



Britannia Church and Cemetery-5961 Hurontario Street



Security Services - Review and Recommendations

Date: May 20, 2020

The City of Mississauga Security Services team attended Britannia Church and Cemetery on May 20, 2020 to conduct a security review of the church and cemetery and to recommend security measures and CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including; natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and space management/maintenance, which can assist in mitigating vulnerability to crime.

As part of the analysis process for this property the following was established:

As of May 15, 2020 the property has been formally transitioned to the City of Mississauga.

1. The City of Mississauga maintains the cemetery property as required by the Funeral, Burial, Cremation Services Act. The Cemetery and Church are now part of the City's inventory.
2. Britannia Church and Cemetery are designated under By-law 1004-81.
3. There is existing fencing around the perimeter of the property.
4. There are two access points through gates into the property, all off of Hurontario Street.
5. A YouTube video recording is available, which shows a person who illegally entered the facility for the purpose of filming and highlighting many of the items inside the church. In the video there is a mention of the possibility of a homeless person living in this facility as many items shown on the video point to that. In the video the person also indicates that the church is open for access.
6. There currently is no hydro or communication services connections on this property.

CPTED Review

Natural Surveillance:

The main entry points to the property have good natural surveillance as it is located off of Hurontario Street. This specific area experiences heavy vehicle traffic and some pedestrian traffic, which allows for the opportunity of having this access point observed by passersby. This also discourages illegal activity as it gives the perception to individuals with an illicit intent that the illegal activity they are planning to commit may be noticed. The area at the back of the property and the north and south perimeter are more secluded and there is very minimal natural surveillance into these areas. The south perimeter of the church structure has some overgrown foliage which furthermore reduces the natural surveillance prospect into the property.

Natural Surveillance: Lighting

Hydro Services have been disconnected from this property and as a result there are no working exterior lights. The street lights off of Hurontario Street and neighbouring businesses may provide a bit of illumination to the property. Despite this, the majority of the property is dark during nightfall.

Territorial Reinforcement and Space Management/Maintenance:

Maintenance is related to territorial reinforcement. A well-maintained area sends the message that people notice and care about what happens in an area. This, in turn, discourages vandalism and other crimes. Security practitioners refer to the "Broken Windows Theory," the idea that one broken window will entice vandals to break another. A vandalized area then becomes more inviting to higher levels of crime. A property should be well-maintained as a matter of safety as well as pride.

Britannia Church and Cemetery, appears to be in a state which requires maintenance. There are no existing signs or notices advising the public about operating hours or whether the property is opened or

closed. The main entry into the church is blocked off by plywood and the main entry stairs are in need of repair. Appropriate signage indicating the closure of this property may provide the required notice and discourage inappropriate usage off the space. The gates remain open and there are no locking mechanism installed. On the exterior of the property, there are areas that will require some attention in order to enhance the space management principal, including; overgrown foliage, repair work to a number of sections in the perimeter fence, clean up of debris and garbage.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that signage outlining operating hours, facility usage and undesirable behaviours be posted at all access points to the property. Reminding potential offenders at the point where they might be "about to commit a crime" and that "certain actions are unacceptable" is an approach to deter unwanted behaviours. Signs can increase the perception of risk thereby discouraging abnormal behavior and may deter potentially threatening and disruptive persons from targeting a property. Minimal wording, icons and bright colours should be used to draw attention to the signs. If the property is not intended for public use signage should be posted advising public of same and all entry points should also be blocked off or locked.
2. It is recommended that a wireless intrusion detection system consisting of door contacts, motion sensors and glass break sensors be installed in the church structure in areas with accessible access points such as doors and windows to provide a layered intrusion detection system at this facility. The recommended wireless intrusion detection system will consist of the following:
 - three 90 degree wireless motion sensors
 - one 360 degree wireless motion sensor
 - one wireless door contact
 - one wireless siren
 - one receiver
 - one keypad
 - one control panel

The recommended wireless intrusion detection field devices including door contacts, motion sensors and siren will be battery operated and will not require a hard wired connection to the control panel. These devices will be mounted to the plaster walls/ceiling with screws. The receiver and keypad will require a hard wired connection to the control panel. The hard wired cable connections between the control panel and the keypad and wireless receiver will require a cable run. For esthetic reasons and cable protection, the cable will be installed inside a surface mounted wire mold, which will be attached to the wall with supporting clips and metal screws. The wire mold can be painted to match the wall paint colour. There are no recommendation for security device installations in the basement level or the upper choir level as there are not entry points into these areas from the exterior of the facility. There will be no modifications to the exterior of the building as a result of the recommended intrusion detection system. (*Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the recommended layout of the security system with descriptions.) The installation of the security system will only be feasible if hydro and communication services are available at this location. According to Facilities Maintenance personnel the electrical panel at this facility was upgraded but it is unknown when the power was disconnected.

3. It is recommended that all overgrown foliage around the perimeter of the facility be trimmed or removed to accommodate better sight lines into the property from the neighbouring streets or

properties. Doing this will also improve the perception related to territorial reinforcement and property maintenance.

4. It is recommended that the debris/garbage scattered around the property be picked up and then properly maintained going forward.
5. It is recommended that the property fence line be inspected and repaired in areas where damage has occurred or possible entry points have been created.
6. It is recommended that the entry points to the property be secured with a lock during times when the facility is closed to the public.
7. It is recommended that exterior light fixtures be installed at the entrance to the property as well as exterior perimeter of the church.

Impact on Heritage Value

The City of Mississauga has recently acquired Britannia Church & Cemetery (May 2020). Since May, the City has secured the property and addressed avenues to mitigate vandalism. An inventory of the church is being conducted this summer with the help of the Museum Curator, Culture Division.

Maintaining the integrity of Britannia Church will be the joint responsibility of Community Services (Parks, Forestry & Environment) and Corporate Services (Facilities and Property Management). Future management/business plans for both properties will be developed with input from Heritage Planning to ensure heritage integrity is maintained.

Below are some pictures showing areas listed in recommendations that require attention.



Debris and overgrown foliage found on the exterior of the property.



Front entry point to the church in need of repair or maintenance.

Estimated Cost:

The Estimated cost for the installation of the wireless intrusion detection system is **\$4000**. Depending on which communication service is installed (network, GSM, phone line) the on-going operating charges to keep the connection for the intrusion detection system operational will vary.

If implemented, the recommended security measures, including signage and lighting may assist in deterring illegal activity. However, should there be an incident of illegal entry into the church, the recommended intrusion detection system will allow for a fast alarm receipt, verification and response. The recommended intrusion alarm system will assist in detecting illicit activity inside the church without having someone physically attend to check on the property.

Conclusion:

The proposed installations will have no negative impacts on the heritage property located at 5961 Hurontario Street. Therefore, no mitigation is required. Hydro services reconnection may provide additional benefits to the heritage property providing the feasibility of a ventilation system installation, allowing for air circulation, a preventative measure to avoid further deterioration. A ventilation system is not included in the current scope of work and the provisions of such system would need to be coordinated with the Facilities and Maintenance team.

Appendix 1

Britannia Church – 5961 Hurontario Street

