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The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

By-law Number 6182-19

Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (De La Salle College and Pine Ridge Trail (Monks Walk) – 50-100 Bloomington Road West).

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
JUN 24 2019
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Whereas Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, provides that the council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And whereas on January 22, 2019 The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") approved the recommendations of its Heritage Advisory Committee to designate the property municipally known as 50-100 Bloomington Road West, Aurora (the "Property") to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And whereas the Town Clerk of the Town caused notice of the intention to designate the Property to be served on the owner of the Property and the Ontario Heritage Trust and published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

And whereas there were no objections to the proposed designation of the Property served on the Town;

And whereas the Council of the Town deems it necessary and expedient to enact a by-law to designate the Property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Aurora hereby enacts as follows:

1. The Property described on Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law be and is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. A statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the Property and a description of the heritage attributes of the Property are set out on Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
3. The Town Clerk of the Town shall serve a copy of this By-law on the owner of the Property and the Ontario Heritage Trust and publish notice of this By-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.
4. The Town Solicitor shall register against the Property in the proper Land Registry Office, a copy of this By-law including an Affidavit of the Town Clerk respecting the giving of notice referenced herein to be attached to and forming part of this By-law.

Enacted by Town of Aurora Council this 28th day of May, 2019.



Tom Mrakas, Mayor



Michael de Rond, Town Clerk

Schedule "A"

Description of Property

All and singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Aurora, in the Regional Municipality of York, municipally known as 50-100 Bloomington Road West, and being composed of Part Lot 71, Concession 1, (King) as in K114654, except Part 2 R679438, Part 10 65R10971, Parts 1, 3, 4 and 6, 65R14658, B77201B, A54471A, Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4, 65R29662 and except Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, 65R33118, subject to an easement over Part 1 65R1643 as in R186508; subject to an easement over Parts 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 65R18188 Except Part 4, 65R29662, except Parts 3,4 and 6, 65R33118 as in R495580, subject to an easement over Parts 4 and 17, 65R18188 as in R554169, subject to an easement over Parts 4 and 17, 65R18188 as in R556196, subject to an easement over Parts 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 18, 65R18188 except Parts 2 and 3, 65R29662, except Parts 2, 4 and 5, 65R33118 as in R685895, being all of PIN 03671-0060 (LT) including the building known as De La Salle College, which includes the front garden/courtyard and associated heritage feature Pine Ridge Trail (Monks Walk),

Schedule "B"**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The Cultural Heritage Value of the property derives from the visual character of the primary structure; being a fair example of Collegiate Gothic architecture, and the landscape features on the property; which include the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk with its numerous religious tree carvings, and the front garden with its circular walkway leading to the original building entrance. The property has historical association; being the former De La Salle College and Pine Ridge Centre, and has contextual value; for its location on a highpoint within the Oak Ridges Moraine at the prominent corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road.

Physical Design Value

Built in 1916, the existing building can be described as a 4 storey structure designed in a Collegiate Gothic architectural style. The building was designed by renowned architect J.P Hynes, who is notable for building several churches, hotels, hospitals, schools and various residential and commercial buildings in Toronto and across Canada.

The building was constructed using the "Hennebique" system of construction, which comprised of 14 inch thick reinforced concrete walls, clad with red brick. Concrete foundation walls extend approximately 4 feet above grade at the base of the structure. A stone trim was implemented on the walls and window openings of the building. The roof is a flat roof, lined with a brick parapet. At the centre of the front elevation (facing Yonge Street), a steel screen was installed which was decorated to match the original stone decorative parapet. The windows, emphasized by sawtooth art stone, are a common feature to Collegiate Gothic architecture. The main entrance (facing Yonge Street) features cast stone with a decorative parapet.

To the east of the main structure lies a front garden, comprising of mature trees, park benches and a flag pole. A circular walkway is located in the center of the garden. The garden once served as the main entranceway to the De La Salle College.

Along the northern boundary of the property is Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk, which is a 0.75 kilometre trail that features numerous religious tree carvings, which date back nearly 100 years.

Historical /Associative Value

50-100 Bloomington Road West contains a rich history over the past 200 years. The lands were originally settled by Joseph Minthorn in 1808. Another notable early settler includes William Mair, who held the land until 1878. In 1914, the Christian Brotherhood purchased the property. By 1916, the Brotherhood built the De La Salle College, a school for young men destined to pursue religious services. During this time, the Brotherhood established a walking trail at the north end of the property known as Monk's Walk. This trail comprises of religious carvings in trees along the route, used by the Brotherhood for meditation. The Christian Brotherhood would continue to operate the school until 1949 where at that time; the school was moved back to Toronto.

The Government of Ontario purchased the property in 1950. The building was converted into a residential facility operated by the Ministry of Health. The building would house over 300 men and boys suffering from mental illnesses, developmental delay or physical disability. The facility was re-named "Pine Ridge" in 1974 and would continue to operate until 1984.

After the closure of Pine Ridge, the Government of Ontario retrofitted the building to contain office uses. The building would become an office for the Ministry of Natural Resources and an Ontario Registry Office. The building continues to operate as government offices to this day.

Contextual Value

The property is situated on a large parcel of land at a highpoint of the Oak Ridges Moraine at the north east corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road. Once set isolated amongst agricultural land uses, the surrounding landscape has evolved around the property, which is now surrounded by other institutional buildings and suburban residential developments.

The former De La Salle College structure overlooks Yonge Street, the major north-south historical transportation corridor between the urban centre of Toronto to the south and Lake Simcoe to the north. Under the ownership of the Christian Brothers and due to the school's symbolic presence, the intersection at Yonge Street and Bloomington Road became known as De La Salle College Corners in recognition of the historic importance of the institution locally (Aurora Banner, 1925).

The historic educational and agricultural importance of the property is reflected through the remnants of orchards, gardens, and the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk and its multiple carved trees.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Important to the preservation of the property are the original key attributes that express its value, which include:

Exterior Elements

- Collegiate Gothic Architectural Style
- Exterior walls constructed from interlocking tile and faced with brick
- Low brick parapet with a moulded stone coping and overhang drips
- Rectangular window openings with sawtooth art stone surrounds and simple lintels and sills
- Classical main entrance with cut stone
- Four-storey structure with a flat roof, red brick cladding and stone detailing

Cultural Heritage Landscape Elements

- Approximately 0.75 kilometre Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk at the north end of the property
- Paper Birch, Basswood and American Beech trees along the Pine Ridge Trail/Monk's Walk, including carved trees
- The Front Garden at the east of the property, leading from the original entryway to Yonge Street, including the walkway and circular garden
- The visual presence of the building, located at the northeast corner of the property and on a hilltop, as a discernable landmark for the area
- The 0.3 hectare Kettle Lake at the southern end of the property