

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: Almonte Baptist Church, 207 Reserve Street

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

The Almonte Baptist Church, 207 Reserve Street, is located on the northeast side of Reserve Street across from the Ottawa Valley Rik Trail. The Baptist Church was initially organized in Almonte in 1864, and early services were held in a private house and then in the Temperance Hall. Tenders for a stone church were called by James Thomson in 1867, who held the plans at his office. Constructed in 1868, the first service in the Church was held on January 1, 1869.

Almonte Baptist Church is a simple gable-roofed stone structure with a symmetrical front façade, featuring an entrance door flanked by two tall, multi-paned pointed arch windows. In 1927, a wooden portico with stone foundations that matched the stone of the front façade was completed and a church hall was added. The church was one of several prominent stone buildings constructed in Almonte in the late 1860s that still

stand today. Other notable examples constructed at the time include the Doctor's House, Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church and the former Church Street School. Local architect Andrew Bell designed a number of these structures, but no evidence linking him to Almonte Baptist has been found.

Almonte Baptist Church is associated with the growth of the Baptist Church in the Ottawa Valley, where the first Baptist missionaries arrived in 1815 from Scotland. Initially some early the Baptists were evangelists, while others established congregations. In 1888, the two groups formed the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: Royal Canadian Legion (former Bank of Montreal, built as Merchants' Bank),
100 Bridge Street

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

The Royal Canadian Legion, former Bank of Montreal, is located on the west side of Bridge Street near the heart of downtown Almonte. The building was constructed in 1874 to serve as the Merchants' Bank of Canada's Almonte branch. In 1922, the Merchants' Bank merged with the Bank of Montreal and the building served as a branch of that bank until a new bank was constructed on Mill Street. The Legion purchased the building in 1947 when the demand for services for veterans of the Second World War was high.

The Merchants' Bank was designed by local architect Andrew Bell, who was responsible for many stone buildings constructed in Almonte in the 1860s and 1870s. As designed, it featured an impressive mansard roof typical of the Second Empire style that was popular with banks in the latter part of the 19th century. The building now features a smaller standing seam metal roof. Other features of the style include the round arched windows with keystones, voussoirs and stone sills, the darker stone stringcourse and the bracketed eaves.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets at least four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: Ruins, Appleton Mill,
Prepared by: Sally Coutts

Executive Summary

This parcel of land is associated with the Teskey family who arrived in Ramsay Township from Ireland in 1823. Joseph Teskey, the eldest son was granted land near the falls in what is now Appleton and soon, along with his brothers, had established grist and sawmills. In 1862, Robert Teskey constructed a four storey stone woollen mill which produced tweeds and blankets. The mill operated well into the 20th century, but was severely damaged by fire in July 1950. At this point, no meaningful evidence of the former mill building remains.

The property does not have cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It does not meet the minimum of two criteria of the nine criteria required for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: Church Street School, 149 Church Street

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

The former Church Street School (S.S. 13), now the Church Street Apartments, is located on the east side of 100 Church Street, Almonte, set back from the street and surrounded by the former school's grounds. The original school was built in 1868 to the design by Andrew Bell and altered in 1932 through the construction of a two-storey addition to the front of the original building and the removal of its distinctive belfry. After its closure in 1970, the school was converted to apartments.

The school's original design was typical of mid-19th century Ontario schools constructed after the era of one room schools. It was designed by architect Andrew Bell, who was responsible for many stone buildings constructed in Almonte in the 1860s. When completed, the building was two storeys in height with a high hipped roof and a central frontispiece with a gabled roof, topped with a belfry. The Almonte Gazette noted has "a front projection for hall and staircase 20 x 12, surmounted by a handsome belfrey." Unlike one-room schools, this type of 19th century Ontario school featured single grade classrooms that had large windows, high ceilings and blackboards. By the 1920s, the school had become overcrowded and was expanded in 1932 through the removal of the front portion of the school and its replacement with a two storey, flat roofed structure that roughly doubled the size of the building. The school closed in 1970 and was later converted to an apartment building.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets at least four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: The Doctor's House, 103 Queen Street

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

The Doctor's House is located at 103 Queen Street near the north end of the Queen Street Bridge that crosses the Mississippi River in downtown Almonte. It was constructed in 1868-69 for Dr. William Mostyn, a medical doctor born in 1836 in Roscommon County, Ireland who emigrated to Canada in the 1850s and later attended medical school at Queen's University, graduating in 1858. He moved to Almonte immediately after graduation and practiced there until his death in 1881. As was typical of the era, Dr. Mostyn ran a solo practice, with offices in his house which had built specifically for that purpose. Until recently, the Doctor's House had been exclusively owned by doctors since its construction. It remains well known in Almonte for its traditional occupants.

The Doctor's House was constructed of limestone quarried on the site. The building is a two-storey structure comprised of two distinct parts; the private residence that faces Queen Street and the office wing to its rear, where the medical offices were located. The residential section is a large two storey structure with a shallow hipped roof, with paired cornice brackets, soffits and frieze. Its three-bay front façade features a side entrance distinguished by a flat roofed enclosed portico with a wide cornice with brackets, multipaned transom windows and 18 over 1 windows in the double entrance doors. The second storey features round-arched, six pane windows with stone voussoirs and lintels, while the ground floor has rectangular windows. The building is an example of the Italianate style, and features the low-pitched flat roof, round arched windows, and elaborate brackets associated with the style. The enclosed portico is a common feature of the larger houses of Almonte, but is not a common feature of Italianate houses elsewhere in the province.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets five of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.



Executive Summary

The Settler's Cabin is a small one and a half storey log structure with a gable roof and an off-centre front entrance featuring a portico. The cabin includes three fixed, four paned windows: two located in the gable ends and one on the main floor. An open, shed-roofed storage area is attached to one side of the building.

The cabin was originally constructed on Lot 15, Concession 11, Ramsay Township. It was dismantled in 1983 and reconstructed there, opening to the public in 1985.

The Settler's Cabin is an interesting example of a typical early cabin build by Lanark Counties first settlers. It is a valuable part of the North Lanark Museum, where it serves to illustrate pioneer life. **However, because it has been dismantled, moved and reconstructed, it has lost much of its context and meaning. As a result, it does not meet the criteria for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.**

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, (Holy Name of Mary Church), 134 Bridge Street, Almonte

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

Holy Name of Mary Church is located on the west side of Bridge Street. Lanark Counties earliest Roman Catholic settlers arrived in the area in 1823 from southern Ireland, as part of the Peter Robinson settlers, a group of emigrants sponsored by the Imperial government as a poverty relief program. In 1842 Father John Hugh McDonough, a local Roman Catholic priest who served the Lanark County population, decided to establish a church Shipman's Mills (present day Almonte). Daniel Shipman, a prominent landholder donated one and a half acres of land for the church and a frame building was soon completed. It burnt down in 1868 and by the next year, a committee to rebuild the church had been established and an architect, Andrew Bell, was hired. Tenders were opened on April 27, 1869 and the firm of Willoughby and Oakley was awarded the construction contract. Construction was slow and although the cornerstone was laid in 1869, the church was not completed until 1873.

Architect Andrew Bell was born in Toronto in 1835. He graduated from Queen's University in 1866, but was already practicing architecture in Almonte, designing the Rosamund Woollen Mill for James Rosamund by 1863. For many years he was one of Almonte's leading architects, building many of its earliest stone buildings and advertising his services regularly in the Almonte Gazette.

Holy Name of Mary Church is a good example of the Gothic Revival churches built throughout Ontario in the 19th century. Churches of the era borrowed from the Middle Ages, incorporating elements such as the square bell tower, pointed lancet windows and doors with tracery and contrasting stone hood moulds, and small buttresses that are found here. The church was constructed of locally quarried stone that is rough cut and laid in even courses.

As an excellent example of a small Gothic Revival Ontario church, incorporating many elements of that style. It was designed by prominent local architect Andrew Bell, for the local Roman Catholic population. **Because of its style, architect and history, the property meets at least four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.**

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: Snedden House, 198 Church Street, Almonte

Date: Autumn 2024

Prepared by: Sally Coutts



Executive Summary

The Snedden House is located on the north east side of Church a one-and-a-half storey stone structure, constructed in 1866. It has a medium pitched side-gable roof with a central gable above the main entrance. As is typical of houses of this type, the front façade is three bays wide and there is a large round arched window within the central gable. Historic photographs show that the bargeboard trim did not exist in the early 20th century and instead the buildings cornice and soffits were simpler in design. The building features large four-over-four rectangular windows on the ground floor with stone voussoirs and sills, and the front door has a rectangular transom with a diamond-shaped muntin pattern. The centre gable plan and three bay composition identify the structure as an Ontario Gothic Revival cottage, popular throughout the province from the 1860s until the early 20th century. Built in wood, brick or stone, Ontario cottages were usually one and a half storeys, had classical proportions, large rectangular windows, a central gable, prominent voussoirs and frequently featured front door transoms.

The Snedden House was originally built for William and Jane Snedden, members of a prominent local farming family. They moved from Ramsay Township to this property. It was one of the earliest houses in this part of Almonte, and was a well-known local

landmark as Church Street was on one of the entrances to town from the south. Its location on a corner lot continues to contribute to its landmark status.

As an excellent example of the Gothic Revival Ontario cottage, that was built by members of the prominent Snedden family, the property has cultural heritage value for its design, historical and values. Its corner location makes it a landmark within its residential neighbourhood. **It meets at least four of the nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.**