century, primarily along the commercial avenues of Bank and Elgin Streets. Less common, is two storey commercial buildings on side streets like Lisgar, making the Bible House stand out as a rare example in the vicinity.
9	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	No	The property does not meet this criterion.

SOURCES

- (1) Signage Practical Conservation Guide for Heritage Properties
(regionofwaterloo.ca)
- (2) Ottawa Citizen 20 March 1956, page 12
- (3) geoOttawa, 1965 aerial image
- (4) Ottawa Fire Insurance Plans, City of Ottawa, 1948
- (5) Burritt, Clarence James | Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada
- (6) Ottawa Citizen 14 Dec 1922, Page 8
- (7) file (heritagetrust.on.ca)
- (8) Ottawa Citizen 14 Dec 1922, page 8
- (9) Parks Canada - Hope Building (pc.gc.ca)
- (10) Lisgar Bible House, Rev(erend) McLean, 1956
- (11) Ottawa Citizen 11 Feb 1922
- (12) 1907 City Directory
- (13) Land Records
- (14) Life after Salem Storehouse – Spur Ottawa
- (15) Proposed New Bible House, Ottawa Citizen, July 1922
- (16) A tribute to the Inspirational Value Centre – Spur Ottawa
- (17) CENTRETOWN AND MINTO PARK HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PLAN

Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – Bible House, 315 Lisgar Street

The Bible House, 315 Lisgar Street, is a two-storey brick commercial building constructed in 1922, located between Bank and O'Connor Streets in Ottawa's Centretown neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest

The Bible House has design and physical value as a representative example of an early 20th commercial building in Ottawa, with unique ecclesiastical influences reflecting its original use as a Bible House designed in 1922 by architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt and built by Richard Alfred Kemp Edwards. Constructed in 1922 for the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building exhibits typical characteristics of early 20th century commercial buildings including its brick cladding, traditional storefront with large display window, awning and recessed entrance. The building exhibits unique ecclesiastical influences in its leaded and stained-glass windows, stone window surrounds and decorative stone details. Its original design as a Bible House is evident in the transom window with "Bible House" written in stained glass and the decorative sign in the shape of a book that also says "Bible House."

The property has historical value as a representative work of local architect Lieutenant Colonel Clarence James Burritt. Burritt's large portfolio in Ottawa encompasses a diverse range of projects, including churches, school, and private residents, most notably, Glebe Community Centre at 690 Lyon Street (formerly St. Paul's Methodist Church).

The Bible House has historical value for its associations with the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society and Bible Societies nationwide. Originally owned and operated by the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society, the building's purpose centred around printing and distributing religious books and pamphlets. This function contributes to the understanding of the Christian community and how Christianity spread across Ottawa and beyond, reflecting an era when Christianity grew in popularity.

The Bible House also has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings and is a surviving example of an 20th century commercial building linked to the Bank Street commercial corridor, one of two important commercial streets in Centretown, the other being Elgin Street.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of the Bible House as a representative example of a 20th century commercial structure with unique ecclesiastical details include:

- Simple stepped parapet topped in stone
- Brown brick cladding
- Flat roof
- Traditional storefront with a large display window
- Recessed front entrance
- Four symmetrical upper storey windows with leading and multiple lights including:
 - Stone window surrounds
 - Lug sills
 - Horizontal stone mullions
 - Undulating stone banding on top of the windows
- Decorative metal band with a quatrefoil motif on either end
- Retractable awning
- Decorative quatrefoils on either side of the date stone surrounded with decorative brickwork
- 1922 carved date stone surrounded with decorative brickwork
- Hammered glass linear grid leaded transom window with Bible House written in stained glass
- Decorative projecting sign in the shape of a bible that says “Bible House”

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

- Its location on Lisgar Street between Bank and O’Connor Streets

There are no heritage attributes on the rear façade of the building. The interior of the building is excluded from the designation.