

REASONS FOR INCLUSION: 33 LAIRD DRIVE
(STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE)

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

Description

The former Sheridan Equipment Company Ltd. complex at 33 Laird Drive is located at the south-east corner of Laird Drive and Canvarco Road. Built in 1945-6, the building is composed of a series of one to two storey blocks with flat roofs and a prominent chimney, clad in brick with cast-stone details.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 31 Laird Drive is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria stated in Ontario Regulation 9/06 under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values.

The former Sheridan Equipment Company Ltd. complex has design value as a fine representative of the Streamlined Modern style which was popular in the 1930s and 1940s in Toronto. It is also valued for the artistic merit evident in the expression of the functional elements of the building as separate volumes and in the care with which the various decorative elements are integrated. These qualities are evident in the composition of the massing of the complex and in the detailing of the brick and cast stone details.

The property has associative value as it is linked with the history and evolution of the Village of Leaside from ancient Iroquois shoreline to 19th century farm-holdings to model town with an industrial park and railway station. Built in 1945-6, the complex is part of Leaside's emergence as an industrial area which was integral to its town origins, contributed to Canada's service in World War I and II and expanded to support growth in peacetime. The property is also valued for its association with the Toronto-based engineering company, Margison & Babcock, who also undertook a number of significant architectural commissions within the city.

The property has contextual value as it is important in defining, and maintaining the historic industrial character east of Laird Drive. Situated at the convergence of Laird Drive, Millwood Road, Southvale Drive and the CPR rail line, the distinctive composition of this industrial complex and its Streamlined Modern details make it a prominent landmark and a significant contributor to the physical character of the neighbourhood today.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes on the exterior of the property at 33 Laird Drive are:

- The exact location of the buildings on the south-east corner of Laird Drive and Canvarco Road
- The landscaped set-back and the stairs to the main entry facing Laird Drive.

- The form and massing of the various original blocks with their flat roofs including the entry/showroom volume, paired office/stockroom volumes, workshop loading bay office block, two-story workshop and the square section chimney adjacent to the workshop.
- The brick cladding including:
 - the standard red brick cladding
 - the horizontally striated brick cladding with its projecting bands on the upper section of the entry/showroom block
- The cast stone details including:
 - the cast-stone frame of the entry pavilion
 - the cast-stone c-channels integrated with the fenestration of the entry pavilion
 - the cast-stone decorative elements featuring square motifs in relief at either end of the entry pavilion
 - The fluted panels on the outsides of the cast-stone frame of the entry pavilion
 - The cast-stone sills, lintels and decorative panels with horizontal mouldings of the windows on the north, west, south and east elevations of the side pavilions flanking the entry pavilion.
- The tile clad frame at the main entry on Laird Drive
- The original window openings including those of the entry pavilion, the side wings of the offices and stock rooms, workshop loading bay office and the two-storey workshop.

Please note: later additions to this property are not included as part of the heritage attributes.