

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BYLAW NUMBER 2026 – 0037 (HO-1)

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION OF 180 CHURCH STREET LOCATED AT KESWICK ASSESSMENT ROLL NO.: 247-500

The property at 180 Church Street is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation, under the categories of design/physical, associative/historical and contextual value.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The building, constructed in 1879, has design and physical value because it is representative of a Gothic Revival church, with elements of other architectural styles. The one-storey building is constructed of red brick with buff brick accents and is rectangular in plan. The building has a steeply pitched roof with simple eaves with exposed rafter tails and purlin ends. The primary south façade has a prominent, square tower, which is surmounted by an octagonal spire-lantern with a shingled roof. Each face of the lantern has a tall, narrow trefoil vent, and the soffit of the spire roof is bracketed at the intersection of each face of the lantern. The entrance door is set within a pointed arch on the front face of the tower, with a pair of lancet windows at the upper storey of the tower. The corners of the tower and of the main body of the building have contrasting buff brick toothed quoining, and the voussoirs of the pointed arches are also contrasting. On the primary façade, at either side of the tower is a gothic-arched window, with geometric divisions and a coloured glass border. At each side elevation of the building (the east and west), there are four of these windows present.

The building was raised in 1925 and placed on new foundations to allow for the creation of a basement. In the intervening years a rectangular addition with low-hipped-roof was constructed on the west side of the building. The parged foundations and addition are not part of the physical value of the building.

The property has historical and associative value because it has direct association with

the early settler Mary Stodgill, and her work to introduce a Christian Church service to the area. Mary Stodgill and her husband Solomon left Greenville, New York for Newmarket in 1817. Having been baptized in the Christian Church, Mary wrote letters to encourage a preacher to come to the area, with success in 1821, when Brother Allen Huntley arrived. Rather than stay in Newmarket, he went with Mary's visitor Darius Mann to Lake Simcoe and founded the first Christian Church in Canada on October 21, 1821. As the congregation grew, a meeting house was constructed on this site in 1856, with the present building replacing the meeting house in 1879.

The property has contextual value as it supports and maintains the presence of the village character of Keswick and contributes to the understanding of Church Street as a historic route in the town. The building is historically connected to the site, as the location of the first meeting house, and is visually connected to the surroundings as the prominent spire is visible from several viewpoints along the street and from the village core.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Under Ontario Regulation 9/06, the property meets the following criteria:

Criterion 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.

Rationale for Designation: The property has design and physical value because it is representative of a Gothic Revival church. The building is clad in red brick with contrasting buff brick elements, features an eight-sided tower, peaked windows and doors, and stained glass.

Criterion 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.

Rationale for Designation: The property has historical and associative value because it

has direct associations with the early settler Mary Stogdill and the work of introducing the first Christian Church service in the area.

Criterion 7: The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

Rationale for Designation: The church is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the historic character of Church Street in Keswick.

Criterion 9: The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

Rationale for Designation: The property is considered a landmark because of its prominence within Keswick and its association with the street that bears its name.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Design or Physical Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the cultural heritage value of 180 Church Street as a representative example of Georgina's 19th century Gothic Revival style:

- The church's overall height, scale, and rectangular plan with a prominent central tower.
- The red brick construction with buff brick accents, including contrasting toothed brick quoining at the corners of the tower and main body, and buff brick voussoirs above the pointed-arch openings.
- The steeply pitched gable roof with simple eaves featuring exposed rafter tails and purlin ends.
- The square brick tower on the primary (south) façade, surmounted by an octagonal spire-lantern.
- The octagonal lantern's tall, narrow trefoil vents on each face, and the bracketed soffit beneath the spire roof.
- The pointed-arch entrance opening on the front face of the tower, and the paired lancet window openings at the tower's upper storey.

- The pointed-arch windows with geometric divisions and coloured glass borders on either side of the tower on the primary façade, and the series of four similar Gothic-arched windows on both the east and west side elevations.
- The church's siting and relationship on its original lot along Church Street.

Historical or Associative Value

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property at 180 Church Street as having direct associations with religious congregations in Georgina:

- The church's location on the site of the first meeting house for the first Christian Church in Canada.
- The church's location on the site of the first meeting house for the congregation which is still active as the Keswick Christian Church.
- Its location in a town centre, representation of the spread of religious congregations across Georgina in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Contextual Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the cultural heritage value of 180 Church Street in being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings:

- The church's presence in the core of Keswick, contributing to the village character of the area.
- The church's location on Church Street, contributing to the understanding of the street as a historic route in the town.
- The visual prominence of the church building, with the spire visible from several vantage points in the area.