

**Cedardale United Church
824 Simcoe Street South
Oshawa**

SITE DESCRIPTION

Construction Date:	Completed 1867
Architectural Style:	Neo-Classic
Architect:	Mr. Hiram Robert Barber
Original Use:	School
Present Use:	United Church

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Plan:	Rectangular With A Short Facade
Foundation:	Unknown
Exterior Wall:	Brick (covered over with rough cast)
Roof Type:	Gable
Windows:	Side Windows = Round Arch Front Window = Tudor Arch

UNIQUE FEATURES

Corner Brick:	Quoins
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CEDARDALE UNITED CHURCH
824 Simcoe Street South
Oshawa, ON

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

CEDARDALE UNITED CHURCH

The first common school in the area of Cedardale was School Section No.2 built sometime in the early 1800's. It was a log structure situated on the west side of the "main highway", Simcoe Street South, halfway between the center of the settlement of Oshawa and the Lakeshore.

After 1856, the peaceful calm of the rural settlement was altered by the passage of trains twice daily on the Grand Trunk Railway. With the advent of the railway situated in north Cedardale, the community began to grow. In February 1867, plans for a grayish brick schoolhouse were completed by local architect Mr. Hiram Robert Barber.

The population of Cedardale rose during the First World War when people sought escape from the high cost of living in Oshawa. There were also rumours of annexation between 1913 and 1915 in addition to heated arguments concerning the provision of school accommodation for children living near the base line. As a result of these many factors, Trustees of School Section No.2 proposed early in 1919 to erect a six roomed school located across the road on the east side of Simcoe Street. The site for the proposed structure was owned by Gordan Conant who had a farm and orchard on the land. Three acres of this property were used to erect Cedardale Public School which opened in 1920 and still functions today as a public school.

After meeting in a hall for some time, the Cedardale congregation moved into the old schoolhouse in 1927. The building was renamed Cedar Dale Church and was dedicated on Sunday February 20th 1927. It was the beginning of the United Church in the community. The former school was purchased with the help of George McLaughlin (brother of Col. R.S. McLaughlin), and was given to the Oshawa Presbytery as a place of worship. A number of families who had lived in the area, but attended churches in the north side of the city, made up the nucleus of the new congregation.

Worship continues today with many of the original families in the present congregation.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

CEDARDALE UNITED CHURCH

Plans for building a new schoolhouse in Cedardale was announced in the *Oshawa Vindicator* on February 20, 1867. The lot decided upon however, was already occupied by a building, but it was deemed to be 'old' and had "well served its generation." Thus, the "old building" was torn down and School Section No.2 began to build the new brick school with plans prepared by the architect, Mr. Barber.

The building was made of brick and measured 28' X 48' with the walls 14 feet high. Originally the building had a belfry at the east end that fronted to the road (Simcoe Street) – now the current location of the steeple. The entrance was at the other end, with two doors opening into two vestibules that served as the hat and cloakrooms. Between the two rooms was the classroom measuring 11' X 12' and the main room was 25' X 34'. The School Trustees felt that the plans were well drawn and attested to the great ability of the architect, Mr. Barber.

The building is very austere, with the only concession to decoration being the raised mouldings surrounding the heads of the arched windows and the quoins. The simple, symmetrical design with its white rough cast contributes to its clean and attractive lines. The arched windows also help to give the facades both scale and decoration.

Sometime after 1975 the brick was covered over with a rough cast (like stucco) and the chimney located on the west part of the roof was removed. Another brick chimney has taken its place on the north side of the building. The steeple remains in the same location but has been redone with wood siding.

Today the building functions as a United Church and is located on Lot C50, C501/2, and C 51 on Plan 335.

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824 SIMCOE STREET SOUTH
OSHAWA, ON**

SOURCES

Assessment Office. Durham Region Property Assessment.

Historical Information Sheet. **Cedardale Public School.** Prepared by Christine Downey, November 17, 1998.

Oshawa Community Archives. Vertical files.

Photographer, Raymond Robinson.

The Oshawa Daily Times. "Splendid services mark anniversary at Cedardale". February 20, 1928.

The United Church Observer. "Honored". July 1987, page 25.

The Oshawa Vindicator. "The Cedardale school house". February 20, 1867, page 2.

Ross, J. Douglas. **Education in Oshawa from settlement to city. 1970.**

Smith, H.M. Scott. **The historic churches of Prince Edward Island.** The Boston Mills Press: 1986.



