

St. Patrick's Church

Address: 10 County Road 6 South

Legal Description: Part of the North Half of Lot 14, Concession 9 as in OS91171 (Seventhly) and Part 5 on Reference Plan 51R-3401

Roll#: 43-68-0000-06-061-000000

Current Owner: Roman Catholic Episcopal

Date First Listed with Heritage Inventory: December 11th, 2014

By-law #14-059



History

Saint Patrick's Church is located in the heart of Wendat Huron territory near the Ossossane Bone pit where Father J. Brebeuf, a Jesuit, witnessed a mass burial of over 1000 individuals in 1636 as stated in the Jesuit Relations. The Royal Ontario Museum archeological excavations found the contents as described by Brebeuf.

Saint Patrick's Church, through its affiliation with Sainte-Croix Church in Lafontaine traces its roots right back to the earliest introduction of Christianity to First Nations residents of the large village of Ossossane.

The more recent mission of Saint Patrick's Church was born of humble beginnings in the early 1850's. Parishioners in Perkinsfield travelled to Sainte-Croix Church in Lafontaine for services, but occasionally the pastor of Sainte-Croix would travel to Perkinsfield to celebrate mass in

individual homes. Those trips to Perkinsfield by the pastor gave a form of recognition to the Perkinsfield region as distinct from Lafontaine.

From those early pastoral visits the mission of Saint Patrick's was born in the early 1870's. The first church was built of square logs on the site of the present church, but was replaced with the present structure in 1884.

Saint Patrick's Church was officially dedicated in the fall of 1885 and has remained a vital part of the community ever since.

Most churches in the area began as log or wooden structures, but were re-built or clad with brick over the years, but Saint Patrick's Church has remained a wooden structure clad with aluminum siding to maintain the original character of the building but also provide durability.

St. Patrick's Church has undergone a few renovations over the years, notably in the 1960's but the renovations stayed true to the quality of the original work.

Most churches in the area have interiors that have stayed true to their original design and quality, but Saint Patrick's Church is unique in the fact that the exterior of the church has remained a white beacon that has graced the main corner in Perkinsfield for over 100 years.

The property also holds compelling heritage value as its name denotes the early establishment of the community by Irish immigrants, who fled their native homeland due to the potato famine. The village was originally named Saint Patrick's, but was changed by the Federal Post Office Department in 1909 to Perkinsfield as the train station was located on the property of Augustus Perkins.

Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of St. Patrick's Church as one of the best examples of one of the few wooden churches in the region include its:

- steeple due to its symmetrical design and visual presence on the main corner of the village;
- wood construction because it was readily available with the number of local sawmills producing vast quantities of lumber at the time.
- interior of the church as a stunning example of the quality of local woodworkers.

Exclusions from Designation

The sacred space of the building shall be excluded from the provisions of this heritage designation by-law. For the purposes of this by-law, "sacred space" shall mean the portion or portions of the religious heritage building where worship occurs and liturgical elements are present.

The "liturgical elements" of St. Patrick's Church are the crucifix, confessional, holy water fonts, baptismal font, lectern, altars, tabernacles, organ, stained glass windows, pews and kneelers, worship or priest chairs and pew in the sanctuary, the ceiling structure, statues in the nave and sanctuary, sacristy and stations of the cross.

The designation shall also not include the outside sign for the church or any other buildings on the property.