

Notice of Objection

33 Mosley Street

IN THE MATTER of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18 (the “**Act**”)

AND IN THE MATTER of the lands and premises known municipally as 33 Mosley Street and legally described as Part Lot 5 s/s Mosley Street Plan 68 as in R271476, in the Town of Aurora, in the Province of Ontario (the “**Subject Lands**”)

NOTICE OF OBJECTION TO DESIGNATION

TAKE NOTICE that HOLY FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE (“**Holy Forty Martyrs Church**”), the owner of the Subject Lands objects to the proposed designation of the Subject Lands (including the lands and buildings forming part of the property municipally known as 33 Mosley Street and legally described as Part Lot 5 s/s Mosley Street Plan 68 as in R271476, in the Town of Aurora).

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT LANDS

- The Subject Lands are located at the southeast corner of Mosley Street and Victoria Street in the Town of Aurora. The building situated within the Subject Lands was constructed in the 1870s and has had several owners and uses since its construction.
- The Subject Lands are currently owned by Holy Forty Martyrs Church and are operated as a Romanian Orthodox Church.

REASONS FOR OBJECTION

- Although the structure of the original building at the Subject Lands has been preserved, there have been extensive modifications to the exterior façade and finishes leaving very little of design or physical significance. There are no physical attributes that have been preserved in original condition. The Town of Aurora has not taken any prior steps to protect or preserve the design or physical features of the Subject Lands resulting in a substantial change to the character of the building over time.
- Although it is acknowledged that the Subject Lands have been put to various community uses, it is unclear what aspect of the Subject Lands have any remarkable historical and associative value. A preliminary search of public materials that are readily

21/11/21

available (electronically) regarding historical uses of the Subject Lands does not turn up any material historical or associative information.

- The contextual value of the Subject Lands as described in the Town of Aurora's Notice of Intention to Designate largely focuses on the historic city centre and intersection near the Subject Lands rather than offering contextual commentary as to the Subject Lands themselves. There is no reasonable explanation provided in the Notice of Intention to Designate of why the Subject Lands are considered a "landmark". The comment in the Notice of Intention to Designate that the Subject Lands were used for gatherings from time to time is an insufficient explanation.

- There was no consultation or discussion with Holy Forty Martyrs Church prior or during the proposed designation process to date. Holy Forty Martyrs Church were not informed of the said process or given an opportunity to provide any input to Town staff or Council. The Notice of Intention to Designate took Holy Forty Martyrs Church by complete surprise. It is unclear at this time if the Town of Aurora has complied with the procedural requirements to designate the Subject Lands under the Act.

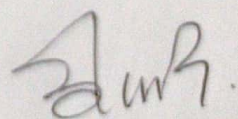
- In any event, the purpose of the Ontario Heritage Act as we understand it is to provide for the management of alterations to properties of cultural heritage. In this case, the criteria for determining whether the Subject Lands are of cultural heritage value or interest under the Act are not met. The proposed designation of the Subject Lands as having cultural heritage value and/or for being of cultural heritage interest is unfounded.

- The proposed designation of the Subject Lands would cause an unreasonable intrusion into the affairs of Holy Forty Martyrs Church (including its operation of the Subject Lands for religious purposes).

- The proposed designation of the Subject Lands is objected to on the foregoing grounds and subject to additional reasons as to be advised.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DATED at Aurora, Ontario this 10th day of March, 2023.



HOLY FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE

Per: Florian Ene

Name: Rev. Fr. FLORIAN ENE

Title: Parish Priest



Notice of Intent to Designate 33 Mosley Street

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 33 MOSLEY STREET

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended. A statement of reasons is included.

33 Mosley Street
Mechanics Hall
Pt Lt 5 S/s Mosley St Plan 68 Aurora As In R271476; Town of Aurora
PIN: 036510082

Description of Property

The property known municipally as 33 Mosley Street is located on the southeast corner of Mosley Street and Victoria Street. The property contains a historic institutional building constructed in 1870 and referred to as “Mechanics Hall”, which was a key cultural centre for the Town.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

33 Mosley Street is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest based on its design and physical value, historical and associative value, and contextual value.

Design and Physical Value:

The building was originally constructed in the Gothic Revival architectural style with a low pitched gable roof, rough stone foundation and buff brick in clad. Particularly unique are the rows of double-paned windows that meet Victoria Street along the west elevation, as well as the corresponding window trim and moulding with pediments and sills. The front vestibule, chimney and circular gable vent / quatrefoil window all display unique character elements of the period of construction.

Historical and Associative Value:

The building was constructed in 1870 as the home of the Aurora Mechanics Institute and Library Association, which originated in 1855 as the Association for the Diffusion of Helpful Knowledge. Mechanics Institutes were built to act as combinations of a community college and technical library, providing education and opportunity for interested minds. In this post-Confederation era of optimism and opportunity, particularly for Aurora as a growing Town in the Canadian landscape, the Mechanics Institute provided an opportunity for all residents to access books, workshops and pursue invention and innovation. The Hall was also used for lectures and concerts, which helped to raise money for the Aurora Overseas Auxiliary in support of local area troops stationed overseas in during World War I. By 1895 the Institute became a freely-circulating public library, with the Town of Aurora then purchasing the property in 1921. The property was since used by the Aurora Textiles establishment, and was rented by the Aurora Lions Club. Today the building is home to the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebestia Romanian Orthodox Church. The subject property has strong association with the original development of the Town and is an important location as a community and cultural centre.

Contextual Value:

The property defines, maintains and supports the character of the historic Aurora centre. The property is located in the southeast Old Aurora community area and is a visually and historically linked part of the streetscape and connected to numerous other properties in the area. Infantry of the York Rangers would frequently march past the Mechanics Hall as war efforts during World War I heightened. The Mechanics Hall was also a central gathering location in close proximity to the historic Town Park, as well as to the early Machell's Corners at

Yonge and Wellington Streets. The intersection of Mosley and Victoria Streets itself also marks a unique public realm for the Town, with three of the intersecting corners representing key historic and institutional buildings – the Presbyterian Church at the northeast, Victoria Hall at the southwest, and the Mechanics Hall at the southeast. The building is important in defining and maintaining the character of this area and can also be considered a landmark, particularly as part of the key intersection of the aforementioned Mosley and Victoria Streets.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following provides a description of heritage attributes for the property which contribute to the reasons for which the property is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Important to the preservation of the property are the original key attributes of the building that express its value, which include:

Exterior Elements

- Overall single storey scale with large massing constructed of brick
- Low pitched gable roof with quatrefoil window
- All window openings located on the west elevation with pediments and sills visible along Victoria Street
- Front elevation chimney
- Front entrance including the vestibule

Notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Aurora within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate in the local newspaper. This notice of objection must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora shall consider the objection and make a decision whether to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property or not.

Michael De Rond
Town Clerk
Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1
mderond@aurora.ca

For any other inquiries, please contact:

Adam Robb, MPL, MCIP, RPP, CAHP
Senior Planner, Development/Heritage
Planning and Development Services
arobb@aurora.ca
365-500-3104

Property Photos and Information

33 Mosley Street

2010 File Photo



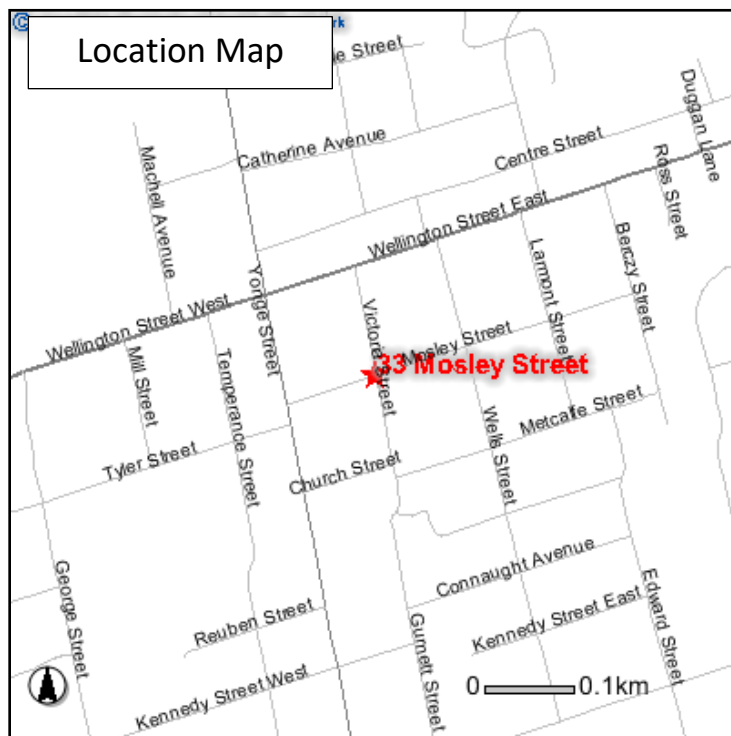
Aurora Museum and Archives – Members of the 12th York Rangers march in mud past the Mechanics Hall in 1916



Property Plaque

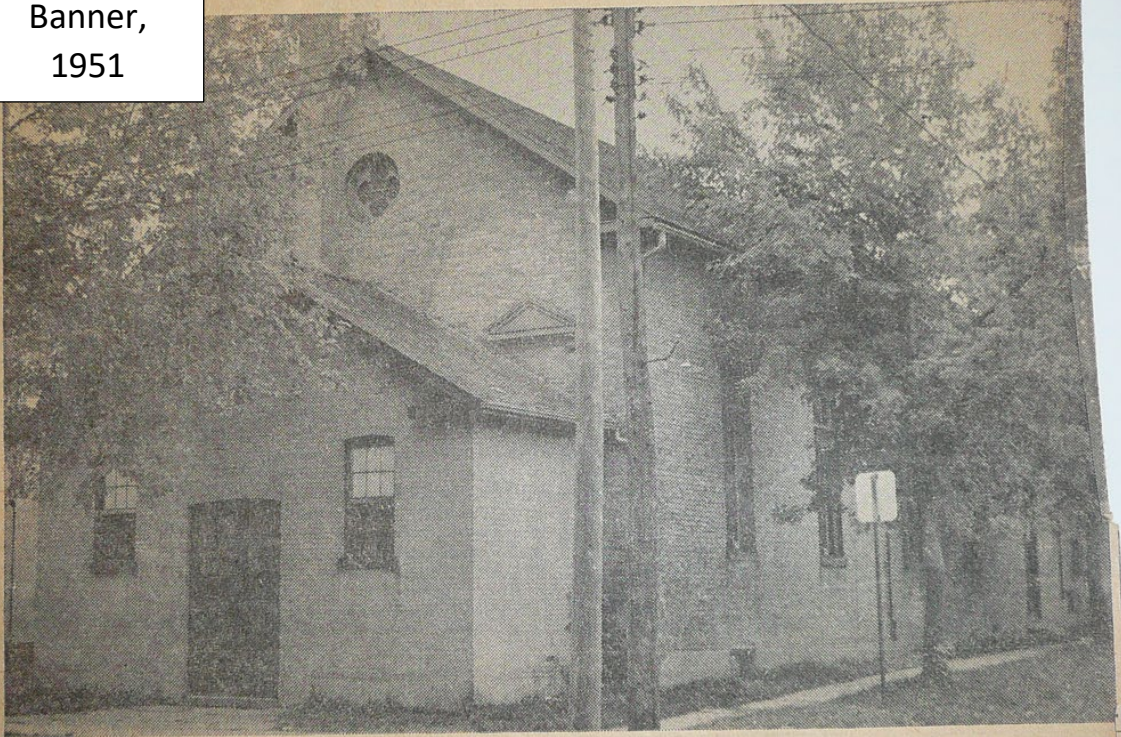


Location Map



Aurora
Banner,
1951

The New Lions Den



The Mechanics Hall which is pictured above has been standing on its corner lot at Mosley and Victoria Streets for as long as Mrs. H. J. Charles can remember. And Mrs. Charles' memory is a long one as she was born at Kettleby more than eighty years ago. A resident of Aurora since her marriage, she can tell tales of

many happy affairs held within its walls.

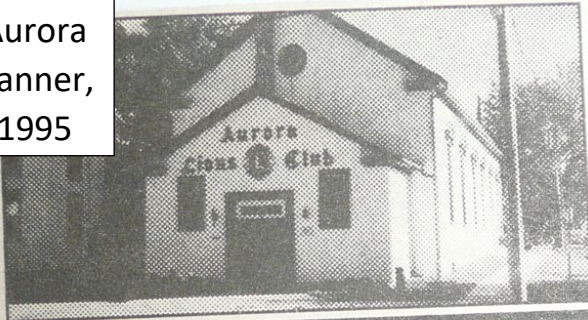
Following the war the hall was used as a textile factory and it is only since Aurora Textiles moved to its new factory on South Yonge Street that this famous old structure has returned to its native atmosphere — that of com-

munity hall. Having been purchased from the town by the Lions Club it has undergone a face lifting and last week threw open its doors to an admiring public.

Shortly the Handicraft classes of the Recreation Commission will be held there and the hall

will be available for any type of Community recreation besides providing a home for the Lions. Already they have a secret plan to change its name to "The Lions Den" but undoubtedly it will always be known in the hearts of Aurorans as "The Mechanics Hall."

Aurora
Banner,
1995



HISTORIC MECHANIS HALL

This century building located in old Aurora has served as a comm. hall, factory, church & lions den over the years. 6000 sq. ft. on 2 levels. \$150,000 asking. Call Don Glass for details 727-9495.

The Auroran, 2011

the Hall began in 1981, following its first occupancy between 1951 and 1956.

It was initially built by the Mechanics Institute as a Civics Building in 1870 and was expanded 18 years later.

During the First World War, the building became a focal point for residents looking to raise funds and boost morale during the war effort, hosting pageants and other fundraisers to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross.

Significance

Excerpt of 1998 Heritage Committee Property Report

The Mechanics Hall is one of the best examples of classic architecture in Aurora. Most other public or quasi-public buildings in town reflect the Gothic Revival or other later Victorian styles.

This building stands as a reminder of an institution important in Aurora's formative years. For decades this Hall was the focal point for the musical, theatrical, and general cultural life of the community. It may be said to be the predecessor of our present public library, theatre, and museum.

Important as it is for itself, the Mechanics Hall has further significance as one of the cornerstones of a block of buildings which have historically served, and continue to serve, various aspects of the cultural, educational, and spiritual life of Aurora. In addition to the Mechanics Hall, Victoria Street between Mosley and Church/Metcalf gives access to Church Street School, the former Aurora Public School and now home to the Aurora Museum and other community organizations; Trinity Anglican Church; the Aurora Public Library; the Seniors Centre; Victoria Hall (originally the Disciples of Christ Church); and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Excerpt of 1977 Property Report

Significance:

The Meahnics Hall is one of the best examples of classical architecture in Aurora. Most of the other public buildings reflect either Gothic Revival or Victorian styles that were popular later on in the 19th. century.

The most outstanding features of this building are the six long, narrow windows which are ornamented by wooden pediments.

The building stands as a symbol of an important institution in early Aurora and was a focal point for the educational, musical and cultural life of the community. It may be said to have been the predecessor of our present Public Library, theatre, museum and high schools.

1981 Property Evaluation

THE TOWN OF AURORA
50 WELLINGTON STREET WEST
AURORA, ONTARIO L4G 3L8



INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS
TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE INVENTORY
PROCEDURE MANUAL

ORIGINAL DATE : June 18/81

DATE OF LAST REVISION : _____

COMPLETED BY : myo**A IDENTIFICATION**

- 1 LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 33 Mosley St.
Plan 68 N Pt Lot 5
- 2 ZONING DESIGNATION: I - Institutional
- 3 PRESENT USE: Religious ^{see D}
- 4 PRESENT OWNER: Calvary Church - c/o R.O. Smith. ^{see D}
- 5 PRESENT TENANT: — 841 Kennedy St E:
- 6 HISTORICAL DESIGNATION(S): The Mechanics Hall
- 7 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c1865 1855-65 1870 doc
- 8 DATE OF LAST RENOVATION: _____
- 9 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: nil



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B DESCRIPTION

- 10 HISTORIC BUILDING TYPE: _____
- 11 PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES: 1 storey,
plaster, gable roof
- 12 SPECIAL FEATURES: transom over main door
original door + windows
- 13 SETTING: corner (Mosley/Victoria)
close to street on both sides

C EVALUATION

14 SIGNIFICANCE IN :

NATIONAL CONTEXT

ARCHITECTURALLY

1 2 3 4 5

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

1 2 3 4 5

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

1 2 3 4 (5)

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT

1 2 3 4 (5)

total _____

HISTORICALLY

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 (5)

1 2 3 4 (5)

1 2 3 4 (5)

total _____

TOTAL _____