



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON

BY-LAW

Number 311-89

To designate "Grace United Church" as a property of historical and architectural value and interest

WHEREAS section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, (R.S.O. 1980, c. 337, as amended) authorizes the council of a municipality to pass by-laws designating properties within the municipality to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brampton has given notice of its intention to so designate the property known as "Grace United Church" being composed of the West half of Lot 6, Concession 1, East of Hurontario Street in Brampton, in accordance with the requirements of section 29(3) of the said Act;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection has been served upon the Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Brampton within the time limited for so doing, as set out in section 29(5) of the said Act;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brampton hereby ENACTS as follows:

1. The property known as "Grace United Church" and described in Schedule A to this by-law is hereby designated to be a property of historic and architectural value and interest.
2. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule B to this by-law.

READ a FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD TIME and PASSED in OPEN COUNCIL,

THIS 11th DAY OF December, 1989.

APPROVED
AS TO FORM
LAW DEPT
BRAMPTON

JA-P

DATE 14/12/89


KENNETH G. WHILLANS - MAYOR


LEONARD J. MIKULICH -- CLERK

SCHEDULE A to BY-LAW 311-89

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Brampton, in the Regional Municipality of Peel (formerly of the Town of Brampton, in the County of Peel) and the Province of Ontario, and being composed of Lots eighty-nine, ninety and Part of Lot ninety-one according to a plan by J. D. Dennis, P.L.S. registered in July, 1850 being a subdivision of the West 1/2 of Lot 6, Concession 1, East of Hurontario Street known as Plan BR-2 for the said former Town of Brampton and which said parcel may be more particularly described as follows:

PREMISING that the Northeast limit of Main Street North has an assumed astronomic bearing of North 45 degrees 11 minutes West and relating all bearings herein thereto;

COMMENCING at an iron bar in the said Northeast limit of Main Street marking the most Southerly angle of said Lot eighty-nine;

THENCE North 44 degrees 43 minutes 40 seconds East, 62.815 metres, more or less to a point in the Southwesterly limit of Lot ninety-five in the said Plan BR-2;

THENCE North 44 degrees 9 minutes 40 seconds West, 32.205 metres more or less to a round iron bar found;

THENCE North 45 degrees 9 minutes 20 seconds West, 12.520 metres to a point;

THENCE South 45 degrees 16 minutes 40 seconds West, 26.205 metres to a point;

THENCE South 44 degrees 43 minutes 20 seconds East, 0.805 metres to a point;

THENCE South 45 degrees 16 minutes 30 seconds West, 4.570 metres to a point;

THENCE South 21 degrees 26 minutes 40 seconds West, 3.650 metres to a point;

THENCE South 45 degrees 16 minutes 40 seconds West, 29.265 metres more or less to an iron bar found in the said Northeasterly limit of Main Street North;

THENCE South 45 degrees 11 minutes East, 43.050 metres more or less along the said Northeasterly limit of Main Street North to the point of commencement.

REASONS FOR PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE GRACE UNITED CHURCH

Grace United Church is the first spiritual home erected in Brampton that is still used for its original purpose.

The congregation can trace its origins prior to 1822. Methodist Circuit Riders came to the area that is now Brampton, and held Wesleyan services in the homes of Robert Lowes (for whom Lowes Avenue is named) and John Wilkinson.

In 1822, the congregation constructed a small log meeting house next to Salisbury's tavern, in the area that is now Main Street North and Williams Parkway. This building became too small, and larger quarters were sought.

In 1830, services were moved to a building located just north of the Main Street Cemetery. This was destroyed by fire in 1843. It is interesting to note that the Baptist Church used its foundations to later build their first church upon.

For two years, settlers homes were again used.

In the 1840's, the congregation moved to the Brampton School House. This building stands today as the Salvation Army Thrift store.

In 1848, a larger place of worship was required, and George Wright, a man of means, Member of Legislature, and a large property owner in the West Ward, and the original owner of Wrights Castle, donated land on what came to be known as "Haggerts Hill". On this land, the congregation erected a 30' X 40' church, at the cost of \$1200.00. This church later became the coach house for what was perhaps Brampton's finest residence, "Haggertlea". The Church was demolished in the 1930's for another residence.

By 1864, the growth in the congregation had been so great that a more commodious house of worship was again required.

On the 23rd of December, 1865, the Congregation purchased its present lot, as described earlier, and known as the Scott Lot, for \$250.00.

Here they built a 40' X 60' Church, with four or five lancet windows, and a steeple, for a cost of \$8500.00. It opened for services in 1867.

PERSONALITIES:

With such a long history, Grace Church has boasted some of this City's very important people as members of its Congregation.

As already mentioned, the Wright family was active in the Church, as was the Armstrong family, the Coopers, the Brydons, and the Bull family. The Archdekin family, well respected business people in our community, and our former Mayor, call Grace home. So does Mr. William Davis, the former Premier of the Province of Ontario.

When Grace Church was originally opened in 1867, Dr. Eggerton Ryerson (1803-1882), founder of the Ontario Public School System, the first Editor of the Christian Guardian, the first Principal of the Upper Canada Academy, Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada and the Province of Ontario, President of the first General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, founder of Victoria University, Vic College, The University of Toronto, and namesake of the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, officiated. This was a great honour; that alone should qualify the church for historical designation.

ARCHITECTURE:

It is not known who designed the core of the Church. Jesse Perry, a local brick layer and stone mason, who also worked on St. Andrew's Presbyterian, was the builder. Some documentation of conversations of the time indicates that Perry could have been the 'Architect', because the church was a simple rectangle with a steeple. It did not require any special engineering. A seasoned mason could easily have constructed the church from his own plans.

Perry's structure was enlarged in 1870, 1887, 1924, and 1959/60.

Grace Church became the property of the United Church of Canada when union took place in 1925.

The description of the original core of the sanctuary is interesting, but fitting for a methodist church. This is from the book 'History of Grace United Church', by Gladys M. Wilcox, 1966.

"The seats were the usual carpenter made grey wooden seats, little better than benches. The floor had no carpet, but a strip of cocoa matting ran up the centre aisle. A great chandelier which hung from the ceiling with 15 or 20 coal oil lamps provided light. At the end of the church, farthest from the pulpit, was a little gallery running straight across, and here was located the choir loft and its little foot powered organ."

It is interesting to compare this description to the photos provided of the sanctuary as it stands today, considered by some to be the most beautiful sanctuary in the city.

Grace United Church deserves the protection that designation as a historical site provides.