

Heritage Calgary Response



TO: Benjamin Bailey, File Manager
FROM: Cynthia Klaassen, Heritage Resources Program Manager
DATE: Friday, November 4, 2022
RE: DP2022-06965 – Hillhurst Baptist Church

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you for providing Heritage Calgary with the opportunity to respond to the captioned DP circulation. The DP LOC for 1114 GLADSTONE RD NW includes the Hillhurst Baptist Church, a historic resource listed on Calgary's [Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources](#). The Hillhurst Baptist church, originally known as the Morleyville Road Baptist Church, was built in 1907 at the intersection of two trails and is one of Hillhurst's few remaining churches from Calgary's early 20th century building boom (1906-1913). It displays elements of the Gothic Revival Style and its situation on the busy 10 ST NW corridor makes it a local landmark.

Heritage Value

The Hillhurst Baptist Church is a modest wood-framed structure which incorporates elements of the Gothic Revival Style. The original small wood structure was incorporated into the current floorplan in 1914. It served as a church until the 1970s, after which time it has had several types of commercial uses.

Prior to the construction of the Louise Bridge, it was difficult for residents of Hillhurst to travel across the Bow river and in 1907, a small wooden structure was built by parish volunteers in to accommodate this need. At the time of construction, there were 31 charter members and by 1914 this congregation had grown enough to warrant an expansion of the church to its present day form.



Gothic Revival is a style of architecture that started in the United States reminiscent of European Gothic architecture. The Hillhurst Baptist Church is an example of a more modest version of Gothic Revival, sometimes referred to as Carpenter Gothic. The wood-frame building has retained several stylistic elements representative of the Gothic Revival style such as the pitched roof with centered gables, corner entrance tower, pointed arch windows, as well as decorative elements such as eave brackets, a finial topping the corner tower and slightly projecting eaves. The building is clad with beveled wood lap and shingle cedar siding. In addition, the building sits on an unusual

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triangular shaped lot, and this prominent site on Gladstone Road enhances its position as a landmark in the community.

Proposal

The application proposes a new six story multi-unit residential building to be located directly west of the church on this triangular-shaped lot. It also includes retention of the existing church building for future commercial use. A public plaza is to be a feature to the east of the church, incorporating a barrier free ramp to the building. This would provide a public amenity for widespread use on the most visible part of this site.

Response

Heritage Calgary is pleased to see the retention of this important historic site into the proposed development. To ensure the Hillhurst Baptist Church maintains its status as a local landmark, Heritage Calgary recommends designating it as a Municipal Historic Resource. This will ensure the building stays in perpetuity for future generations, and provides the property owner with access to conservation tools and incentives. Designation does not affect the ability to sell or purchase the property, and property owners actively participate in the development of the designation by-law.

Upon receiving Municipal Heritage Designation, all character defining elements included in the by-law will be subject to the national [Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada](#). The Standards and Guidelines provide information on how to maintain and make sympathetic adaptive reuse of historic sites in Canada.

Conclusion

Thank you for providing Heritage Calgary an opportunity to comment on this application and we are pleased to see a proposed development that retains the existing historic Hillhurst Baptist Church in situ. Heritage Calgary encourages future tenants to consider the history, style, and community significance of this historic building as an asset and a starting place for its future.

Best regards,



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