

Heritage Research and Evaluation Report



12125 Yonge Street – St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery

1849

Part of Lot 60, Concession 1, Markham Township

Prepared by: Heritage & Urban Design, Planning & Building Services, 2025

History

Contextual History

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street is a property containing a 19th-century church building and cemetery grounds. The property is located on the east side of Yonge Street at Jefferson Side Road. Prior to colonization and settlement, this land was most recently inhabited by the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron Wendat First Nations. Following the Toronto Purchase in 1787, the area was subdivided into townships, concessions and lots. 12125 Yonge Street is located within Lot 60, Concession 1 of Markham Township, in the former hamlet of Jefferson, a

small settlement established along Yonge Street in the 19th century. At the time of the subject building's construction in 1849, Jefferson was located north of the Village of Richmond Hill and was a small rural community surrounded by agricultural and forested land. Over the course of its life, the church has been called St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and St. John's Church.

12125 Yonge Street

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street is located on part of Lot 60, Concession 1 in former Markham Township. The first owner of Lot 60 was Ambrose de Farey, who initially settled on the lot in the late 1700s, but was only formally granted the full 190-acre lot from the Crown in 1806.¹ De Farey was a part of a group of about 40 French Royalists (supporters of King Louis XIV) who established the settlement of Windham along Yonge Street after fleeing the French Revolution in 1789. However, these aristocrats were ill equipped for the harsh realities of settler life in Upper Canada, and the settlement was largely abandoned by 1806.²

In 1815, De Farey sold Lot 60 to Laurent Quetton St. George.³ Quetton St. George was a fellow French Royalist who, unlike his compatriots, became highly prosperous after arriving in Upper Canada. Throughout the early 19th century, Quetton St. George acquired several large tracts of land in and around York County, and it is unlikely that he ever lived on the subject property.⁴

After the French Royalists left the Windham settlement, the land was gradually settled by English, Scottish, and Irish immigrants, who founded the small hamlet of Jefferson after the 1830s.⁵ Sometime before 1846, Quetton St. George sold Lot 60 to Robert Baldwin, who resold the property to Captain Martin MacLeod in 1846.⁶ Historical mapping shows that Captain MacLeod owned four large adjoining lots flanking Yonge Street, each measuring approximately 200 acres, which together made up his large Drynoch Estate (Figure 1).

In 1849, Captain MacLeod granted four acres of land fronting Yonge Street within Lot 60 to the Anglican Church for the purposes of constructing the fledgling community's first church and cemetery.⁷ Archival documentation, including the church's financial records, shows that the original church was built between 1849 and 1851 by a John Turner. According to bills and receipts, Turner procured the timber, framed the building,

¹ *Ontario Land Registry Historical Books*. York Region: Lot 60, Concession 1, Markham Township.

² Stamp, Robert M. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930*. Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991.

³ *Ontario Land Registry Historical Books*. York Region: Lot 60, Concession 1, Markham Township.

⁴ Stamp, Robert M. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930*. Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991.

⁵ Abdi, Diana. "A Brief History of Jefferson." Town of Richmond Hill LACAC, 1991.

⁶ *Ontario Land Registry Historical Books*. York Region: Lot 60, Concession 1, Markham Township.

⁷ Deed of Gift of Land (1849), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario.

laid the floor and clapboard siding, applied shingles and cornices, produced the building's doors and sashes, and hung the church's bell.⁸

After the church officially opened for services in the 1850s, the building underwent several phases of renovations to its interior and exterior. Archival documentation chronicles the changes to the church over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. Vestry meeting minutes from April 1862 show that the church wardens voted to move the church's main entrance to its west elevation at this time.⁹ In 1868, the church wardens again moved to implement a major change to the building's exterior, this time to finish constructing the church's small bell tower.¹⁰ In addition to the changes to the entrance and tower, the City of Richmond Hill D12 file for the subject property notes that the church's roof pitch may have been altered circa the 1860s to establish the current slope; however, available archival documentation has not confirmed this.¹¹ Vestry meeting minutes from 1872 also show that minor improvements were made to the church that year, including window maintenance and alterations to the pulpit and reading desk within the chancel.¹²

Stereographs¹³ of the church from circa the 1890s give further insight into the building's 19th-century alterations and appearance. A stereograph of the church's exterior (Figure 2) shows that by around the 1890s, the church still retained its historic wooden siding. The church also had a small bell tower atop the roof peak¹⁴ and an entranceway on its front (west) elevation (both added in the 1860s). In addition, the stereograph shows two gable-roofed rear additions: the chancel and the vestry. It is not known whether the chancel and vestry were built alongside the original church in 1849, or if they were added sometime later in the 19th century.¹⁵

A stereograph of the church's interior from circa the 1890s (Figure 3) further illustrates the church's 19th-century appearance. The stereograph shows the church's pulpit

⁸ Bill and Receipt (9 January 1849), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario; Estimate and Agreement for Building Church (5 July 1849), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario; Receipts for making sash and frames (18 May 1849, 17 August 1850, 8 January 1851), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario; Bill for hanging bell (May-November 1850), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario.

⁹ Note that the original location of the church's main entrance is not known. Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

¹⁰ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

¹¹ 12125 Yonge Street, City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario.

¹² Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

¹³ A stereograph is a pair of two similar (nearly identical) photographs. When placed in a stereoscope, a stereograph will create the illusion of a single three-dimensional image instead of two similar images. Stereoscopes and stereographs were a common 19th and early 20th century amusement.

¹⁴ Note that sometime after the stereograph was taken, the belfry's wooden supports were altered. However, the belfry's form, style, and location within the church's peak has not changed since the 19th century.

¹⁵ Note that while some secondary sources indicate that the chancel and vestry were built around 1899 (at the same time that the church building was brick veneered) stereographs show that both the chancel and the vestry predate the church's exterior brick cladding.

located within a lancet-arched chancel. The chancel ceiling is vaulted and paneled. Behind the pulpit, there are four panels (“reredos”) mounted on the wall.

Another set of major alterations to the church was completed at the turn of the century. Vestry meeting minutes show that in the spring of 1898, church wardens agreed to fix the church’s foundation.¹⁶ According to receipts, the church also hired N.T. Lyon Glass Co. to install stained glass windows in the church in 1899.¹⁷

Account books also indicate that sometime in or shortly after 1899, brick veneer was added to the church’s exterior.¹⁸ Account books show that in 1899, St. John’s purchased 26,000 bricks. The same year, the church also paid the Ontario Lime Association for lime and mortar colour, a Mr. Barrell for mortar colouring services, a Mr. Hart to haul brick, and a Mr. Browning for brick work services.¹⁹

St. John the Baptist Church continued to be modernized and expanded in the 20th century. Vestry and account meeting records show that additional interior renovations were conducted between 1912 and 1913, including painting and electric installation.²⁰ In the 1930s, a northern side addition was commissioned for the church.²¹ However, only the basement level was completed in 1939 before the project was suspended, and the structure wasn’t completed until nearly twenty years later in the 1950s.²²

Today, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street is the oldest church building still standing in the City of Richmond Hill.

The Anglican Church

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street is significant as the historical religious and social centre of the former hamlet of Jefferson. The church was constructed for the Anglican community in 1849 and has been occupied and maintained by the congregation ever since.

The Anglican community in Jefferson predated the construction of St. John’s Church at 12125 Yonge Street. The congregation was established in 1848,²³ and prior to having a

¹⁶ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

¹⁷ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

¹⁸ Note that while some secondary sources indicate that the church building’s brick veneer was added in 1912, evidence from church account books show that the church building was more likely brick veneered in 1899.

¹⁹ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

²⁰ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

²¹ Hall for St. John’s Anglican Church, West Elevation (25 November 1938), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario.

²² Holmes, Ruth. *St. John’s Anglican Church, Jefferson 1848-1973*. Richmond Hill, 1973; “Looking back” Cemetery includes graves of first families.” *Richmond Hill Post*, October 1999.

²³ Stamp, Robert M. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930*. Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991.

dedicated church space, the congregation met at the local schoolhouse until the subject building was built in 1849.²⁴

In 1849, a prominent local landowner and member of the Anglican Church, Captain Martin MacLeod, donated four acres of his expansive Drynoch Estate to the Anglican Church for the purposes of establishing a local church and cemetery in Jefferson. Archival documentation shows that the structure was built between 1849 and 1851 by John Turner, with the involvement of nearby residents such as the Legge family.²⁵ Although the church's precise opening date is unknown, records show that the church was operating by the first Sunday of Lent in 1851.²⁶ Captain MacLeod and Giles Kerswill were appointed the first churchwardens in 1852.²⁷

The church's early years were punctuated by frequent change. Between 1857 and 1862 alone, the congregation experienced high rector turnover, with three rectors appointed in only five years.²⁸ In the following decades, the church conducted several alterations to the building, including the construction of the bell tower, the addition of painted canvas reredos in the interior, and the addition of brick veneer to the church exterior.

St. John's has played a vital role within the Jefferson community since the 19th century. Like other rural churches throughout Ontario, St. John's was the religious and social centre of the surrounding agricultural community.²⁹ The church organized various social and religious groups, such as the Sunday School, Women's Auxiliary, and Young People's Organization.³⁰ In addition, the church hosted many harvest festivals to celebrate the end of the harvest season in the fall.³¹

The St. John's congregation has also supported the Jefferson community through various aid initiatives. The church has historically been deeply involved in local charity work, such as contributing to widow and orphan funds.³² In the 1940s, the church also provided additional space for the local Jefferson school, whose one-room schoolhouse was over capacity at the time.³³

The St. John's congregation also maintains a cemetery on the subject property which was established in the mid-19th century (Figures 4-6). The cemetery, which occupies

²⁴ Abdi, Diana. "A Brief History of Jefferson." Town of Richmond Hill LACAC, 1991.

²⁵ Abdi, Diana. "A Brief History of Jefferson." Town of Richmond Hill LACAC, 1991.

²⁶ Abdi, Diana. "A Brief History of Jefferson." Town of Richmond Hill LACAC, 1991.

²⁷ Minute and Account Book (1849-1880), Box 2, St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario.

²⁸ Holmes, Ruth. *St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson 1848-1973*. Richmond Hill, 1973.

²⁹ Champion, Isabel, and Mary B. Champion. *Markham remembered: A photographic history of old Markham Township*. Markham, Ont: Markham District Historical Society, 1988.

³⁰ St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges (Jefferson) Parish Folder; St. John the Baptist Oak Ridges Collection, Anglican Diocese of Toronto Archives, Toronto Ontario; Holmes, Ruth. *St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson 1848-1973*. Richmond Hill, 1973.

³¹ "Jefferson." *The Liberal*, October 1 1885; "Locals." *The Liberal*, September 17 1908.

³² St John the Baptist Anglican Church: An early history 1848-1913 (1999), City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders, Richmond Hill Ontario.

³³ Stamp, Robert M. *Early Days in Richmond Hill: A History of the Community to 1930*. Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991.

over an acre of land to the east of the church building, houses a number of grave markers commemorating some of the church's founding families, including the MacLeods, Quetton St. Georges, Kerswills, and Legges. Grave markers within the cemetery are typically made of marble or granite and feature forms ranging from simple block and obelisk styles to more ornamentally carved monuments. Most of the grave markers are arranged in lines facing east. The cemetery also features a number of early broken gravestones that have been laid on a bed of gravel for preservation purposes (Figure 7).

The subject church has housed the St. John the Baptist Anglican congregation since its construction in 1849.

Robert McCausland Ltd.

Robert McCausland Ltd., a prominent Toronto-based stained glass firm that has operated since the 19th century, produced a number of stained glass windows for St. John the Baptist Anglican Church.

Robert McCausland Ltd. began as the Joseph McCausland and Sons design firm, which was formed in Toronto in the 1850s. Joseph McCausland was an Irish immigrant who came to Upper Canada as a small child around 1835. In the 1850s, he started a design company focusing on interior decorating, paint, and glassworks. In 1897 Joseph's son, Robert, turned the company's stained glass department into a separate firm. Since 1897, Robert McCausland Ltd. has produced and restored stained glass windows throughout Canada.³⁴

Robert McCausland Ltd., along with its predecessor, are significant for the volume of stained glass windows they have produced for institutional, ecclesiastical, and residential buildings. The firm's windows are found on numerous historic and landmark structures throughout Canada, including Old City Hall (Toronto), the Bank of Montreal Building (now the Hockey Hall of Fame, Toronto), as well as numerous Protestant and Catholic churches scattered around Ontario and beyond.³⁵ In Richmond Hill, several churches around the city feature McCausland windows, including Our Lady of Annunciation Catholic Church, St. Mary's Anglican Church, and St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church.³⁶

Robert McCausland Ltd. produced a number of stained glass windows for the subject church, including the 1934 "Good Shepherd", the 1936 "Light of the World", "Virgin and Child" and "Resurrection Angel", and the 1940s "Ruth" and "Timothy" (Figures 8-10).³⁷

³⁴ Alice Hamilton and Douglas Richardson, "McCAUSLAND, JOSEPH," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 13, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed March 3, 2025, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mccausland_joseph_13E.html.

³⁵ "Portfolio." Portfolio - Eternal Glass - Stained Glass Windows, Restoration & Repair. Accessed March 5, 2025. <https://www.eternalglass.com/portfolio>.

³⁶ "Ontario (P - S)." Ontario (P - S) - Eternal Glass - Stained Glass Windows, Restoration & Repair. Accessed March 5, 2025. <https://www.eternalglass.com/portfolio/ontario/ontario-p-s>.

³⁷ "Ontario (M - O)." Ontario (M - O) - Eternal Glass - Stained Glass Windows, Restoration & Repair. Accessed April 14, 2025. <https://www.eternalglass.com/portfolio/ontario/ontario-m-o>.

Given the prominence and centrality of stained glass windows in 19th and 20th-century churches, and given the volume of work the firm has designed for churches, Robert McCausland Ltd. is a highly significant stained glass producer to church communities across Canada.

Architecture

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church is a structure that consists of a 19th-century Main Church and a 1950s North Wing addition (Figure 11). Together, these components create a generally L-shaped footprint.

The 19th-century Main Church (comprised of the original 1849 chapel and 19th-century entrance vestibule, chancel, and vestry) all contribute to the building's 19th-century "country church" building typology. Typologies are used to classify buildings based on their form, function, or construction methods. In North America and Europe, Christian churches often share many features that reveal the unique function and requirements of these religious buildings. For example, country churches often have an elongated rectangular footprint to accommodate seating for the congregation, as well as a chancel at the rear of the church to house the church's clergy and choir.³⁸ Additionally, church form and massing also centers around a community's needs. In pre-Confederation Ontario (then called Canada West), churches with simple rectangular hall plans, front-gable roofs, and small belfries were popular in rural communities with modest means.³⁹

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street is an example of the 19th-century "country church" typology because of elements including, but not limited to, its rectangular plan with complex gabled roof, belfry, west entry vestibule, rear chancel and vestry, lancet-arched and roundel windows, stained glass window units, decorative brick elements including buttresses and sawtooth banding, and the chapel's simple and symmetrical west and south elevations.

19th-Century Main Church Exterior

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church is a frame building with red brick veneer cladding and a stone foundation. The 19th-century Main Church, comprised of the chapel, entrance vestibule, chancel, and vestry, has a steeply-pitched complex gabled roof with bracketed eaves (Figure 12). The Main Church's complex gabled roof form is comprised of the chapel's taller front-gabled roof (located at the west end of the church) and the shorter cross-gabled roof of the chancel and vestry (located at the east end of the church). A modest belfry is located at the peak of the chapel roof and features clapboard siding, lancet-arched openings revealing the church bell, a gabled metal roof and a finial. The roof of the Main Church also features two historical brick chimneys, which project from the south end of the vestry and from the north side of the chapel.

³⁸ MacRae, Marion and Anthony Adamson. *Hallowed Walls: Church architecture of Upper Canada*. Toronto, Ont: Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited. 1975.

³⁹ Kalman, Harold. *History of Canadian architecture*. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 1996; "Hall or Rectangular Typology." Ontario Heritage Trust. Accessed April 10, 2025. <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/places-of-worship/places-of-worship-database/architecture/typology>.

The Main Church is modestly ornamented with masonry details including brick buttresses with stone copings, sawtooth banding, and decorative arched banding. The windows are predominantly lancet-arched with brick voussoirs and stone sills, with windows typically containing leaded stained-glass units.

The chapel's front (west) façade is symmetrical and modest (Figure 13) and contains two lancet-arched stained-glass windows at first-floor level. A roundel window with a stained-glass unit is located within the west gable of the chapel, above which runs a ribbon of sawtooth banding. Projecting from the centre of the chapel's front elevation is a one-storey gable-roofed entrance vestibule featuring a lancet-arched tripartite window surmounted by brick banding in the shape of a shallow lancet arch. A historic stereograph from circa the 1890s shows that the entrance vestibule was previously a frame structure with flat-arched window and door openings. The stereograph also shows that the church's main doorway was previously located on the vestibule's west elevation (Figure 2).

The Main Church's south (side) elevation is comprised of the tall central main body of the chapel with smaller east and west projections (Figure 14). The central main body of the chapel is symmetrically organized into three bays of lancet-arched stained-glass windows interspaced with brick buttresses. A projecting one-storey gable-roofed entry vestibule housing the church's main entrance projects from the west end of the chapel. This main doorway features a round-arched stained glass transom and paneled wooden door. A one-storey chancel and vestry project from the east end of the chapel. The chancel projects east from the chapel, and features a lancet-arched stained-glass window on its south elevation. A one-storey gable-roofed vestry projects south from the chancel, creating a cross-gabled roofline at the rear (east) end of the Main Church. The vestry features a pair of lancet-arched window openings on its south elevation and a brick chimney at the peak of its roof.

The chapel's north (side) elevation is similar to the south elevation described above (Figure 15). The exterior of the chapel is symmetrically organized into three bays of lancet-arched stained-glass windows interspaced with brick buttresses. However, the window within the easternmost bay is now covered by the 1950s North Wing addition. A one-storey gable-roofed entry vestibule projects from the west end of the chapel, and features a lancet-arched window on its north elevation.

The Main Church's rear (east) elevation consists of the chancel and vestry (Figure 6). A tripartite lancet-arched stained glass window with brick voussoirs and stone sills is located within the east gable of the chancel. The east elevation of the vestry, which is set back from the chancel, also features a round-arched doorway.

19th-Century Main Church Interior

The Main Church's interior features a nave⁴⁰ with a rectangular plan that terminates in a chancel at the east end of the church (Figures 16-17). The nave has a paneled vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden rafters. The east wall of the nave features a lancet-arched

⁴⁰ The nave refers to the interior of the chapel.

opening leading to the chancel. On the east wall of the chancel, there are four canvas reredos with the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, and Apostle's Creed hand-painted onto them with gold paint (Figure 18). The reredos are mounted onto carved wooden panels that are permanently affixed to the east wall of the chancel.

1950s North Wing Addition

The church's 1950s North Wing addition is a two-storey structure with a generally rectangular plan and side-gable roof that is connected to the north elevation of the 19th-century Main Church (Figure 19). Like the 19th-century Main Church, the 1950s North Wing is clad in red brick and features masonry details including stone sills, brick voussoirs, and brick buttresses with stone copings. The 1950s North Wing features a variety of windows, including a mixture of flat-arched and round-arched window openings with clear glass units, as well as a shed-roofed box bay window on its north elevation. The North Wing has an entrance vestibule projecting from the south end of its front (west) elevation, which also abuts the north elevation of the 19th-century Main Church.

Craftsmanship and Artistic Merit

The hand-painted reredos and collection of stained glass windows at St. John's also display a high degree of artistry and craftsmanship.

The St. John's 19th-century Main Church features four hand-painted reredos in its interior, located behind the altar and permanently affixed to the east wall of the chancel. The reredos consist of four canvas panels, containing three prayers inscribed in gold paint (Figure 18). These reredos are believed to have been installed by Reverend C.R. Clerk, who painted identical panels at Christ Church in Port Sydney, Ontario between 1880 and 1883.⁴¹ As such, the reredos at St. John's are believed to be only one of two of their kind. Archival photographs show that the reredos were installed at St. John's before circa the 1890s (Figure 3).

The Main Church also features stained glass windows on all walls, including in the nave, chancel, vestry, and entrance vestibule. Window units were installed at various times throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.⁴² Several of the church's windows were installed to commemorate significant figures in the St. John's congregation, including Captain Martin MacLeod, Giles Kerswill, and Frederick Paige (Figure 20).

⁴¹ Holmes, Ruth. *St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson 1848-1973*. Richmond Hill, 1973.

⁴² Holmes, Ruth. *St. John's Anglican Church, Jefferson 1848-1973*. Richmond Hill, 1973.

Context

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street is located on the east side of Yonge Street at Jefferson Side Road. The building retains its original location and orientation along Yonge Street, and is prominently located atop a small hill.

At the time of its construction, the subject property was located within the hamlet of Jefferson in Markham Township and was surrounded by agricultural and forested land and sparse built form. As the surrounding agricultural context has developed over the course of the 20th and early-21st centuries, the subject property's surrounding context now includes 21st-century residential subdivisions to the west, agricultural fields to the north, a large residential property immediately to the south, and forested land and a golf course to the south and east.

Despite the property's changing context within the former hamlet of Jefferson, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church still retains historic, visual, and functional links to the cemetery to the east of the church building (Figure 21). Active since the 1850s, the cemetery features a number of granite and marble grave markers. Typical of 19th-century rural cemeteries, the St. John's cemetery features even rows of grave markers, most of which face east, interspersed with minimal landscaping features such as shrubs and trees. (Figures 5-6). Both the cemetery and the church have historically functioned together to meet the religious needs of the local Anglican community.

Additionally, St. John the Baptist Church is a local landmark along Yonge Street due to its distinguishable ecclesiastical design, its visually prominent location atop a hill, and its longstanding role as a community gathering space.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06 – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06, the prescribed provincial *Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg. 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

Criteria applicable to the property are outlined below, along with explanatory text.

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The 19th-century Main Church portion of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street (consisting of the 1849 chapel, and 19th-century entrance vestibule, chancel, and vestry) has physical value as a representative example of the 19th-century "country church" typology. Architectural features that contribute to the building's 19th-century "country church" typology include, but are not limited to, its rectangular plan with complex gabled roof, belfry, west entry vestibule, rear chancel and vestry, lancet-arched

and roundel windows, stained glass window units, decorative brick elements including buttresses and sawtooth banding, and the chapel's simple and symmetrical west and south elevations.

2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street also has design and physical value for the high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit displayed in the Main Church's stained-glass windows and reredos. The church's stained-glass windows were installed in the 19th and 20th centuries to commemorate key figures in the St. John's community, such as the first churchwardens, Captain MacLeod and Giles Kerswill. Additionally, the church's canvas reredos, which were permanently affixed to the east interior wall of the chancel in the 19th century, show a high degree of artistic merit for their intricate hand-painted designs. The reredos at St. John's are believed to be one of only two of their kind, with a matching set located at Christ Church in Port Sydney, Ontario.

3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

N/A

4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street has historical and associative value for its association with the Anglican Church. St. John's Anglican is a long-standing congregation who worshipped at the local schoolhouse in Jefferson prior to the construction of the subject church in 1849. At the time of its establishment in the mid-19th century, the church was the only place of worship located in the former hamlet of Jefferson in Markham Township. Typical of rural churches throughout 19th century Ontario, St. John's has historically been the religious and social centre of the surrounding community, hosting organized social and religious groups such as the Sunday school, Women's Auxiliary, and Young People's Organization. The Anglican Church has been housed in the subject building since its construction in 1849.

5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

N/A

6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street also has historical and associative value because the Main Church demonstrates the work of Robert McCausland Ltd., a highly prominent stained glass producer that has been producing and restoring glass windows for over 170 years. Established in Toronto in the 1850s as Joseph McCausland and Sons, the company has produced stained glass windows that can be found on numerous historic and landmark structures throughout Canada, including Old City Hall (Toronto), the Bank of Montreal building (now the Hockey Hall of Fame, Toronto), and countless churches. With McCausland windows present in historic and contemporary churches across Canada, the firm's work is significant to Protestant and Catholic communities. Windows in the St. John's Main Church produced by Robert McCausland Ltd. include the 1934 "Good Shepherd", the 1936 "Light of the World," "Virgin and Child" and "Resurrection Angel", and the 1940s "Ruth" and "Timothy."

7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

N/A

8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street has contextual value because the property retains strong functional, visual, and historical links between the 19th-century Main Church and the historical cemetery to the east. The cemetery, which is located immediately adjacent to the church, was established alongside the church in the mid-19th century and remains active to this day. Both the cemetery and the church have historically functioned together on the property to meet the religious needs of the local Anglican community. Today, persisting functional, visual, and historical links between the church and the cemetery contribute to the property's significance and legibility as a place of religious gathering and ceremony.

9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street also has contextual value as a local landmark on Yonge Street within the former hamlet of Jefferson. The Main Church is situated at a prominent location atop a hill on the east side of Yonge Street, where it has served as a nucleus and marker for the local community since 1849. The Main Church is regarded as a local landmark due to its distinct historical character, prominent location, and longstanding role as a religious and community gathering space.

Maps and Photographs



Figure 1 Detail of the 1860 Tremaine map, showing the approximate location of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street (in red). Note the surrounding rural land and sparse settlement, as well as the large property owned by Captain MacLeod (the Drynoch Estate) to the north, east, and west of the church. (Source: University of Toronto Maps and Data Library)

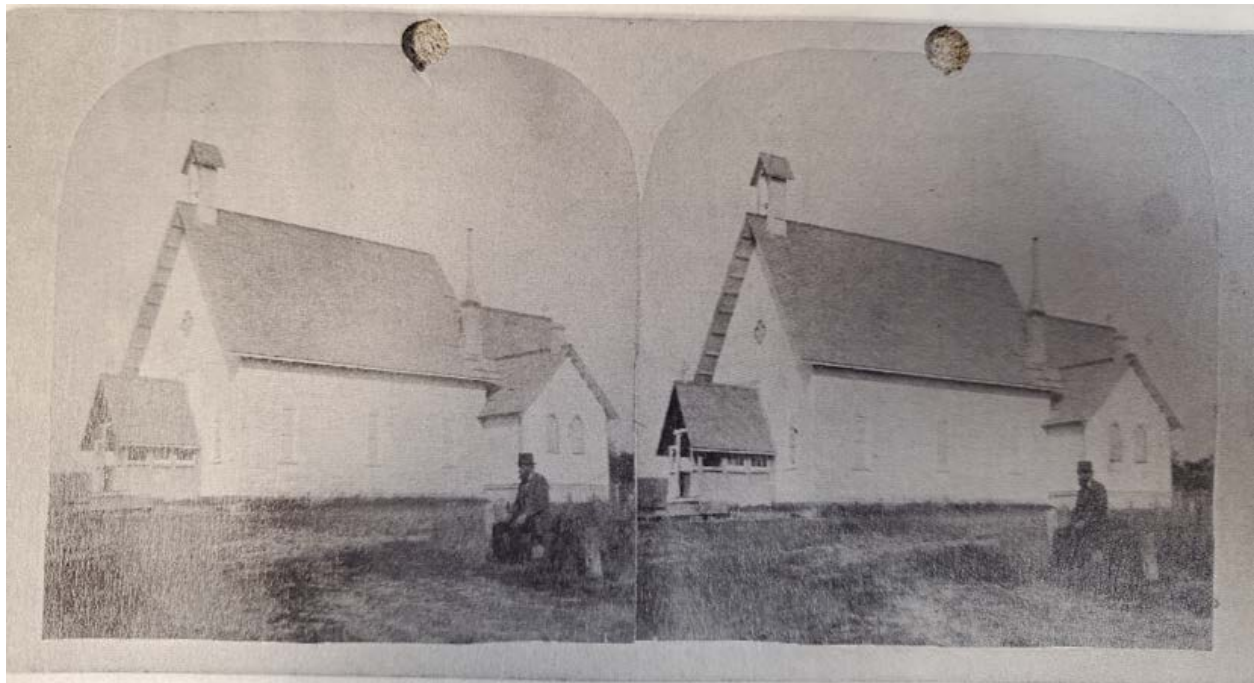


Figure 2 Circa 1890s stereograph of St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking northwest, showing the building's front and side elevations. Note the building's simple rectangular plan with a front-gable roof and bell tower, west-facing entrance vestibule, and rear chancel and vestry. Also note the wooden siding, which was covered by brick veneer in 1899. (Source: City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders)



Figure 3 Circa 1890s stereograph of St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east, showing the building's nave and chancel. Note the building's vaulted paneled ceiling with exposed wooden rafters, lancet-arched chancel, and the reredos mounted on the east wall. (Source: City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders)



Figure 4 Circa 1890s stereograph of St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street looking west, showing the building's rear (east) elevation and adjacent cemetery. Note the tripartite lancet-arched window on the building's rear (east) elevation. Also note the presence of grave markers located directly east of the church building. (Source: City of Richmond Hill D12 Folders)



Figure 5 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Cemetery looking east. Note the rows of granite and marble markers carved into a variety of blocks and obelisks. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 6 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery looking northwest. Note the rows of granite and marble markers in the cemetery, many of which face east. Also note the church's rear (east) and south (side) elevations, including the lancet-arched tripartite window within the gable of the chancel. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 7 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Cemetery looking southwest. Note the historical grave markers laid on a bed of gravel for preservation purposes. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 8 Interior photographs of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street. Note the “Good Shepherd” window (left) and the “Light of the World” window (right), which were crafted by Robert McCausland Ltd. and installed in the 1930s. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 9 Interior photographs of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street. Note the “Virgin and Child” window (left) and the “Resurrection Angel” window (right), which were crafted by Robert McCausland Ltd. and installed the 1930s. (Source: HUD 2025 (left), City of Richmond Hill D12 files 1980s(right))



Figure 10 Interior photographs of St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street. Note the “Ruth” window (left) and the “Timothy” window (right), which were crafted by Robert McCausland Ltd. and installed in the 1940s. (Source: HUD 2025)

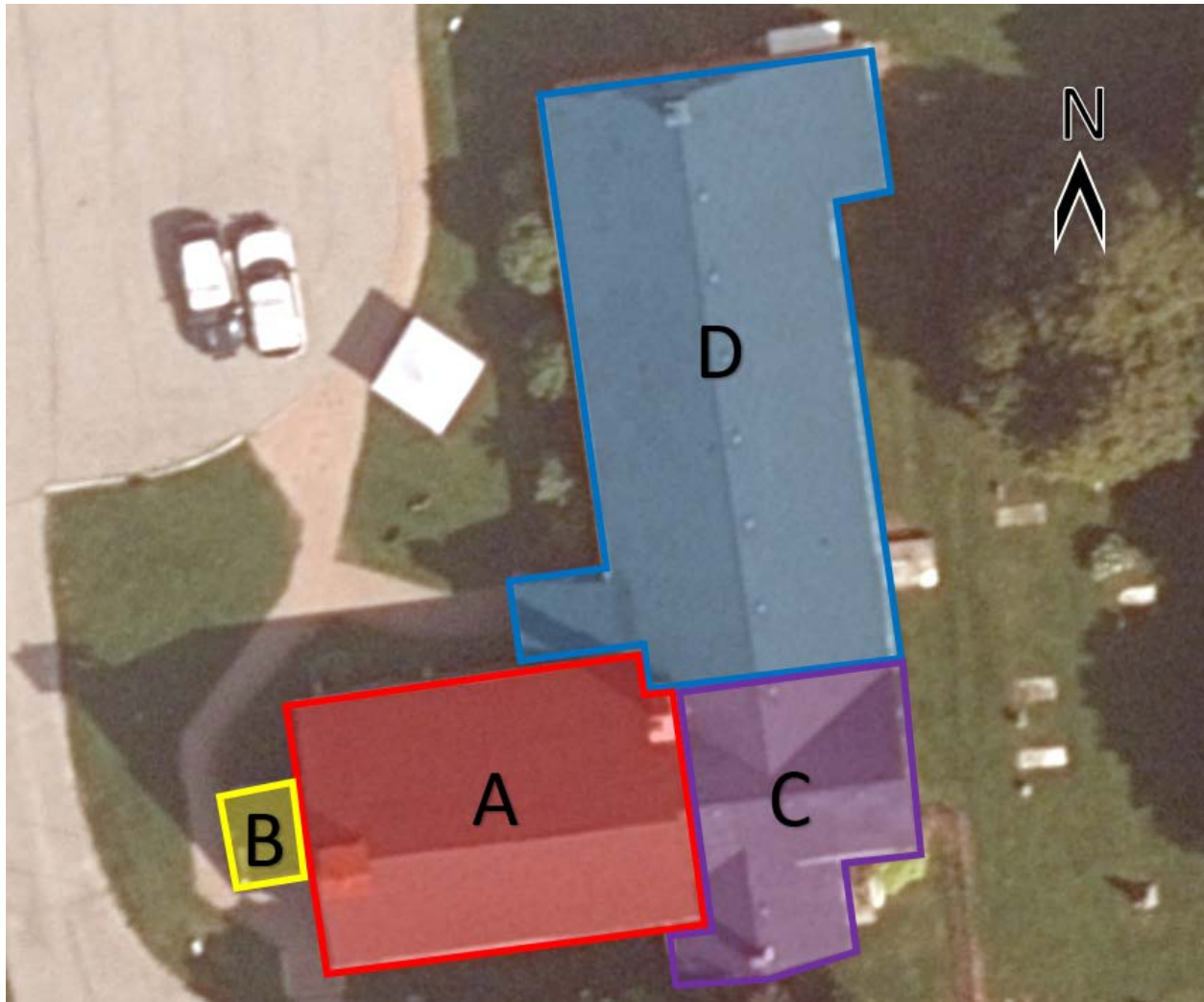


Figure 11 2024 aerial image of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at 12125 Yonge Street showing the approximate locations of building components. The 19th-century Main Church is comprised of the chapel (“A”, built in 1849), entrance vestibule (“B”, added circa 1862), and chancel and vestry (“C”, built sometime before the 1890s). The North Wing addition (“D”) was added in the 1950s. (Source: York Maps)



Figure 12 2025 detail photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east, showing the church's gable-roofed belfry with lancet-arched openings. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 13 2025 photograph of St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east, showing the chapel's front (west) elevation. Note the church's simple and symmetrical front façade, steeply-pitched gabled roof with belfry and bracketed eaves, lancet-arched and roundel stained glass windows, and decorative brick banding. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 14 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking north, showing the Main Church's south (side) elevation. Note the building's brick buttresses with stone copings. Also note the cross-gable-roofed chancel and vestry projecting from the rear of the chapel, visible on the right of the image. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 15 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking south, showing the Main Church's north (side) elevation. Note the 1950s North Wing addition (indicated in red) projecting from the 19th-century Main Church. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 16 2025 interior photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east towards the chancel. Note the vaulted ceilings with exposed wooden rafters of both the nave and the chancel, the lancet-arched chancel located at the east end of the church, and the stained glass lancet-arched tripartite window on the east wall of the chancel. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 17 2025 interior photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking west, showing the west wall of the nave. Note the vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden rafters. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 18 2025 interior photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east, showing the chancel's east wall. Note the four hand-painted canvas reredos mounted on wooden panels on the wall. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 19 2025 photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking southwest, showing the building's north and east elevations. Note the two-storey 1950s North Wing, which projects from the 19th-century Main Church's north elevation. (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 20 2025 interior photograph of St. John the Baptist Church at 12125 Yonge Street looking east. Note the lancet-arched tripartite window located on the chancel's east wall, with stained glass units commemorating Giles Kerswill (left), Captain Martin MacLeod (centre) and Frederick Paige (right). (Source: HUD 2025)



Figure 21 2024 aerial photograph of the St. John the Baptist Church and Cemetery at 12125 Yonge Street, showing the approximate boundary of the cemetery grounds (indicated in red). Archival documentation indicates that the cemetery was established in the mid-19th century. Note the cemetery's proximity to the church, which is located immediately to the west. (Source: York Maps)

Sources

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