

**Subject: Designation of Southminster United Church at 1040 Bank Street
under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

File Number: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0015

**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: Capital (17)

**Objet: Désignation de l'Église Unie Southminster, située au 1040, rue Bank
en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

Dossier: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0015

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: Capitale (17)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Southminster United Church 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 l'Église Unie Southminster 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)* must be approved by City Council after consultation with the Built Heritage Committee.

Southminster United Church has design value as a representative example of the modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Many of its features are characteristic of the style including, the symmetrical design, an emphasis on a sense of verticality including pointed arch windows and doors, with uniformly colored facades of Nepean sandstone. The church's cruciform plan, aligned along an east-west axis, adds a medieval element.

The property has historical value as a representative work of local architect John Albert Ewart, a well-known architect in Ottawa. His most famous works include the Booth Building at 185 Sparks Street, the Wellington Building at 180 Wellington Street, Knox Presbyterian Church at 120 Lisgar Street, and several schools in the area as the main architect for the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board. The property also has historical value as it contributes to the understanding of the United Church in Canada, a union of Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists in 1925. Soon after its formation in 1931, Southminster United Church was established, uniting the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in Ottawa South.

Southminster Church has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Old Ottawa South. Southminster Church's location at the intersection of Bank and Aylmer (formerly Dufferin Street), overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this a prominent site in the area that is historically and visually linked to its surroundings. The property is a landmark in Old

Ottawa South, as a gateway to the community with its deep setback and prominent front lawn.

In 2017, Council approved an amendment to Zoning By-law 2008-250 for 1040 Bank Street to permit a mixed-use development. In the staff report, staff stated “There is the potential for the church to be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and if it were determined to merit designation, this could happen after construction.” Now that construction has begun, the City has determined that Southminster United Church, at 1040 Bank Street is a strong candidate for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The property was listed on the City of Ottawa Heritage Register in 2019. Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23 will result in 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 OHA through Bill 23 prompted staff to undertake a review of all listed properties. This property was identified by staff as a high priority for designation.

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 *OHA* 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 Southminster United Church meets six 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.

Southminster United Church has design value as a representative example of the modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, also known as English Gothic Revival. Many of its features are characteristic of the style including, the symmetrical design, an emphasis on a sense of verticality, devoid of ornate decorative features and the use of cinder block construction with uniformly colored facades of Nepean sandstone. The steeply pitched gable roof, pointed arch windows and doors made of cast stone, and its slate roof are also characteristic of Gothic Revival style.

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 property has historical value because it contributes to the understanding of the United Church in Canada. The Southminster United Church offers information about United Churches in Canada and the union of Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists in Ottawa in the early 20th century.

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 John Albert Ewart, a well-known architect in Ottawa. His most famous works include the Booth Building, the Wellington Building (former Metropolitan Life Assurance Building), Knox Presbyterian Church at 120 Lisgar Street, and several schools in the area as the main architect for the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board.

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

Southminster United Church has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Old Ottawa South a historic suburb south of downtown Ottawa, which grew rapidly with the construction of the new Bank Street bridge in 1910, and the extension of the streetcar line.

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

Southminster United Church's location at the intersection of Bank and Aylmer, overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this a important site in the area that is historically and visually linked to its surroundings.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

The property is a landmark in Old Ottawa South, as a gateway to the community with its deep setback and prominent front lawn. The church's distinct architecture, and location overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this a distinguished site.

Conclusion

The property at 1040 Bank Street meets six 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 owners were notified of the proposed designation of this property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on October 12, 2023. On November 29th, 2023, Heritage Staff met with the owners, providing them with the chance to review heritage attributes and share insights on future work.

The Old Ottawa South 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

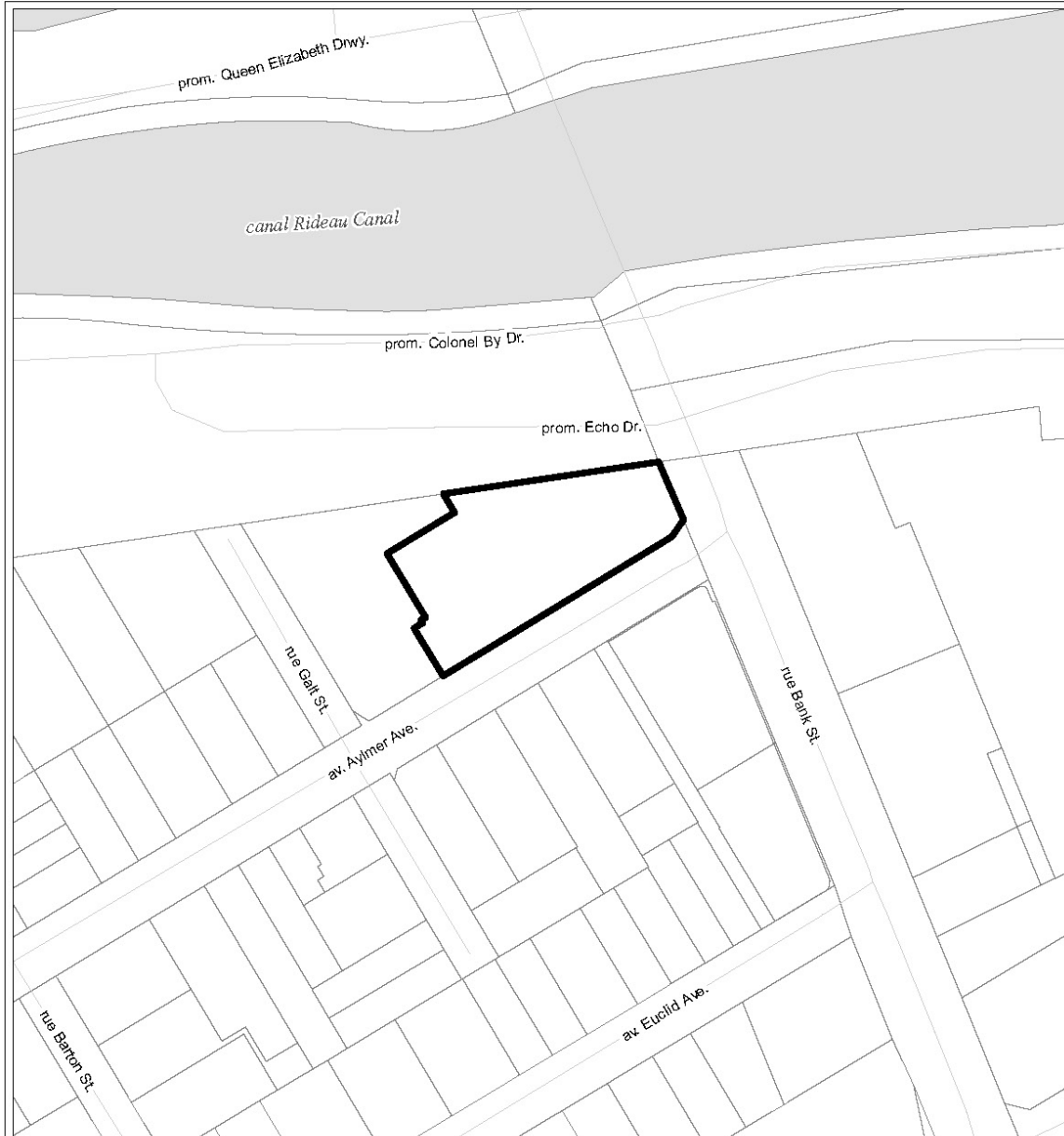
If Council does not approve the recommendation, no further steps are required. If Council proceeds with the issuance of a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property located at 1040 Bank Street, several actions must be taken:




- 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 1040 Bank 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

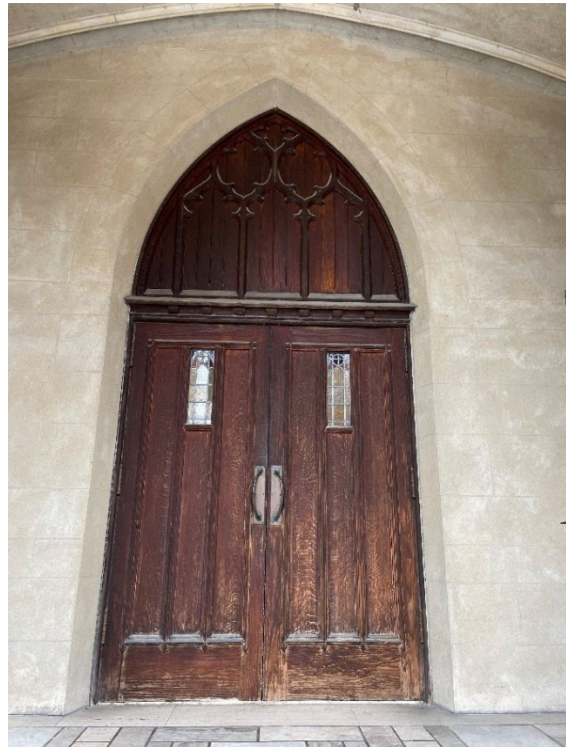


		LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE	
D09-01-BANK 1040	23-1021-L	 1040 rue Bank St.	 <small>NOT TO SCALE</small>
I:\CO\2023\Heritage\Bank_1040			
<small>©Parcel data is owned by Terranet Enterprises Inc. and its suppliers. All rights reserved. May not be produced without permission. THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY.</small>			
<small>©Les données de parcelles appartiennent à Terranet Enterprises Inc. et à ses fournisseurs. Tous droits réservés. Ne peut être reproduit sans autorisation. CE CI N'EST PAS UN PLAN D'ARPENTAGE</small>			
REVISION / RÉVISION - 2023 / 11 / 03			

Document 2 – Photos



1040 Bank Street. Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church, Front Door. Source: City of Ottawa



Calvin Presbyterian Church Cornerstone and Southminster Memorial Stone. Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church from the Bank Street Bridge. Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church from corner of Bank Street and Echo Drive. Source: City of Ottawa



Ornamental Wrought Iron Gates at the Entrance Vestibule. Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church 1931 Date Stone. Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church, South Entrance Source: City of Ottawa



Southminster United Church from Aylmer Street. 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 EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared By: Heritage Planning Branch, 2014-2023

Building Name and Address: Southminster United Church, 1040 Bank Street

Construction Date: 1932

Original Owner: United Church of Canada



Southminster United Church, City of Ottawa 2023

Executive Summary

Southminster United Church holds historical, architectural, and contextual significance as a longstanding church in Old Ottawa South. Constructed in 1932, and designed by well-known architect John Albert Ewart, 1040 Bank Street is a representative example of a modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, known as the English Gothic style. The two-storey religious building, constructed of cinder block and clad in sandstone, features a prominent front vestibule with a stone arched opening,

ornamental wrought iron gates, and stone banding. The church also features a steeply pitched gable roof, slate shingles, and pointed arch windows and doors.

Located in the Old Ottawa South neighbourhood, the property is situated at the corner of Bank and Aylmer Streets and overlooks the Rideau Canal. Its prominent location at the entrance of the neighbourhood is important in defining and maintaining the character of the area. Southminster United Church also has historic value as it represents the union of the Ottawa South Methodist and Calvin Presbyterian congregations and contributes to the understanding of the United Church in Canada and Ottawa.

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

Sommaire

L'Église Unie Southminster a une signification historique, architecturale et contextuelle en tant qu'église établie depuis longtemps dans le Vieil Ottawa-Sud. Construite en 1932 et conçue par l'architecte de renom John Albert Ewart, le 1040, rue Bank est un exemple représentatif d'une interprétation moderne du style gothique, connu sous le nom de style gothique anglais. Le bâtiment religieux de deux étages, construit en bloc de béton de mâchefer et recouvert de grès, est doté d'un impressionnant vestibule avant avec ouverture en pierre voûtée, portail ornemental en fer forgé et bandeau en pierre. L'église est également pourvue d'un toit à pignon fortement incliné, de bardeaux en ardoise et de fenêtres et de portes à arc en ogive.

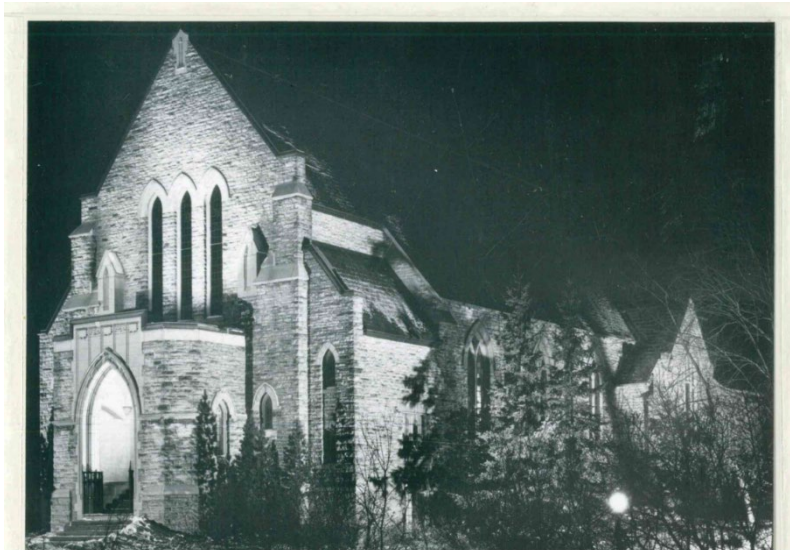
Situé dans le quartier du Vieil Ottawa-Sud, le bâtiment se trouve à l'intersection des rues Bank et Aylmer et donne sur le canal Rideau. Son emplacement bien en vue à l'entrée du quartier est important pour définir et maintenir le caractère du secteur. L'Église Unie Southminster, qui a également une valeur historique puisqu'elle représente l'union de la congrégation méthodiste et de la congrégation presbytérienne Calvin d'Ottawa-Sud, contribue à améliorer la compréhension que nous avons de l'Église Unie au Canada et à Ottawa.

La propriété a une valeur patrimoniale culturelle du fait de sa conception, ainsi qu'une valeur associative et contextuelle. Elle respecte six des neuf critères prévus à la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*.

Architecture

Southminster United Church was constructed in 1932 and is a modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, also known as English Gothic Revival. Clad in Nepean

sandstone quarried just east of Kanata, its symmetrical design, emphasis on verticality, and iconic pointed arched openings, align with this architectural style. The church's horizontal mouldings, steeply pitched gable roof, slate shingles, and copper coping running around the edge of the roof, is also



Southminster United Church. United Church of Canada

characteristic of the Gothic

Revival style. As a representative example of this style, Southminster United Church illustrates a modest degree of craftsmanship in its architectural elements, evident in its intricate stonework, impressive wood paneled ceiling and modest motif decoration adapted from the Sherbourne Abbey in England¹.

The church's Latin cross-shaped plan, aligned along an east-west axis, differs from English cathedrals, which were oriented to the east so that the sun rose behind the altar, symbolizing Christ's resurrection.

The front façade is symmetrical and contains a vestibule with three tall lancet windows above, cumulating in a stepped parapet with ornamental stone. The vestibule shelters the doors of the church and houses the cornerstones of the Ottawa South Methodist Church (1908) and Calvin Presbyterian (1914). The ceiling of the vestibule features a ribbed vault with the ribs supported by brackets adorned with oak leaves². To the right of the



Southminster United Church Interior. The United Church of Canada

vestibule, is Southminster United Church's cornerstone (1931). It contains rolls from Calvin Presbyterian and Ottawa South Methodist, Ottawa newspapers, coins, a record of the steps that led to the Union, and a scroll of the membership of the church. The vestibule is closed off by ornamental gates.

The west wall of the sanctuary differs from the other facades, clad not in sandstone but in stucco shaped like stone, featuring a prominent rose window. This design choice was made to accommodate future expansions³. In 1955, Christian Education Wing, was designed by the original architect and added, but later removed in 2021.

Nepean sandstone was also used for the construction of the Sunnyside branch of the Ottawa Public Library (1951), which is located opposite the church, across Bank Street⁴. The library was also built in the Gothic Revival style by the same architect; however, the design is heavily influenced by mid-twentieth century modernism, apparent in the rectangular window openings rather than the historicist pointed arched fenestration seen in the church.

Today, Southminster United Church remains largely unchanged since the amalgamation of the two congregations in 1932.

Architect

The church was designed by John Albert Ewart, a well-known architect in Ottawa. His most well-known works include the Booth Building (165 Sparks Street), the Wellington Building (180 Wellington Street), Knox Presbyterian Church (120 Lisgar Street), the May Court Club (114 Cameron Avenue), and several schools in the Old Ottawa South area as he was the main architect for the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board⁵. Ewart was also a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and an honorary life member of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He was appointed to the Federal District Commission and had a long-standing association with the Ottawa Collegiate Board⁶.



Southminster United Church, Interior. The United Church of Canada

Ewart was the son of David Ewart, the Chief Dominion architect who was responsible for the many federal buildings constructed at the turn of the century including the Connaught Building, the Victoria Memorial Building and the Dominion Observatory. Ewart Sr. broke from the Neo-gothic style that had been so popular in Canada around the turn of the century in favour of the Baronial style. His son however, seemed to favour the perpendicular Gothic style, as seen in his most famous buildings. Ewart was

an adept delineator and draftsman and produced some of the finest architectural drawings to be found in public collections in Canada⁷.

History

Southminster United Church is connected to the history and evolution of the first Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in Ottawa South. The two congregations existed separately from the 1870s until the beginning of the twentieth century. When the United Church of Canada was formed in 1925, the two congregations came together for amalgamation⁸. In that year, the former Methodist church was demolished to make way for the new Southminster United Church that was built on the same site. In 1931 the corner stone of the new building was laid by Rev. Dr. G.W. Hurst, chairman of the Ottawa Presbytery and in keeping with the spirit of the United Congregations, boxes filled with copies of newspapers, coins and various other souvenirs of the churches' history were placed in the corner stone⁹.



Laying of Corner Stone of Southminster United Church. May 16, 1931. The United Church of Canada

The church officially opened on January 12th, 1932. Reverend Russell McGillivray was the first reverend for the church, and he was instrumental in the union of the churches and the growth of the congregation¹⁰.

Prior to the Church Union in 1925, the Ottawa South Methodist congregation had commenced worship on the present site of Southminster in 1909 and the Calvin Presbyterian congregation had completed its church at the corner of Sunnyside and Fairburn at 5 Fairburn Avenue in 1914. Both these congregations had their origins south of the Rideau River near Billings Bridge, the Presbyterian dating back to 1860 and the Methodist to 1874. When the two were amalgamated, several features from each

church were incorporated into the construction of the new building including the boxes placed inside the corner stone and both churches' Rolls of Honor and plaques commemorating those who served in World War I and World War II¹¹.

The Southminster United Church, as the result of the amalgamation of two congregations in Ottawa South, represents the development of the spiritual community in the area through twentieth century. This is illustrated through the physical commemoration of both the Ottawa South Methodist Church and the Calvin Presbyterian congregations within Southminster's very construction.

Like most churches, Southminster also served a gathering place, hosting numerous clubs and community events. Clubs included carpet bowling, quilting, and more. The church bears witness to the thousands of people who have entered its doors during the Depression years, the Second World War, the post-war boom and succeeding decades that mark the social, political, cultural and economic changes in Ottawa and in Canada. Today, it continues to serve as a hub for the Old Ottawa South community.

Context

Southminster United Church is located at the intersection of Bank and Aylmer Streets, overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge. The church's location at the entrance of the Old Ottawa South on the northern boundary makes this a prominent site in the area. Its construction materials, especially the use of Nepean sandstone which would have been quarried just kilometers from the site, create a strong connection to its surroundings.

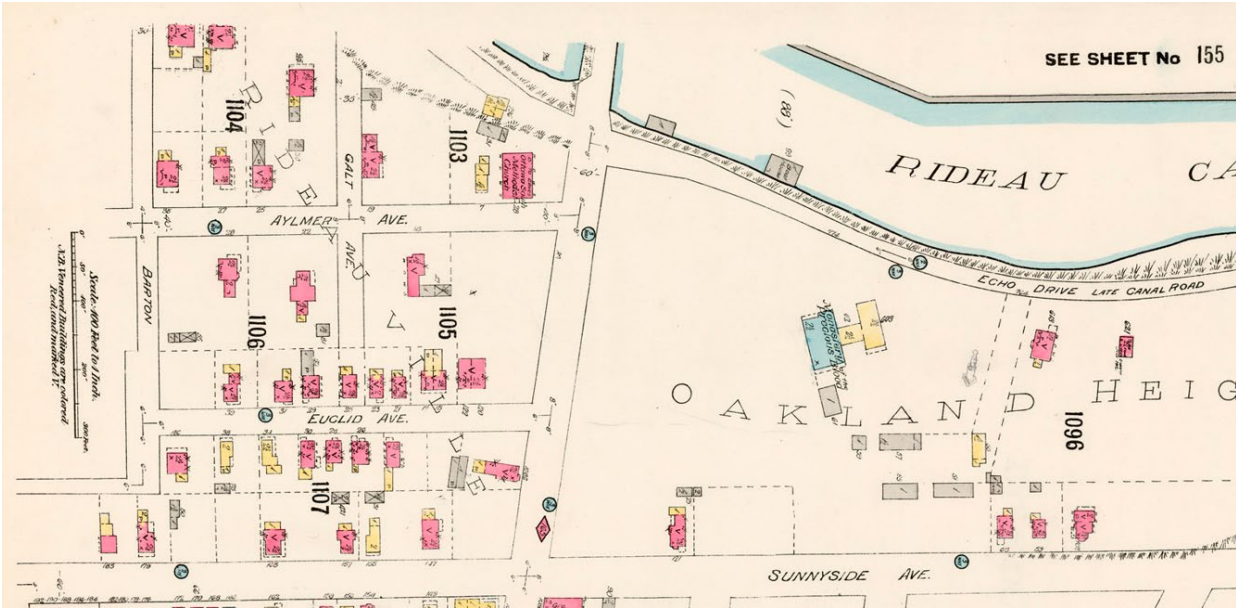
Old Ottawa South is a mature area with about three quarters of its residences constructed before 1950. It is a relatively small neighborhood located between the Rideau Canal to the north, the Rideau River to the south, Avenue Road to the east and Bronson Avenue to the west.

This area was originally settled in 1814 and eventually became known as Rideauville after Confederation and was a residential

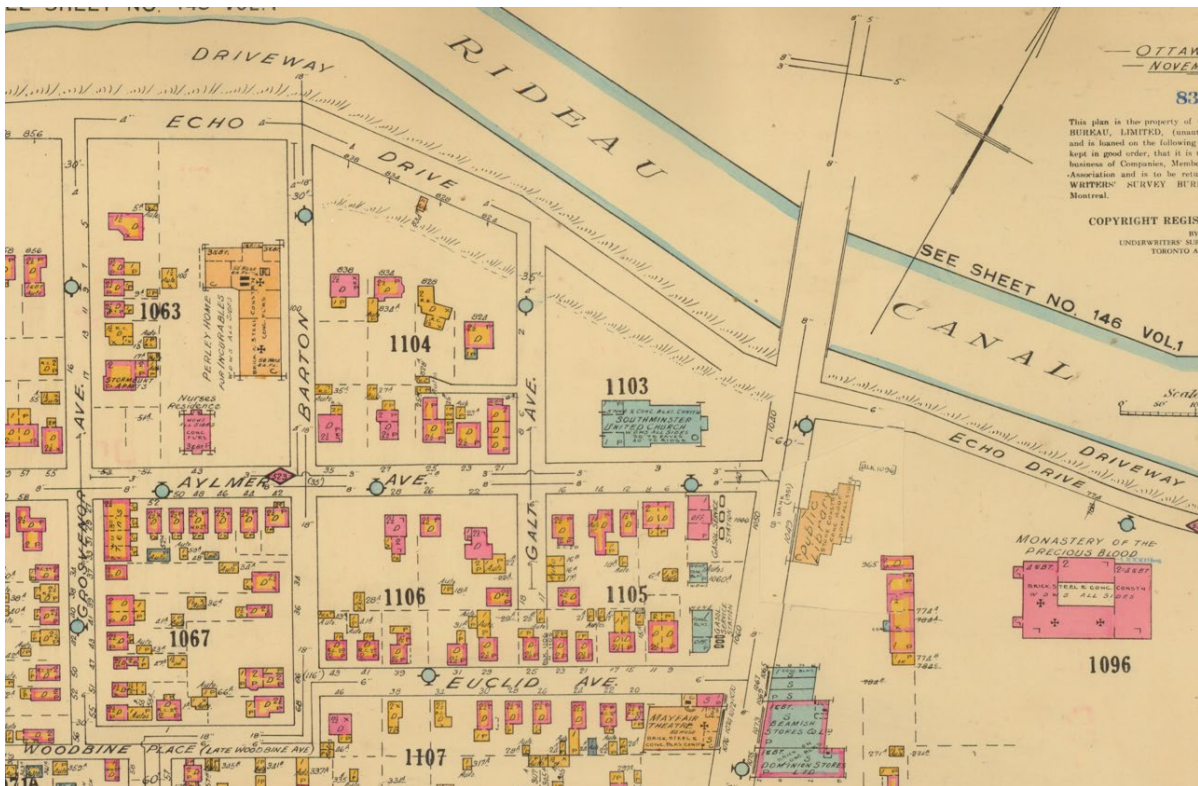


Looking North from front gate of 16 Aylmer Avenue at time first sod was turned for the erection of the new Southminster Church. United Church of Canada.

subdivision of the Nepean Township, made up of predominantly agricultural land¹². Old Ottawa South was annexed into the City of Ottawa in 1907. Following this, the area grew rapidly with the construction of the new Bank Street bridge in 1910, and the extension of the streetcar line¹³. The area became more attractive for development, with several businessmen constructing large suburban county homes along Echo Drive, far removed from the pollution created by Ottawa's lumber industry. However, most of the early homes were modest, wood frame dwellings, housing families engaged in trades, labour and market gardening¹⁴.



1912 Fire Insurance Plan showing Ottawa South Methodist Church the Pre-Amalgamation Church



1912 Fire Insurance Plan showing Southminster United Church

The site also has a visual and contextual relationship to the Rideau Canal. The Rideau Canal was constructed between 1826 and 1832 as part of a military strategy to establish an alternative route to the St. Lawrence River transportation corridor.

Following its construction, without a direct military function, the canal became a busy commercial waterway that connected Montreal to the Great Lakes as it was more easily navigated than the St. Lawrence River. The creation of a series of locks in the St. Lawrence controlled the rapids and commercial traffic returned to the more direct route. As such, during the 1880s, recreational use of the canal began to rise with the use of the waterway for traveling and sightseeing by ferry. By the end of the 19th century, the Rideau Canal was primarily used for recreational activities including boating and skating. At this time, development started to appear along the canal¹⁵.

Physically, functionally, visually and historically, Southminster United Church is innately connected to its surrounding area. Having been located on the same site next to the Canal since its construction, and with its connection to the Methodist that occupied the site before it, it has continuously been a monument in the landscape for over 90 years.

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	Southminster United Church has design value as a representative example of the modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, also known as English Gothic Revival. Many of its features are characteristic of the style including, the symmetrical design, an emphasis on a sense of verticality, devoid of ornate decorative features and the use of cinder block construction with uniformly colored facades of Nepean sandstone. The steeply pitched gable roof, pointed arch windows and doors made of cast stone, and its slate roof are also characteristic of Gothic Revival style, however the church's Latin cross-shaped plan, aligned along an east-west axis, adds a medieval element.
2	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	No	Southminster United Church displays a moderate degree of craftsmanship in its architectural elements.
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,	No	The property does not have direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, or organization that is significant to the community.

	person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a 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 property has historical value because it contributes to the understanding of the United Church in Canada. The Southminster United Church offers information about United Churches in Canada and the union of Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists in Ottawa in the early 20 th century.
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 John Albert Ewart, a well-known architect in Ottawa. His most famous works include the Booth Building, the Wellington Building (former Metropolitan Life Assurance Building), Knox Presbyterian Church at 120 Lisgar Street, and several schools in the area as the main architect for the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board.
7	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	Yes	Southminster United Church has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Old Ottawa South a historic suburb south of downtown Ottawa, which grew rapidly with the construction of the new Bank Street bridge in 1910, and the extension of the streetcar line.

8	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	Yes	Southminster United Church's location at the intersection of Bank and Aylmer, overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this an important site in the area that is historically and visually linked to its surroundings.
9	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	Yes	The property is a landmark in Old Ottawa South, as a gateway to the community with its deep setback and prominent front lawn. The church's distinct architecture, and location overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this a distinguished site.

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Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – Southminster United Church, 1040 Bank Street

Southminster United Church, 1040 Bank Street is a large, gable roofed church constructed of cinderblock and clad in sandstone. The church was built in 1932 and is located at the corner of Bank and Aylmer streets, overlooking the Rideau Canal in the Old Ottawa South neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest

Southminster United Church has design value as a representative example of the modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, also known as the English Gothic Revival style. Many of its features are characteristic of the style including, the symmetrical design, an emphasis on verticality including pointed arch windows and doors, with uniformly coloured façades of Nepean sandstone.

Southminster United Church displays a moderate degree of craftsmanship in its architectural elements. This includes its intricate stonework, impressive wood paneled ceiling and modest motif decoration adapted from Sherbourne Abbey in England. Other elements include with the decorative stonework, the ornamental gates, and stained-glass windows.

The property has historical value as a representative work of local architect John Albert Ewart, a well-known architect in Ottawa. His most famous works include the Booth Building at 185 Sparks Street, the Wellington Building at 180 Wellington Street, Knox Presbyterian Church at 120 Lisgar Street, and several schools in the area as the main architect for the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board. The property also has historical value because it contributes to the understanding of the United Church in Canada, a union of Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists in 1925. Soon after its formation, in 1931, Southminster United Church was established, uniting the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in Ottawa South.

Southminster United Church has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of Old Ottawa South. Southminster United Church's location at the intersection of Bank and Aylmer, overlooking the Rideau Canal, next to the Bank Street Bridge makes this an important site in the area that is historically and visually linked to its surroundings. The property is a landmark in Old Ottawa South, as a gateway to the community with its deep setback and prominent front lawn.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of Southminster United Church as a representative example of the modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style, also known as the English Gothic Revival style include:

- Cruciform plan aligned along an east-west axis
- Two-storey massing;
- Nepean sandstone cladding
- Symmetrical east façade
- Steeply pitched gable roof and its details including:
 - Slate shingles
 - Copper coping around the edge of the roof
 - Stepped parapet
- Pointed arch stained-glass windows with concrete surrounds and horizontal mouldings on the north, west and east façades
- Rose window on the west façade
- Oriel window on the north façade
- Decorative stonework
- Prominent front vestibule including:
 - Tall, ribbed stone arched opening topped with stone accents
 - Ornamental wrought iron gates
 - Ribbed vault with brackets adorned with oak leaves
 - Stone banding
 - Wooden doors
 - Stained glass windows
- Pier buttresses on the north and south facades
- Pointed arch wood doors on the south façade

The key interior elements that contribute to the design and physical value of 1040 Bank Street include:

- Cedar ceiling
- Modest motif decoration adapted from Sherbourne Abbey in England

Key attributes that contribute to the historic value include:

- Ottawa South Methodist Church Cornerstone (1908)
- Calvin Presbyterian Cornerstone (1914)
- Southminster's Cornerstone (1931)

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

- Its location at the corner of Bank and Aylmer Streets

The interior of the building except for the attributes outlined above is excluded from the designation.