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RECEIVED
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CONSERVATION
BOARD

2002

November 7, 2002

Canadian Wide Electrical Contractors Inc.

Attention: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: By-Law #2002-236 – To Designate Property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
"Aldebarron" - The Jim Murray House - 7070 Bayview Avenue

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on October 29, 2002 passed By-law 2002-236 to designate "Aldebarron - The Jim Murray House, 7070 Bayview Avenue, as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.

A registered copy of the by-law is attached for your information.

Yours truly,


Sheila Birrell
Town Clerk

Encl.

SB/jik

c: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Mr. R. Hutcheson, Heritage Planner

✓
RA



2002-236

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
"Aldebarron" - The Jim Murray House

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Canadian Wide Electrical Contractors Inc.

Attention: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate "Aldebarron" - The Jim Murray House, located at 7070 Bayview Avenue, Markham, and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest:

"Aldebarron"
The Jim Murray House
7070 Bayview Avenue
Town of Markham
The Regional Municipality of York
2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS
29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2002.

"Sheila Birrell"

TOWN CLERK

"Don Cousens"

MAYOR

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2002-236

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property description as follows:

PT. LT. 63 REGISTRAR'S COMPILED PLAN 10327,
PART 1, 2, 65R5921
TOWN OF MARKHAM
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2002-236

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Murray House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical, architectural and contextual significance.

Historical Reasons

The Murray house at 7070 Bayview Avenue was built between 1937 and 1939 as a colonial revival styled estate house built by a wealthy Toronto Family who desired a home in what was then the countryside.

The house was built between 1937 and 1939 for Mr. and Mrs. James Murray. The house appears to have been built as part of an estate residential community in the late 1930s. Other dwellings built in the area at the time appear to be influenced by the colonial revival style and use similar materials, however, the subject dwelling is by far the most closely detailed reproduction of early 19th Century architectural design. It is probable given the quality of design and attention paid to siting and detail, that the structure at 7070 Bayview Avenue was designed by an architect. If the house was designed by an architect, it is not known who completed the work at this point, however there were at least two major architectural firms working in Toronto and North York who produced colonial revival residential homes during this period. These were: Hugh Alward and Paige and Steele.

An early event that occurred at the house was the christening of the Murray's three-month old daughter Jessica Mary Clara Jillson Murray at their "new" home, which is referred to by the name of "Aldebarron". This event was described in some detail in one of the local newspapers of the day.

The construction date of such a substantial home in "the country" in the late 1930s is unusual given that the country was still feeling very much the effects of the great depression and following the Munich Crisis of late 1938 was gearing up for a major conflict in Europe. Evidently, the Murray's were obviously a fairly wealthy family of some prominence in the community at that time.

Architectural Reasons

The house known as "Aldebarron" is an outstanding example of Colonial Revival architecture from the late 1930s period.

The Colonial Revival Style grew out of a revival of interest in the architecture of Colonial Canada and America, which occurred between the 1880s, and World War II. Known as Colonial Revival, the style combines elements of both Georgian and American Federal Architecture, which were popular styles in America and British North America in the 1700s and early 1800s. In Ontario, architects for the most part accepted the American Revivals' with few changes. Attempts were made to include architectural features recalling Loyalist homes of Upper Canada. By the 1930s there was also an effort to incorporate academic and vernacular elements from both English Upper Canada and French Lower Canada with indigenous native characteristics into a unified Canadian National Colonial Style.

Some characteristics of the Colonial Revival Style in Ontario include the following:

- Symmetrical facades, often with side porches
- red brick or wood clapboard walls
- entrances decorated with sidelights, transoms, columns, and pediments
- either hip or gable roofs, often with dormers

The focal point of "Aldebarron" is the centre wing of the building, which is a two storey, frame building in the Georgian Revival Style with a 3 bay façade. The windows are wood, double hung with true divided lights and real muntin bars. The windows are flanked by louvered wood shutters. The central doorway features sidelights flanking a panelled solid front door. The transom is elliptical in shape with delicate tracery work. A simple but elegant Neo-Classical porch surrounds the entrance. At either side of the gable ends are chimneys. On either side of the house are 1½ and 2 storey wings. The north wing contains a 3-car garage. The south wing was originally a single storey in height and was recently extended to a full 2 storeys. The house is set on a ravine lot overlooking a tributary of the Don River. The rear of the house features a pair of curved glass bay windows. The lower part of the bay and the exposed foundation is clad in brick. The bays feature wood windows with true divided lights. Wood and glass French doors extend from the lower part of the round bays onto the rear patio. The sunken terrace presents an outstanding and rare example of a building built to fit into the surrounding landscape from the inter-war period.

Contextual Reasons

"Aldebarron" was built at the heart of a small, estate residential subdivision of Colonial Revival homes developed during the latter part of the 1930s near the southwest corner of Markham Township. Although some of these houses remain today, most are either on sites approved for redevelopment or proposed for redevelopment. Based on a review of archival photos and existing structures it would appear that "Aldebarron" was the best example of Colonial Revival Architecture in this group of homes. The well-treed, manicured landscape around the house provides a complementary setting for the home.

Conclusion

"Aldebarron" is now approximately 65 years old. Because of the quality of design and relative rarity of new houses being constructed during the late 1930s, the house presents an important example of architecture from the 1930s period in Markham. As time marches on, it will become more and more important to preserve significant homes from the early to mid-20th Century. "Aldebarron" is one of the best homes built during this period. Although not a style as closely associated with the inter-war period as Art Deco, Art Moderne and Arts and Crafts, the Colonial Revival was as widely applied to residential and other building forms during this period. The Colonial Revival often represented a desire among some owners to return to their simple roots during the time of great change and innovation, which occurred after the outbreak of World War I.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The owners of the property have applied for a permit to demolish the Murray House at 7070 Bayview Avenue. Heritage Markham has recommended that the permit be denied and that the property be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The applicant has recently indicated their intention to work with preserving the heritage house on site; however, they have also indicated their intention to not withdraw the demolition permit application. In the event that the building is preserved in the new development, Town (Heritage Section) staff would be recommending designation and a heritage conservation easement as conditions of approval.