

3

DRAFT : D. Menard 2008-013-00

Draft Statement of Significance: 247 Epworth Avenue (Broughdale School / Hebrew Day School / Broughdale Hall)

Description:

Located at 247 Epworth Avenue, on Plan 250 Pt. Lot 1 E/S of Richmond Street, in the City of London, the structure is a one storey buff brick former elementary school building known as the Brough School built in 1920.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

The Broughdale School opened in 1920 in response to demands to the London Township Council from neighbourhood residents for a school. It began as a two room township school situated on a former sheep pasture owned by Alex McCrae. An addition was approved by ratepayers in 1944 but, because of the war, construction was not completed until 1947 when two more classrooms and a principal's office were placed across the front of the original building. Increasing residential development in the Broughdale community led to the addition of two more classrooms and a teacher's room on the south side of the school in 1960.

Over its history as a public elementary school its Principals were Annie Limon, Walter Springett and Richard Moore. In 1961, following the annexation of the Broughdale area by the city of London, the Broughdale School became part of the London public school system. Declining enrolment led to the school's closure in 1977. In 1979, the building became the London Community Hebrew Day School. Its playground, located on the opposite side of Epworth Avenue, was bought by the City of London and became "Broughdale Playground." In 2007, ownership of the building transferred to King's University College.

Broughdale School is important for the central role it once played as a community institution over the course of its existence. Not only was it the local school, prior to 1961 its neighbourhood residents insisted on the school remaining independent when London Township centralized its other schools. Community activities were located at the school. In 1948, the Home and School succeeded in forming a library board and opened a public library in the basement. In time, this became a branch library within the London Public Library system.

Architecturally, the building retains some features of the original building. The original portico has been removed as part of the 1946 alteration and the original roofline was lowered as part of a renovation that added substantially to the building's overall width to provide two additional classrooms and a principal's office. Notwithstanding these later changes, the building continues to reflect the belief that public buildings such as schools should be designed to emphasize access to fresh air and sunlight. A rear addition was added in the 1960s.

Heritage Attributes

Details exemplifying the post-World War I architectural style of public schools worthy of preservation include:

- The symmetrical front facade constructed of buff brick

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 Significance - 247 Epworth
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6

- The tall, narrow window openings on the main story of the front façade above smaller double hung windows at the basement level. While the main floor windows openings date to the 1946-47 renovation, they retain the vertical thrust of the original six windows.
- The high parapet in the Tudor style, with its stone capping at the peak and on each corner surmounting the central front entrance way;
- The plaque located within the pediment identifying London Township, SS28 Broughdale, 1920
- The double door front entrance with a nine pane transom above
- Glass block sidelights.

Statements of Concurrence and Consent

I / We concur with the information in the above Statement of Significance in relation to the designation of this property.

Gerald Killan Name Dec 3, 2008 Date

Z.J. Brennan Name Dec 12, 2008 Date

I / We consent to the designation of this property under Section 29 (3) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Gerald Killan Name Dec 3, 2008 Date

Z.J. Brennan Name Dec 12, 2008 Date

With respect to ownership of this property I / We have the legal authority to represent the corporation - King's University College / The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese.

Gerald Killan Name, Title Dec 3, 2008 Date

Z.J. Brennan Name, Title Dec 12, 2008 Date