

Date: January 17, 2024

To: Chair and Members of Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
February 13, 2024

Subject

Proposed Heritage Designation of 1 Godfrey's Lane (Ward 1)

Recommendation

That the property at 1 Godfrey's Lane (Ward 1) be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its physical, design, historical, associative and contextual value and that the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Executive Summary

- Prominent footwear manufacturer John Allan Walker commissioned architect Murray Brown to design the original portion of the subject house, which was built in 1917, as a summer home
- James Harris of Harris Abattoir, predecessor to Maple Leaf Foods, purchased the house in 1925, also originally for summering
- The house is representative of relatively rare bungalow style architecture in Mississauga as a of the turn-of-the century cottage community of this immediate area
- The property merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Background

John Allan Walker (1867-1930), President of Walker, Parker and Company, a footwear manufacturer, commissioned architect Murray Brown (1884-1958) to design the original portion of the subject summer home, "Reklaw," which was built in 1917. (A location map, photos and a Who's Who biography of Walker are attached as Appendices 1 thru 3 respectively.)

James Harris (1878-1929) and Ada Florence Wagstaff Harris (1878-1951) purchased the property in 1925, also as a summer home. (Harris' obituary is attached as Appendix 4.)

Harris was Managing Director of the family business Harris Abattoir, predecessor to Canada Packers, which merged with Grantham Mills to form Maple Leaf Foods. (More details on the property are attached as Appendix 5.) Son David Wagstaff Harris (1910-1991) purchased the now City owned Pearson Farm on Creditview Road in 1946.

Comments

To merit designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, a property must meet the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, i.e. it must have physical, design, historical, associative, and/or contextual value, per Ontario Regulation 9/06 (Appendix 6).

The property is a representative yet relatively rare example of bungalow style architecture in Mississauga. It displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. It has historical and associative value due to its association with prominent businessmen Walker and Harris who were significant to the Greater Toronto Area.

As a summer vacation property, 1 Godfrey's Lane yields information that contributes to our understanding of Mississauga and the Port Credit area in particular as a fair weather destination for wealthy Torontonians. It also demonstrates the early work of famed Ontario architect Murray Brown. Finally, it is important in defining Godfrey's Lane and maintaining the physical history of this turn-of-the century cottage community.

The designation statement is attached as Appendix 7.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact resulting from the recommendation in this report.

Conclusion

1 Godfrey's Lane meets the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, per Regulation 9/06. As such, the subject property merits designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Location Map

Appendix 2: Photos

Appendix 3: Walker Bio

Appendix 4: Harris Obituary

Appendix 5: 2006 Heritage Listing Report

Appendix 6: Ontario Regulation 9/06 Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

Appendix 7: Proposed Designation Statement



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

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