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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
140 MERTON STREET**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

APR 25 2017

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 140 Merton Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act,

Reasons for Designation

The property at 140 Merton Street, the War Amputations of Canada (War Amps) building, is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value.

Description

The property at 140 Merton Street is located on the north side of Merton Street between Yonge Street and Pailton Crescent and contains the former War Amps building which has been owned by the City of Toronto since 1994 and occupied by SPRINT Senior Care since 1998. The two-storey building was constructed in 1959-60 for the War Amps as their "Dominion headquarters" and key-tag manufacturing services facility. The building is clad in limestone, polished black granite and buff brick and is distinguished by the limestone-clad, cenotaph-like pier rising above the roof-line at the south-west corner of the building. Originally the War Amps emblem was mounted at the top cenotaph-like pier, however, it was removed in 1992 and is on display at their offices in Scarborough.

The building and setting has undergone a variety of changes since 1973. The original parking area in front of the building was removed and replaced with planting including mature trees and a single storey, buff brick-clad addition was constructed at the rear of the adjacent property to the east to provide storage facilities. In 1985, two small additions were made at the rear of the building and the building was flanked parking spaces on the south and west sides. Since 1995, a ramp constructed along the south elevation has enabled universal access.

The heritage value of the property is embodied in the original, 1959-60, front section of the building complex which is set-back from the street with a long walkway to the main entrance and an open space.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The former War Amps building has design value as a rare example of a headquarters-manufacturing building designed to integrate a cenotaph-like element in the Modern Classicism style. Favoured by public institutions and conservative corporations, Modern Classicism was applied to this building designed for the employment of Canadian war amputees manufacturing their key tags and for their national headquarters.

The design value is evident in the high degree of artistic merit seen in the combination of minimal and linear classical details, traditional materials such as limestone cladding, modern materials and elements such as polished black granite, curtain walling and the cast metal handrails which exhibit the combined influence of Streamlined Art Deco and 1950s automobile styling. Further, the tall, single, limestone-clad fluted pier at the west end of the principal (south) elevation of the building has a quality evocative of a cenotaph, appropriate in honouring the sacrifice made by the war amputees in service to their country. The building with its highly visible cenotaph-like stone pier, originally displaying the War Amps emblem, is set back and viewed across the open space in front of the building and on approach from Yonge Street.

The property has associative value with the War Amps organization, founded in 1918 by veteran amputee and army padre Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Lambert, O. B. E. (1886-1971), who remained the president of War Amps until his death and was a persistent advocate for veterans. To honour him, the former Christie Street Military hospital was re-named Lambert Lodge. The War Amps received its charter in 1920 as an organization of "amputees helping amputees" with both practical assistance and counselling. Their now nation-wide, key tag service was initiated in 1946 as a means for veterans to achieve independence through employment. The War Amps has expanded their services to include adults and children who have lost their limbs from causes other than war.

The property is also valued for its association with the Toronto architect Charles B. Dolphin (1888-1969), known for many fine landmark buildings in the city including the Postal Delivery Building (1939-1941).

Contextually, the War Amps building is valued as it contributes to maintaining the mid-century character and low-rise scale of the buildings fronting onto the north side of Merton Street between Yonge Street and Pailton Crescent. The building is historically linked to its surroundings as it was part of post-war transformation and re-development of the street following the completion of the Yonge Street subway line.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 140 Merton Street are:

EXTERIOR:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building, mid-block on the north side of Merton Street between Yonge Street and Pailton Crescent

- The setting of the building with open space in front of the south (principal) elevation
- The scale, form and massing of the original two-storey building.
(This does not include the 1973 one-storey addition on the adjacent property or the 1985 additions at the second level above the original one-storey building sections)
- The materials, comprising limestone, black granite, buff brick and metal
- The elements on the principal (south) elevation including the main entrance located at the west side, with a bevelled, polished black granite door frame and base with the limestone cladding, the adjacent limestone fluted pier which rises above the parapet, and the curtain wall windows with their blue spandrel panels and surrounding limestone frame and the buff brick cladding at the eastern edge and parapet.
- On the side (west) elevation, the limestone-clad pier with a masonry pattern of large blocks and an incised frame surrounding the curtain wall double-storey window opening with metal frames and blue spandrel panel
- On the side (west) elevation to the north of the pier, the first ground floor window opening and its pattern of glazing with a central vertical mullion and narrowing opening sections at the top and bottom of the window set into the buff brick-clad wall
- On the side (east) elevation the portion of black granite base, the buff brick-clad elevation
- On the side (east) elevation, at the ground floor level, the two, wide window openings divided into seven sections with three low opening sections, in a pattern corresponding to the principal (south) elevation with cast stone sills
- On the side (east) elevation, at the upper level, the three windows, joined by a cast stone sill, with the first window divided in two equal sections and the next two windows, towards the rear of the property, divided into three equal sections of the same dimensions as the first window
- The projecting metal parapet cornice on the west, south and east elevations

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Ellen Devlin, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of April 24, 2017, which is May 25, 2017. The notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 20th day of April, 2017



Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

