

City of Sault Ste. Marie Council Resolution

Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 12.1.8.

Title: By-law 2023-189 (Heritage Designation) 54 Summit Avenue

Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gardi

Resolved that By-law 2023-189 being a by-law to designate civic 54 Summit Avenue as being of architectural or historic value or interest be passed in open Council this 20th day of November, 2023.

Carried

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Shoemaker".

Matthew Shoemaker

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

BY-LAW NO. 2023-189

HERITAGE DESIGNATION: A by-law to designate civic 54 Summit Avenue as being of architectural or historic value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O. 18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest;

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and upon The Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to so designate the property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the Sault Star for one time;

WHEREAS no objections to the proposed designations have been served on the Clerk of the municipality; and

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* ENACTS as follows:

1. PROPERTY DESIGNATED

There is designated as being of architectural or historic value or interest, the property described above and further described in Schedule "A" to this by-law.

2. HERITAGE DESIGNATION REPORT

The Heritage Designation Report of the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee dated September 18, 2023 recommends that civic 54 Summit Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario be designated of significant cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This by-law takes effect on the date of its final passing.

PASSED in open Council this 20th day of November, 2023.


MAYOR – MATTHEW SHOEMAKER

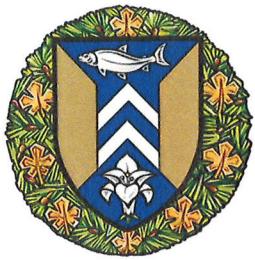

CITY CLERK – RACHEL TYCZINSKI

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 2023-189

54 SUMMIT AVENUE

PIN: 31545-0265 (LT)

LT 14-15 PL 71 ST. MARY'S,; CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

September 18, 2023

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Virginia McLeod, Manager of Recreation and Culture
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: Ontario Heritage Act - Part IV Designation of the 54 Summit Avenue

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to designate 54 Summit Avenue under the Ontario Heritage Act, due to its significant heritage value to the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Background

The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee (SSMMHC) advises City Council as to the cultural heritage value or interest of properties within the Municipality and recommends the designation of significant properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. This affords the property, and in particular, the designated heritage features special protection under the Act.

The Municipal Heritage Committee received a designation application for 54 Summit Avenue. The SSMMHC passed the following resolution at their meeting on June 7, 2023;

Resolved that the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee approve the draft designation report for 54 Summit Avenue and that the report be finalized; and further that a report be brought to City Council recommending that 54 Summit Ave. be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Analysis

The attached designation report provides a detailed overview of the History of the 54 Summit Avenue and description of the cultural heritage value and key heritage attributes.

Statement of Cultural Value or Interest

The house was commissioned by E.W. Shell who was treasurer at Algoma Steel from 1916-1949. They named the house "the Gables" and the original name plaque still resides on the front of the house.

The architect was Thomas Raybould Wilks (1878-1951) who also designed many historically designated heritage buildings in Sault Ste. Marie, along the North Shore and Ontario.

Key Exterior Features of 'The Gables'

1. It is a unique example of Tudor half-timber design typical of the Arts & Crafts movement. With exceptional craftsmanship and enduring beauty, this meticulously maintained home is in its original state and contains construction techniques and attention to detail not seen in modern style homes such as oak trim, storm windows, steep roof pitch, round-about in yard, etc.;
2. The bricks used are "Canadian Bark" which were typical of the era;
3. The foundation is pink/red Jacobsville sandstone that was dredged from the Sault canal. This sandstone was used in many buildings constructed in the early 1900s in this area;
4. The original storm windows have been maintained and any repairs have been replaced with identical parts that were specially milled;
5. The casement windows are original throughout the house.

Key Interior Features of 'The Gables'

1. English red oak beams in the living room; old red oak architectural woodwork throughout the first storey with prominent wood grain finished in natural stain with orange shellac;
2. French doors;
3. Piano window & built-in shelves in the library;
4. A sunroom (also called a Tuberculosis room) was a classic feature of the Arts & Crafts movement;
5. Built-in breakfast nook;
6. Glass fronted cabinets;
7. Casement and double-hung windows throughout;
8. Baseboards and trim;
9. Design and construction of the brick fireplace and fireplace mantel.

Financial Implications

There is no immediate budgetary impact. The property owner would be eligible to apply for a Designated Property Grant or enroll in the Heritage Property Tax rebate program in the future.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact/Climate Impact

Focus Area – Quality of Life: Promotion of our City's arts, culture, historic and heritage sites as an essential component to achieving economic health.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Ontario Heritage Act - Part IV Designation of the 54 Summit Avenue

September 18, 2023

Page 3.

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture dated September 18, 2023 concerning Ontario Heritage Act - Part IV Designation of 54 Summit Avenue be received and that the recommendation by the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee to designate 54 Summit Avenue under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia McLeod
Manager of Recreation and Culture
705.759-5311
v.mcleod@cityssm.on.ca

'The Gables' at 54 Summit Avenue

Designation Report



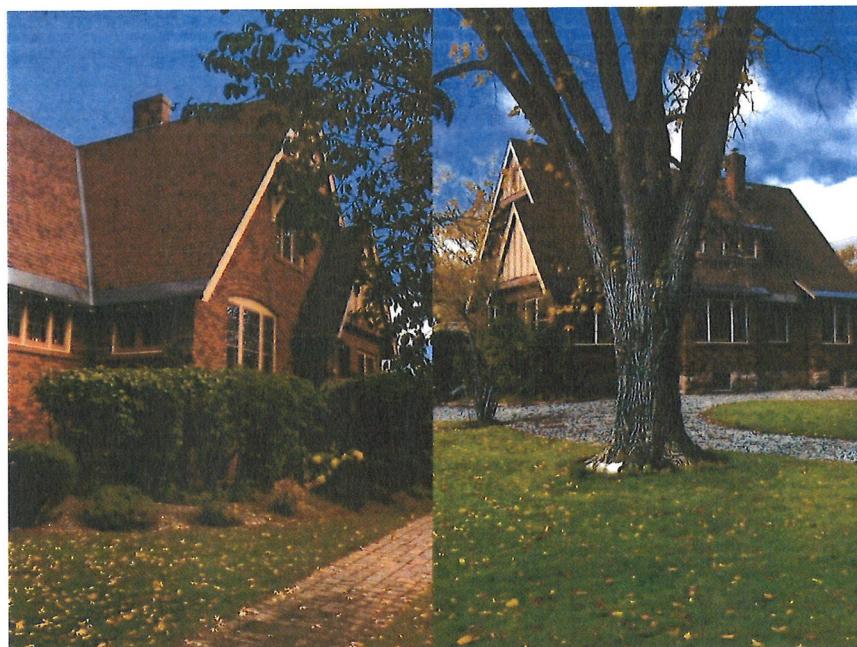
The Gables, 54 Summit Avenue

Researched and submitted by: Alex White, Joe Bumbacco and Nicole Curry

Introduction

The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee is comprised of members interested in heritage conservation with expertise in a number of related fields such as local history and architecture. The members are appointed by Council and recommend to Council significant properties of cultural heritage value or interest for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee has examined the property known as "The Gables" at 54 Summit Avenue, Sault Ste Marie and recommends to Council that this structure be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.



Photos: Exterior of 54 Summit Ave.

The current owners, have submitted a Request for a Heritage Designation to the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee for 54 Summit Ave (PIN: LT 14-15 PL 71 ST. MARY'S S/T DEBTS IN T172002; SAULT STE. MARIE).

Description of Property

This beautiful home has been in the same family for 3 generations and its original beauty has been conscientiously preserved. The red oak beams, windows, baseboards & trim, built-in features such as 'the breakfast nook', library and cupboards have never been painted & glow with age (all casement windows are original & throughout the house). It is solidly built and has been lovingly maintained for 94 years. 'The Gables' has been used

in architecture textbooks as an example of Tudor half-timbered style, used by architects of 'The Arts & Crafts' school (ex. Frank Lloyd Wright). The bricks used (Canadian 'bark' brick) were typical of the era and the foundation was erected with the distinct pink Jacobsville sandstone dredged from the Sault Canal. The Gables was built on a double corner lot at a time when several homes were built in the Summit Avenue district by other Algoma Steel executives. Other unique features of the property include a circular driveway in the back of the property to deliver coal.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

1. The house was commissioned by E.W. Shell who was treasurer at Algoma Steel from 1916-1949. Shell named the house "the Gables" and the original name plaque still resides on the front of the house.
2. The architect was Thomas Raybould Wilks (1878-1951) who also designed many historically designated heritage buildings in Sault Ste. Marie, along the North Shore, and across Ontario.



Photo: Front entrance with original door and sign "The Gables"

Key Exterior Features of 'The Gables'

1. It is a unique example of Tudor half-timber design typical of the 'Arts and Crafts' movement. With exceptional craftsmanship enduring beauty, this meticulously

- maintained home is in its original state and contains construction techniques and attention to detail not seen in Modern style homes, such as oak trim, storm windows, steep roof pitch, round-about in yard etc.;
2. The bricks used are "Canadian Bark" which were typical of the era;
 3. The foundation is pink/red Jacobsville sandstone that was dredged from the Sault canal; This sandstone was used in many buildings constructed in the early 1900s in this area;
 4. The original storm windows have been maintained and any repairs have been replaced with identical parts that were specially milled;
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Key Interior Features of 'The Gables'

1. English red oak beams in the living room; old red oak architectural woodwork throughout the first storey with prominent wood grain finished in natural stain with orange shellac;
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6. Glass fronted cabinets;
7. Casement and double-hung windows throughout;
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9. Design and construction of the brick fireplace and fireplace mantel.

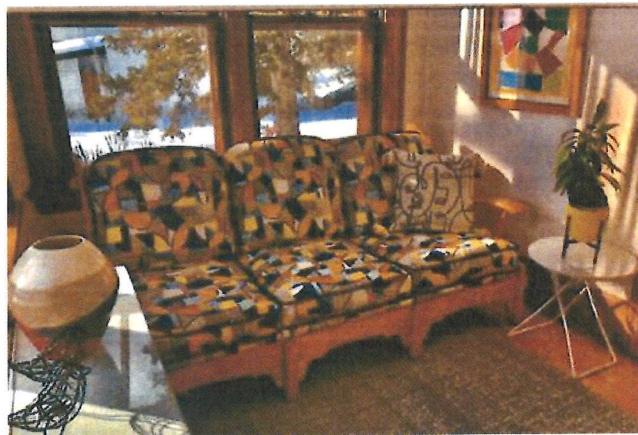


Photo: Sunroom was a classic feature of Arts and Crafts Design

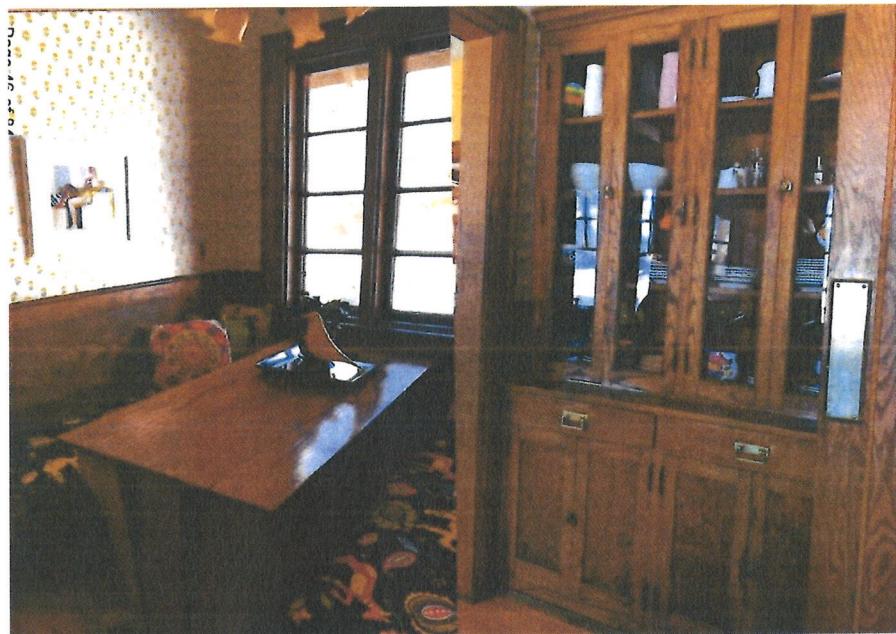


Photo: Breakfast Nook with built-in glass fronted cabinets

Contextual Value

The Gables, 54 Summit Ave is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of an area. The residences on Summit Avenue are a unique grouping of executive-style homes considered so for their uniqueness and historical value.

The Sault Ste Marie Municipal Heritage Committee uses the following criteria when evaluating a property:

- * **A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it is associated with the life of an outstanding member of the community or has played a role in an important historical event.**
- * **A building may be of architectural significance if it is a good example of a particular building type, architectural style or period, or if it is the work of an important architect or early builder.**
- * **A building may also have contextual significance if it forms an integral part of the surrounding streetscape.**
- * **A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it possesses unique aesthetic or picturesque qualities.**

* A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it incorporated the use of local sandstone in the building construction, particularly from the Sault Ste. Marie Canal excavation.

'The Gables' Design

The Gables, 54 Summit Avenue is one of several homes built in the Summit / Borron / Fauquier area by early Algoma Steel Executives.

The home has been owned within the same family for 3 generations and has been preserved. The family would like to ensure that it is preserved for future generations.

The family has noted that the 54 Summit Ave house has been cited in architecture textbooks as an example of the Tudor half-timbered style that was used by architects by the Arts and Crafts movement.

The house was built on a double corner lot in 1928-1929 when several other homes were being built in the Summit Avenue district by other Algoma Steel executives.

The homeowners note that a garage was added to the property in the 1930s and appears to have been made to resemble the home's style. They state that the exterior has remained the same, which is demonstrated by the photos that they have provided.

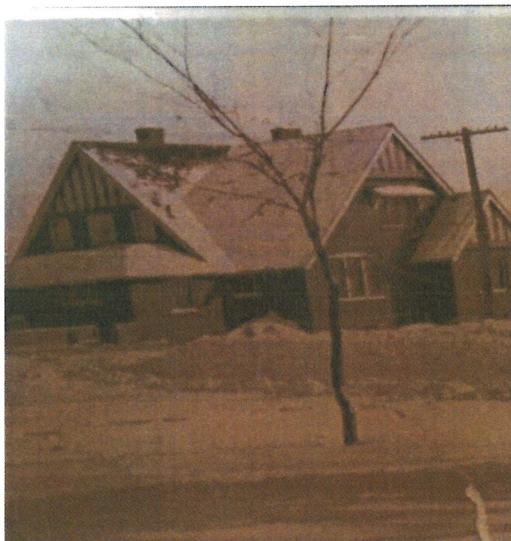


Photo: Before garage was added in 1930's
(View from corner of Summit Ave and Boron Ave)



Photo: Recent photo 54 Summit Ave.

Wilks, Thomas Raybould - Architect of 54 Summit Avenue.

WILKS, Thomas Raybould (1878-1951) was active in Sault Ste. Marie for forty years and can be credited with the design of dozens of schools in that city and in the surrounding Algoma Region. Born in Birmingham, Engl. on 27 July 1878 he graduated from West Bromwich Municipal School of Art and served a four year apprenticeship with Thomas H. Bridge and George Bowden in Birmingham. His parents had emigrated to Sault Ste. Marie before 1900 and at their suggestion Wilks arrived in the city in April 1901. He worked as draftsman for H. Russell Halton there (1901-03), then briefly with Darling & Pearson in Toronto before moving to Moncton in 1903 to take the position of Chief Draftsman for the Inter-Colonial Railway for seven years. He returned to Toronto to join the contracting firm of Mackenzie & Mann, then moved back to Sault Ste. Marie to open his own office in 1912. He maintained a successful practice in the city until after 1950 and died there on 17 September 1951 (biog. and port in Sault Star, 1 April 1913, 1; death notice, Sault Daily Star, 17 Feb. 1951; biog. and list of works in R. Hamilton, Prominent Men of Canada, 1931-32, 448).



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Photo: Circular drive in back for coal delivery

Note

This building has always been referred to as "The Gables" by the original residents and family as evident by the plaque next to the front door and that is the term used throughout this Report.

Appendix A – Map of 54 Summit

