

**Subject: Designation of the former Vernon Schoolhouse, 8682 Bank Street  
under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

**File Number: ACS2025-PDB-RHU-0038**

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on September 9, 2025  
and Council September 24, 2025**

**Submitted on August 28, 2025 by Court Curry, Manager, Right of Way, Heritage,  
and Urban Design Services, Planning, Development and Building Services**

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**Ward: Osgoode (20)**

**Objet : Désignation de l'ancienne école de rang Vernon (Vernon  
Schoolhouse), située au 8682, rue Bank, aux termes de la Partie IV de  
la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

**Dossier : ACS2025-PDB-RHU-0038**

**Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti**

**le 9 septembre 2025**

**et au Conseil le 24 septembre 2025**

**Soumis le 28 août 2025 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**

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**Quartier : Osgoode (20)**

## REPORT RECOMMENDATION

**That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 8682 Bank Street 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 de l'urbanisme recommande au Conseil municipal de publier un avis d'intention de désigner l'ancienne école de rang Vernon, situé au 8682, rue Bank, en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, conformément à la déclaration de valeur patrimoniale comprise au 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.

The property at 8682 Bank Street is a one-storey, front gable, red brick building on the west side of Bank Street in Vernon, Osgoode. The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative, and contextual values. It meets four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the OHA.

The property is owned by the City of Ottawa and is the Vernon Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). This property was listed on the City's Heritage Register in 2019. Changes to the OHA through Bill 23 (2023) and Bill 200 (2024) will result in the removal of this 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 relist the property for five years after this date. Heritage staff completed a review of all non-designated properties listed on the City's Heritage Register in response to Bill 23 in Spring of 2023 and this property was identified as a potential candidate for designation.

## DISCUSSION

The Official Plan, Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), and the OHA all provide policy direction related to the designation of individual properties under Part IV of the OHA.

### Official Plan

The following Official Plan policies in Section 4.5, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology are related to this application:

- 4.5.1(3): Individual buildings, structures, and sites shall be designated as properties of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

- 4.5.3(7): The City shall protect, improve and manage City-owned built heritage resources in a manner that achieves or supports the heritage objectives of this Plan and sets an example of leadership in the conservation and stewardship of heritage resources.
- 4.5.3(8) The City shall designate City-owned built heritage resources that meet the criteria under the *Ontario Heritage Act* where appropriate and may prepare conservation plans for their maintenance.

### **Provincial Planning Statement (2024)**

Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) contains the following policy regarding the protection of cultural heritage resources: “Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.”

Section 4.6 of the Provincial Planning Statement includes the following policy regarding the conservation of heritage resources:

4. Planning authorities are encouraged to develop and implement:

*b) proactive strategies for conserving built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes*

Policies within the City’s Official Plan, as described above, direct the designation of significant properties and comply with this policy.

Should City Council designate the property outlined in this report, it would be considered “protected heritage property” for the purposes of the PPS 2024. The PPS includes the following policy related to protected heritage property:

*4.6 (1) Protected heritage property, which may contain built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes, shall be conserved.*

### **Ontario Heritage Act**

Part IV of the OHA 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 by-law 2002-522, as amended, the Notice of Intention to Designate will be published online on the City's website in both official languages. Document 5 contains the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for this property.

### **Ontario Regulation 9/06**

Regulation 9/06 (see Document 3) establishes criteria to determine if a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the 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 8682 Bank Street meets four of the nine criteria. Detailed research and analysis are outlined in the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (see Document 4), and a brief analysis of each of the applicable criteria is provided below:

**The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method:**

The former Vernon Schoolhouse at 8682 Bank Street has design value because it is a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century found in villages across Ottawa. The features of the former Vernon Schoolhouse that reflect the one-room-schoolhouse typology include its one storey massing, brick cladding, symmetrical front façade with front gable roofline, date stone, and belfry.

**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:**

The former Vernon Schoolhouse has historical value because it has direct associations with the theme of rural public education in the Ottawa area. The building at 8682 Bank Street was purpose-built as S.S. No. 20 Vernon School in 1882 shortly after the introduction of new legislation from provincial authorities in the mid-nineteenth century which included the establishment of free and mandatory schooling for children aged eight to 14, a provincially-approved curriculum, regulatory requirements for teacher training, and guidelines for the design and maintenance of the school buildings. The former Vernon schoolhouse reflects the provincial educational reforms in the mid-nineteenth century through its documented student attendance, required qualifications for teachers, visits from provincially appointed school inspectors, and

physical design. The property has historical value because it is associated with the Vernon Library which first opened in 1900 and has been housed in the former Vernon Schoolhouse since 1972.

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

The former Vernon Schoolhouse has contextual value because it is important in defining and supporting the rural village character of Vernon as part of a cluster of institutional brick and stone buildings from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century located along the village's main street, Bank Street.

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

Purpose-built as the community's one-room-schoolhouse, the property has contextual value because it is historically, functionally and visually linked to the settlement and growth of the rural village of Vernon. The establishment of the former Vernon Schoolhouse can be attributed to the growing population of Vernon in the mid-nineteenth century. Its location provides insight into the pioneer families who settled nearby and whose children attended the school. The former Vernon Schoolhouse is visually linked to its rural surroundings, as a well-preserved example of the one-room schoolhouse typology which were built in rural villages across Ottawa. Formerly the community's one-room schoolhouse, 8682 Bank Street remains an important gathering space today.

**Conclusion**

The property at 8682 Bank Street meets four of the nine criteria for designation outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06 for designation under Part IV of the OHA. Staff recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the property under Part IV of the OHA.

**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**

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendations of this report. Heritage Planning staff reached out to Councillor Skalski by email on July 30, 2025, and answered questions related to the heritage designation of properties.

## **CONSULTATION**

The subject property is owned by the City of Ottawa and is currently the Vernon Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). Corporate Real Estate was notified of the proposed designation by letter, and both Corporate Real Estate and OPL were notified by email on July 29, 2025. The letter and email included information about the designation process, instructions on how to participate and an offer to meet with staff to discuss and answer any questions. The Vernon Community Association and Heritage Ottawa were both notified of the proposed designation by email on July 30, 2025.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

The designation of this property under the OHA does not impact the physical fabric of the buildings. 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.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The implementation of the Comprehensive Asset Management program enables the City to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risk, and provide safe and reliable levels of service to community users. This is done in a socially, culturally, environmentally, and economically conscious manner. Renewal of heritage designated facilities and assets may result in increased costs and or schedule to secure heritage specialists, specialized materials, and craftsmanship to maintain the cultural heritage value of the asset. These factors should be considered when prioritizing and scheduling tax-supported renewal projects for OPL facilities.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk implications.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The property is located within the rural transect as classified in the City of Ottawa Official Plan and is part of the rural village core under Schedule B9 (Rural Transect). The designation of 8682 Bank Street will contribute to the protection and enhancement

of Vernon's rural village character.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 Location Map

Document 2 Photos

Document 3 Ontario Regulation 9/06

Document 4 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

Document 5 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

## **DISPOSITION**

If Council does not carry 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 8682 Bank Street, 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 property at 8682 Bank Street 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, Development and Building Services 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, 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*.

Document 1 – Location Map



LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION  
HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE

ACS2025-PDB-RHU-0038

25-1023-H

I:\CO\2025\One\_Offs\Bank\_8682



**8682 rue Bank Street**

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REVISION / RÉVISION - 2025 / 07 / 31



**Document 2 – Photos**



**East (front) elevation of property. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2025)**



**Bank Street with property on west (left) side. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2025)**



**East (front) façade. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2024)**



**South elevation. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2024)**



**North elevation. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2024)**



**West (rear) elevation. (City of Ottawa Staff, 2024)**

## Document 3 – Ontario Regulation 9/06

### 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

### Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: 8682 Bank Street

Date: July 2025

Prepared by: Heritage Staff



City of Ottawa Staff (2025)

### Executive Summary

The former Vernon Schoolhouse at 8682 Bank Street is a one storey red brick building built in 1882 in Vernon, Ottawa. The former Vernon Schoolhouse has design value because it is a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century found in villages across Ottawa, exemplified by its one storey massing, brick cladding, symmetrical front façade with front gable roofline, date stone, and belfry. Purpose-built as the community's one-room-schoolhouse, the property has historical value because it has direct associations with the theme of rural public education in Ottawa and the provincial educational reforms in the mid-nineteenth century. The property is also associated with Vernon's library which first opened in 1900 and has been housed in the former Vernon Schoolhouse since 1972. The former Vernon Schoolhouse has contextual value because it is important in defining and supporting the rural village character of Vernon as part of a cluster of institutional brick

and stone buildings from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century located along the village’s main street, Bank Street. The property is functionally, historically and visually linked to its surroundings.

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

**Introduction**



Property parcel for 8682 Bank Street demarcated in red outline. GeoOttawa (2022). 8682 Bank Street is located on the west side of Bank Street, north of the intersection of Bank Street and Lawrence Street. The property is located in Vernon within Ward 20, Osgoode, Ottawa.

<b>Criterion 1</b>	
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.	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
The former Vernon Schoolhouse at 8682 Bank Street has design value because it is a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century found in villages across Ottawa. The features of the Vernon Schoolhouse that reflect the one-room-schoolhouse typology include its one storey	

massing, brick cladding, symmetrical front façade with front gable roofline, date stone, and belfry.

### ***Supporting Details – Criterion 1***

#### Architectural Style and Overview

The former Vernon Schoolhouse has design value as a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century, characterized by its one storey massing, brick cladding, symmetrical front façade with front gable roofline, date stone, and belfry. The front (east) façade of the property features a veranda with pediment, and stairs leading up to the central entrance door with two windows on either side. The front gable features a wooden trim with an inverted scallop design. The north and south elevations each include three windows. A stone exterior wall chimney and a small cinderblock shed are attached to the building at the rear. The rear (west) façade also includes a single door and a few steps. The property contains several mature trees and generous side and rear yard space.



Front elevation facing east. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Side of building facing south. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Back of building facing west. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Side elevation facing north. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Stone marker located on 8682 Bank Street building on front façade, reading “S. S. No. 20 A. D. 1882”. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Front façade of 8682 Bank Street showing entrance, veranda with pediment, bargeboard under front gable and stone foundation. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Wooden belfry and metal roof. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).

### Architectural Style Description & Canadian Context

The first schoolhouses built by settlers across Canada were made with locally available materials and were usually log structures.<sup>1</sup> The earliest schoolhouse interiors had long, narrow benches for seating, propped up boards serving as desks, a large blackboard at one end of the room, and no heating. Children used slates and chalk to write as paper was expensive at the time.<sup>2</sup> These early schoolhouses, built prior to the mid-1800s, were private or run by church institutions.

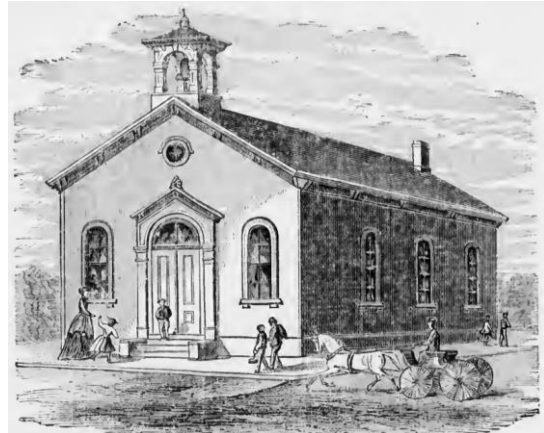
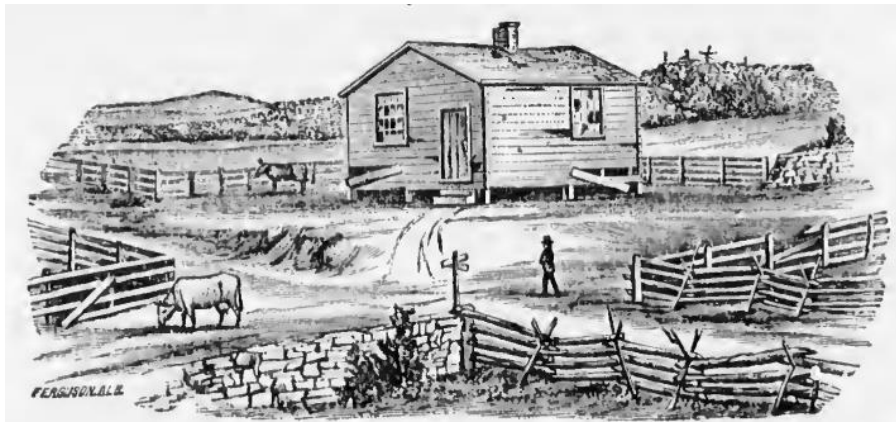
Provincial authorities responsible for education, known as the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada between 1850 and 1876, were concerned by the state of education in Ontario in the early nineteenth century, including the physical quality of school buildings, spurring an educational reform.<sup>3</sup> In 1857, the Department of Public Instruction published the first manual for school design, “The School House: Its Architecture, Internal and External Arrangements”. The manual’s purpose was clearly stated in its preface – “to render the rural or village school what it ought ever to be —

<sup>1</sup> Cochrane, J. (1981) *The One-Room School in Canada*.

<sup>2</sup> Cochrane, J. (1981) *The One-Room School in Canada*.

<sup>3</sup> Ontario Heritage Trust. (2006). <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/pages/programs/provincial-plaque-program/provincial-plaque-background-papers/red-brick-school>; University of Toronto OISE, (2025). OISE's Ontario Historical Education Collections (OHEC) [https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=5179115#:~:text=Department%20of%20Public%20Instruction%20\(1850,until%20his%20retirement%20in%201876](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=5179115#:~:text=Department%20of%20Public%20Instruction%20(1850,until%20his%20retirement%20in%201876).

the most attractive spot in the neighbourhood”, and included plans for collegiate institutes, high, intermediate and primary schools as well as regulations regarding heating and ventilation and interior arrangements.<sup>4</sup> The manual explains that schools must be designed in a visually pleasing manner and provide a comfortable space for students to focus on their education. Although regulations required the schoolhouse to have two separate entrances for boys and girls, it was not common across rural regions and villages due to financial constraints as mentioned in the 1857 manual. Regulations also required the schoolhouses to have a bell, to be rung at the start of the school day to alert students to enter the building, and at the end of the school day to inform parents in the neighbourhood. The images below show illustrations included in this manual; the top image shows an illustration of an “old-fashioned” schoolhouse, which did not follow provincial standards, and the bottom two images show illustrations of exemplary one-room-schoolhouse designs which were considered improvements by provincial authorities.



Illustrations from Hodges, G. J. (1857). *The School House; Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements*. Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada. Toronto.

<sup>4</sup> Hodges, J. (1857) *The School House: its Architecture, Internal and External Arrangements*

### Architectural Style Locally

In total, there were twenty-one-room-schoolhouses built in Osgoode Township.<sup>5</sup> Based on research, there are eight remaining schoolhouses, which have been adaptively reused to serve a variety of functions – five residential, two public, and one commercial.

The images below display one-room-schoolhouses across Ottawa with common characteristic elements including a height of one storey, front gable roofs, an entrance vestibule, and a small belfry. Although not as common, some one-room-schoolhouses featured a front porch or veranda similar to the former Vernon Schoolhouse.



Osgoode Township  
S.S. No. 13 York's Corners School,  
(built 1839, demolished). Source:  
Osgoode Township Historical  
Society & Museum



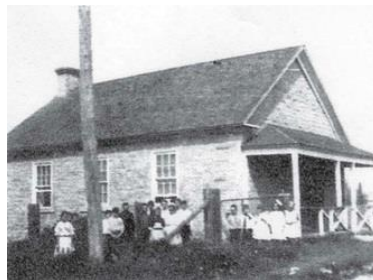
Osgoode Township  
S.S. No. 10 Stone school, (1860).  
Source: Osgoode Township  
Historical Society & Museum,  
1911



Nepean Township S.S. No. 3 -  
Mosgrove School (1887).  
Source:  
Oneroomschoolhouses.ca



Cumberland Township S.S. No. 9  
- Beckett's Creek School, (1875).  
Source:  
Oneroomschoolhouses.ca



Fitzroy Township S.S. No. 7,  
(c.1862). Source:  
Oneroomschoolhouses.ca



Osgoode Township S.S. No. 23  
Dalmeny School (c. 1898).  
Source:  
Oneroomschoolhouses.ca

### Alterations

The building has generally retained the same footprint, with the exception of a small addition to the building at the rear. In comparing the current condition of the property with historical images below, window and door openings and the posts of the veranda appear to be original. The veranda floor was modified with an accessibility ramp added

<sup>5</sup> Forbes, J. (n.d.), Osgoode Township. <http://www.oneroomschoolhouses.ca/osgoode-township.html>

to the front of the building in 2011. Images below show the rear of the property and changes to the veranda.



“S.S. No. 20 Osgoode - Vernon School, 1908”.  
Courtesy of Peggy Carss & Chris MacPhail.  
Retrieved from [oneroomschoolhouses.ca](http://oneroomschoolhouses.ca)



Image of schoolteachers and students in front of S.S. 20 Vernon. (1912). Source: Lewis, I. K. (1982). The Vernon Public School S.S. 20 1882 Recollections of the Past



Rear of property. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Front façade prior to addition of accessibility ramp. Source: Google Streetview (2009).



Front façade after addition of accessibility ramp. Source: City of Ottawa (2019).

<b>Criterion 2</b>	
The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
The former Vernon Schoolhouse does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit which is typical of the time period. The property does not meet this criterion.	
<b>Criterion 3</b>	
The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
The former Vernon Schoolhouse does not demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement in its construction method which is typical of the time period. The property does not meet this criterion.	
<b>Criterion 4</b>	
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.	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
The former Vernon Schoolhouse has historical value because it has direct associations with the theme of rural public education in the Ottawa area. The building at 8682 Bank Street was purpose-built as S.S. No. 20 Vernon School in 1882 shortly after the introduction of new legislation from provincial authorities in the mid-nineteenth century which included the establishment of free and mandatory schooling for children aged eight– 14, a provincially approved curriculum, regulatory requirements for teacher training, and guidelines for the design and maintenance of the school buildings. The former Vernon schoolhouse reflects the provincial educational reforms in the mid-nineteenth century through its documented student attendance, required qualifications for teachers, visits from provincially appointed school inspectors, and physical design. The property has historical value because it is associated with the Vernon Library which first opened in 1900 and has been housed in the former Vernon Schoolhouse since 1972.	

### **Supporting Details – Criterion 4**

Schoolhouses were built across Ontario following the *Common School Act* passed in 1816, which provided the authority and limited financial assistance to any community to organize a school with a minimum of 20 pupils.<sup>6</sup> Prior to the mid-1800s, there was no formal school system in Ontario. Most children lived in rural communities and would begin a life of work on the family farm at an early age. Knowledge, skills, and values were passed down from parents to children in households. A few wealthy children were privately tutored and the few schools which existed were run by churches with the primary purpose of instilling strict moral and religious values.<sup>7</sup> Early curricula in these schools included the three Rs which stood for reading, writing (*riting*), arithmetic (*rithmatic*) and a fourth R which was religion. The Bible and other religious texts were the predominant study material.<sup>8</sup>

Provincial authorities intervened in the nineteenth century and focused on four major areas of concern: student attendance, curriculum, teacher training and the physical quality of schools. The provincial entity responsible for education in Ontario was known as the Department of Public Instruction between 1850 and 1876, the Department of Education between 1876 and 1872 and the Ministry of Education from 1972 until today.<sup>9</sup>

The *Common School Act* passed in 1850 allowed school tax to be levied on all property, in turn enabling free admission of all children to schools. The *Ontario School Act* passed in 1871 made school attendance compulsory for children between the ages of eight and 14 and renamed “common schools” as “public schools.”<sup>10</sup> The historical images and a drawing of a seating arrangement below show that there were approximately thirty to fifty students attending the school at any given time.

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<sup>6</sup> Humphreys, B. (2006). Parks Canada. <http://parkscanadahistory.com/series/chs/10/chs10-1m.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Brock University, (n.d.) Focus #3. Education in Upper Canada II. <https://foundations.ed.brocku.ca/week06/6/>; Waterloo Heritage (2014). <https://waterlooheritage.com/2014/06/01/the-legacy-of-the-1820-log-schoolhouse-part-ii/#:~:text=The%20Bible%20would%20have%20been,as%20mathematics%20was%20twentiethen%20known.>

<sup>9</sup> University of Toronto OISE, (2025). OISE's Ontario Historical Education Collections (OHEC), [https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=5179115#:~:text=Department%20of%20Public%20Instructio n%20\(1850,until%20his%20retirement%20in%201876.](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=5179115#:~:text=Department%20of%20Public%20Instructio n%20(1850,until%20his%20retirement%20in%201876.)

<sup>10</sup> Brock University, (n.d.) Focus #2: Education in Upper Canada I. <https://foundations.ed.brocku.ca/week06/5/>



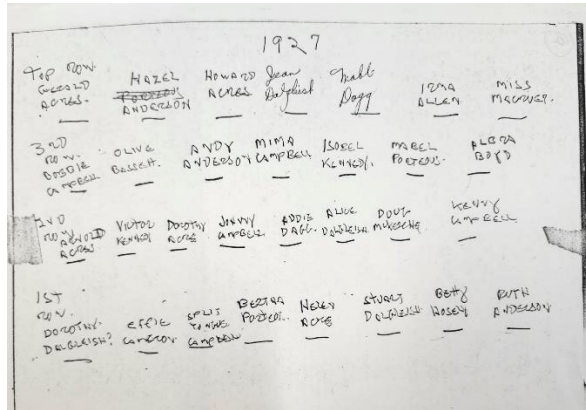
“S.S. No. 20 Osgoode - Vernon School, 1908”.  
 Courtesy of Peggy Carss & Chris MacPhail.  
 Retrieved from oneroomschoolhouses.ca



Image of schoolteachers and students in front of S.S. 20 Vernon. (1912). Source: Lewis, I. K. (1982). The Vernon Public School S.S. 20 1882 Recollections of the Past



S.S. No. 20 Osgoode – Vernon School, Courtesy of Erwin Duncan (1938). Source: Forbes, J. (n.d.). Osgoode Township. Oneroomschoolhouses.ca



Seating arrangement from 1927. Source: Osgoode Township Museum.

The introduction of standard texts, teaching aids and lesson guides during the early to mid-nineteenth century culminated in the establishment of Circular 14, which provided educators with a provincially approved curriculum from 1887 to 1996.<sup>11</sup> The images below display the 1887 publication for Circular 14, which list subjects that would have been taught at the former Vernon Schoolhouse, including geography, grammar, history of England and Canada, drawing, agriculture and music.

<sup>11</sup> Province of Ontario, (1995). For the Love of Learning: Report of the Royal Commission on Learning. <https://foundations.ed.brocku.ca/week06/6/>

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<p><b>SCHEDULE A.</b></p> <p>List of Text Books Authorized for the use of Public Schools—Forms I.-IV.</p> <p>(Approved, June, 1887.)</p> <p><i>Reading—</i></p> <p>The Ontario Readers.</p> <p>First Reader, Part I. . . . . \$0 10</p> <p>                                  Part II. . . . . 0 15</p> <p>Second Reader . . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Third Reader . . . . . 0 35</p> <p>Fourth Reader . . . . . 0 50</p> <p><i>Arithmetic—</i></p> <p>Public School Arithmetic. . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Elementary Arithmetic—Smith &amp; MacMurchy. . . . . 0 25</p> <p>                                  —Kirkland &amp; Scott . . . . . 0 25</p> <p><i>Geography—</i></p> <p>Public School Geography . . . . . 0 75</p> <p>Campbell's Modern School Geography. . . . . 0 75</p> <p>Lovell's Intermediate Geography. . . . . 0 65</p> <p>Calkin's World—An Introductory Geography. . . . . 0 50</p> <p>Geikie's Physical Geography—Primer. . . . . 0 25</p> <p><i>Grammar—</i></p> <p>Public School Grammar. . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Mason's Outlines of English Grammar . . . . . 0 45</p> <p>Campbell's Swinton's Language Lessons. . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Miller's . . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Connor's Elements of Etymology . . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Morris &amp; Bowen's Grammar and Exercises . . . . . 0 25</p> <p>Morris's English Grammar—Primer . . . . . 0 20</p> <p><i>History—</i></p> <p>Public School History of England and Canada . . . . . 0 35</p> <p>Jeffers' History of Canada—Primer . . . . . 0 30</p> <p><i>Drawing—</i></p> <p>Public School Drawing Course—including Kindergarten series, each number. . . . . 0 10</p>	<p><i>Temperance—</i></p> <p>Public School Temperance. . . . . 0 25</p> <p><i>Agriculture—</i></p> <p>Public School Agriculture (To be authorized if found suitable) . . . . . 0 35</p> <p><i>Music—</i></p> <p>Public School Music Reader (use of Text Book at the option of Trustees) . . . . . 0 40</p>
	<p><b>SCHEDULE B.</b></p> <p>List of Text Books Authorized for the use of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes—Forms I.-IV.</p> <p>(Approved, June, 1887.)</p> <p><i>Reading and Elocution—</i></p> <p>The High School Reader. . . . . \$0 60</p> <p>Lewis's How to Read . . . . . 0 75</p> <p><i>Orthoepy and Spelling—</i></p> <p>High School Word Book . . . . . 0 50</p> <p>Ayres' Orthoëpist . . . . . 0 35</p> <p>Companion to the Readers . . . . . 0 30</p> <p><i>English Grammar—</i></p> <p>High School Grammar . . . . . 0 75</p> <p>Mason's Advanced Grammar. . . . . 0 75</p> <p>Earle's Philology of the English Tongue—For Forms III and IV only . . . . . 2 50</p> <p>Abbott's How to Parse . . . . . 0 60</p> <p>Morris's English Grammar (Primer) . . . . . 0 20</p> <p>Angus's Hand Book of the English Tongue . . . . . 1 75</p> <p>Fleming's Analysis of the English Language. . . . . 0 80</p>

Source: Department of Education, Ontario. (1887). Circular 21. Textbooks approved for use in Public and High schools and Collegiate institutes, also in the Training schools. OISE - University of Toronto © Queen's Printer for Ontario. Reproduced with permission.

Another important consideration for provincial authorities was the physical quality of the schoolhouse. In order to ensure a certain standard for design and maintenance, manuals were published by the provincial authorities beginning in 1857 up until the early 1900s provided guidelines for school building designs, including plans and drawings, exterior decorative elements and interior layouts.<sup>12</sup> The design of the former Vernon schoolhouse reflects the plans and drawings introduced in these manuals.

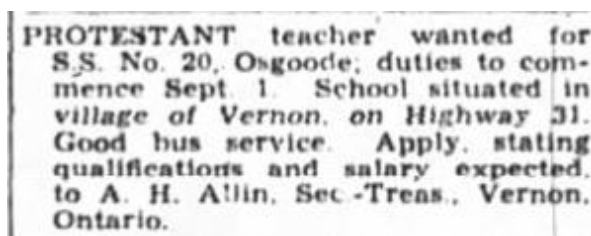
Prior to the mid-1800s, there were no specific qualifications required to fulfill the role of the teacher, leading to significant variability in the quality of teaching. Teacher training institutions known as Normal Schools were established to standardize and improve the quality of public education across Ontario.<sup>13</sup> The first Normal School was opened in

<sup>12</sup> Hodges, J. (1857) *The School House: its Architecture, Internal and External Arrangements*; <https://ontarioarchitecture.ca/school.htm>; Hale, C. A. (1987). *School Architecture in Rural Canada Before 1930*. Volume 3.

<sup>13</sup> OISE's Ontario Historical Education Collections (OHEC), (n.d.). *Normal Schools and Teachers' Colleges in Ontario*.

Toronto in 1847, and the second Normal School was opened in Ottawa in 1875.<sup>14</sup> These schools eventually became known as Teachers' Colleges in the 1950s.<sup>15</sup>

In total, 47 teachers taught at the former Vernon Schoolhouse. Although the first teachers at the former Vernon Schoolhouse were local community members without formal teacher training, teaching jobs were eventually circulated in newspapers to reach teachers who had the provincially mandated qualifications, as shown below.



A job posting for a protestant teacher for the S.S. 20 Vernon School. The Ottawa Journal, 1948

In 1850, provincial legislature required the appointment of school inspectors, who were selected and paid by provincial authorities to gather information about the quality of the schools.<sup>16</sup> Inspectors examined the students' work, curriculum studied, and the physical condition of the school building, and would provide feedback and guidance to the teacher and school board.<sup>17</sup> There were fourteen total school inspectors who visited the former Vernon Schoolhouse.<sup>18</sup>

In 1961, the S.S. 20 Vernon school was closed, and a two-room schoolhouse was opened at 7814 Lawrence Street due to the increased number of students, as was the typical trend with rural schoolhouses.<sup>19</sup> The two-room school operated until 1971 and now houses the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum.

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[https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=2831900#:~:text=Normal%20Schools%20were%20teacher%20training,Education%20\(OISE\)%20in%201996](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=2831900#:~:text=Normal%20Schools%20were%20teacher%20training,Education%20(OISE)%20in%201996).

<sup>14</sup> Brock University, (n.d.) Focus #3. Education in Upper Canada. <https://foundations.ed.brocku.ca/week06/6/>

<sup>15</sup> OISE's Ontario Historical Education Collections (OHEC), (n.d.). Normal Schools and Teachers' Colleges in Ontario. [https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=2831900#:~:text=Normal%20Schools%20were%20teacher%20training,Education%20\(OISE\)%20in%201996](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=394609&p=2831900#:~:text=Normal%20Schools%20were%20teacher%20training,Education%20(OISE)%20in%201996).

<sup>16</sup> Ontario Heritage Trust. (2006). The Red Brick School.

<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/pages/programs/provincial-plaque-program/provincial-plaque-background-papers/red-brick-school>

<sup>17</sup> Ontario Heritage Trust, (2006). The Red Brick School.

<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/pages/programs/provincial-plaque-program/provincial-plaque-background-papers/red-brick-school#:~:text=These%20officers%2C%20chosen%20and%20paid,and%20standards%20directly%20to%20trustees>.

<sup>18</sup> Osgoode Township Museum (n.d.) School Holding Index. <https://osgoodemuseum.ca/english/genealogical-research/school-records.html>

<sup>19</sup> Winchester Press, September 28, 1961. ; Vernon Ratepayers Vote For New Public School, May 1960. Newspaper article located at Osgoode Museum.; Hale, C. A. (1987). School Architecture in Rural Canada Before 1930. Vol. 3.

After the closure of the former Vernon Schoolhouse as a school, the building continued to function as an important community space. Between 1961 and 1982, the former schoolhouse was owned by The Vernon Community Association, with a social club operating out of the building, called “Club 31”, which organized various events for agricultural organizations, young farmers in the community and special celebrations including anniversaries.<sup>20</sup> In 1972, space was rented at the building at 8682 Bank Street to house the local library which had previously been operating from a corner within the village’s General Store since 1900.<sup>21</sup>

The former Osgoode Township Library had four branches: Osgoode, Metcalfe, Greely and Vernon, all of which were begun by local community effort and being initially housed within other similar public facing buildings. Mirroring trends in rural Ontario, free, public libraries in Osgoode Township were mainly developed through a local interest in shared reading, resulting in a book lending service within the community. In the early 1900s in rural villages like Vernon, where the schoolhouse was the main place of learning and reading, a library provided the opportunity for older residents to spend time and connect with others through books, and for younger residents to gain new insights by reading books outside of the curriculum. The local library was an important institution in the rural community, catering to residents of all ages and walks of life. The first volume of the periodical Ontario Library Review published in 1916 explained that rural libraries were “a source of inspiration to the youth, instruction to the older, of comfort and pastime to the aged”.<sup>22</sup>

In the 1970s, around the time that the Vernon library shifted to its home within the former Vernon Schoolhouse, there was a noticeable push toward enabling small libraries in towns, villages and hamlets across Eastern Ontario to be on “equal footing with the larger ones”.<sup>23</sup> Small libraries began to include films and audio and video cassettes alongside books. Special events and exhibitions including presentations from actors, travelling exhibits and film programs started to be held at small libraries, previously “only available in the larger cities”.<sup>24</sup> A 1984 newspaper article lists “inter-library loans, audio-visual supplies and cultural activities such as poetry readings and theatrical performances” as part of the services offered by libraries in Osgoode

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<sup>20</sup> The Ottawa Journal (1968); The Ottawa Citizen (1981); The Ottawa Citizen (1970); The Ottawa Citizen (1964); The Ottawa Citizen (1981)

<sup>21</sup> Appendix E. OPL History Primer, (n.d.) <https://app06.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/library/2007/04-16/Doc%2007-043%20Appendix%20E%20History%20Primer%20Apr%2016-07.htm>; Plain Living in Osgoode Township. Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum. [https://www.communitystories.ca/v1/pm\\_v2.php?id=story\\_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000663&sl=5418&pos=1&pf=1#1](https://www.communitystories.ca/v1/pm_v2.php?id=story_line&lg=English&fl=0&ex=00000663&sl=5418&pos=1&pf=1#1)

<sup>22</sup> Ontario Department of Education, (1916). Ontario Library Review. Volume 1 – 3.

<sup>23</sup> The Ottawa Journal (1977)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

Township. Libraries transformed into important spaces of creative expression and learning for rural communities, where residents of the area were able to gather and spend time at no cost. The property at 8682 Bank Street has been home to Vernon's library for over fifty years, continuing its service to the community as a gathering space and place to foster inspiration and learning.

<b>Criterion 5</b>	
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.	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
Based on research conducted by Heritage Staff, the property does not yield sufficient information that contributes to the understanding of a community or culture. The property does not meet this criterion.	

<b>Criterion 6</b>	
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.	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
Typical of one-room-schoolhouses, the building at 8682 Bank Street was constructed by local contractors using locally available material, following the designs and guidelines presented in the Ontario Department of Education's publications. The property does not reflect the work or ideas of any specific architect. The property does not meet this criterion.	

<b>Criterion 7</b>	
The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	<b>Yes</b>
The former Vernon Schoolhouse has contextual value because it is important in defining and supporting the rural village character of Vernon as part of a cluster of	

institutional brick and stone buildings from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century located along the village's main street, Bank Street.

### ***Supporting Details – Criterion 7***

Prior to amalgamation into Ottawa in 2001, Vernon was a rural village within Osgoode Township. Rural villages are typically characterized by small buildings including houses, church buildings, general stores, community halls and one-room-schoolhouses, surrounded by wide, open fields, farmlands and agricultural buildings, and natural landscapes.

The rural village character of Vernon is defined by a cluster of buildings along the village's main street, Bank Street, and secondary street, Lawrence Avenue, which trace their roots back to the village's early settlement. The property is located next to significant institutions and community spaces in the rural village. The former Vernon Schoolhouse is located directly adjacent to the Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church, built in 1923, and across from the St. George's Anglican Church, built in 1899.<sup>25</sup> The current Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church is linked with the village's development in the nineteenth century, as it was constructed to replace a large brick Baptist church built in 1884, which in turn had replaced another brick chapel built in 1874.<sup>26</sup> The three properties share a consistent setback on Bank Street and are characterized by stone and brick construction, metal roofs, and large side and rear yard spaces. Located to the north of these three properties on the east side of Bank Street is the Osgoode Presbyterian church which was built in 1887.<sup>27</sup> To the south of the three properties, along the intersection of Bank Street and Lawrence Avenue, is the rehabilitated general store built in 1877, and a brick farmhouse built circa 1889.<sup>28</sup> Buildings constructed in Vernon in the nineteenth century that no longer exist include the village's early churches, Orange Lodge, and most residences of early settler families.

The former Vernon Schoolhouse property has contextual value due to its location on the village's main street, Bank Street. This arterial road ran north-south through the counties of Carleton and Dundas, connecting Vernon to many other villages along the route. In Carleton County, this road was known as Metcalfe Road prior to the 1930s and in 1936, the road became a highway known as Highway 31.<sup>29</sup>

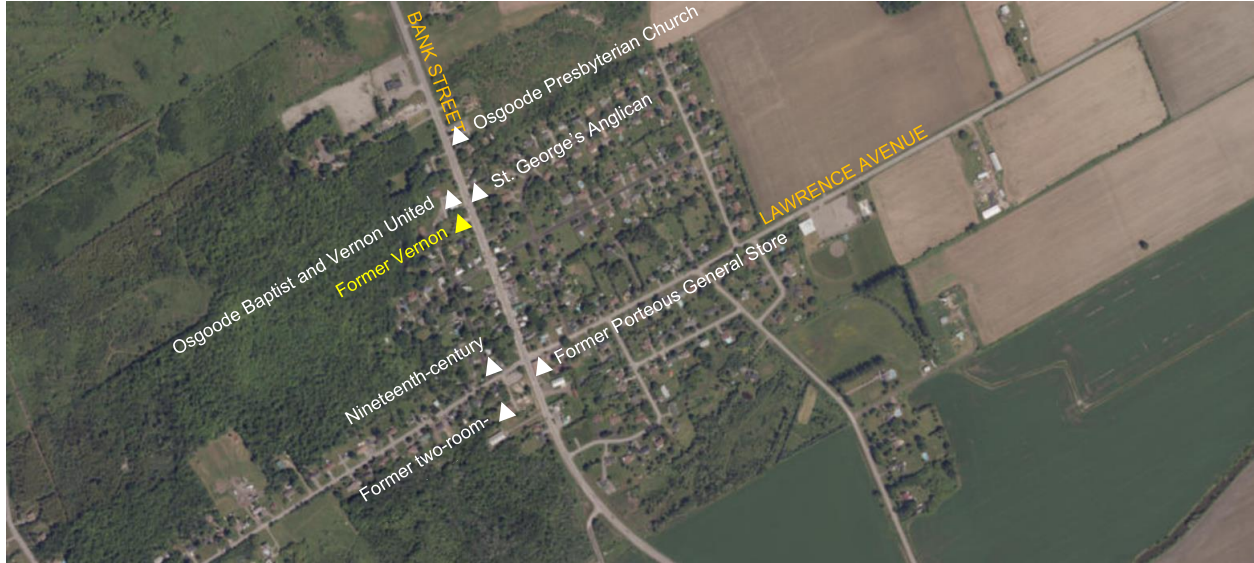
<sup>25</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter (2009). Volume 36, no. 2. [https://osgoodemuseum.ca/\\_uploads/4q498b1el.pdf](https://osgoodemuseum.ca/_uploads/4q498b1el.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.; MacMartin, B. D. (1991). *Vernon Yesterday and Today*.

<sup>29</sup> Bevers, C. (2002-2005). *The King's Highway 31*. <https://www.thekingshighway.ca/Highway31.htm>



Aerial image of Vernon showing cluster of properties built in the nineteenth century. GeoOttawa (2022).



St. George's Anglican, built in 1899. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Osgoode Presbyterian Church, built in 1887. Source: City of Ottawa Staff.



Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church, built in 1923. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2024).



Bank Street with the Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church and former Vernon Schoolhouse on the left (west), St. George's Anglican Church on the right (east) and Osgoode Presbyterian Church to the north (east of Bank Street). Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2025).

<b>Criterion 8</b>	
The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
<p>Purpose-built as the community's one-room schoolhouse, the property has contextual value because it is historically, functionally and visually linked to the settlement and growth of the rural village of Vernon. The establishment of the former Vernon schoolhouse can be attributed to the growing population of Vernon in the mid-nineteenth century. Its location provides insight into the pioneer families who settled nearby whose children would attend the school. The former Vernon Schoolhouse is visually linked to its rural surroundings, as a well-preserved example of the one-room-schoolhouse typology which were built in rural villages across Ottawa. Formerly the community's one-room-schoolhouse, 8682 Bank Street remains an important gathering space today.</p>	

### **Supporting Details – Criterion 8**

The first non-Indigenous settlers to Osgoode Township arrived in 1827, drawn to the vast lands available for farming and abundance of white pine and white oak.<sup>30</sup> The Canadian census demonstrates an overall increase in population of Osgoode Township in the nineteenth century, from 1279 in the year 1842, to 4267 in the year 1871, around the time of the construction of the former Vernon Schoolhouse.<sup>31</sup>

The early settlement in the area which came to be known as Vernon dates back to around 1831.<sup>32</sup> The establishment of the S.S. 20 Vernon school in 1882 was a result of the population growth of Vernon. Records indicate that many who made up the population of Vernon at the time were young families, identifying a growing need for the school.<sup>33</sup>

The local residents of Vernon were heavily involved in the establishment of the former Vernon schoolhouse. The construction of the building involved local community members, including brothers Edward and Dick Bower who were the contractor and

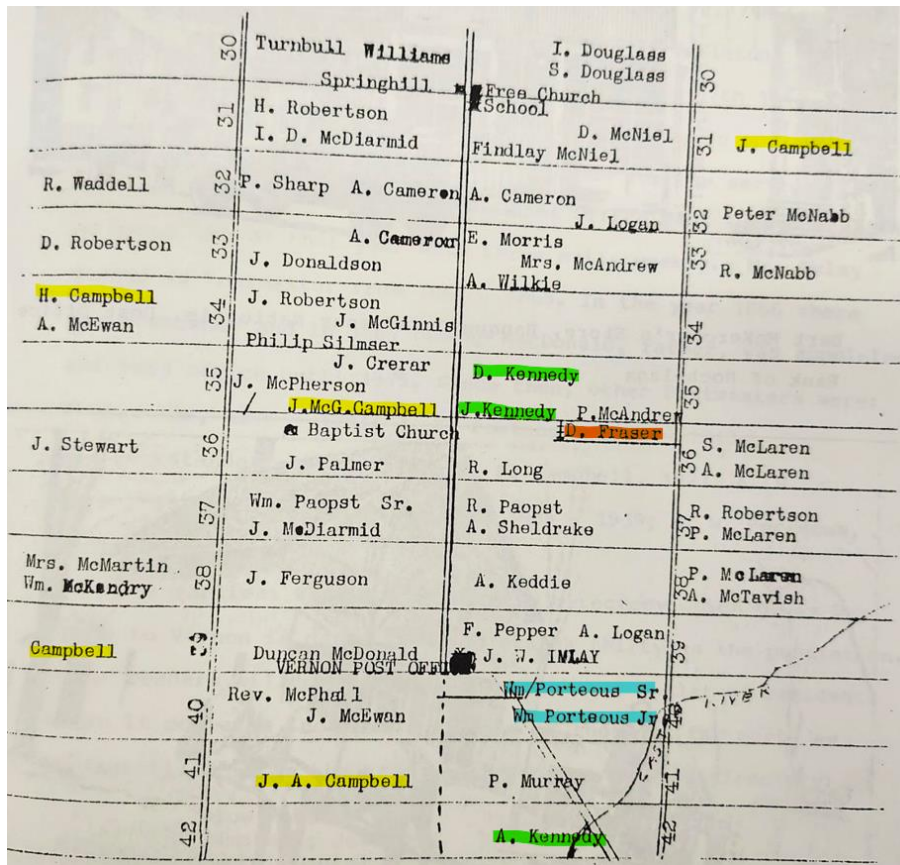
<sup>30</sup> Ontario Heritage Trust, (n.d.) The Founding of Osgoode Township.  
<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/plaques/founding-of-osgoode-township>

<sup>31</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter (1999). Vol. 26, No. 3.  
[https://osgoodemuseum.ca/\\_uploads/4q49gdys9.pdf](https://osgoodemuseum.ca/_uploads/4q49gdys9.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter, (2004). Vol. 31, No. 2.  
[https://osgoodemuseum.ca/\\_uploads/4q497g4fx.pdf](https://osgoodemuseum.ca/_uploads/4q497g4fx.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Lemoine, L. (1934). History of Vernon Public School. Notes located at Osgoode Museum.

mason and John Lora who was the carpenter.<sup>34</sup> The brick is believed to have been sourced from the McDiarmids who were Scottish pioneer bricklayers from the nearby Village of Dalmeny.<sup>35</sup> Members of the first school board for S.S. 20 Vernon were John Campbell, Alec Kennedy, and John Howell, and the first students were children of the Campbell, Kennedy and Porteous families.<sup>36</sup> The first teacher at the former Vernon Schoolhouse was David Fraser.<sup>37</sup> In its history, the former Vernon Schoolhouse saw three generations of the Campbell, Kennedy and Porteous children attend and graduate from the school.<sup>38</sup> A map of Vernon from 1863 below shows these family names, indicating their early arrival to the area.



Map of Vernon showing early settlers to the area. (1863). Campbells are highlighted in yellow, Kennedy's are highlighted in green, Porteous' are highlighted in blue, and Fraser is highlighted in orange. Source: MacMartin, B. (1991). *Vernon Yesterday and Today*. Image has been modified through highlighting.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Lewis, I. K. (1982). *The Vernon Public School S.S. 20 1882 Recollections of the Past*.

<sup>36</sup> Lemoine, L. (1934). *History of Vernon Public School*. Notes located at Osgoode Museum.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Lewis, I. K. (1982). *The Vernon Public School S.S. 20 1882 Recollections of the Past*.

One-room schoolhouses like the former Vernon Schoolhouse were an important marker of rural society in Canada in the nineteenth century. The first institution established in rural communities across the country was the church, followed by the school.<sup>39</sup> The first building in Osgoode Township was a log church, constructed in 1838 in Springhill, and the Springhill one-room-schoolhouse, S. S. No. 8, was built in the same year.<sup>40</sup> West of Vernon in Dalmeny, The Swale school, S.S. No. 9. was established around the same time. Prior to the construction of the former Vernon Schoolhouse, students from Vernon walked to either of these two schools. The locations for all three schools are shown in the map below.



The Swale School or Belmeade School, S.S. No. 9. constructed in 1898 (rebuilt and demolished). Source: Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum.



Springhill School, S.S. No. 8., constructed in 1885 (rebuilt). Source: Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum.



The Springhill Memorial Chapel. Formerly the Springhill school, S.S. 8. Source: City of Ottawa Staff (2025).

<sup>39</sup> Stortz, P. and Panayotidis, E.L. (2004) One-Room Schools Myth and Reality. Education Canada.

<sup>40</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter, (2009). Vol. 36, No. 2.  
[https://osgoodemuseum.ca/\\_uploads/4q498b1el.pdf](https://osgoodemuseum.ca/_uploads/4q498b1el.pdf)



Map of Osgoode Township S.S. 8, Springhill school, S.S. 9, Swale school and S.S. 20, Vernon school locations. Source: Osgoode Township Museum.

Although there were once approximately 80 one-room-schoolhouses within the Ottawa boundaries, approximately 40 remain today, of which most have been heavily renovated and converted into residences. Having retained its original massing and footprint and key elements such as its belfry, date stone, and window and door openings, the former Vernon Schoolhouse is a well-preserved example of the one-room-schoolhouse typology which is visually linked to rural villages.

<b>Criterion 9</b>	
<b>The property has contextual value because it is a landmark</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
<p>Although locally important, the former Vernon Schoolhouse is situated adjacent to and across from large institutional brick and stone church buildings, which serve as clear visual landmarks for the community. Therefore, this property does not meet this criterion.</p>	

## Sources

- Appendix E. OPL History Primer, (n.d.)  
<https://app06.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/library/2007/04-16/Doc%2007-043%20Appendix%20E%20History%20Primer%20Apr%2016-07.htm>
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## **Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

### **Description of Property –8682 Bank Street**

The former Vernon Schoolhouse, 8682 Bank Street is a one-storey, front gable, red brick building. The property is located on the west side of Bank Street, north of the intersection of Bank Street and Lawrence Street, in Vernon within Osgoode Township.

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

The former Vernon Schoolhouse at 8682 Bank Street is a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century found in villages across rural Ottawa, characterized by its one storey massing, brick cladding, symmetrical front façade with front gable roofline, date stone and belfry.

The former Vernon Schoolhouse has historical value because it has direct associations with the theme of rural public education. The building at 8682 Bank Street was purpose-built as S.S. No. 20, Vernon School in 1882 shortly after the introduction of new provincial legislation which established free and mandatory schooling for children aged eight –14, a provincially-approved curriculum, regulatory requirements for teacher training, and guidelines for the design and maintenance of the school buildings. The former Vernon schoolhouse reflects the mid-19th century provincial educational reforms through its documented student attendance, required qualifications for teachers, visits from provincially appointed school inspectors, and physical design. The property also has historical value because it is associated with the Vernon Library which first opened in 1900 and has been housed in this building since 1972.

The former Vernon Schoolhouse has contextual value because it is important in defining and supporting the rural village character of Vernon as part of a cluster of institutional brick and stone buildings from the late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century located along Bank Street, the village's main street. These buildings include the St. George's Anglican Church (1899), the Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church (1923), the Osgoode Presbyterian church (1887), the village general store (1877), and a brick farmhouse (c.1889).

Purpose-built as the community's one-room schoolhouse, the property has contextual value because it is historically, functionally and visually linked to the settlement and growth of the rural village of Vernon. The establishment of the schoolhouse can be attributed to the growing population of Vernon in the mid-nineteenth century. Its location provides insight into the pioneer families who settled nearby whose children would attend the school. The former Vernon Schoolhouse is visually linked to its rural surroundings as a well-preserved example of the one-room-schoolhouse typology which

were built in rural villages across Ottawa. Formerly the community's one-room-schoolhouse, and now a public library, 8682 Bank Street remains an important gathering space today.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of the former Vernon Schoolhouse as a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology include:

- One storey massing with front gable roofline
- Red brick construction
- Stone foundation
- Metal roof
- Decorative wooden trim with inverted scallop design under front gable
- Wooden square belfry
- Veranda with central triangular pediment
- Date stone reading "S.S. No. 20 A.D. 1882"
- Symmetrical front (east) façade with central entrance door opening and window openings on either side of entrance
- Three evenly spaced window openings on north and south elevations

The interior of the building and any additions or outbuildings are excluded from this designation.