

Subject: Designation of the Westboro Masonic Temple at 430 Churchill Avenue North under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

File Number: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0022

**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: Kitchissippi (15)

Objet: Désignation du Temple maçonnique Westboro, situé au 430, avenue Churchill Nord, en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*

Dossier: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0022

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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Quartier: Kitchissippi (15)

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 430 Churchill Avenue North – the Westboro Masonic Temple – under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value attached as Document 5.

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil d'émettre un avis d'intention de désigner le 430, avenue Churchill Nord – le Temple maçonnique Westboro – en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, conformément à la Déclaration de la valeur 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)* requires approval by City Council after consultation with the Built Heritage Committee.

The Westboro Masonic Temple is a two-storey building clad in red brick constructed in 1924 and featuring elements of the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts architectural styles. The building was purpose built for use as a Masonic Temple, as exemplified by the masonic symbols integrated into the building's front façade and has maintained this use since its construction. The building is strongly associated with the growth of Freemasonry and fraternal organizations in Ottawa in addition to the growth and development of Westboro, first as an independent suburban village and later as part of the City of Ottawa.

The property was listed on the City of Ottawa's Heritage Register in 2019. Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23 require the removal of the property from the City's Heritage Register if Council does not issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the property by December 31, 2024. Further, Council will not be able to re-list the property for five years after this date. The amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23 prompted staff to undertake a review of all listed properties, as further detailed in [ACS2023-PRE-RHU-0019](#). Through this process, the subject property was identified by staff as a high priority for designation and assessed against Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

In addition, at its meeting of July 6, 2022, City Council provided the following direction to staff regarding heritage properties in Ward 15:

Direct Heritage Staff to undertake further analysis of properties in Ward 15 listed on the City's Heritage Register to establish a proactive approach for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

This direction, along with the amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23 prompted staff to undertake a review of all listed properties in Ward 15.

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 *Ontario Heritage Act*.

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 *Ontario Heritage Act* 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 9/06 (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 430 Churchill Avenue North meets seven (7) of the nine (9) 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 Westboro Masonic Temple has design value as a representative example of a purpose built Masonic Temple influenced by the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts architectural styles. Constructed in 1924, the building’s symmetrical design, simple classical features, and integrated Masonic symbols such as the letter “G”, the compass, and the square align with Canadian and international examples of Masonic Temples and exemplify the building’s origins as a centre for Freemasonry. Features of the façade associated with the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts styles include the integrated brick quoins, lintels and voussoirs, the façade’s central bay, and the symmetrical placement of door and window openings.

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.

The Westboro Masonic Temple is directly associated with the growth of Freemasonry and fraternal organizations in Ottawa. As Ottawa’s suburbs expanded in the early 20th century, new branches of the Masons and other fraternal organizations were established, often meeting in private homes or rented spaces such as church halls. The Westboro Masonic Temple was purpose built to meet the needs of Westboro’s growing Masonic community, established by two local Lodges: the Ionic Lodge and the Acacia Lodge.

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 Westboro Masonic Temple yields information, and has the potential to further yield information, that contributes to an understanding of the role of Freemasonry and fraternal organizations generally in the growth and development of Westboro and the wider City of Ottawa.

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 Westboro Masonic Temple reflects the work of notable local architecture firm Richards and Abra, lead by Hugh Archibald Richards and William J. Abra. Richards and Abra are credited with numerous notable buildings including the ByWard Market building and Nepean Highschool.

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

As a prominent, early 20th century building, the Westboro Masonic Hall is important in maintaining and supporting the historic character of Westboro as a former village which included churches, recreational clubs, a town hall, and institutions such as the Masonic Hall.

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

The Westboro Masonic Temple is functionally and historically linked to its surroundings. Located adjacent to the former streetcar line – enabling access to lodge members from across the City - and near the commercial centre of Westboro on Richmond Road, the property contributed to the 20th century growth of Westboro.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

The Westboro Masonic Temple is a local landmark in Westboro, standing mostly unaltered since 1924 at its prominent location at the intersection of Churchill Avenue and Byron Avenue, directly south of Westboro's commercial centre on Richmond Road.

Conclusion

The property at 430 Churchill Avenue North meets seven (7) of the nine (9) criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 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 impediments to implementing the report recommendations.

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 Councillor is aware of the recommendation associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

The property owners were first advised of the proposed designation of this property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on September 26th, 2023. Staff presented to members of the Westboro Masonic Temple Corporation at their meeting of October 17, 2023 on the designation process, opportunities to participate at the Built Heritage Committee and Council, and the responsibilities of owners of designated properties.

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 430 Churchill Avenue North, 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 430 Churchill Avenue North 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	
D09-23-CHUR430	23-1038-L		430 av. Churchill Ave. N.
I:\CO\2023\Heritage\Churchill_430			
<small>©Parcel data is owned by Teranet Enterprises Inc. and its suppliers. All rights reserved. May not be produced without permission. THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY.</small>			
<small>©Les données de parcelles appartiennent à Teranet Enterprises Inc. et à ses fournisseurs. Tous droits réservés. Ne peut être reproduit sans autorisation. C'EST NI EST PAS UN PLAN D'ARPENTAGE</small>			
REVISION / RÉVISION - 2023 / 11 / 06		 NO TO SCALE	

Document 2 – Photos



Front façade of 430 Churchill North, looking west (City of Ottawa, 2023)



Front and North façade of 430 Churchill North (City of Ottawa, 2023)

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

Prepared By: Heritage Planning Branch, October 2023

Building Name and Address: 430 Churchill Avenue North. Westboro Masonic Hall/Westboro Masonic Centre/Westboro Masonic Temple

Construction Date: 1924

Original Owner: Ionic and Acacia Lodges



Front Façade (City of Ottawa, 2023)

Executive Summary

430 Churchill Avenue North, also known as Westboro Masonic Temple, Westboro Masonic Hall, or Westboro Masonic Centre, is a two-storey red brick clad building constructed in 1924. The building has functioned as a meeting space for Freemasons and is a landmark of the Westboro village community.

The Westboro Masonic Hall exemplifies the architectural typology of Masonic buildings which feature bold facades with classical elements. This building is also a statement of Freemasonry heritage in Ottawa, as the oldest Masonic Temple in Ottawa which has operated as a Masonic building from its construction to present day.

Résumé

Le 430, avenue Churchill Nord, également connu sous l'appellation de Temple maçonnique Westboro, Loge maçonnique Westboro ou Centre maçonnique Westboro, est un bâtiment de deux étages recouvert de brique rouge, construit en 1924. Servant de lieu de réunion des francs-maçons, ce bâtiment constitue un point de repère pour la collectivité du village de Westboro.

La Loge maçonnique Westboro incarne la typologie architecturale des bâtiments maçonniques, avec leurs façades audacieuses et leurs éléments classiques. Ce bâtiment est également un témoignage de l'héritage de la franc-maçonnerie à Ottawa, car il représente le plus ancien temple maçonnique d'Ottawa ayant joué ce rôle de sa construction à aujourd'hui.

Le bien-fonds respecte sept des neuf critères établis dans le Règlement de l'Ontario 9/06.

The property meets seven of the nine criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06.

Architecture

Built in 1924, the Westboro Masonic Temple is a two-storey red brick building located near the intersection of Churchill Avenue North and Byron Avenue. The

building was purpose-designed as a Masonic Temple by local architects Richards and Abra and features elements of the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux-Arts architectural styles.

The building features a central bay flanked on each side by a two-door entrance with brick voussoirs, keystones, and a semi-circular transom. The central and exterior bays feature brick quoins on their edges, and the central bay is topped with a stepped parapet. The façade features a heavy cornice below the parapet and a secondary cornice above the ground floor. Several features of the building denote its origins as a Masonic Temple. For example, the façade features stone inserts engraved with “Masonic Temple”, “Ionic”, and “Acacia” – referencing the building’s original use and founding Lodges - in addition to the compass and square symbols commonly associated with Freemasonry. Windows on the second storey are located away from the building’s formal temple space, and the building is aligned East to West, both features in keeping with Masonic tradition. The building’s symmetrical front façade, significant cornice, and simplified classical features demonstrate the influence of Beaux Arts and Edwardian Classicist style on early 20th century institutional buildings. While not a high-style example of either architectural style, the building is representative of a purpose-built Masonic Temple through its understated classical features and the Masonic symbolism integrated into its design.

The building’s designers, Hugh Archibald Richards and William J. Abra, founded their architectural firm in Ottawa in 1913 and practiced together for approximately 30 years, specializing in educational buildings and designing over fifty schools across eastern Ontario. Richards and Abra’s partnership is also credited with the design of several notable buildings in Ottawa, including the Byward Market building, the National Press Building at 150 Wellington Street, and the Mayfair Apartments at 260 Metcalfe Street.



Front Elevation (East, City of Ottawa, 2023)



Side View (East and North)



Side View, South and East Elevations (City of Ottawa, 2023)



Back View, North and West Elevations (City of Ottawa, 2023)

Masonic Architecture

Masonic Temples in Ontario, Canada, and around the world vary in size and architectural expression but commonly feature symmetrical façades with classical elements, symbolizing the organization's historic and cultural origins in stonemasonry and its teachings related to classical orders of architecture (Curl, 2014). Most common among Masonic Temples is the integration of specific Masonic symbols like those seen on the Westboro Masonic Temple, including the square, compass, and letter "G" (Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario). Examples of other Masonic Temples, including several early 20th century red brick temples, are highlighted below.



St. John's Lodge Masonic Temple, 1913, Ladysmith BC (Ladysmith Historical Society)



Masonic Hall, 1927, Grand Falls NB (Canada's Register of Historic Places)



Russell Masonic Lodge #479, 1915, Russell ON (Russellodge.ca)



The Montreal Masonic Memorial Temple (Google Streetview)

History

Freemasonry Background and History

Freemasonry is considered the largest and oldest surviving fraternal movement in the world (Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario; Bogdan and Snoek, 2014, 1). Membership comprises of subscription to a local organizational body known as a 'lodge' (Hamilton Masonic District C, 2023). Local lodges such as the Acacia Lodge or Ionic Lodge are supervised by a Grand Lodge at the regional level (Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, 2011; Hamilton Masonic District C, 2023).

Freemasonry is not a religion. However, it is inclusive to members of any religion and requires that members are men believing in the existence of any supreme being (Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, 2011; Hamilton Masonic District C, 2023; Bogdan and Snoek, 2014, 6). Although Freemasonry initially included members who were masons by profession, the movement eventually opened up to "non operatives" or those who were not involved in building (Kent, 2006). Notable Freemasonry members include George Washington, Mozart, Voltaire, Goethe, Winston Churchill, as well as 16 Ontario premiers and 6 Canadian prime ministers (Kent, 2006).

Freemasonry emerged from the British stone masons of the Middle Ages (McLeod, 1980, 3). Since c.1350 they began to form guilds and lodges. Around 1600, lodges began to accept non-operatives (Kent, 2006; McLeod, 1980, 3).

Modern Freemasonry officially began on June 24, 1717, when four lodges based in London constituted themselves into a grand lodge, eventually becoming the Grand Lodge of England, known as the Moderns (McLeod, 1980, 4). The Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland, and a rival Grand Lodge of England, known as the Ancients, were formed shortly after. These four Grand Lodges were the basis for Masonic lodges around the world (McLeod, 1980, 4).

In Canada, the first lodges were established in Nova Scotia and Quebec (McLeod, 1980, 11). Eventually, thirty lodges banded together to form the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1855 in Hamilton (Kent, 2006). In the years following, provincial Grand Lodges were formed, and the Grand Lodge of Canada officially changed its name to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario (Kent, 2006).

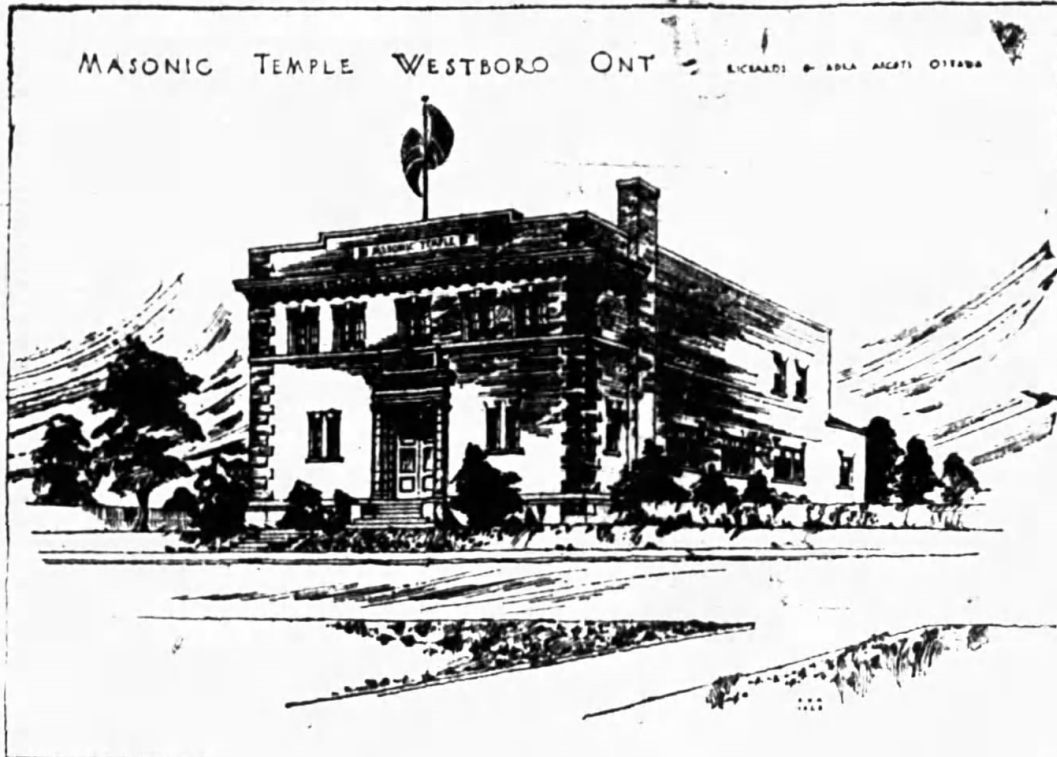
Westboro Masonic Hall History

The Masonic Hall was built due to interest from members of the Freemasonry in Ottawa (Ottawa Evening Citizen, 1924). In the early 1900s, masons living along the Britannia rail line and meeting on streetcars began to discuss opening a Masonic lodge in the Westboro area (Ionic Lodge, 2023). A meeting was held in the former Presbyterian church on Richmond Road during which the principal officers and secretary were chosen for the new lodge. Permission was requested to start this lodge from the District Deputy Grand Master and established city lodges and was approved. Space was rented for the lodge at Beatty's Hall at 313 Richmond Rd and the first meeting was held on December 9, 1914.

The Westboro Masonic Temple was purpose built to meet the needs of Westboro's growing Masonic community, established by two local Lodges: the Ionic Lodge and the Acacia Lodge. The Ionic Lodge 526 was consecrated on October 13, 1915. At this time, the population of Westboro was around 1400 and the number of members of the Ionic lodge was 154, so about 1 in every 10 residents of Westboro was a member of the Ionic Lodge. Due to issues such as noise, lack of heat, and a leaking roof at Beatty's Hall, members decided in May 1919 to erect a temple. Given the popularity of Freemasonry at the time, permission was sought and granted to create a second lodge. The Acacia Lodge 561 was consecrated on October 2, 1920.

In The Ottawa Journal in June 1924, plans for the Masonic temple were presented by Richards and Abra. Outside dimensions were to be 42 ft by 81 ft, tapestry brick with Indiana Limestone with front façade to have local limestone base.

TO TURN FIRST SOD FOR NEW MASONIC TEMPLE.



Members of Masonic lodges in Ottawa district will be at Westboro next Saturday afternoon when Mr. T. S. Church, District Deputy Grand Master, A. F. & A. M., for this district will turn the first sod on a site on which is to be erected a new \$25,000 Temple. This will be the home of the two Westboro Lodges, Ionic and Acadia. The ceremony will begin at 3.30 p.m. and work on the erection of the new building will commence immediately following the turning of the first sod.

More than \$16,000 has already been subscribed and the campaign to bring the amount up to the required \$25,000 is to be continued. The new building is to be on Main street, a few yards from the Westboro stop on the car line.

The outside dimensions of the Temple will be 42 by 81 feet. The exterior will be in tapestry brick, trimmed with Indiana limestone. The front elevation is to have a local limestone base. On the ground floor there will be the entrance foyer, a spacious board room, with an assembly hall to seat approximately 350 people, besides which there will be a large stage, kitchen, and the necessary rest rooms. The first floor will have a lodge room 32 by 47 feet, with a 14 foot ceiling, large coat room space, and a lounge for members, measuring 15 feet by 32 feet. The interior is laid out so that the ground floor can be rented for dances and meetings of all kinds.

For some time it has been the

ambition of the Masons in Westboro to have a new Temple. Early in 1920 a provincial charter was taken out under the name of the Westboro Masonic Temple, Limited, with a capitalization of \$40,000. It was not until last year that the work to raise the necessary money began in earnest. Mr. F. A. Heney, P.D.D. G.M., is the President of Westboro Masonic Temple, Ltd., and Mr. T. O. Cox is the secretary.

At the ceremony on Saturday several prominent masons will be among the speakers, who will include Messrs. T. Shanks, P.D.D.G.M., and E. S. Macphail, P.D.D.G.M., W. F. Garland, M.P., Rev. Wesley McGaw, A. H. Acres, M.P.P., and others.

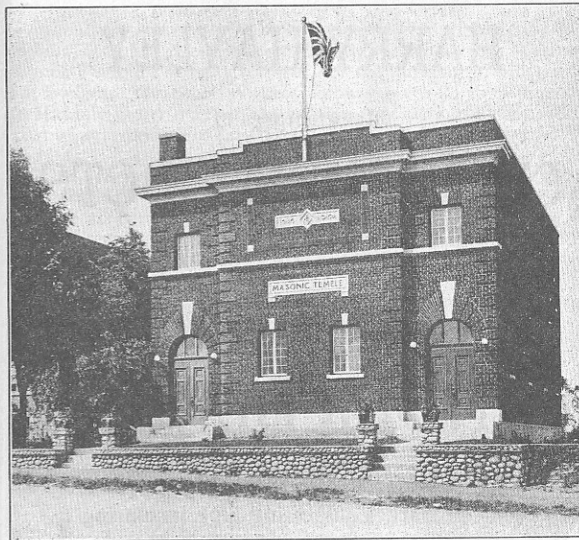
June 4, 1924. The Ottawa Journal, pg. 2.

On Saturday, June 7, 1924, the "turn the first sod" ceremony was completed. The Westboro Masonic Temple was dedicated on December 13, 1924. Another lodge, Temple Lodge 665, was consecrated on October 19, 1951 (Ionic Lodge, 2023).

Although often perceived by the public to be a secret society, it was stated in a speech made during the Westboro Masonic Temple's 'Turning the First Sod' Ceremony that the Masonic Order is "in no sense a secret order".

organization in the world. The Masonic Order, it was stated, stood for the inculcation and extension of brotherly love, was in no sense a secret order and opposed nothing in the world but intrinsic evil. The ceremony was performed by District Deputy Grand Master T. S. Church, of Arnprior.

09 June 1924. The Ottawa Journal. Page 3.



THE MASONIC ORDER IN WESTBORO.

IT was early in the fall of 1914, that the Masons of Westboro and district got together for the purpose of forming a lodge for the community.

A dispensation was applied for and granted, to this effect, by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the Local Lodge was formally instituted on December 19th, 1914. It was called Ionic Lodge and the first Master was Worshipful Brother Thomas Saunders, of Woodroffe.

This Lodge had forty charter members, and met for some years in Beattie's Hall.

In the winter of 1919-20, a dispensation was granted for the forming of a second Lodge in Westboro. This Lodge was called Acacia and was instituted in January, 1920, with Right Worshipful Brother D. A. MacEachern, as the first Master.

1927 History of Westboro – The Town of Possibilities.

According to the Ionic Lodge website, in 1927, the Ionic Lodge had 208 members and the Acacia lodge had 130 members. The History of Westboro – The Town of Possibilities booklet from 1927 (seen above) writes that the Ionic Lodge had 40 charter members.



c. 1945 Westboro Masonic Temple

According to the Westboro Masonic Hall's website, until 2008, the building was used almost exclusively for lodge meetings. In 2008, doors were repainted to a blue colour, the compass and G symbol were placed, and the building was opened to the public to host increasingly more external events. Their websites also states that there are five active lodges currently operating and regularly meeting at the Westboro Masonic Temple – Ionic Lodge 526, Acacia Lodge 561, Temple Lodge 665, Bytown Lodge 721, and Edinburgh Lodge 736, as well as an Order of the Eastern Star and the Knights Templar Masons.

Context

The Westboro Masonic Hall faces Churchill Avenue North and is located on the corner of Churchill Ave N. and Byron Avenue. The building is situated one block south from Richmond Road, one of the main roads which defines Westboro village exemplified by the many businesses and artworks that line the road. Across from the Westboro Masonic Hall, on the same intersection, the public artwork titled “Short Story” was installed in 2015 (City of Ottawa).



Short Story Sculpture by Jennifer Stead. Source: City of Ottawa.

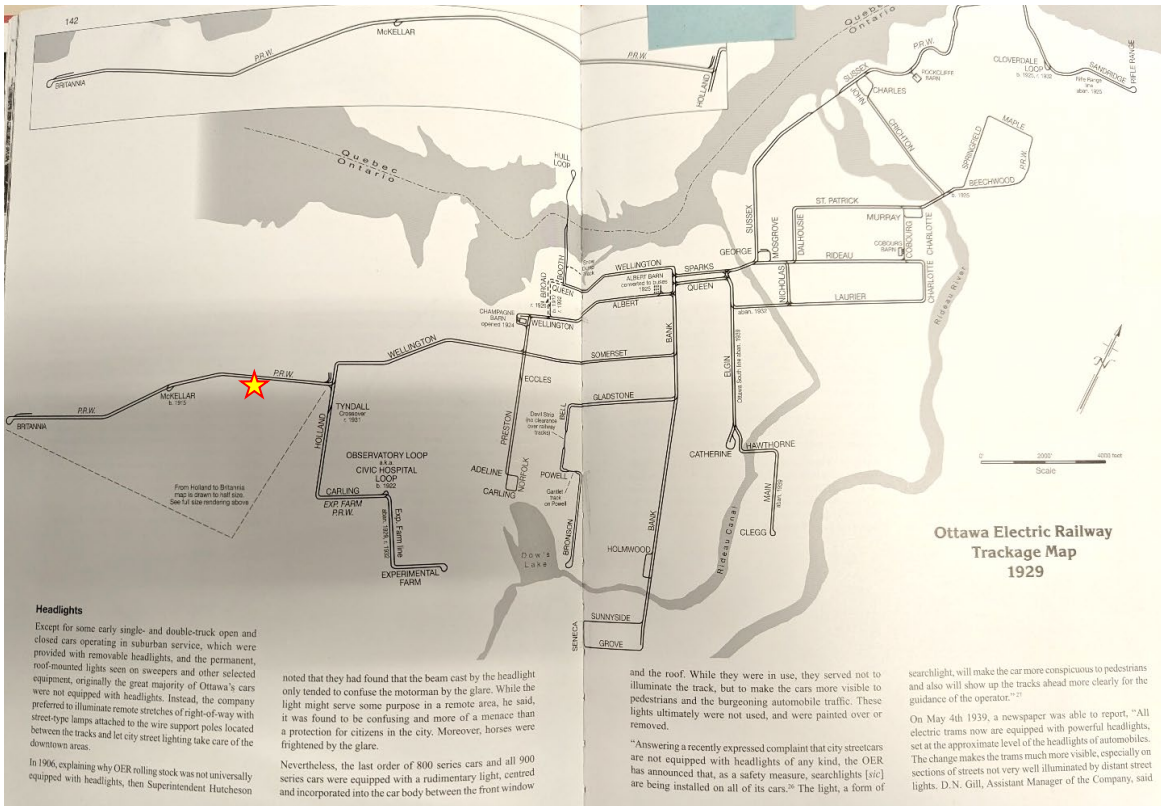
Neighbourhood History

The Westboro Masonic Hall is located in Westboro, at the intersection of Churchill Ave. (formerly Main St.) and Byron Ave. Westboro was formerly known as Skead’s Mills, and Birchtown/Baytown prior to that (Highland Park Ratepayers Association). The portion East of Churchill Avenue (Main Street) was previously known as Birchtown after Thomas Birch who was influential in the development of the region. The area West of Churchill Avenue (Main Street) was known as Baytown. Around 1852, Hon. J. Skead purchased a large parcel of land and

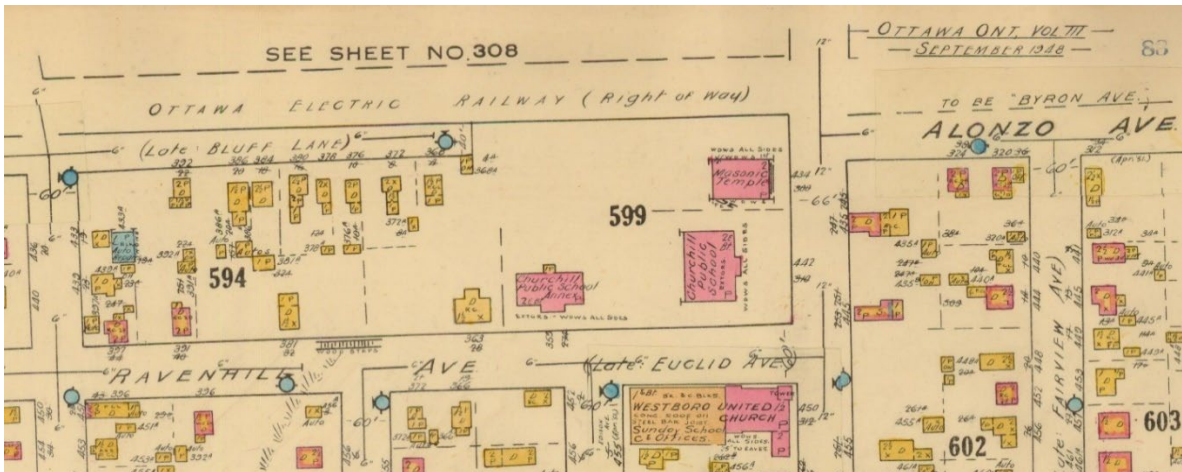
established a lumber mill, which drew in residents and helped build up the area. Westboro was known by the name Skead's Mills in homage to the region's industrial history (Davidson, 1998). However, the area soon saw an increase in families settling down and its character was changing from industrial to residential. Skead's Mills was no longer considered an appropriate name, and the name was changed to Westboro Village. Soon after, the Ottawa Electric Railway extended its tracks to Westboro along Byron Avenue. The arrival of the streetcar further established Westboro's significance as a growing and increasingly popular residential suburb. The streetcars allowed for greater accessibility to and from Westboro.

On June 10th, 1905, Westboro was incorporated as a Police Village. Police Villages were a form of government used throughout Ontario starting in the late 1800s in areas where the population or finances were too low to establish a village (Allston, 2020). The population increased from 200 in 1905 to 1400 in 1913, to 2799 by 1926. Westboro was annexed to the City of Ottawa in January 1950 and Main Street was renamed Churchill Avenue in honour of Winston Churchill (Davidson, 1998).

The Westboro Masonic Lodge is historically linked to the development of Westboro in the early 20th century. As a historic institution that many local men participated and continue to participate in, the Westboro Masonic Lodge holds a prominent place in the community. The decision to erect this Masonic temple in Westboro reflects the growing population as well as the resident demographic of the area.



Bill McKeown. Ottawa's Streetcars, p.142-143. Star shows the estimated location for the Westboro Masonic Hall.



1948 Fire Insurance Plan showing the Westboro Masonic Hall and the Ottawa Electric Railway.

Masonic Buildings in Ottawa

The Ottawa Masonic Temple operated on Metcalfe Street from approximately 1912 to 1975 and was designed by architect J.A Ewart. The Metcalfe Street Temple was demolished circa 1976 after the completion of The Ottawa Masonic Centre in 1975, located at 2140 Walkley Road. The Ottawa Masonic Centre remains in operation as of 2023.



Former Ottawa Masonic Temple, 1913, Metcalfe Street near Laurier Avenue West (Library and Archives Canada, William James Topley Collection, Item No. 3410413)

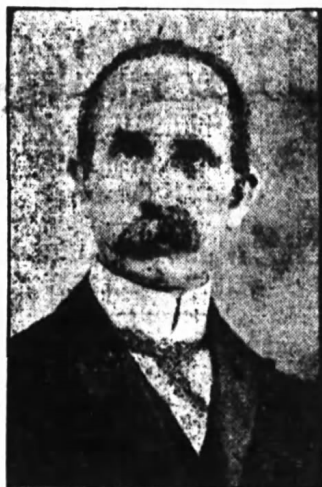
TEMPLE WILL COST \$60,000

Ottawa Masonic Temple
Company's Officers.

Mr. Wm. Northwood Elec-
ted President.

Building to be Situated on
Metcalf St.

At an organization meeting of the Ottawa Masonic Temple Co., Limited, held last night in the office of Perkins, Fraser & Gibson, the constitutional by-laws were adopted by the shareholders and the following board elected: president, Wm. Northwood; first vice-president, G. S. May; second vice-president,



Mr. E. B. BUTTERWORTH,

Elected Second Vice-President of Ottawa Masonic Temple Company, Ltd., Last Evening.

E. B. Butterworth; secretary-treasurer, H. W. Wilson; directors, J. P. Featherston, S. A. Luke, R. W. Stephens, W. L. Blair, Abraham Pratt, John Wilson.

The subscription list will be open for stock subscriptions in a few days and will be in the hands of the secretaries of the various lodges, as well as in the secretary-treasurer's hands.

The new building, on Metcalfe street, will be commenced early in the summer and will cost in the neighborhood of \$60,000. It will be located on the lot adjacent to that on which the Y.M.C.A. stands.

Kanata's local Orange Hall houses the Hazeldean Lodge. This building was erected in 1914 and is still in active use today (Hazeldean Lodge).



Hazelden Lodge in Kanata. (Google Streetview, 2023)

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.	Y	The Westboro Masonic Temple has design value as a representative example of a purpose-built Masonic Temple influenced by the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts architectural styles, embodied by elements including its symmetrical façade, use of red brick and stone, heavy cornice, and integrated masonic symbols.
2	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N	The property does not meet this criterion. No evidence of the building displaying significant artistic merit or craftsmanship was identified.
3	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.	N	The property does not meet this criterion. No evidence of the building displaying significant technical or scientific merit was identified.
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.	Y	The Westboro Masonic Hall is representative of Freemasonry heritage in the Westboro neighbourhood as well as in Ottawa, as the longest standing Masonic Temple in Ottawa which has operated as a Masonic building from its construction to present day.

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.	Y	The Westboro Masonic Temple yields information, and has the potential to further yield, information that contributes to an understanding of Freemasonry and the role of the fraternal organizations in the growth and development of the former Village of Westboro and the wider City of Ottawa.
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.	Y	The Westboro Masonic Hall was designed by local Ottawa architects, Hugh Archibald Richards and William J. Abra, known as Richards and Abra. They were credited with designing several notable buildings in Ottawa such as the Byward Market building, the National Press Building, and the Mayfair apartments.
7	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area.	Y	As a prominent, early 20 th century building, the Westboro Masonic Hall is important in supporting the historic character of Westboro as a former village which included churches, recreational clubs, a town hall and institutions such as the Masonic Hall.
8	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	Y	Since the Westboro Masonic Hall's construction in 1924, the building has served the Westboro community. Initially open to primarily masonry lodges, the building has since opened up for various events. The Westboro Masonic Hall was built in its location, on the former Main Street, due to the proximity of the streetcar line.

			The building has visually retained the same size and architectural features without alterations, except for a repaint of the entrance doors from beige to blue.
9	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	Y	Its prominent location at the intersection of Churchill Avenue and Byron Avenue, near the commercial centre of Westboro on Richmond Road, makes this property a local landmark.

Citations:

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The Ottawa Journal. Feb 2, 1910. Pg 1

The Ottawa Journal. June 4, 1924. Pg 2

Document 5: Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – Westboro Masonic Temple, 430 Churchill Avenue North

The Westboro Masonic Temple, 430 Churchill Avenue North, is a two-storey red brick building located near the intersection of Churchill Avenue North and Byron Avenue in Ottawa's Westboro neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Westboro Masonic Temple has design value as a representative example of a purpose built Masonic Temple influenced by the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts architectural styles. Constructed in 1924, the building's symmetrical design, simple classical features, and integrated Masonic symbols such as the letter "G", the compass, and the square align with Canadian and international examples of other Masonic Temples and exemplify the building's origins as a space of Freemasonry. Features of the façade associated with the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts styles include the integrated brick quoins, lintels and voussoirs, the façade's central bay, and the symmetrical placement of door and window openings.

The Westboro Masonic Temple is directly associated with the growth of Freemasonry and fraternal organizations in Ottawa. As Ottawa's suburbs expanded in the early 20th century, new branches of the Masons and other fraternal organizations were established, often meeting in private homes or rented spaces such as church halls. The Westboro Masonic Temple was purpose built to meet the needs of Westboro's growing Masonic community, established by two local Lodges: the Ionic Lodge and the Acacia Lodge.

The Westboro Masonic Temple reflects the work of notable local architecture firm Richards and Abra, lead by Hugh Archibald Richards and William J. Abra. Richards and Abra are credited with numerous notable buildings including the ByWard Market building, Nepean Highschool, and the Mayfair Apartments.

The Westboro Masonic Temple has contextual value as a landmark building that supports the character of Westboro and is historically linked to its surroundings. Its elevated location near the intersection of Churchill Avenue and Byron Avenue allows for the building to serve as a highly visible local landmark. Located adjacent to the former streetcar line, the property represents the 20th century growth of Westboro into a thriving suburban village which featured social and institutional spaces like the Masonic Temple in close proximity to commercial uses on nearby Richmond Road and surrounding residences.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of the Westboro Masonic Temple as a representative example of a purpose built Masonic Temple designed with elements of the Edwardian Classicist and Beaux Arts styles include:

- Well balanced symmetrical façade with central bay and stepped parapet roof.
- Red brick cladding with decorative elements including integrated red brick quoining, voussoirs, and lintels.
- Stone inserts, including those decorated with Masonic symbols – the square, compass, and letter “G” – or inscribed with the place name and names of founding lodges – Masonic Temple, Acacia, and Ionic.
- Primary cornice above second storey windows.
- Secondary cornice below second floor windows.
- Symmetrical location of window and door openings on the front façade.

Key attributes that demonstrate the Westboro Masonic Temple’s contextual value are:

- Its prominent siting near the intersection of Churchill Avenue and Byron Avenue