



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.6.1
Halifax Regional Council
May 17, 2022

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

For Patrick Connor, Acting Chair, Heritage Advisory Committee

DATE: April 28, 2022

SUBJECT: **Case H00535: Request to Include 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality**

ORIGIN

April 27, 2022 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Item 9.1.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Heritage Property Act

s. 14(1) A heritage advisory committee may recommend to the municipality that a building, public building interior, streetscape, cultural landscape or area be registered as a municipal heritage property in the municipal registry of heritage property.

HRM By-law No. H-200 - Heritage Property By-law

4. The [Heritage Advisory] Committee shall, within the time limits prescribed by Council or the [Heritage Property] Act, advise the Region respecting:
- (a) the inclusion of buildings, public building interiors, streetscapes, cultural landscapes or areas in the Registry.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and
2. Approve the request to include 5375 Kaye Street in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the April 13, 2022 report, as a municipal heritage property under the Heritage Property Act.

BACKGROUND

At the April 27, 2022 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, the Committee received a staff recommendation report dated April 13, 2022, and received a staff presentation on Case H00535. Staff noted that should the Committee award the property a total score of fifty (50) points or more for the identified property, out of a possible one-hundred (100), then the staff recommendation is that the Committee recommend the property for registration by Halifax Regional Council.

For additional background information on this item, refer to the staff report dated April 13, 2022 (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

At the April 27, 2022 meeting, following the presentation from staff, the Committee evaluated the proposed heritage property using the Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in HRM. The Committee applied the following scores:

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	5
2. Historical Importance	20
3. Significance of Architect	10
4A. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	5
4B. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	8
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	64

Based on this evaluation, the Committee approved a motion recommending that Halifax Regional Council schedule a heritage hearing for the matter, and to approve the registration to Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

For further discussion on the heritage registration evaluation criteria as it relates to this application, refer to the staff report dated April 13, 2022 (Attachment 1) and the Scoring Summary for Heritage Buildings (Attachment 2).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated April 13, 2022.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated April 13, 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Heritage Advisory Committee is comprised of ten citizen members and two Councillors. Virtual meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated April 13, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated April 13, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES

Heritage Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated April 13, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff Recommendation Report dated April 13, 2022

Attachment 2 – Scoring Summary for Heritage Buildings.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Attachment 1
Heritage Advisory Committee
April 27, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee

-Original Signed-

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 13, 2022

SUBJECT: **Case H00535: Request to Include 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality**

ORIGIN

Application by the property owner, Joseph Nickerson of 5375 Developments Co., to register 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax as a municipal heritage property.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Heritage Property Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 199

RECOMMENDATION

Should 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax score 50 or more points on evaluation as a heritage property under the HRM Heritage Property Program, the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and
2. Approve the request to include 5375 Kaye Street in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1, as a municipal heritage property under the *Heritage Property Act*.

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, 5375 Kaye Developments Co., purchased the property located at 5375 Kaye Street (Map 1) and applied to register the property as a municipal heritage property. This property is a through lot with frontage on both Kaye Street and Young Street. It is occupied by the former United Memorial Church building, which is now vacant. The property owner intends to preserve and rehabilitate the church as part of a new mixed-use development. The heritage registration will allow the owner to apply for a substantial alteration under the *Heritage Property Act*, and a development agreement under Policy CHR-7 of the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, which allows uses other than those allowed by the land use by-law.

In 2017, neighbouring property owners submitted a third-party application to register 5375 Kaye Street as a municipal heritage property. At that time, the previous owner was proposing to demolish the church building and redevelop the property as a multi-unit residential building. The property owner objected to the third party registration application at the heritage hearing and Regional Council refused to register the property as a municipal heritage property.

The church was built in 1920 to house the congregations of two churches, Grove Presbyterian Church and Kaye Street Methodist Church, both destroyed in the Halifax Explosion on December 6, 1917. The current application to include the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality will be evaluated based on the property's heritage value and the evaluation criteria established through HRM's Heritage Property Program. The property owner is fully supportive of the heritage registration of their property.

This application is considered in accordance with Sections 14 and 15 of the *Heritage Property Act*.

HRM's Heritage Property Program

The purpose of the HRM Heritage Property Program is to help protect and conserve significant heritage resources including buildings, streetscapes, sites, areas, and conservation districts that reflect the rich heritage found throughout HRM. One of the principal aims of the Heritage Property Program is to recognize significant heritage resources through the inclusion of properties into the Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties.

Under the Heritage Property Program, all registration applications for heritage buildings are evaluated by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) using "The Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in Halifax Regional Municipality" (Attachment A).

The Evaluation Criteria for scoring a property and building are broken down into six categories as follows:

Criterion	Highest Possible Score
1. Age	25
2. Historical or Architectural Importance	20
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	10
4. Architectural Merit: Construction type and Style	20
5. Architectural Integrity	15
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	100

Should the HAC score a property with 50 or more points, a positive recommendation will be forwarded to Regional Council. If the property scores less than 50 points, the report will not be forwarded to Regional Council.

Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act

HRM's Heritage Property Program receives its authority from the *Heritage Property Act* which seeks:

“to provide for the identification, designation, preservation, conservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, public-building interiors, structures, streetscapes, cultural landscapes, areas and districts of historic, architectural or cultural value, in both urban and rural areas, and to encourage their continued use”.

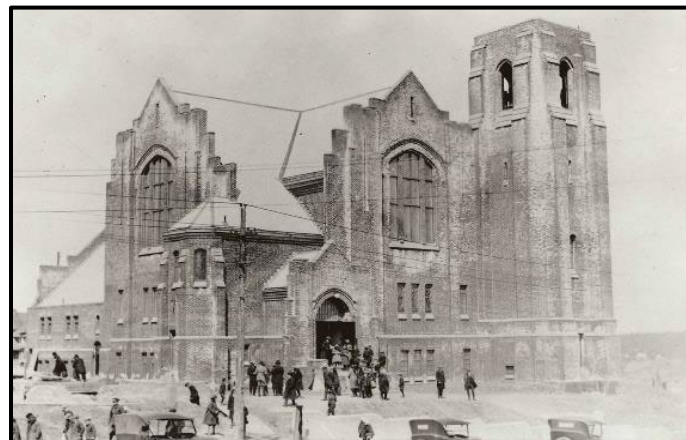
Sections 14(2) and 15(1) under the *Heritage Property Act* require that notice of recommendation is given to the property owner at least thirty (30) days prior to any Council decision to include the property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality. The property owner is also given an opportunity to address Council before they decide on the registration request. Should a positive recommendation be forwarded to Council, staff will ensure the required notices are sent to the owners and deposited at the Registry of Deeds.

DISCUSSION

Heritage registration applications are evaluated by the HAC relative to six evaluation criteria as outlined previously, and described in greater detail in Attachment A. To assist the HAC in their evaluation and scoring, staff offer the following comments based on a historical research report (Attachment B).

1. Age:

Construction of the United Memorial Church took place from 1920 to 1921 following the destruction of much of the North End of Halifax as a result of the Halifax Explosion on December 6th, 1917. The church was built to house the surviving congregations of the Kaye Street Methodist and Grove Presbyterian churches, both of which were destroyed in the explosion. The first services at the United Methodist Church took place in September of 1921.



United Memorial Church shortly after completion, 1921

The church building was constructed in 1921, as such staff recommend a score of 5 points for age.

2. Historical OR Architectural Importance:

Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups:

The subject property is highly significant for its relationship with the rebuilding efforts in the community following the 1917 Halifax Explosion. On December 6, 1917 the SS Mont-Blanc, a French cargo ship carrying thousands of tonnes of explosives, collided with the SS Imo, a Norwegian vessel carrying relief supplies. Following the collision, the SS Mont-Blanc caught fire, igniting an explosion which caused significant destruction in Halifax and Dartmouth.

The Halifax Explosion destroyed much of the North End of Halifax, especially in an area formerly known as Richmond. Both the Kaye Street Methodist Church and the Grove Presbyterian Church were among the hundreds of buildings destroyed in the disaster. In March 1918, the two congregations began to hold

services at a temporary building constructed at the intersection of Young Street and Gottingen Street known as the “tarpaper church” while raising funds for new permanent buildings.

Originally, the two congregations had separate ministers, but the groups got along well together. The decision was made that, rather than rebuilding two churches, they would unite into a single congregation, to be known as the United Memorial Church. The name change was officially recognized in June 1920 and preceded the establishment of the United Church of Canada by approximately four years.

Construction of the United Memorial Church began in 1920 and on September 18, 1921, a dedication ceremony was held at the completed church in memory of the members of the congregation killed in the explosion. The building included several items donated in the memory of victims of the Explosion, including the church bells, stained-glass windows, the organ and the baptismal font.

The church property is intimately related with the reconstruction efforts after the Halifax Explosion, an event of national significance. Staff recommend a score of between 16 and 20 points.

3. Significance of Architect or Builder:

The United Memorial Church building was designed by renowned Halifax architect Andrew Cobb. He studied architecture at Acadia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and École des Beaux-Arts in Paris before returning to Halifax to start a successful architecture practice.

Cobb designed many significant residential and institutional buildings throughout Atlantic Canada. Cobb is responsible for several Halifax landmarks, including the Memorial Tower in Sir Sandford Fleming Park, which he designed with his partner Sydney P. Dumaresq in 1912. He designed many of the most prominent buildings at the University of Kings College, Dalhousie University, Acadia University and Mount Allison University. Outside of Nova Scotia, Cobb worked with planner Thomas Adams in 1923 to design Townsite, an entire mill town neighbouring Corner Brook, Newfoundland, laid-out in the Garden City tradition. Cobb was instrumental in the founding of the Nova Scotia Society of Arts and served as its first president and was also the first president of the Nova Scotia Association of Architects.

Andrew Cobb is predominantly an architect of provincial significance but also designed buildings throughout Atlantic Canada, including prominent university buildings at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick, and an entire mill town in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Staff recommend a score of between 7 and 10 points for national significance.

4. Architectural Merit:

Construction type or building technology:

The United Memorial Church building is a brick cross gable structure. It features steeply pitched roofs and a prominent four-sided steeple on the east side of the building’s Kaye Street façade. This construction type and technology was common for places of worship, particularly given the preference at the time for durable construction materials, which was a legacy of the Halifax Explosion.

The design of the United Memorial Church is reminiscent of other churches in HRM designed by Cobb, including St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church located on the corner of Coburg Road and Robie Street, and the United Baptist Church located on King Street in Dartmouth. Each of these churches features a similar form and fenestration pattern and include a four-sided steeple with a flat roof.



Andrew Cobb, Courtesy of Janet Kitz and Nimbus Publishing

Due to the significance of the construction type and durability of construction following the Halifax Explosion, staff recommend a score of between 4 and 6 points for moderately rare or early construction type.

Style:

The design of the United Memorial Church is reflective of a local shift towards more modern styles of architecture following the Halifax Explosion. The building has a streamlined geometric form for a church and may have been influenced by the early art deco style that was developing at that time.

The character-defining elements of the property include:

- Four-sided steeple with L-shaped corners;
- Steeply pitched gable roofs projecting out to all four sides of the building;
- Central Palladian windows on the Kaye Street façade and the east and west sides of the building;
- Narrow gable windows at the peak of each side of the building;
- Narrow rectangular windows in a 1-3-1 pattern or in pairs;
- Five-sided vestibule on the westerly side of the Kaye Street façade; and
- Gabled entranceway with a fan light over double doors.

Staff recommend a score of between 4 and 6 points for moderately rare or early architectural style.

5. Architectural Integrity:

An image of the United Memorial Church from 1921, included in Section 1, and on page 6 of Attachment B, provides a comparison that illustrates the alterations that have been made to the building since its construction. While the general form of the structure has remained intact, some of the more ornamental features have been lost over the years, likely due to water ingress and maintenance costs. These include the prominent parapets along the roof line at the front and sides of the building, the slate roofing and the decorative moulding under the eaves. In addition, in 1975 the top portion of the bell tower was removed due to structural issues. The bells inside, which had been donated by Barbara Orr in memory of her family killed in the Halifax Explosion, were moved to a memorial bell tower at Fort Needham Park.

Staff recommend a score of between 6 and 10 points for modest changes to architectural integrity.

6. Relationship to Surrounding Area:

The subject property is located on Kaye Street and backs on Young Street. It is located in an established residential neighbourhood comprised largely of low-density housing with some institutional and higher density residential uses in the surrounding area.

Several structures in the area also have a strong relationship to the recovery efforts in the North End of Halifax following the 1917 Halifax Explosion. This includes the municipally registered St. Joseph's Convent building, St. Mark's Anglican Church, and the Hydrostone District, a neighbourhood built in 1920 specifically for residents displaced by the Halifax Explosion. Both St. Joseph's Convent and the Hydrostone District are designated National Historic Sites of Canada. As a result, the subject property contributes to the heritage character of the surrounding area and its ties to the Halifax Explosion.

Staff recommend a score of between 6 and 10 points for relationship to the building's surrounding neighbourhood. The building is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HRM costs associated with advertising and processing this application can be accommodated within the approved 2022/2023 operating budget for C340 - Social and Heritage Policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process for a heritage registration is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement was information sharing achieved through public access to the required Heritage Advisory Committee meeting. As a provision of the *Heritage Property Act*, no registration of a municipal heritage property shall take place until Regional Council has given the owner of the property an opportunity to be heard.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Heritage Advisory Committee may choose to refuse the application to include 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax, in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality if the property scores less than 50 points based on the evaluation criteria. In doing so, the application will not proceed to Regional Council for evaluation.

ATTACHMENTS

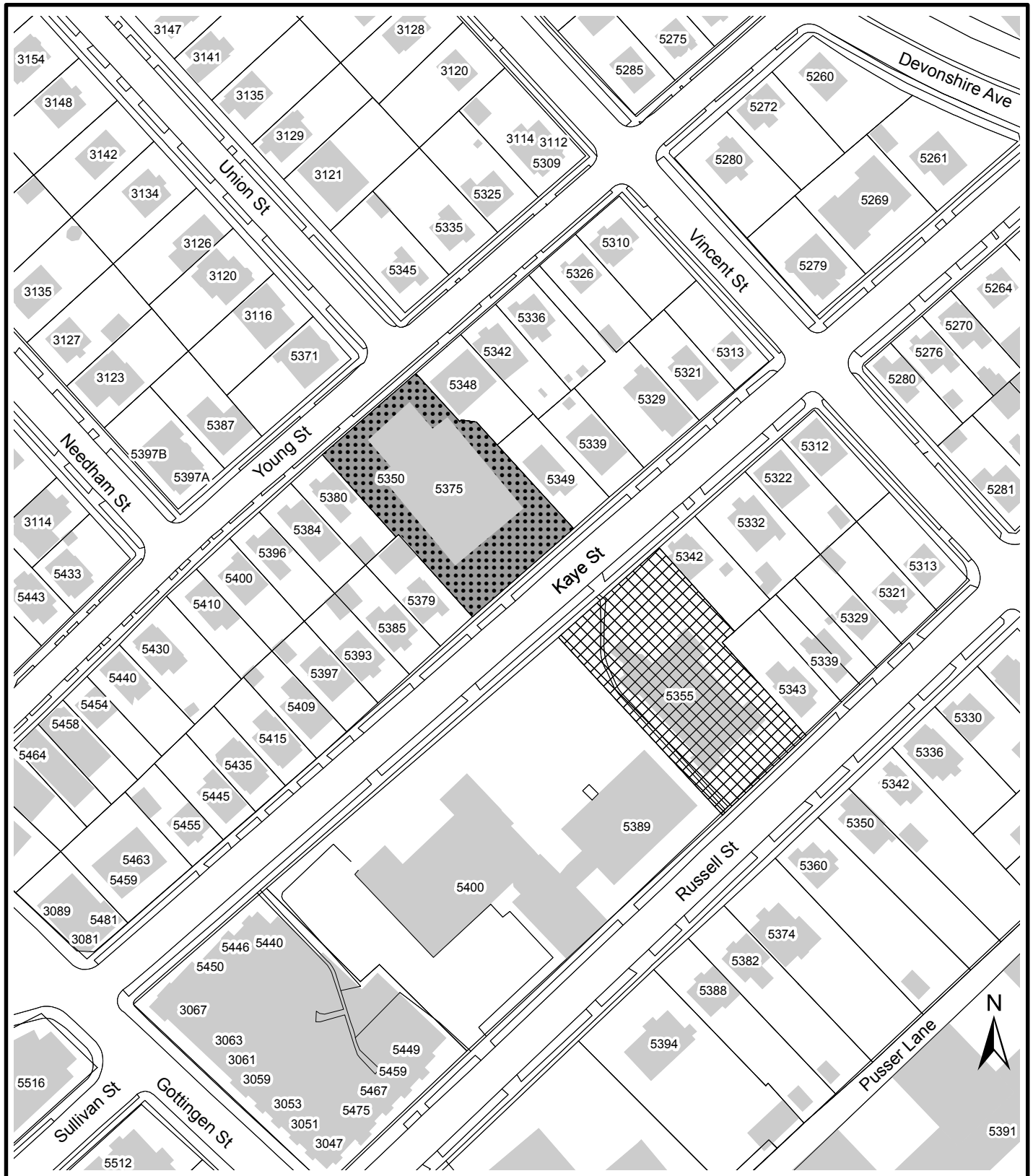
Map 1: Location Map

Attachment A: Evaluation Criteria

Attachment B: Research Report




A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Seamus McGreal, Planner III, Heritage, 902.717.1568

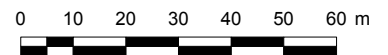


Map 1 - Location Map

5375 Kaye Street,
Halifax

-  Subject Property
-  Registered Heritage Property
-  Buildings

HALIFAX



HRM does not guarantee the accuracy of any representation on this plan.



HERITAGE PROPERTY PROGRAM

EVALUATION CRITERIA

**Heritage Property Program
Community & Recreation Services**

March 2013

**EVALUATION CRITERIA
FOR REGISTRATION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS (Revised 2004)**

1. AGE

Age is probably the single most important factor in the popular understanding of the heritage value of buildings. The following age categories are based on local, national and international occasions that may be considered to have defined the character of the Halifax Regional Municipality and its architecture.

Date of Construction	Points	Timeline
1749 - 1785	25	Halifax Garrison Town to the Loyalist migration
1786 - 1830	20	Boom period following construction of Shubenacadie Canal
1831 - 1867	16	From Boom to Confederation
1868 - 1899	13	Confederation to the end of the 19 th century
1900 - 1917	9	Turn of the Century to Halifax Harbour Explosion
1918 - 1945	5	The War Years
1945 - Present	3	Post-War

** Maximum score of 25 points in this category*

2. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

A building can receive points for:

- A) Having specific associations with important occasions, institutions, personages and groups,
OR
 B) For being architecturally important unique/representative of a particular period.

2A) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups

Nationally	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	16 - 20	
Moderately Related	11 - 15	
Loosely Related	1 - 10	
Provincially	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	

Locally	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	
No relationship to important occasions, institutions, personages or groups.	0	

** Maximum score of 20 points in this category, scoring from one of the three categories only*

2B) Important/Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era

Importance	Points	Comments
Highly important, Unique, or representative of an era	16 - 20	
Moderately important, Unique, or representative of an era	11 - 15	
Somewhat important, or representative of an era	1 - 10	
Not important, Unique, or representative of an era	0	

** Maximum score of 20 points in this category.*

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Is the structure representative of the work of an architect or builder of local, provincial or national importance?

Status	Points	Comments
Nationally	7 - 10	
Provincially Significant	4 - 6	
Locally Significant	1 - 3	
Not Significant	0	

** Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

4. ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

The assessment of architectural merit is based on two factors:

A) **Construction type/building technology:** which refers to the method by which the structure was built (early or rare uses of materials), and building techniques;

AND

B) **Style:** which refers to the form or appearance of the architecture.

Construction Type/Building Technology		
A) Construction type	Points	Comments
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	
B) Style	Points	Comments
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	

** Maximum score of 10 points for Construction Type, and a maximum score of 10 for Style - a total maximum of 20 points in this category.*

5. ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

Architectural Integrity refers to the extent to which the building retains original features/ structures/ styles, not the state of the building's condition.

Architecture	Consider any additions/ removal/ alterations to windows, doors, porches, dormers, roof lines, foundations, chimneys, and cladding.	
Exterior	Points	Comments
Largely unchanged	11 - 15	
Modest changes	6 - 10	
Major changes	1 - 5	
Seriously compromised	0	

** Maximum score of 15 points in this category.*

6. RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING AREA

Points	Comments
6 - 10	The building is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area.
1 - 5	The Architecture is compatible with the surrounding area and maintains its heritage character.
0	Does not contribute to the character of the surrounding area.

** Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

SCORING SUMMARY

Property	Date Reviewed	Reviewer

Criterion	Highest Possible Score	Score Awarded
1. Age	25	
2. a) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups OR 2. b) Important, Unique Architectural Style, or Highly Representative of an Era	20	
3. Significance of Architect or Builder	10	
4. a) Architectural Merit: Construction type/building technology	10	
4. b) Architectural Merit: Style	10	
5. Architectural Integrity	15	
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10	
Total	100	

SCORE NECESSARY FOR DESIGNATION**50****Designation Recommended?****YES****NO****COMMENTS:**

Attachment B

Research Report

United Memorial Church

In support of Heritage Registration Application H00535

Prepared by:

HRM Heritage Property Program
Planning and Development

March 29th, 2022

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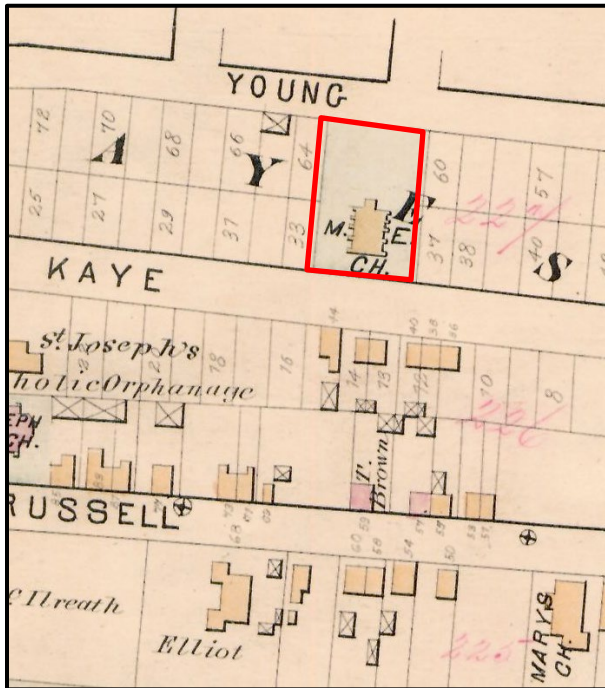
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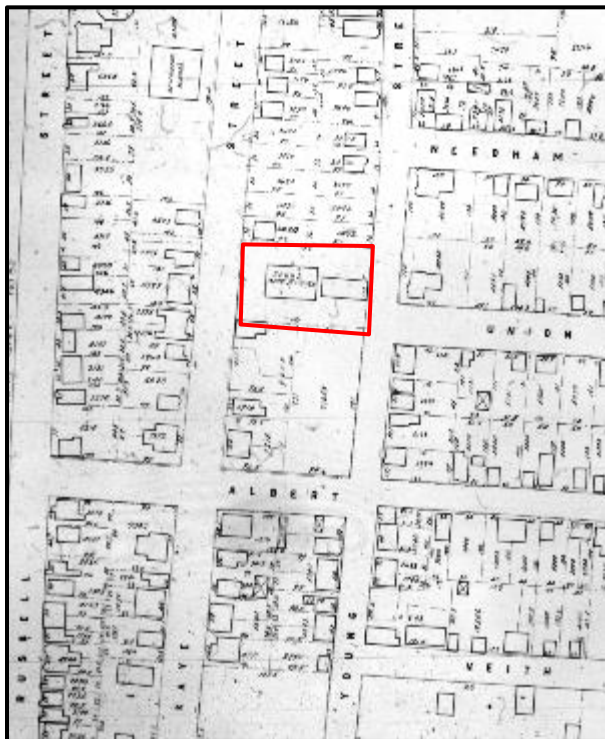
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Age



1878 Hopkins Atlas showing the former Kaye Street Methodist Church site in red.



1918 H.B. Pickings Halifax Assessment Plans. Kaye Street Church Outlined in red.

The property that is currently occupied by the United Memorial Church was once the site of the Kaye Street Methodist Church. This structure, along with the nearby Grove Presbyterian Church on Duffus Street were destroyed during the Halifax Explosion on December 6th 1917. In the months that followed, the surviving congregations of both churches held services in a temporary structure on the corner of Gottingen and Young Streets known colloquially as “the tar Paper church” until a new church could be built.

Originally, the two congregations had separate ministers but the groups got along well together. The decision was made that, rather than rebuilding two churches, they would unite into a single congregation, the *United Memorial Church*. The name change was officially recognized in June, 1920 and preceded the establishment of the United Church of Canada by approximately four years.

Construction of the Andrew Cobb designed United Memorial Church began in 1920 and on September 18, 1921 a dedication ceremony was held at the completed church in memory of the members of the congregation killed in the explosion. The building included a number of items donated in the memory of victims of the Explosion, including the church bells, stained-glass windows, the organ and the baptismal font.

The Church served the surrounding community as a place of worship and gathering place for nearly a century. In 2015 it was decided to amalgamate the congregation with the Edgewood United Church on Oxford Street, and the church was closed on January 1st 2016 and subsequently sold to a private buyer.

Historical or Architectural Importance

Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups

The subject property is highly significant for its relationship with the recovery efforts in the community following the 1917 Halifax Explosion, as well as its role in commemorating the lives lost in the disaster itself. The name United Memorial is in fact in reference to the members of the congregation and wider community lost during the explosion.



Kaye Street Methodist before the disaster

In 1917, Halifax was in the midst of the First World War, and held a pivotal role as a main assembly point for allied convoys departing for Europe. The North End neighbourhood of Richmond was a working and middle-class neighbourhood built on the slopes of Needham Hill and along the waterfront near Pier 6 and the Navy Dockyards. The former Kaye Street Methodist Church and Grove Presbyterian Churches served the residents of this area. Many among the congregation worked in the factories nearby, or at the dockyards and Intercolonial Railway Terminal at the foot of North Street.

On the morning of December 6th 1917, the *Emo*, a Norwegian ship carrying relief supplies was heading out of the Bedford Basin to join its convoy outside the harbour. At the same time, the *Mont Blanc*, a French cargo vessel carrying munitions including TNT, gun cotton and Benzene was entering port heading toward the Bedford Basin. Following some confusion between the two ships as they approached each other in the harbour narrows, they collided which caused a fire on the *Mont Blanc*.

Knowing the potential peril caused by the explosive cargo on board, the crew of the *Mont Blanc* abandoned ship and rowed to Dartmouth, as the crews from other ships and dockyard workers arrived to try to fight the flames, unaware of the danger. The ship slowly drifted toward the shore at Pier 6 near the foot of Young Street. Children just arriving at school watched the burning ship from classroom windows as residents crowded the docks to watch the commotion. At 5 minutes after 9 the munitions ignited, causing the largest man-made explosion before the atomic era. A shockwave blew over the north end of Halifax and Dartmouth, destroying nearly everything in its path.



Kaye Street East of Gottingen following the explosion of 1917 (NSARM)

The explosion killed 1,950 people and injured over 9,000. Over 1,600 buildings were destroyed including the former Kaye Street and Grove Churches. The explosion had far reaching and long lasting effects on Halifax and especially the north end community of Richmond. Built by survivors and with aid from other Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, the first service held at the “Tar Paper Church” took place on March 17th 1918. Standing at the corner of Gottingen and Young Streets, this temporary building helped to pave the way for the United Church of Canada by bringing together the two faiths under a single roof, and eventually under a single minister. Fundraising lasted for three years in preparation for a replacement church. The quote below from Janet Kits’ book *Shattered City* speaks to the efforts undertaken by the congregation to raise the necessary funds in preparation for the new structure:

Fund raising for a permanent building had been going on steadily since March 1918. Mr. Crowdis (The Minister) wrote a booklet that was sold to raise money, and it was called “A Common Sorrow and a Common Concern”, a short history of Kaye Street Methodist and Grove Presbyterian that contained photographs from before and after the explosion. Sales of every kind were held, and money from flower shows, races, garden parties, and the sale of individual bricks all swelled the funds. By April 1921 the new building was ready for occupation, and the tarpaper church was closed down forever.

The dedication ceremony for United Memorial took place on September 18th 1921. Barbara Orr, now living with her Aunt Edna and uncle William, presented a chime of bronze bells to the church. Her uncle had purchased them from a firm in New York, and her aunt had furnished funds to complete the tower to hold the bells. Barbara, a little nervous of making a mistake that would be heard over the entire area, played the carillon at the dedication. The inscription on the largest bell read, “In Memoriam. Samuel Orr and his wife Annie s. Orr, and their children, Ian, Mary, Archie, Isabel and James, who departed this life December 6th 1917. Presented by their daughter Barbara, 1920.”

-Shattered City by Janet Kitz, 1989



United Memorial Church Interior, 1921. (NSARM)

The bells were removed in the 1970s due to structural concerns, and following a public design competition, a new memorial bell tower was constructed on Fort Needham hill in 1985 and the bells relocated there. By 2016 the church still contained a number of items donated in memory of the disaster including stained glass windows, a baptismal font and organ. The current location of these items has yet to be ascertained, but some may remain in the church building.

Important / Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era

Construction type or building technology:

The former United Memorial Church building is a brick cross gable structure. It features steeply pitched roofs and a prominent four sided steeple on the right side of the building's Kaye Street façade. This construction type and technology was fairly common for places of worship, particularly given the preference at the time for durable construction materials as a result of the Halifax Explosion.



United Memorial Church shortly after completion, 1921 (NSARM)

Style:

The design of the United Memorial Church is reflective of a shift in the area towards more modern styles of architecture following the Halifax Explosion. Architects such as Andrew Cobb were at the forefront of their trade and would have been influenced by new design styles coming from Europe and the United States. The building has a streamlined geometric form for a church and seems to portray a mixture of styles demonstrating a shift from the classicism of the Edwardian era to the more modernist Art Deco style.

The character-defining elements of the property include:

- Four sided steeple with L-shaped corners;
- Steeply pitched gable roofs projecting out to all four sides of the building;
- Central Palladian windows on the Kaye Street façade and the east and west sides of the building;
- Narrow gable windows at the peak of each side of the building;
- Narrow rectangular windows in a 1-3-1 pattern or in pairs;
- Five sided vestibule on the westerly side of the Kaye Street façade;
- Gabled entranceway with a fan light over double doors.

Significance of Architect / Builder

Andrew Randall Cobb (1876 to 1943) was one of the most recognized and prolific architects in Nova Scotia, having designed many well known landmarks across the province and Atlantic Canada, but mainly in Halifax.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Cobb moved to Nova Scotia at 14 and attended Acadia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Following his studies he partnered with illustrious architect Sydney Dumaesq for a number of years before entering his own practice.

Over the course of a long career, Cobb designed many notable institutional and residential buildings throughout Halifax and beyond, ranging in styles from the Classical and Beaux-Arts of the Edwardian Period, through to Arts and Crafts and more modern designs of the 1940s.

The more notable Cobb-designed buildings in Halifax include the Memorial Tower in Sir Sandford Fleming Park, Halifax Forum, St. Andrew's United Church, and many prominent buildings at the University of Kings College and Dalhousie University.



Andrew Cobb, Courtesy of Janet Kitz and Nimbus Publishing



St. Andrew's United Church on Robie Street, also a Cobb Design (The Chronicle Herald)

Outside of Nova Scotia, Cobb designed many of prominent buildings of Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. He worked with planner, Thomas Adams, to design an entire mill town in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, in the Garden City tradition, including various types of dwellings and the Glynmill Hotel.

Andrew Cobb's designs make up a sizable portion of registered heritage properties in the Halifax Regional Municipality, and Cobb represents a very important period in the development of the city and a unique community identity following the Halifax Explosion.

Architectural Integrity

A number of exterior changes have been made to the church since its construction, likely in an attempt to reduce maintenance costs associated with brickwork and roof replacement. While the general form of the structure has remained intact, some of the more ornamental features have been lost over the years. These include the prominent parapets along the roof line at the front and sides of the building and the slate roofing and the decorative moulding under the eaves. In addition, in 1975, the top portion of the bell tower was removed due to structural issues. The bells inside, which had been donated by Barbara Orr in memory of her family killed in the Halifax Explosion, were moved to a memorial bell tower on Fort Needham.



United Memorial Church in 1921 (NSARM)



United Memorial Church as it looks today (Courtesy Janet Kitz)

Relationship to Surrounding Area

The subject property is located on Kaye Street and backs onto Young Street. It is located in an established residential neighbourhood comprised largely of low density housing with some institutional and higher density residential uses in the surrounding area.



The Memorial Bell Tower at Fort Needham Park contains the bells from the United Memorial Church (Metronews)

A number of developments in the area also have a strong relationship to the recovery efforts in the North End of Halifax following the 1917 Halifax Explosion. This includes the municipally registered St. Joseph's Convent building, located adjacent to the subject property on Russell Street, which was built in 1919 after the original convent of the Sisters of Charity was destroyed in the catastrophe. The subject property is also located just east of the Hydrostone District, a neighbourhood built in 1920 specifically for residents displaced in 1917. Both St. Joseph's Convent and the Hydrostone District are designated National Historic Sites of Canada. As a result, the subject property contributes to the heritage character of the surrounding area and its ties to the Halifax Explosion.

References

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Attachment 2

Scoring for Case H00535: Request to Include 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	5
2A. Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups	20
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	10
4A. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	5
4B. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	8
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
Total	64