



Staff Report for Heritage Richmond Hill Meeting

Date of Meeting: December 10, 2019

Report Number: SRPRS.19.187

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Policy Planning - Heritage and Urban Design

Subject: Update to the City's Heritage Register
(SRPRS.19.187)

Purpose:

To seek Heritage Richmond Hill's recommendation to Council regarding housekeeping matters related to the Richmond Hill Heritage Register.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That Heritage Richmond Hill recommends to Council that the 114 properties as described in SRPRS.19.187 and identified in Appendix A be removed from the Heritage Register; and
- b) That the Clerk notify the owners of the properties identified in Appendix A to SRPRS.19.187 of their property's removal from the Richmond Hill Heritage Register.

Contact Person:

Pamela Vega, Heritage & Urban Design Planner, phone number 905-771-5529.
Joanne Leung, Manager of Heritage & Urban Design, phone number 905-771-4598.

Report Approval:

Kelvin Kwan

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the report's approval are attached.

Page 2

Background:

Under subsection 27(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (the “Act”), the municipal Clerk is required to maintain a municipal Heritage Register of all properties that are of cultural heritage value or interest to the Town. This includes properties that are “listed” under subsection 27(1.2) of the Act. “Listed” properties have not been designated under section 29 of the Act, but are believed by the municipality to be of potential cultural heritage value or interest. The owners of such properties are required to provide Council with 60 days notice before demolishing any buildings or structures on the property.

In 2007, all properties identified in the *Town of Richmond Hill Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance* (the “*Inventory of Buildings*”), the predecessor to the current *Inventory of Cultural Heritage Resources*, were added to the Heritage Register as “Listed” properties through Council resolution C#22-07. Prior to this, the *Inventory of Buildings* had no formal status under the Act.

Discussion:

While updating the hard copy files related to the Heritage Register, staff identified 114 properties that should no longer be included in the Heritage Register due to administrative or processing oversight. These 114 properties either no longer contain the structures for which they were included in the Heritage Register, or have gone through the cultural heritage review process and are deemed by Council to not have cultural heritage significance. In order to ensure that the Heritage Register is accurate and up to date, it is appropriate for Council to pass a resolution to formally remove them from the Heritage Register as a housekeeping activity. This will have no impact on the City’s existing heritage resources.

The 114 properties fall into one of the following three categories.

Demolished Properties Added in Error

The list of properties added to the Heritage Register in 2007 contained 96 that were already demolished. However, as their municipal addresses were not removed from the listing, these properties were nevertheless added to the Register as listed properties.

Staff has thoroughly reviewed historic aerial photographs and can confirm that these 96 properties did not contain the structures indicated in the *Inventory of Buildings*. There is little or no physical evidence of the cultural heritage value that was once located on these properties, and it can be concluded that these properties were erroneously included in the 2007 mass listing and should be removed.

Demolished Properties That Were Not Removed from the Heritage Register

A number of Council-approved demolished heritage structures no longer exist. Although their addresses are removed from the Inventory, Council’s explicit direction to remove them from the Heritage Register is required to complete the process. 14 such properties were identified.

Page 3

Properties Approved for Demolition Prior to 2007

As per section 27(4) of the Act, properties may only be listed on the Heritage Register if a demolition permit application has not been made. If a demolition application has already been received, the municipality may not add the property to the Heritage Register.

In reviewing the history of the properties included in the 2007 mass listing, four properties had applied for demolition permits prior to 2007. These properties should not have been eligible to be listed on the Heritage Register, and they should be removed.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial or staffing implications at this time.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

Correcting the Heritage Register is directly consistent with Goal 3 – Outcome 1 of the Strategic Plan, which is to “Respect the past through promoting the awareness of the Town’s heritage, in part by showcasing local history”. It further implements the direction to achieve Goal 3, “A More Vibrant Richmond Hill” specifically, by “stewarding Richmond Hill’s heritage resources”.

Conclusion:

Completing the removal of the 114 properties identified in Appendix A of this report from the Heritage Register will help to ensure that the Heritage Register is accurate and up to date.

Attachments:

The following attached document may include scanned images of appendices, with maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call the contact person listed in this document.

Appendix A List of properties to be removed from Heritage Register

Page 4

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.19.187 Update to City's Heritage Register.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.19.187 Appendix A.docx
Final Approval Date:	Dec 3, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Patrick Lee - Dec 2, 2019 - 4:53 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Dec 2, 2019 - 5:24 PM

Neil Garbe - Dec 3, 2019 - 3:23 PM