

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: 212 DUNDAS STREET EAST ATTACHMENT NO. 3
(REASONS FOR INCLUSION)

Wilton Court Hotel and Henry Tasker House

The property at 212 Dundas Street East is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation, which the City also applies for inclusion on the Heritage Register.

Description

The property at 212 Dundas Street East is located on the northeast corner of George Street in the Toronto neighbourhood now known as the Garden District. It contains a three-storey commercial building that was completed in 1913 as a small-scale apartment building and afterward operated as an apartment hotel known as the Wilton Court Hotel, which incorporates at the rear (north) the surviving portions of the Henry Tasker House (1873-74). The hotel was named for its setting on Wilton Crescent, before the latter street was renamed as Dundas Street was extended east of Yonge Street. Since the late 20th century, the property has been known as Filmores Hotel.

Statement of Significance

The property at 212 Dundas Street has design value as a setting of the Wilton Court Hotel, a three-storey commercial building that was designed as a low-rise apartment house with features of the popular Edwardian Classical style of the early 20th century. The Wilton Court Hotel displays the sombre red brick, the symmetrical placement of openings, and the classically-inspired quoins and band course identified with Edwardian Classicism. Its design incorporates significant portions of the Henry Tasker House, which is distinguished by its Second Empire styling with the mansard roofs and elaborate decorative detailing.

The associative value of the property at 212 Dundas Street East is through its contribution to the development and evolution of the residential neighbourhood that, beginning in the late 19th century, opened east of Yonge Street along the major corridors of Church, Jarvis and Sherbourne streets. This area originally housed high-end residential buildings in the popular styles of the day (including the Henry Tasker House) and, after the turn of the 20th century, welcomed the city's first low-rise apartment buildings that included the Wilton Court Hotel.

The Wilton Court Hotel is valued for its historical association with the Toronto architectural firm of Symons and Rae, which designed it as an apartment building incorporating portions of the Henry Tasker House. Symons and Rae were noted for the breadth of the firm's commissions in the city's high-end neighbourhoods, including the design of low-rise walk-up apartment houses that supported the city's "apartment boom" in the early 20th century.

Contextually, the property at 212 Dundas Street contributes to the character of the neighbourhood now known as the Garden District, which developed in the late 19th century as an

upscale community adjoining Allan Gardens where Toronto's community leaders resided. The area first attracted single family homes, among them the Henry Tasker House, before many of the larger parcels were infilled with newer construction that included walk-up apartment buildings such as the Wilton Court Hotel. The subject property is also historically, visually and physically linked to its prominent setting anchoring the northeast corner of Dundas and George streets where the Wilton Court Hotel was designed to address the curve in the street that is a prominent urban design feature in the Garden District neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 212 Dundas Street East are:

Wilton Court Hotel

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the northeast corner of Dundas Street East and George Street
- The scale, form and massing of the building, which extends three stories above a raised base, with the southwest corner rounded to address the curve of Dundas Street, east of George Street
- The materials, with the red brick cladding and the stone trim
- The flat roofline (the cornice has been removed)
- The main entrance, which is placed on the southwest corner
- The raised base where the flat-headed window openings have been filled in (the stone sills remain on the west and east elevations)
- Above the base on the east, south and west elevations, the symmetrically-placed flat-headed window openings with the stone lintels and sills
- The decorative detailing, with the stone band courses on the base and between the second and third stories

The rear (north) elevation, which adjoins the south elevation of the Henry Tasker House, is visible at the east end.

Henry Tasker House

- The setback, placement and orientation of the house form building on the east side of George Street, north of Dundas Street East
- The scale, form and massing of the 2½-storey house form building with the two-storey rear (north) wing
- The materials, with the red brick cladding, the contrasting yellow brick detailing, and the stone and brick trim
- The mansard roofs on the house and wing, with the dormers on the roof covering the house
- On the side (east and west) elevations, the round-arched window openings, with the stone hood moulds and corbelled sills on the house, and the brick voussoirs on the wing where the second-storey openings have corbelled sills
- The decorative detailing on the east and west elevations, with the band courses, the quoins and, on the wing, the corbelled brickwork

The principal (south) elevation is concealed by the rear (north) wall of the Wilton Court Hotel.