

Advisory Committee of Council Staff Report



To Heritage Guelph
Date Monday, January 15, 2024
Subject **28 Norfolk Street: Heritage Attributes and Designation Recommendation**

Recommendation

1. THAT Heritage Guelph supports the heritage attributes identified for 28 Norfolk Street as outlined in the staff report dated January 15, 2024; and
 2. THAT Heritage Guelph recommends that City Council give notice of its intention to designate 28 Norfolk Street pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The Saint Agnes School at 28 Norfolk Street is listed as a non-designated built heritage resource on the City of Guelph’s Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act. This report recommends that 28 Norfolk Street meets seven of the prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by O Reg. 569/22) made under the Ontario Heritage Act. This staff report provides a draft list of heritage attributes and staff’s recommendation that City Council give notice of its intention to designate 28 Norfolk Street pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Designation aligns with 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority 6.1.4 to conserve our cultural heritage resources.

Report

Location

The subject property is located on the south side of Cork Street, between Norfolk Street and Dublin Street. The legal description is PLAN 8 PT CHURCH LANDS.

Statement of Significance

The subject property is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act because it meets seven of the nine prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22. The heritage attributes of 28 Norfolk Street display: design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual value.

Design/Physical Value

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 1, being of design or physical value, because it is a rare and representative example of the Second Empire style of Institutional architecture in the City of Guelph. It is also one of very few extant stone schools in the City of Guelph.

Historical/Associative Value

28 Norfolk Street meets criterion 4 because it has direct associations with Catholic education in the City of Guelph, specifically the provision of education by the Sisters of Loretto.

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 5 because it yields information that contributes to an understanding of the Guelph Catholic community and the development of the Catholic school system in Guelph.

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 6 because it reflects the works of John Hall Jr. and William Mahoney, two significant Guelph-based architects. The building represents one of Hall's last institutional commissions, and one of Mahoney's first.

Contextual Value

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 7 because the property is important in defining the character of the Cork streetscape and Catholic Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape.

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 8 because the property is functionally, visually, and historically linked to the Catholic Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape.

28 Norfolk Street meets Criterion 9 because the property is a highly visible and prominent landmark for the Guelph community. The school is located at the apex of Cork Street on Catholic Hill and can be viewed from as far away as Wyndham Street.

Heritage Attributes

The following elements of the property at 28 Norfolk Street should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

- Second Empire stone school with rectangular plan and hipped roof
- Symmetrical façade
- Tower, including the stone dentils and steeply pitched hipped-roof
- All window and door openings
- All stone sills and lintels at window and door openings
- Stone quoins at all corners of the building
- Central gable on rear elevation

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

Attachment 2 – Current Photographs

Report Author

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