

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value York Street Public School, 310 York Street

Description of Property – 310 York Street, York Street Public School (1921)

York Street Public School is an E-shaped, two-storey building constructed in 1921, located to the east of the intersection of York Street and Beausoleil Drive in the Lowertown East neighbourhood.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

York Street Public School has design value as a representative example of the Collegiate Gothic Style, a popular style for institutional construction across North America in the early-to-mid-twentieth century. Features typical of the Collegiate Gothic style include the use of brick and limestone, a flat roof, a crenellated parapet with stone detailing, and a recessed stone archway entrance.. York Street Public School displays a high degree of architectural integrity.

York Street Public School has historical value for its continued role as a school in the Lowertown neighbourhood for over a century. Constructed in 1921, the school replaced four smaller schools in the area: Robinson Primary, George Street, Rideau Street and Bolton Street Schools. The school accommodated a diverse population, including French, Irish, and Jewish Canadian children and was constructed to accommodate an influx of Jewish immigrants to the area. York Street Public School also has associative value as a representative work of well-known local architect William C. Beattie, notable for his work with the Ottawa Public School Board, designing their offices at 330 Gilmour Street (1922), and an addition to the Mutchmor Public School. He served as the Superintendent of Buildings for the Ottawa Public School Board from 1919 to 1924.

York Street Public School is physically and visually linked to its surroundings, along with the neighbouring École Élémentaire Catholique Sainte-Anne, as an educational hub in the community of Lowertown. York Street School is also functionally and historically linked to its surroundings as a school that has remained in use since its construction in 1921. It also has contextual value as a landmark because of its distinct architectural style and corner location on Beausoleil Drive.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of York Street Public School that exemplify it as a representative example of the Collegiate Gothic style include its:

- Two storey massing with raised basement and flat roof.
- Monochromatic brown brick cladding highlighted with stone detailing throughout, including stringcourses above the basement level and below the parapet
- Decorative parapet punctuated by ornamental stone detailing

- Consistent symmetrical fenestration pattern
- Projecting wings on the north façade with vertical stone bands and parapet with decorative stone caps and stone detailing.
- The central bay on the front (north) facade, including:
 - Recessed stone entrance with hood mold, pointed archway, rectangular columns, and entablature inscribed with “York Street public School”
 - Date stone
 - Crenellated towers with stone caps, tracery and lancet arch details
 - Central three windows with stone surrounds
- The mirrored east and west facades
 - Parapet punctuated with stone ornamentation
 - Recessed stone entrances with pointed archway and decorative moldings
 - Inscription of “Boys” and “Girls” above the doors
 - Central arched window with drip mold and stone surround and mullions
- Brick and stone chimney with arcade decoration at the top

The interior of the building is excluded from the designation.