

**Subject: Designation of 8679 Bank Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

**File Number: ACS2026-PDB-RHU-0001**

**Report to Built Heritage Committee on 10 March 2026  
and Council 11 March 2026**

**Submitted on February 3, 2026 by Court Curry, Manager, Right of Way, Heritage,  
and Urban Design Services, Planning, Development and Building Services**

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**And Emily Cuggy, Built Heritage Research Coordinator, Heritage Planning Branch**

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**Ward: Osgoode (20)**

**Objet : Désignation du 8679, rue Bank en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

**Dossier : ACS2026-PDB-RHU-0001**

**Rapport au Comité du patrimoine bâti**

**le 10 mars 2026**

**et au Conseil le 11 mars 2026**

**Soumis le 3 février 2026 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(S)

**That the Built Heritage Committee recommend that Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 8679 Bank Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value attached as Document 5**

## RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

**Que le Comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Conseil municipal de publier un avis d'intention de désigner le 8679, 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 is located on the east side of Bank Street at the northern edge of the Village of Vernon.

The property at 8679 Bank Street is a one-and-a-half-storey stone church building with a two-storey tower on the east side of Bank Street in Vernon, a village located in former Osgoode Township. The building was constructed in 1900 as St. George's Anglican Church. St. George's is a representative example of a turn-of-the-twentieth century vernacular Ontario church, with Gothic Revival influences. The property is directly associated with the growth of the Anglican community in Vernon, having served as an Anglican church for over 100 years until its closure in 2016. St. George's is located within a cluster of properties that define the rural village character of Vernon through their massing, construction material and institutional former uses.

The 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.

Staff reviewed the property's potential for designation following the receipt of an application for designation submitted by the property owner. The property owner is in support of this recommendation to designate.

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

## **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 Official Plan has policies related to cultural heritage in Section 4.5, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology. Section 4.5.1(3) states: “Individual buildings, structures, and sites shall be designated as properties of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.”

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

Section 4.6 of the PPS (2024) includes the following policy regarding the conservation of cultural 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 set out above, direct the designation of significant properties and comply with this policy.

Should City Council designate the subject property it would be considered a “protected heritage property” for the purposes of the PPS. The PPS includes the following policy related to protected heritage property:

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 09/06**

Regulation 9/06 (see Document 3) establishes criteria to determine if a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the *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 8679 Bank Street meets three (3) of the nine (9) criteria. Detailed research and analysis are outlined in the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (see Document 4), and a brief analysis of each of the applicable criteria is provided below.

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

The property at 8679 Bank Street, St. George's Anglican Church, has design value as a representative example of a nineteenth-century vernacular Ontario church, with Gothic Revival influences. Many of its features are characteristic of the style including its rough-cut limestone construction, steeply pitched gable roof, buttresses, two-storey tower with a pyramidal roof and decorative metal finial, and a timber ceiling with a scissor truss pattern.

**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.**

St. George's Anglican Church has historical value because it is directly associated with the growth of the Anglican community in Vernon. While Vernon's early Anglican residents met in the local Orange Hall, by the late 1890s they had begun plans to build their own church. The construction of St. George's Anglican Church in 1900 illustrates the community's growing size and prosperity, which had expanded enough to warrant a dedicated church building.

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

St. George's Anglican Church has contextual value because it is important in defining the rural village character of Vernon as part of a cluster of institutional brick and stone

buildings from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries located along the village's main street, Bank Street. As the only remaining stone building in Vernon, St. George's Anglican Church stands as a historical marker of the early settlement of the area.

### **Conclusion**

The property at 8679 Bank Street meets three (3) of the nine (9) 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(S)**

The Ward Councillor Isabelle Skalski is aware of the recommendations in this report.

### **CONSULTATION**

Staff reviewed the property's potential for designation following the receipt of an application for designation submitted by the property owner. The property owner was notified by email regarding the proposed designation of their property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on January 26, 2026. Staff offered to meet with the property owner to address any questions or concerns and provided details regarding how the owner could participate in the Built Heritage Committee meeting. Staff also provided the proposed Statement of Cultural Heritage Value. The owner of the property responded to indicate her support of the proposed designation.

### **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

The designation of this property under the *Ontario Heritage Act* does not impact 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.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no asset management implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The designation of St. George's Anglican Church recognizes its historical significance within the village of Vernon, located in former Osgoode Township. Located along the village's main street, the property is indicative of Vernon's growth in the late nineteenth century.

## **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**

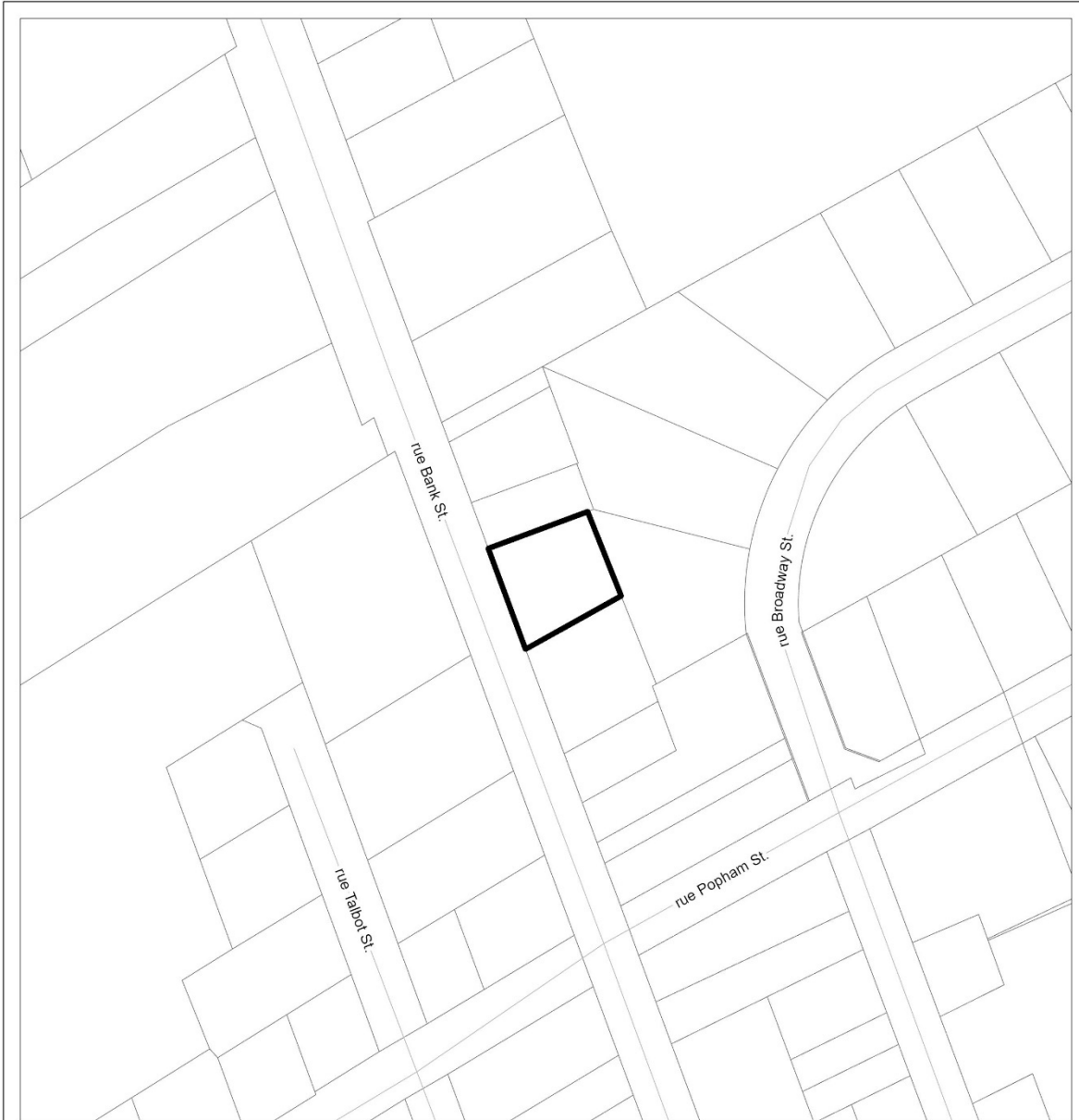
If Council does not carry the recommendation, no further steps are required. If Council proceeds with the issuance of a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property located at 8679 Bank Street, several actions must be taken:




- 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, Third Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3) of Council's decision to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate the property at 8679 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*.

\* **Note: A Minor correction was made to this report further to the City Clerk's Delegated Authority, as set out in Schedule C, Section 8 of Delegation of Authority By-Law 2024-265 to update the report's **Background** (p. 2) and **Consultation** (p. 5) sections.**

Document 1 – Location Map



		LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION HERITAGE / PATRIMOINE	
D09-04-26-BAN8679	26-0080-H	 <b>8679 rue. Bank St.</b>	
I:\CO\2026\Heritage\Bank_8679			
<small>©Parcel data is owned by Teranet Enterprises Inc. and its suppliers                  All rights reserved. May not be produced without permission.                  THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY</small>			
<small>©Les données de parcelles appartiennent à Teranet Enterprises Inc. et                  à ses fournisseurs. Tous droits réservés. Ne peut être reproduit sans                  autorisation. CECI N'EST PAS UN PLAN D'ARPENTAGE</small>			
REVISION / RÉVISION - 2026 / 01 / 23		 <small>NOT TO SCALE</small>	

**Document 2 – Photos**



Front (west) façade facing Bank Street. (Source: City of Ottawa, 2025)



North elevation. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



South elevation with main entrance through tower. (Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.)



View of rear (east) elevation. (Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.)



Wood ceiling with scissor truss detail. (Source: Anglican Archives, n.d.)



Tin pyramid roof as seen from Bank Street. (Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.)



Close up of tin pyramid roof with maple leaf pattern detail. (Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.)

**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:

2. 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.
3. The properties have design value or physical value because they display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
4. The properties have design value or physical value because they demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The properties have contextual value because they define, maintain or support the character of the district.
9. The properties have contextual value because they are physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to each other.
10. 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

8679 Bank Street

January 29, 2026

Prepared by: Heritage Staff

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Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.

### Executive Summary

The former St. George's Anglican Church at 8679 Bank Street is a one-and-a-half-storey stone church building constructed in 1900. Located in the rural community of Vernon, the building is a representative example of a rural Ontario vernacular church with Gothic Revival influences constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. The building has historical value for its association with the growth of the Anglican community in Vernon, having served the community's Anglican population for over 100 years. As part of a cluster of late nineteenth and early twentieth century institutional buildings located along Vernon's former main street, St. George's Anglican Church has contextual value for defining the community's historic built character.

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

## Introduction



Property parcel demarcated in red. Source: geoOttawa, 2022.

The former St. George's Anglican Church is located at 8679 Bank Street in the rural community of Vernon. It stands on the east side of Bank Street, north of the intersection of Bank Street and Lawrence Street.

<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>	
<p>St. George's Anglican Church has design value as a representative example of a vernacular rural Ontario church with Gothic Revival influences constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. Its vernacular features include its rough-cut limestone construction, simple rectangular plan, and square and rectangular window openings. The building's Gothic Revival elements include the steeply pitched gable roof, two-storey tower with a pyramidal roof and decorative finial, and stone buttresses. Inside, the steeply pitched roof is supported by exposed timber scissor trusses.</p>	

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

#### Architectural Analysis and Overview

The former St. George's Anglican Church is a vernacular rural Ontario church building with Gothic Revival elements constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. Completed in 1900, the one-and-half-storey building is characterized by its rough-cut limestone construction, steeply pitched gable roof, and two-storey tower with a pyramidal roof and decorative metal finial.

The building has a simple rectangular plan following an east-west orientation so that the altar is located on the east side of the church, according to Christian tradition. Its one-and-a-half-storey massing is complemented by a two-storey tower on the southwest corner. The tower is topped with a tin pyramidal roof with a low relief maple leaf pattern and a decorative metal finial. It features plain stone string courses on the upper storey as well as square window openings with plain stone sills and lintels. The ground floor of the tower serves as the building's main entrance, which consists of a simple door opening and transom flanked by stepped stone buttresses.

The building has a steeply pitched metal gable roof. Decorative soffit brackets adorn the gable ends on the east and west elevations. The roof extends down to cap the stone buttresses spaced along the north and south elevations. The buttresses separate rectangular window openings with plain stone lintels and sills.

The rectangular and square window openings throughout the building are framed by stone surrounds including plain lintels and sills. In the building's interior, the steeply pitched roof is supported by exposed timber scissor trusses.



Front (west) façade facing Bank Street. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



North elevation. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



South elevation with main entrance through tower. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



View of rear (east) elevation. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



Timber ceiling with scissor trusses. Source: Anglican Archives.



Tin pyramid roof and metal finial.

Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



Close up of tin pyramid roof with maple leaf pattern detail. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.

### Architectural Style Description and Canadian Context

Gothic Revival was an architectural movement that aimed to revive the Gothic style of medieval Europe.<sup>1</sup> Originating in England in the 1740s, the style appeared in Canada by the 1820s and was hugely popular by the third quarter of the nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> One of the most prominent and long-lasting architectural movements, Gothic Revival was widely used in domestic and institutional architecture until the end of the nineteenth century, and persisted among religious buildings into the twentieth century.<sup>3</sup>

Beginning in the 1840s, Gothic Revival was the preferred style for church architecture, owing to the ideas of English architect Augustus Welby Pugin, a leading figure in the Gothic Revival movement. Pugin argued that the Gothic style was the only appropriate style for Christian churches, as it originated in a medieval Christian civilization as opposed to Classical architecture that began in the pagan civilizations of Greece and

<sup>1</sup> "Gothic Revival," Ontario Heritage Trust, accessed September 2025, <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/places-of-worship/places-of-worship-database/architecture/architectural-style>.

<sup>2</sup> "Gothic Revival," Ontario Heritage Trust; Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles*, Second Edition (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 55; Shannon Kyles, *The Story of Ontario Architecture: What We Built and Why We Built It* (Shannon Kyles, 2025), 75.

<sup>3</sup> "Gothic Revival," Ontario Heritage Trust; Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles*, 55.

Rome.<sup>4</sup> Although Pugin was Catholic, his ideas were particularly influential in the Anglican Church, which adopted Gothic Revival as its preferred style.<sup>5</sup> Throughout the nineteenth century, as Anglicanism (Church of England) grew in popularity through missions and immigration to British colonies, so too did the Gothic Revival style.

In church buildings, the Gothic Revival style emphasizes height through prominent towers, spires, and steeply pitched roofs. Other characteristics include buttresses, carved stone, and pointed arched window openings. Hood mouldings and stops over windows and doors, rose windows, pinnacles, and crenellation are often used as well.<sup>6</sup>

The style's wide usage meant that elements were frequently adopted, to varying degrees, in vernacular buildings as well. Vernacular architecture refers to buildings constructed using locally available materials that incorporate design forms appropriate to the local climate.<sup>7</sup> These buildings are often distinguished by their "add-on" Gothic-inspired details, such as pointed arches, rather than their strict adherence to the style.<sup>8</sup>

### Architectural Style Locally

Gothic Revival was widespread in Ontario by the second half of the nineteenth century. The movement's popularity coincided with nineteenth-century settlement of Ontario by Europeans and was therefore the prevalent style in the towns and cities that emerged during this time.<sup>9</sup> Examples of high style Gothic Revival buildings in Ottawa include the Parliament Buildings, Lisgar Collegiate Institute (29 Lisgar Street), and the former Ottawa Normal School (195 Elgin Street). High style Gothic Revival churches in Ottawa include Christ Church Cathedral (439 Queen Street), St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (82 Kent Street), and St. Albans Anglican Church (454 King Edward Avenue). In total, the style was used in over 80 places of worship in Ottawa.<sup>10</sup>

Vernacular translations of the Gothic Revival style are also common in Ontario, particularly in rural communities. Many vernacular churches were constructed in rural Ontario in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with the vast majority built of

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<sup>4</sup> Glenn J. Lockwood, "Architecture and Worship," in *Anglicanism in the Ottawa Valley: Essays for the Centenary of the Diocese of Ottawa*, ed. Frank A. Peake (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997), 183.

<sup>5</sup> Lockwood, "Architecture and Worship," 184-185; "Gothic Revival," Ontario Heritage Trust; Candace Iron and Malcolm Thurlby, "Gothic Traditions in Ontario Churches," *Heritage Matters*, September 10, 2009, <https://www.heritage-matters.ca/articles/gothic-traditions-in-ontario-churches>.

<sup>6</sup> Ricketts, Maitland, and Hucker, *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles*, 55, 62.

<sup>7</sup> Barbara A. Humphreys and Meredith Sykes, *The Buildings of Canada: A Guide to Pre-twentieth Century Styles in Houses, Churches and Other Structures* (Environment Canada, Parks Service, 1980), [R62-234-1986-eng.pdf](https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/places-of-worship/).

<sup>8</sup> John Blumenson, *Ontario Architecture. A Guide to Styles and Building Terms, 1784 to the Present* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1990), 37.

<sup>9</sup> "Gothic Revival," Ontario Heritage Trust.

<sup>10</sup> "Places of Worship Inventory," Ontario Heritage Trust, accessed September 2024, <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/places-of-worship/>.

stone in the Gothic Revival style, regardless of their denomination.<sup>11</sup> They share similar features such as rectangular plans, low walls and buttresses, and steeply pitched gable roofs. The design of these churches typically fell into one of two groups: with towers and without.

Examples of small, nineteenth-century stone churches in the Ottawa area that feature steeply pitched gable roofs, corner towers, and low walls similar to St. George's Anglican church include St. Mary's Anglican Church, constructed 1867 at 1171 Smith Road in Navan; and Christ United Church, constructed in 1875 at 12 Perth Street in Lyn; and St. John the Evangelist Church, constructed in 1893 in New Dublin.



St. Mary's Anglican Church, 1171 Smith Road, Navan. Source: Google Street View, 2021.



Christ United Church, 12 Perth Street, Lyn. Source: Google Street View, 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Barbara A. Humphreys, "The Architectural Heritage of the Rideau Corridor," Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History no. 10 (1974), <http://parkscanadahistory.com/series/chs/10/chs10-11.htm>.



St. John the Evangelist Church, New Dublin. Source: Google Street View.

The timber scissor truss ceiling inside St. George's Anglican Church is featured in other churches across Ottawa including Christ Church Cathedral, constructed in 1872 at 414 Sparks Street, St. Albans Anglican Church, constructed in 1867 at 454 King Edward Avenue; and St. Margaret's Anglican, constructed in 1887 at 206 Montreal Road.



Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street. Source: Anglican Diocese of Ottawa.



St. Albans Anglican Church, 454 King Edward Avenue. Source: <https://stalbanschurch.ca/>.

### Relation of the Building to the Style

The former St. George's Anglican Church exhibits key characteristics of a rural turn-of-the-twentieth-century vernacular church with Gothic Revival elements. Typical of

rural vernacular construction, the church was built using local materials. The limestone was quarried from the farm of parishioner Thomas Benning Acres who, along with parishioner Charles Acres, also provided lumber.<sup>12</sup>

The building's simple rectangular plan and square and rectangular window openings also reflect its vernacular construction. No architect has been identified; however, the church may have been designed by Reverend Charles B. Clarke who served as the architect, stone mason, and carpenter for Holy Trinity Church in Metcalfe, which belonged to the same parish.<sup>13</sup> St. George's appears to have been built by parishioners under Clarke's guidance.<sup>14</sup> Their work would have been limited by both ability and cost. With only eight families making up the original congregation,<sup>15</sup> the building's plan and design would have been limited compared to the grand churches designed by architects and built in wealthier urban parishes.

The building's Gothic Revival characteristics include the steeply pitched gable roof, corner tower, and low walls with buttresses. Height is emphasized through the tower's pyramidal roof and metal finial. The stone construction is also characteristic of Gothic Revival churches.

### Alterations

The building has undergone several alterations while maintaining its overall architectural integrity. The original wood shingle roof was replaced three times before the current maple leaf tin roof on the south side was installed in the 1930s.<sup>16</sup> The shingles on the north side of the building were replaced with tin in 1977.<sup>17</sup> Although the window and door openings are original, the door to the main entrance was replaced in 1991 and plexiglass was placed over all windows in 1993.<sup>18</sup> Three new coloured glass windows were installed in 1932.<sup>19</sup>

In 1991, the original stone slab steps leading to the main entrance were replaced with the current concrete steps and iron railing.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Marion G. Rogers, "Church of the Week: St. George's Church, Vernon," *Ottawa Journal*, February 15, 1975, <https://newspapers.com/image/48304783>.

<sup>13</sup> Robert Jefferson and Leonard L. Johnson, *Faith of our Fathers: The Story of the Diocese of Ottawa* (Anglican Book Society, 1957), 36.

<sup>14</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, *Vernon, Ontario, 1900-2000* (St. George's Anglican Church, 2000), 1.

<sup>15</sup> Rogers, "Church of the Week: St. George's Church, Vernon."

<sup>16</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 2.

<sup>17</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 2.

<sup>18</sup> John G. Cooke & Associates Ltd., "Structural Evaluation Report of St. George's Anglican Church," 2001, Anglican Archives.

<sup>19</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 3.

<sup>20</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 4.



On the east elevation, there is a headstone attached to the exterior wall as seen in the photograph below. The headstone was uncovered in 1995 during a ground levelling and back filling project at the rear of the church.<sup>21</sup> It was attached to the wall where it remains today.

East side of the building, with the attached gravestone circled. Source: Anglican Archives.

<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>	
Heritage staff have compared the building to others of a similar age and typology and consulted relevant secondary sources including architectural history books. Staff's review concluded that the craftsmanship and artistic detail are typical of the building's construction era and type. As such, the property does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	

<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>	
Heritage staff have reviewed primary sources for the subject building, compared the building to others of similar age and typology, and consulted relevant secondary sources including architectural history books. Staff's review concluded that the construction method for 8679 Bank Street is typical of the building's construction era and type. As such, the property does not display a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	

<sup>21</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 2.

<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>	
St. George's Anglican Church has historical value because it is directly associated with the growth of the Anglican community in Vernon. While Vernon's early Anglican residents met in the local Orange Hall, by the late 1890s they had begun plans to build their own church. The construction of St. George's Anglican Church in 1900 illustrates the community's growing size and prosperity, which had expanded enough to warrant a dedicated church building.	

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

St. George's Anglican Church has historical value for its direct association with the growth of Vernon's Anglican community. Early Anglicans in Vernon met at the local Orange Hall before beginning plans to build the church at 8679 Bank Street in 1898.

Anglicanism is a Christian denomination that originated in the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation in England. It began as the Church of England before expanding via colonization and missionary work beginning in the seventeenth century. The first resident Anglican clergyman arrived in Newfoundland in the late 1620s, and the first parish was established in Newfoundland in 1699.<sup>22</sup>

The first resident Anglican clergyman arrived in Upper Canada (now Ontario) in 1785.<sup>23</sup> Upper Canada's Anglican population was growing, thanks to the arrival of United Empire Loyalists from the United States as well as immigrants from the United Kingdom.<sup>24</sup> The migration of Irish Protestants in the first half of the nineteenth century brought even more Anglicans to the region.<sup>25</sup>

The first European settlers to Osgoode Township (to which Vernon belonged) arrived in 1826. They represented a variety of religious denominations: Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican, Methodist, and Baptist. Worshipers gathered in private homes and were baptized and married by travelling clergymen until the first log churches were

<sup>22</sup> M.E. Reisner, "'Who Shall Go Over the Sea for Us?': First Anglican Ventures into Present-Day Canada," in *Seeds Scattered and Sown: Studies in the History of Canadian Anglicanism*, ed. Norman Knowles (Anglican Book Centre Publishing, 2008), 6; "About Us," Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, accessed January 2026, <https://ourcathedral.ca/about-us/>.

<sup>23</sup> Reisner, 6.

<sup>24</sup> Dan Prysunka, "History of the Anglican Church in Canada, Part 2 of 5," *The HighWay*, October 31, 2025, <https://thehighway.anglicannews.ca/history-of-the-anglican-church-in-canada-part-2-of-3/>.

<sup>25</sup> Prysunka, "History of the Anglican Church in Canada."

built between the 1830s and 1850s.<sup>26</sup> The first Anglican church in the township, Trinity Church, was constructed in Metcalfe in 1856.<sup>27</sup>

Both populations and parishes expanded slowly but steadily throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. By the 1890s, many congregations were replacing their original wooden churches with sturdy stone or brick structures.<sup>28</sup> In 1893, Reverend C.B. Clarke became rector of the Parish of Metcalfe-Greely-Vernon. Under Clarke's leadership, three churches and one rectory were built in the parish between 1893 and 1906.<sup>29</sup>

One of these new churches was St. George's Anglican. A mission station opened in Vernon in 1894, with services being held at the local Orange Hall.<sup>30</sup> Discussions to construct a dedicated church building began in 1898. Construction began in 1899, completed by volunteer labourers under Reverend Clarke's guidance. The church opened on January 9, 1900.<sup>31</sup>

The first congregation was comprised of eight families.<sup>32</sup> Still, census records indicate the slow but steady growth of Osgoode Township's Anglican population. Records from 1871 show a total of 564 Anglicans in the county (statistics were not broken down by township).<sup>33</sup> By 1891, this number had increased to 584 for Osgoode Township alone.<sup>34</sup> By 1911, the number of Anglicans in Osgoode Township had reached 715.<sup>35</sup>

Throughout its more than 100-year history in Vernon, St. George's Anglican Church underwent numerous improvements to ensure the church remained open. These included installing electricity and replacing the original wood furnace with a stove in 1939, and installing an oil furnace in 1964 so that the congregation could continue services at St. George's in the winter months rather than travel to Metcalfe.<sup>36</sup>

St. George's Anglican Church held services until 2016.

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<sup>26</sup> Harry J. Walker and Olive Walker, *Carleton Saga* (Runge Press, 1968), 549; Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter 36, no. 2 (2009), 1, <https://osgoodemuseum.ca/uploads/4q498b1el.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter 36, no. 2 (2009), 1.

<sup>28</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter 36, no. 2 (2009), 2.

<sup>29</sup> Jefferson and Johnson, *Faith of our Fathers*, 36.

<sup>30</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 1.

<sup>31</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 1.

<sup>32</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 1.

<sup>33</sup> *Census of Canada 1870-1871*, Volume 1 (I.B. Taylor, 1873), 134-135, [https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada\\_1870\\_1](https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada_1870_1).

<sup>34</sup> *Census of Canada 1890-1891: Vol 1* (S.E. Dawson, 1893), 282, [https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada\\_1890-1891\\_1](https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada_1890-1891_1).

<sup>35</sup> *Fifth Census of Canada 1911*, Volume 2 (C.H. Parmelee, 1913), 74, [https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada\\_1911\\_2/](https://archive.org/details/census-of-canada_1911_2/).

<sup>36</sup> St. George's Anglican Church, 4.

<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 staff, the property at 8679 Bank Street does not yield information that contributes to the understanding of a community or culture.	

<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 rural vernacular churches, St. George's Anglican Church was designed and constructed by local community members under the guidance of the reverend at the time. The property therefore 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>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
St. George's Anglican Church has contextual value as a defining part of Vernon's rural village character. It is part of a cluster of institutional and public buildings constructed along Vernon's main street (now Bank Street) between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As the only remaining stone building in Vernon's rural streetscape, the former St. George's Anglican Church adds to the community's rural character as an example of late nineteenth century stone construction.	

## Supporting Details – Criterion 7

St. George's Anglican Church has contextual value for its role in defining Vernon's rural village character. It is part of a surviving cluster of buildings from Vernon's early settlement that are located on present-day Bank Street and Lawrence Street.

Prior to amalgamation with Ottawa in 2001, Vernon was a rural village within Osgoode Township. Surrounded by vast stretches of farmland, rural villages were typically a cluster of buildings—schools, churches, general stores, and a post office—located along or near a main street.

In Vernon, a cluster of buildings dating back to the village's early settlement are located on Bank Street, the village's main street, and Lawrence Street. The oldest surviving building in this cluster is the former general store built in 1877 at the corner of Bank Street and Lawrence Street. The former Vernon schoolhouse, built in 1882, is located at 8682 Bank Street and now houses the Vernon branch of the Ottawa Public Library. A brick farmhouse built circa 1889 also survives at 8728 Bank Street.<sup>37</sup>

Next door to the former schoolhouse is Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church, built in 1923.<sup>38</sup> Despite its later construction date, the current structure is linked with the village's development in the nineteenth century, as it replaced a large brick Baptist church built in 1884, which in turn had replaced a brick church built in 1874.<sup>39</sup>

Down the road from the schoolhouse and United Church is the Osgoode Presbyterian Church at 8653 Bank Street, which was constructed in 1887.<sup>40</sup> Like the school and United Church, Osgoode Presbyterian Church has red brick construction and a consistent setback.

Overall, the buildings in this cluster share a consistent setback, nineteenth-century vernacular styles, and are characterized by stone and brick construction, metal roofs, and large side and rear yard spaces.

St. George's Anglican Church 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>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Belle D. MacMartin and Beatrice R. Porteous, *Vernon Yesterday and Today* (Osgoode Township Historical Society, 1991).

<sup>38</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter 36, no. 2 (2009), 2.

<sup>39</sup> Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum Newsletter 36, no. 2 (2009), 2.

<sup>40</sup> Brian Graham, "Osgoode – Vernon, Ontario," *Over 150 Years of Presbyterian History*, May 4, 2025, 10, [150th Anniversary booklet.pdf](#).

<sup>41</sup> Cameron Bevers, "The King's Highway 31," accessed January 2026, <https://www.thekingshighway.ca/Highway31.htm>.



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



Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church. Source: City of Ottawa, 2024.



Osgoode Presbyterian Church. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



Farmhouse at 8728 Bank Street. Source: Google Street View, 2025.



Former Vernon Schoolhouse at 8682 Bank Street. Source: City of Ottawa, 2025.



Rehabilitated general store at 7828 Lawrence Street. Source: Google Street View, 2025.



Bank Street with the former Vernon Schoolhouse and Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United Church buildings on the left (west) and St. George's Anglican Church and Osgoode Presbyterian Church on the right (east). Source: Google Earth, 2024.

<b>Criterion 8</b>	
The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
Heritage staff have investigated the property and determined that it is not physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings and does not meet this criterion.	

<b>Criterion 9</b>	
The property has contextual value because it is a landmark	<b>No</b>
<b>Response to Criterion</b>	
Although St. George's Anglican Church is the only stone building in Vernon, its small scale and natural appearance allow it to blend within its surroundings. The Osgoode Presbyterian Church located just north of this property, with its tall metal steeple and prominent red brick cladding, stands out in contrast as a landmark in the region.	

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

### **Description of Property**

The former St. George's Anglican Church at 8679 Bank Street is a one-and-a-half storey stone church building constructed in 1900. The property is located on the west side of Bank Street in the rural community of Vernon.

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

The former St. George's Anglican Church is a representative example of a rural vernacular Ontario church with Gothic Revival influences built at the turn of the twentieth century. Many of its features are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, including its stone construction, steeply pitched gable roof, buttresses, two-storey tower with a pyramidal roof and decorative metal finial. Inside the church, there is a timber ceiling with exposed scissor trusses.

St. George's Anglican Church has historical value because it is directly associated with the growth of the Anglican community in Vernon. While Vernon's early Anglican residents met in the local Orange Hall, by the late 1890s they had begun plans to build their own church. The construction of St. George's Anglican Church in 1900 illustrates the community's growing size and prosperity, which had expanded enough to warrant a dedicated church building.

St. George's Anglican Church has contextual value as a defining part of Vernon's rural village character. It is part of a cluster of institutional and public buildings constructed along Vernon's main street (now Bank Street) between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As the only remaining stone building in Vernon's rural streetscape, the former St. George's Anglican Church adds to the community's rural character as an example of late nineteenth century stone construction.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of 8679 Bank Street as a representative example of a rural Ontario vernacular church with Gothic Revival influences include:

- One-and-a-half storey massing
- Stone construction
- Steeply pitched gable roof
- Prominent two-storey tower with:

- Tin pyramidal roof embossed with a unique maple leaf pattern and topped by a decorative finial
- The building's primary entrance
- Rectangular plan following an east-west orientation
- Decorative wooden soffit brackets on the gable ends
- Stone stepped buttresses, separating windows and framing the entrance door
- Small square and rectangular window openings
- Stone stringcourses under the roof
- Stone windows surrounds (sills and lintels)

The key interior elements that contribute to the cultural heritage value of 8679 Bank Street as a representative example of a rural Ontario vernacular church with Gothic Revival influences include:

- A timber ceiling with exposed scissor trusses

The contextual value of St. George's is embodied in its location along Bank Street in the rural community of Vernon. The designation is limited to the footprint and envelope of the church.

The interior of the building, with the exception of the wooden ceiling with scissor truss beam detail mentioned above, is excluded.