

**Subject: Designation of the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa at 284 King  
Edward Avenue under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

**File Number: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0010**

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on 10 December 2024**

**and Council 22 January 2025**

**Submitted on November 29, 2024 by Court Curry, Manager, Right of Way,  
Heritage, and Urban Design Services, Planning, Development and Building  
Services**

**Contact Person: Ashley Kotarba, Heritage Planner II, Heritage Planning Branch**

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**Ward: Rideau-Vanier (12)**

**Objet: Désignation du l'Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, située au 284,  
avenue King Edward en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le  
patrimoine de l'Ontario***

**Dossier: ACS2024-PRE-RHU-0010**

**Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti**

**le 10 décembre 2024**

**et au Conseil le 22 janvier 2025**

**Soumis le 29 novembre, 2024 par Court Curry, Gestionnaire, Services des  
emprises, du patrimoine, et du design urbain, Direction générale des services de  
la planification, de l'aménagement et du bâtiment**

**Personne ressource: Ashley Kotarba, Planificatrice de patrimoine II, Planification  
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**Quartier: Rideau-Vanier (12)**

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa at 284 King Edward Avenue under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value attached as Document 5.**

## RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

**Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil d'émettre un avis d'intention de désigner l'Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, située au 284, avenue King Edward, 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 présentée dans le document 5 en pièce jointe.**

## BACKGROUND

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

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa was constructed between 1904 and 1920 in Lowertown on the corner of King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street. The church was constructed in the Late Gothic Revival Style and was designed by William James Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm of Richards and Abra, a firm which designed numerous churches in the city.

The property was listed on the City of Ottawa Heritage Register in 2017. 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 January 1, 2027. Further, Council will not be able to re-list the property for five years after this date.

In 2020, City Council approved a [Zoning Bylaw Amendment](#) to change the zoning from Minor Institutional (I1A) to Traditional Main Street (TM). This would allow for a wider variety of uses on the site in the future. At the time of the application, heritage staff stated that while this property was a strong candidate for designation, a designation report would follow at a later date, since the property was already listed on the Heritage Register. Given the Bill 23 timelines, the Department has decided to move forward with the designation report.

In March 2024, the Built Heritage Committee recommended that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designation this property. In April 2024 Council referred this matter back to BHC to provide the owner and City staff additional time to consider development

scenarios and prepare an updated staff report that considers the heritage conservation and adaptive re-use of the church and surrounding property.

Throughout the course of 2024, Heritage and Planning staff met with the owner and their team to discuss possible redevelopment concepts which include the subject property, and some adjacent lots. The property owner would like to market the sale of the property along with its neighbours to a developer, who would include the church building into a development. As the owners have indicated that they do not intend to make any applications under the Planning Act, heritage planning staff have agreed to continue to work collaboratively on a solution that recognizes the significance of the site, its redevelopment potential and potential barriers to redevelopment. This could take the form of a series of conservation design principles to guide future development of this site. These principles may assist in marketing the property for sale to a potential buyer.

Given the statutory limitations due to changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, staff recommend that Council proceed with the designation of this property at this time. The designation of this property as described in this report does not preclude its redevelopment. Staff are supportive of the concept of an adaptive reuse of the church building and its incorporation into a future development as has been seen on other similar sites including former St. Charles Church at 135 Barrette Street (St. Charles Market) and the recently approved redevelopment at the former All Saints Church at 315 Chapel Street. Should a future redevelopment proposal come forward from the current or a future owner, it can be considered through the application to alter process under Section 33 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

## **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*." and Section 4.5.1 (10) states: "The City shall immediately consider the designation of any resource of cultural heritage value under the Ontario Heritage Act if that resource is threatened with demolition."

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

Through research and evaluation, staff have determined that the Église évangélique baptiste d’Ottawa at 284 King Edward Avenue meets seven 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.**

Constructed in 1904 with a considerable addition built between 1919 and 1920, the Église évangélique baptiste d’Ottawa is a representative example of church architecture influenced by the Late Gothic Revival style, a popular style in Ottawa during the interwar

period and often used for institutional buildings. The style is a simplified version, often including characteristic elements of Gothic Revival, while in a manner that met modern building requirements. Typical of the style, the church features a dichromatic material palette using primarily red brick with simple stone detailing, a steeply pitched roof and prominent tower, buttressing and, leaded tracery windows.

**The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.**

The earliest part of the building, the Gospel Hall, was constructed in 1904 on the northern part of the site and was rolled across the lot in 1919 to the southern edge. This was an uncommon practice for this era, displaying a high degree of technical merit.

**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 Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is directly associated with the growth of evangelical Baptists in Ottawa and Reverend George Rainboth McFaul, a champion of Baptist culture in Canada.

As the first French Baptists congregation in Ottawa, MacFaul and his supporters were instrumental in establishing French Baptist missions in the Ottawa Valley. MacFaul mentored pastors, biblemen and biblewomen, encouraging them to join him in his work.

**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 Baptist Church in Canada. The offers information about French speaking Baptists in Canada and the growth of Baptist congregations in Ottawa. The church was the first French Baptist Church in Ontario.

**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 church is directly associated with architect William James Abra. In 1919, the congregation engaged Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm Richards and Abra to design the new church that would incorporate the existing Gospel Hall.

Richards and Abra were a prolific firm in Ottawa, designing churches, hotels and apartment buildings. The firm specialized in educational buildings and is responsible for the design of more than 50 schools in eastern Ontario.

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

The church is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting the neighbourhood's eclectic mix of buildings dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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

The property has contextual value as it is physically and historically linked to its surroundings as one of several early 20th century institutional buildings on King Edward Avenue including the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue (1904), now the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hydro Station No. 4 (1931) and the Champagne Bath (1922). The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is also functionally linked to the Francophone community in Lowertown, having continuously provided French services since its establishment at the beginning of the 20th century.

### **Conclusion**

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa meets seven 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.

### **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

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

## **CONSULTATION**

The property owner was advised of the proposed designation of this property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on July 31, 2023. The property owner does not support the proposed designation of this property.

Staff are aware that the owners have concerns about the designation as related to perceived potential impacts to the sale and redevelopment of the site. The intention of the designation is not to prevent any future development and should alterations or development be proposed, a heritage permit would be required to alter the building, and staff would review any proposal against the attributes outlined in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value.

## **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 IMPLICATIONS**

There are no asset management implications for 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 284 King Edward Avenue, several actions must be taken:

- 1) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Development and Building Services 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, 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3) of Council's decision to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa at 284 King Edward Avenue under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- 2) Heritage Planning Branch, Planning, Development and Building Services 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, Development and Building Services 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, Planning, Development and Building Services, 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, Development and Building Services 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*.

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.

\* Note: Pursuant to the Delegation of Authority By-law (By-law No. 2024-265), Schedule "C", Section 8, the City Clerk has authorized the clerical correction of a Council deliberation date of "January 22, 2025." This amended version of the report was distributed and published on December 2, 2024.s

# Document 1- Location Map



		LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE	
D09-01KING284	23-0737-D	 <b>284 av. King Edward Avenue</b>	
I:\COI\2023\Heritage\KingEdward_284			
<small>Official data is owned by Teramet Enterprises Inc. and its suppliers. All rights reserved. May not be produced without permission. THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY. Les données de parcelles appartiennent à Teramet Enterprises Inc. et à ses fournisseurs. Tous droits réservés. Ne peut être reproduit sans autorisation. CECI N'EST PAS UN PLAN D'ARPENTAGE</small>			
REVISION / RÉVISION - 2023 / 08 / 15			

**Document 2 – Photos**



King Edward Avenue looking south at Clarence Street. Source: Google Streetview, October 2021



King Edward Avenue looking north at York Street. Source: Google Streetview, October 2021



Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, King Edward Avenue at Clarence Street. Source: Google Streetview 2023



Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, King Edward Avenue at Clarence Street. Source: Google Streetview 2021



North façade of the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa. Source: City of Ottawa, 2023



Gospel Hall of the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa. Source: Google Streetview 2021

## 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, 2020-2023

**Building Name and Address:** Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, 284 King Edward Avenue

**Construction Date:** Gospel Hall: 1904, new church: 1919-20

**Original Owner:** French Baptist Church/ Église baptiste française



**Executive Summary**

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa was constructed in 1904 with a substantial addition in 1919-20 in Lowertown on the corner of King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street. The church was constructed in the Late Gothic Revival Style and was designed by William James Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm of Richards and Abra, a firm which designed numerous churches in the city.

The church's first reverend was George Rainboth McFaul, a champion of Baptist culture in Canada. Throughout his career, he and his supporters were instrumental in establishing French Baptist missions in the Ottawa Valley.

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa offers information about French speaking Baptists in Canada and the growth of Baptist congregations in Ottawa. The church's construction in Lowertown illustrates the importance of the Franco-Ontarian community in Lowertown and the growth of the French Baptist community in this part of Ottawa.

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

## Architecture



Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa. Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec P32,S1,D1,P4

The French Baptist Church, now known as the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa was constructed in 1904 as a Gospel Hall, and later expanded between 1919 and 1920. The building is an example of the Late Gothic Revival Style. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Late Gothic Revival churches were clearly derived from medieval examples, however, by the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, architects chose to use elements of the Gothic style, such as pointed arch windows, buttresses and towers to embellish their churches and evoke the character of the more complex example of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The simplification of the design was part of a widespread movement away from the Revival styles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup>

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is a red brick structure with limestone details and a stone foundation. It has asymmetrical façades with a low square tower at the northeast corner. It features a steeply pitched gable roof, brick buttresses that are

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<sup>1</sup> Kalman, Harold. *A History of Canadian Architecture, Concise Edition*. Oxford University Press. 2000

separated on the east and west façades by segmental arched windows with brick voussoirs and limestone keystones.



Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa under construction (1919-1920). Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec P32,S1,D1,P9



North façade. Source: City of Ottawa, 2023

The north façade features a parapet containing a small crest with the Latin words *Fiat Lux*, meaning “*Let there be light.*”, the motto for the Grande Ligne Mission.<sup>2</sup> The north wall also features a central rose window with a bible in the centre, segmental arched windows with stone and keystones and brick voussoirs. There is a tall rectangular window with leaded glass and tracery in the corner tower. The church features two memorial windows for former congregation members fallen during the First World War.<sup>3</sup>



Corner stone ceremony, July 1, 1919. Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec P32,S1,D9,P1

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<sup>2</sup> “French Baptist Church, Ottawa”. *The Canadian Baptist*, April 8, 1920: Page 2

<sup>3</sup> “Unveiling Memorial Windows at French Baptist Church Opening” *The Ottawa Journal*, 25 February 25, 1920: Page 2.



Cornerstone. Source: City of Ottawa, 2023

The Ottawa Journal, July 2, 1919



Left: Gospel Hall. Source: Google Streetview, 2021

The south end of the building contains the former Gospel Hall, a simple gable-roof structure with a row of rectangular windows. The Gospel Hall was erected in 1904 to house the growing Baptist congregation. Originally located at the corner of King Edward



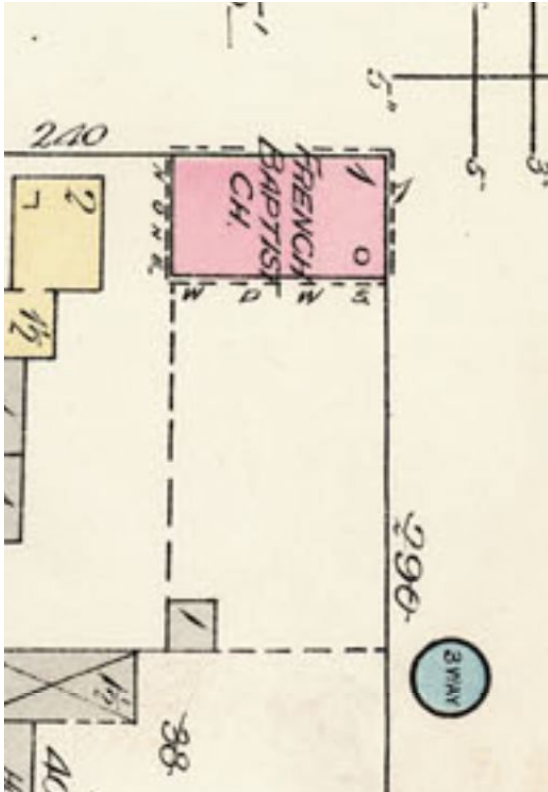
Avenue and Clarence Street, it was moved to its present location in 1919 by rolling it across the site, an uncommon practice for the time. The Gospel Hall would be incorporated into the new church, serving as the Sunday School.<sup>4</sup>



Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa, relocation of the Gospel Hall, 19-19-1920.  
Source: Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec P32,S1,D16,P3

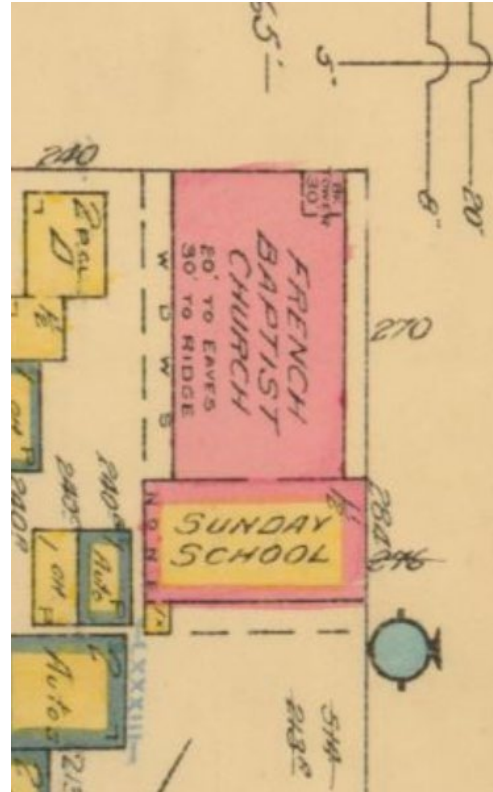
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<sup>4</sup> "Unveiling Memorial Windows at French Baptist Church Opening" *The Ottawa Journal*, 25 February 25, 1920: Page 2.



Fire Insurance Plan, 1912

Gospel Hall is located to the north



Fire Insurance Plan, 1948

Gospel Hall is located to the south

Changes to the building over the years include replacing many of the diamond-shaped leaded glass windows, obscuring the crenellated parapet on the tower with flashing, changing the wooden doors, and removing the balcony from the Gospel Hall.

## Architect/Builder

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa was designed by William James Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm of Richards and Abra in 1919-20. The firm was commissioned to design a larger church for the Baptists and to repurpose the existing Gospel Hall to form part of the new structure. Abra designed the new church building based on the Gospel Hall.

William James Abra was born in Ayr, Ontario in 1882 and attended school in Toronto. After high school, Abra took courses in architecture and became a draftsman in 1903. Abra moved to Ottawa in 1907 and worked briefly for the architecture firms of Horwood and Taylor and Weeks and Keefer before beginning his long-term partnership with Hugh Richards in 1913.

Richards and Abra were a prolific firm in Ottawa, designing churches, hotels and apartment buildings including the Duncannon Apartments and the Mayfair Apartments on Metcalfe Street. The firm specialized in educational buildings and is responsible for the design of more than 50 schools in eastern Ontario. Richards and Abra undertook several church commissions including the Bronson Avenue Baptist Church (1914), the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa (1919-20), Eastview Baptist Church (1924) and the Westminster Presbyterian Church (1931-32).<sup>5</sup>

## History

In 1890 and 1891, limited Baptist services were offered in French in Ottawa and Hull through the Feller Institute. The Institute was a mission out of Grande Ligne, Quebec that focused on the evangelization of citizens, specifically Roman Catholics. This was the beginning of the French Baptist movement in the Outaouais region.

French services were offered again in 1901 at the First Baptist Church on Laurier Avenue West. As interest grew, services were moved to Clarence Street for 15 months. A larger hall was secured in 1903 at 504 Sussex. After a year, services moved to 186 Rideau Street for six months. At this time, the Gospel Hall was built and opened at King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street. By November of 1904, Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa had 24 members.<sup>6</sup>

By 1914, the Gospel Hall was crowded and efforts to build a larger church began. All 127 church members were asked to donate funds toward a new building. The First World War caused delays, but plans moved ahead, and construction began in spring 1919. The cornerstone was laid by the senior deacon of the church, Mr. Louis Blais, at a bilingual Dominion Day ceremony attended by Abra and MacFaul on July 1, 1919. The new church was estimated to cost \$27,000 and was to stand at the site of the old Gospel Hall.<sup>7</sup>

The new church was dedicated on Feb 29, 1920. At that time, there were 145 members and 160 students enrolled in Sunday school. When it opened, the building had “the distinction of being the only French Baptist church in the Province of Ontario.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Abra, William James. Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada: 1800-1950. [dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/6](http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/6)

<sup>6</sup> “French Baptist Church grew from missionary effort started nearly quarter century ago.” *The Ottawa Journal*, 7 March 1914: Page 9.

<sup>7</sup> “Unveiling Memorial Windows at French Baptist Church Opening” *The Ottawa Journal*, 25 February 25, 1920: Page 2

<sup>8</sup> “Unveiling Memorial Windows at French Baptist Church Opening” *The Ottawa Journal*, 25 February 25, 1920: Page 2

The church is directly associated with Reverend George Rainboth McFaul (1869 – 1930), a champion of Baptist culture in Canada. MacFaul was an anglophone who taught himself French and was devoted to the Baptist evangelization of French Roman Catholics.



The Ottawa Journal, March 7, 1914

Reverend McFaul was born in Point Fortune, Quebec in 1869, moved with his family to Niagara Falls in 1884 and converted to the Baptist faith at age 16. He studied at the Feller Institute, a Protestant college in Grande Ligne, Quebec. As a student at the Feller Institute, he provided English, French and bilingual services to Protestants across the Ottawa Valley including Baptist missions in Canaan, Hull, Ottawa and Otter Lake. MacFaul graduated in 1891 and went on to receive a BA and an MA from McMaster University, a Baptist institution based in Toronto at that time. He and Amy Guliema Wilmot married in 1896 and they had three children.

MacFaul worked as a pastor in Toronto and in Clarence-Rockland before moving to Ottawa in 1901 where he visited houses and offered French services at the First Baptist Church in Centretown, meanwhile continuing to serve families in Rockland and Hull.<sup>9</sup> In 1903, Reverend MacFaul offered French and bilingual services on Clarence Street, later moving services to a larger hall on Sussex Drive, then to Rideau Street and finally at the Gospel Hall at the intersection of Clarence Street and King Edward Avenue that now forms part of the subject property.

<sup>9</sup> Unveiling Memorial Windows at French Baptist Church Opening” *The Ottawa Journal*, 25 February 25, 1920: Page 2

MacFaul and his supporters were instrumental in establishing French Baptist missions in the Ottawa Valley. Baptists believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord, and that God communicates his will through the Bible. The mission of evangelists is to share God's message with everyone.<sup>10</sup> MacFaul mentored pastors, biblemen and biblewomen, encouraging them to join him. Numbers grew steadily. The Église évangélique baptiste began in Ottawa in 1903 and the Hull Baptist Church formed in 1916. MacFaul wrote brochures and authored a book entitled Is there Salvation Outside the Roman Catholic Church? MacFaul continued mission work in Brownsburg, Quebec and in Otter Lake, Ontario. He was involved with the Association des Églises baptistes françaises, the Canadian Baptists of Ontario & Quebec, and a number of other Baptist organizations.

Reverend MacFaul is interred at Beechwood cemetery in Ottawa alongside other missionaries who worked evangelically with the Francophone community.

## Context



Aerial Photo, Source: GeoOttawa, 1928

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is located on the eastern edge of present-day Lowertown West, at the intersection of King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street. King

<sup>10</sup> Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec. [Home - Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec](#)

Edward Avenue today divides Lowertown into East and West sectors. However, in 1920, when this church was completed, King Edward Avenue was a tree-lined thoroughfare with a boulevard running through the heart of the Lowertown neighbourhood.



King Edward Avenue at York Street looking north. Source: Library and Archives Canada 4170086

The *Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa* offers information about two communities; the Lowertown neighbourhood and the French Baptist community. The history of Lowertown is the history of generations of Ottawa's working people, both French and English speaking, and the physical record of that social history, represented in buildings such as the *Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa*.

The *Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa* also offers information about French speaking Baptists in Canada and the growth of Baptist congregations in Ottawa. A French-speaking membership grew based on mission work in the Ottawa area.

The church's construction in Lowertown illustrates the growth of the French Baptist community in this part of Ottawa. The *Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa* served a bilingual congregation continuously until the 1980s when linguistic tensions caused the services to be offered exclusively in French.

Lowertown, including the ByWard Market, is a mixed-use area with a variety of architectural styles from several eras. As an example of a Late Gothic Revival church from the interwar years, the *Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa* is important in

maintaining the historic character of Lowertown and its eclectic mix of buildings from several eras. The red brick building has been a dominant feature along King Edward Avenue for a century. Its age, style and construction materials maintain the historic character of Lowertown.



Clarence Street at King Edward looking west. Source: Library and Archives Canada 4101940



South side of Clarence Street. Source: City of Ottawa, 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	Constructed in 1904 with a considerable addition built between 1919 and 1920, the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is a representative example of church architecture influenced by the Late Gothic Revival style, a popular style in Ottawa during the interwar period and often used for institutional buildings. The style is a simplified version, often including characteristic elements of Gothic Revival. Typical of the style, the church features a dichromatic material palette using primarily red brick with simple stone detailing, a steeply pitched roof and prominent tower, buttressing and, leaded tracery windows.
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.
3	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of technical or scientific merit.	Y	The earliest part of the building, the Gospel Hall was constructed in 1904 on the northern part of the site, and was rolled across the lot in 1919 to the southern edge. This was an uncommon practice for this era, displaying a degree of technical merit.
4	The property has historical or associative value because it has	Y	The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is directly associated with the growth of evangelical Baptists in Ottawa

	direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.		<p>and Reverend George Rainboth McFaul, a champion of Baptist culture in Canada.</p> <p>As the first French Baptists congregation in Ottawa, MacFaul and his supporters were instrumental in establishing French Baptist missions in the Ottawa Valley. MacFaul mentored pastors, biblemen and biblewomen, encouraging them to join him in his his work.</p>
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 property has historical value because it contributes to the understanding of the Baptist Church in Canada. The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa offers information about French speaking Baptists in Canada and the growth of Baptist congregations in Ottawa. The church was the first French Baptist Church in Ontario.
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	<p>The church is directly associated with architect William James Abra. In 1919, the congregation engaged Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm Richards and Abra to design the new church that would incorporate the existing Gospel Hall.</p> <p>Richards and Abra were a prolific firm in Ottawa, designing churches, hotels and apartment buildings. The firm specialized in educational buildings and is responsible for the design of more than 50 schools in eastern Ontario.</p>

7	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	Y	The church is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting the neighbourhood's eclectic mix of buildings dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries.
8	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	Y	The property has contextual value as it is physically and historically linked to its surroundings as one of several early 20th century institutional buildings on King Edward Avenue including the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue (1904), now the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hydro Station No. 4 (1931) and the Champagne Bath (1922). The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is also functionally linked to the Francophone community in Lowertown, having continuously provided French services since its establishment at the beginning of the 20th century.
9	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	N	The property does not meet this criterion. While the church has been a dominant feature along King Edward Avenue for a century, its low scale means the building is not prominent on such a busy thoroughfare.

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## **Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – 284 King Edward Avenue**

#### **Description of Property**

The French Baptist Church also known as the Église baptiste française, now the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa at 284 King Edward Avenue is a red brick structure with limestone details and stone foundation. The Gospel Hall was built in 1904 and the sanctuary and tower were added to the site in 1919-20. The site is located at the southwest corner of Clarence Street and King Edward Avenue in Ottawa's Lowertown neighbourhood.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The cultural heritage value of the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa is found in its design value as a representative example of interwar church architecture with Late Gothic Revival influences, its historical association with the Ottawa's French Baptist community, and its contextual value as one of several red brick institutional buildings on King Edward Avenue.

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa has design value as a representative example of interwar church architecture influenced by the Late Gothic Revival style, a style that was popular in Ottawa during the interwar period and often used for institutional buildings. Typical of the style, the church features a dichromatic material palette using primarily red brick with simple stone detailing, a steeply pitched roof and prominent tower, buttressing and, leaded glass windows with tracery. The earliest part of the building, the Gospel Hall, was constructed in 1904 on the northern part of the site and was rolled across the lot in 1919 to the southern edge. This was an uncommon practice for this era, displaying a degree of technical merit.

The church has cultural heritage value for its association with local architect William James Abra. In 1919, the congregation engaged Abra of the Ottawa architectural firm Richards and Abra to design the new church that would incorporate the existing Gospel Hall. It was the first French Baptist Church in Ontario.

The Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa has historical value for its associations with the establishment and growth of French Baptism in Ottawa and with francophone history in Lowertown. Baptist pastor, Reverend George Rainboth McFaul first held French services in a rented hall on Clarence Street in 1901. Over the next three years, he would hold services in various locations around Lowertown until the growing congregation purchased the property at the corner of King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street and built a Gospel Hall in 1904. As the congregation continued to grow,

funds were raised to move the hall from the corner of Clarence and King Edward to the rear of the lot in order to build a new, larger church building on the site in 1919.

The church has contextual value as it is physically and historically linked to its surroundings as one of several early 20<sup>th</sup> century institutional buildings on King Edward Avenue including the former Adath Jeshurun Synagogue (1904), Hydro Station No. 4 (1931) and the Champagne Bath (1922).

It is also functionally linked to the Francophone community in Lowertown, having continuously provided French services since its establishment at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The church is important in maintaining the historic character of Lowertown, reflecting the neighbourhood's eclectic mix of buildings dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following attributes that express the cultural heritage value of the Église évangélique baptiste d'Ottawa as an example of interwar church architecture with Late Gothic Revival influences:

- Red brick cladding and stone foundation
- Asymmetrical north façade
- Steeply pitched gable roof
- Brick details including buttresses and voussoirs
- Limestone details including keystones
- Brick parapet on the north façade topped with dressed stone and a small crest stone at the top of the gable
- Variety of asymmetrically arranged windows including:
  - Segmentally arched triple windows on the east and west façades
  - Multipaned windows on the north façade
  - Tall rectangular windows on the tower with cathedral glass and tracery
  - A central rose memorial window with tracery and stained glass, dedicated to former member of the congregation Edmund C. Lawrence, killed in the First World War
  - Stained glass memorial window to former member of the congregation George Reymond, killed in the First World War
- The square tower at the north east corner featuring:
  - main entrance with segmental arched double paneled wood doors
  - tapered stone corbels with stringcourse
  - stepped corner piers and louvered openings



- The south wing, containing the original Gospel Hall with its:
  - simple, front gable roof
  - row of rectangular windows

The contextual value of the French Baptist Church is embodied in its prominent location at the southwest corner of King Edward Avenue and Clarence Street.

The designation is limited to the footprint and envelope of the church. The interior of the building is excluded.