

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

Committee Motion

Report / Agenda: City Council ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0014

Item / Article: Designation of Bible House at 315 Lisgar Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Re: Technical amendment to replace the statement of Cultural Heritage Value with a revised document

Moved by / Motion de: Councillor A. Troster

Seconded by: Councillor R. King

WHEREAS the report titled Designation of Bible House at 315 Lisgar Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act was Carried at Built Heritage Committee on January 16 2024; and

WHEREAS members of Built Heritage Committee suggested additional attributes be included in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value; and

WHEREAS the inclusion of the additional heritage attributes strengthens the report seeking to designate this property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that document 5 in report ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0014 be replaced with the amended document 5 version attached

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – Bible House, 315 Lisgar Street

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

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value of Interest

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

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

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

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

Description of Heritage Attributes

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

- Brown brick cladding and stone foundation
- Flat roof and stepped parapet topped in stone
- Segmental arched openings on the east façade

- **Front façade expression including its:**
 - Traditional storefront with a large display window
 - Recessed front entrance
 - Four symmetrical upper storey windows with leading and multiple lights including:
 - Stone window surrounds
 - Lug sills
 - Horizontal stone mullions
 - Undulating stone hood moulding on top of and between windows
 - Decorative metal band with a quatrefoil motif on either end
 - Retractable awning
 - Decorative quatrefoils on either side of the date stone surrounded with decorative brickwork
 - 1922 carved date stone surrounded with decorative brickwork
 - Hammered glass linear grid leaded transom window with Bible House written in stained glass
 - Decorative projecting sign in the shape of a bible that says “Bible House”
 - **Brick piers that extend down the façade**

Key attributes that demonstrate its contextual value include:

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

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