

Heritage Property Research Report

St. Andrews Memorial Presbyterian Church

24 Stavebank Road, Mississauga

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Culture Division

Community Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Church on the property was built in 1927-1928 with a Christian education wing and community hall added in 1956
- The church exhibits a neo-gothic style with a stone bell tower and is made from local Credit Valley stone
- It merits designation under the Ontario Heritage Act due to its physical, design, and contextual value.

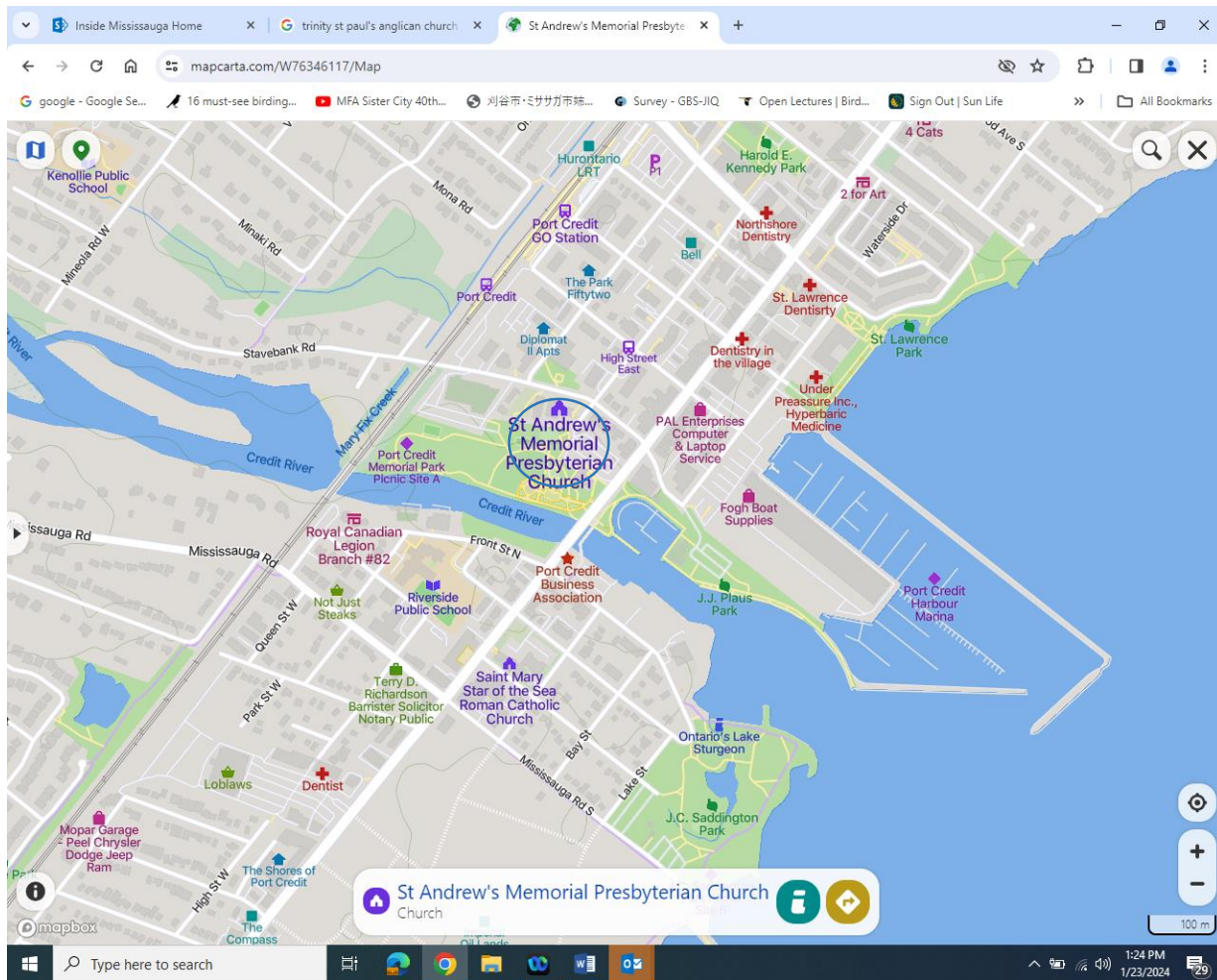
INTRODUCTION

This research and evaluation report describes the history, architecture, and context of the property at 24 Stavebank Road and applies evaluation criteria to determine if it merits designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The subject property is a stone, neo-gothic style structure that overlooks the Credit River. A location map is below.

Appendix 3 24 Stavebank Road



Ref: <https://mapcarta.com/W76346117/Map>

RESEARCH

Relevant Historical Timeline

Date	Event
1890	First service was held at James Craigie's farmhouse
1892	The Port Credit Presbyterian Church was formed and a small clapboard church built
1893	Church was raised and a basement was dug
1906	A manse was built
1918	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church name adopted
1920	Property purchased from Fred J. Hamilton
1927	Building of the present structure St. Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church
1928	Construction completed
1956	Christian Education Wing and a church hall completed
2006	Renovations to accommodate new organ by James Bailey Architect
2007	Dedication of new organ

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was initiated by the Gray and McKeith families of Port Credit in 1890. They, along with other Presbyterians from other missions, originally met at the residence of James Craigies at Cotton Farm on Centre Road under the guidance of student missionary, John Little. As more joined the congregation, they moved to the Odd Fellows Hall on Stavebank Road and later to the Wilcox Inn. Both locations were unsuitable for the growing needs of this congregation and a committee was appointed to organise a regular congregation in Port Credit. The first official congregational meeting at the Free Methodist Church and the first communion was held on February 1, 1891.

Funds were raised to build a small clapboard church which was completed and had its first service, January 17, 1892. Rev. R. J. Glassford of Streetsville presided at the initial opening. An organ was purchased soon after it opened. In 1892, a drive shed was added and in 1893, the church was raised and a basement was dug. In 1906, a manse was built.

By 1919, plans were underway to build a new larger memorial Church. According to the Ontario Land Registry (Plan 300 East, PC-2, p.514), The Trustees of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church purchased part of a 20 acre 'Marsh Lot', east of the Credit River, west of Brook Street (Stavebank Road) in 1920 from Fred. J. Hamilton for \$7,000.

The new, present, Church was built as a memorial to the soldiers who gave their lives during World War I. The new Church's cornerstone was laid in 1927 and the construction was completed in 1928 at a cost of close to \$90,000 dollars. Thanks to the dedicated fundraising of the members, the Church opened debt-free! According to Construction Magazine, (xxii, April 1929, 119-20, illus.), the church was designed by architect Charles Brammall Dolphin, and architect Dixie Cox Cotton is noted as being "active in the building of St. Andrew's Memorial Church".

After World War II, St. Andrew's experienced a period of growth and expansion which resulted in the building of the new Christian Education Building in 1956. In May 1954, under Alf Dykman, the committee raised pledges totalling \$95,000 over seven days to fund this project. On February 5, 1956, the new building was completed and dedicated. This addition included a Ladies' Group meeting room with a cloakroom and kitchen, two choir rooms, a Minister's study, a board room, a nursery, a gymnasium, and washrooms.

In 2006, James Bailey Architect worked with the church to prepare for a new organ, Casavant Opus 3864. This required "the relocation of the new console, reconfiguration of the choric stalls, extension of the chancel area into the nave, and the replacement of the carpeting within all these areas by new hardwood. In addition, the organ chambers were reinsulated and finished with double G.W.B. in order to moderate temperature swings and increase acoustical resonance". The renovations were dedicated on Sunday, June 24, 2007.

Charles Brammall Dolphin

Charles Brammall Dolphin (1888-1969) was born in Ashton Underlyne, England on March 3, 1888. In the 1891 census, he was listed as living with his parents and sibling in Stanstead, Quebec. In 1911, at the age of 22, the census records him as living with his family in Montreal and that he worked 60 hours a week as an architect.

On October 26, 1914, he enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. After returning from the war, Dolphin married Doris Alexandrene Stoval on June 11, 1918 in Winnipeg. Together they had several children including Douglas, Nancy, Robert, and Shirley. Their first son, William died as an infant.

In the 1921 Census, Dolphin is noted as living in Toronto and is listed as having his own architectural business.

Dolphin's portfolio includes the International Style office tower-William McBrien Building (1957-1958), the Toronto Postal Delivery Building (1947), Bloor-Yonge (TTC) subway station (1954), Consumers Gas Showroom (1930-1932), and the Arthur Meighen Building (1954). Some of his earliest work includes The Clarendon Apartments (1926-1927), St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (1926-1927), and the Toronto Ski Club clubhouse (1930).

Dixie Cox Cotton

Dixie Cox Cotton (1882-1943) was born in Port Credit on September 19, 1882, to Mr. & Mrs. James Cotton, early settlers in the area. Cotton was a graduate of the University of Toronto and articulated with Herbert G. Macklin from 1900 to 1907. According to his obituaries in the Globe & Mail (Sept. 10, 1943) and The Port Credit Weekly (Sept. 16, 1943), Cotton was an architect who worked in private practice for many years before becoming the maintenance engineer at St. Lawrence Starch Company where he worked for over twenty years. He was a lifelong member of Mississauga Lodge A.F. & A.M. and a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. "He designed and built many homes in Port Credit and was active in helping with the building of St. Andrew's Memorial church."

Cotton died on Sept. 9, 1943, and was survived by his wife, Olive, and his three children: Isobel, Norma, and William.

Gray Family

John Gray Sr. (1842-1936) was one of the original founders of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. John was the chairman of the original building committee and turned the sod for the new Church. John emigrated from Scotland in 1873 to pursue a career in the starch business. St. Lawrence Starch Works was founded in Port Credit in 1889 and was a major employer in the area. John was a very active member of the church and gave freely of his time and resources.

John's wife, Jessie, was very involved with the church as part of the Ladies Aid Group and is credited with being the driving force behind the memorial stained glass window dedicated to all the fallen soldiers of WWI. Jessie also donated the Church bell in memory of her son, Angus Douglas Gray, and his older half-brother Andrew Douglas, World War I veterans who each died after their return to Canada.

John's son, John M. Gray (1875-1965), was a strong supporter of St. Andrew's. He was very active in the building of the present Church. He was ordained an elder in 1918 and was the Clerk of Sessions from 1926 to 1942 and an honorary clerk until his death. In 1955, John and his children turned the sod for the new Christian Education Building and later laid the cornerstone.

John's grandson, Malcolm J. Gray (1912- 1980) was also very active at St. Andrew's. He was a member of the Sessions from 1953 and served as Chairman of the Board of Christian Education for over 20 years. Malcolm was a dedicated volunteer to both the Church and the community. In 1980, he was nominated

as “Mississauga Citizen of the Year”.

Architectural Description

As per the heritage listing report:

The church was built in 1927, constructed of Credit Valley stone in a neo-Gothic style. The building is oriented perpendicular to the road with a tower feature at the west end. This is a well-crafted structure on a prominent site overlooking the Credit River.

The church exhibits some elements of neo-Gothic (Gothic Revival/Victorian Gothic) architecture which was a widespread style starting in the first half of the 19th century. It was an architectural movement starting in the second half of the 17th century that was intertwined with philosophical movements associated with “a re-awaking of the high church or Anglo-Catholic belief concerned by the growth of religious nonconformism.” The architecture varies from strict adherence of medieval principles to touches of neo-Gothic decorations. St. Andrews Memorial Presbyterian Church falls into the latter category.

Other Neo-Gothic Churches in Mississauga

Another example of a Neo-Gothic Church in Mississauga is St. John’s Dixie Anglican Church which was opened in 1926. Similarly, a hall was added in 1955 to accommodate the growing congregation and a second addition was added in 2002 to make the building accessible.

Context

The property is on the north side of Stavebank Road North near downtown Port Credit on Lake Ontario. The front door faces west with two entrances on the south side. The church overlooks Port Credit Memorial Park and the Credit River. It has no parking lot but is near to municipal parking and many amenities.

CONCLUSION

The church has a long history within the community and is still active today. It has ties with many local well-known families including the Cotton’s and Gray’s who were important in the development of Port Credit. The building was designed by noted architect, Charles B. Dolphin who designed many buildings in Toronto.

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Original Presbyterian Church built in 1892 with the manse (added in 1906) located at High and Elizabeth Streets.

Mississauga Historic Image Gallery (MC0653)



Johnny Thomson, Rev. W. A. W. John MacGillivray, Rev. S. L. Hurdie, John Gray

Sod Turning, 1927, Mississauga Historic Image Gallery (MC0654)



Interior 1928 Mississauga Historic Image Gallery (MC0656)



Exterior 1980, Mississauga Historic Image Gallery (G820)

2024 Images of 24 Stavebank Road:



Front (south) face



Detail of front door



East facing side



East facing side with bell tower and side entrance



South Eastview, new addition entrance



1956 Education Wing facing south west, shows proximity to Trinity Anglican Church



Education Wing back



View from back of building facing west



Historic back of the church with addition facing north east