

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)
43 MILLWOOD ROAD

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

The property at 43 Millwood Road 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

Located on the south side of Millwood Road, between Yonge Street and Mount Pleasant Road in the Davisville neighbourhood, the property contains the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) building complex originally known as Metropolitan Toronto School for the Deaf, the Davisville Junior Public School and Day Nursery. The complex is composed of a series of pavilions, three stories in height with a reinforced concrete frame structure, brick and glass cladding and three types of hyperbolic paraboloid roofs and a roof-top playground. It was completed in 1962 to the designs of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) architectural team under design leadership of Frederick C. Etherington. A later two-storey, flat-roofed addition by the architects Hicks, Marsh and McLean was added at the eastern end of the school in 1965-6. Currently, the building includes the Davisville Junior School, the Spectrum Alternative Senior School, and the Davisville Care Program.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 43 Millwood Road, the original Metropolitan Toronto School for the Deaf, Davisville Junior Public School and Day Nursery has design value as a representative of one in a series of unique schools designed in-house by the TDSB in the early 1960s which employs a playful version of the Modern Expressionist style whose structural expression and carefully considered details contributed to a re-imagining of the traditional, school-building type. The focus of the architectural design was on transforming the experience of student and staff and enhancing the potential of education. The school displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in its imaginative composition of building forms, structural expression, variety and fully-considered details. In the development and construction of three different types of concrete hyperbolic paraboloid roofs, the architects and engineers demonstrated a high degree of technical achievement.

The school has historic value as it yields an understanding of the transformation which had taken place in education at the Toronto District School Board by the 1950s, resulting in a more child-centred, less regimented and experimental attitude to the function of the school and the purpose of education. The school name commemorates its association with the Davisville Pottery Works, the village of Davisville and John Davis's donation of the land for the school. The property has historic value as since 1860 it has been the site of the Davisville school.

The property has contextual value as its scale, massing, form and set-back maintain and support the built-form and landscape character of the residential neighbourhood on Millwood Road. The Modern Expressionist style of the school is reflected in the adjacent office and apartment buildings which were built in response to the increase in local population following the completion of the Yonge Street subway line and the Davisville Station. With its dramatic roof forms and tall chimney the Davisville school is a landmark on Millwood Road and can also be viewed from Yonge Street and Davisville Avenues.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the former Toronto School for the Deaf, the Davisville Junior Public School and Day Nursery completed in 1962 on the property at 43 Millwood Road are:

- The placement, set back and orientation of the original multi-pavilion building, as it is located on the south side of Millwood Road.
- On the north side of the property facing Millwood road the landscaped setting with lawns, enclosed playgrounds, and trees
- The planter for the tree in front of the main entrance with its two parallel field-stone walls, to concrete walls and metal gate
- The zig-zag field stone and metal walls marking the boundary between the playground and sidewalk on Millwood Road.
- The massing and composition of the building which includes
 - 4 pavilions of three storeys with hyperbolic paraboloid roofs (one on the main entry pavilion, two for the School for the Deaf, one for the Junior School)
 - a fifth pavilion with a roof-top play ground at the second storey
 - a sixth pavilion housing mechanical and school services, behind the entry pavilion, which has a flat roof and prominent chimney
 - the links between the original pavilions housing staircases and other secondary functions
 - the projecting one-storey main entrance with its concrete canopy.
- Pavilion details include the following:
 - the white reinforced concrete structural frames, with projecting roofline elements
 - at ground floor, the full-height windows
 - at ground floor the 'colonnades' of reinforced concrete fins
 - at the second and third floor levels, the pattern of two window types set in an alternating pattern with vertical and horizontal orientation and the white frames surrounding the windows
 - at the second and third floor levels and fourth floor levels (services pavilion) the brown brick cladding

- At the entry pavilion:
 - the main school entrance including the inverted concrete canopy, splayed field-stone walls and zig-zag setting of the doors and terrazzo paving
 - the fully-glazed doors with their cast-aluminum and wood door handles
 - The stone tablets commemorating the 1860 and 1906 schools currently built into a concrete frame at the entrance
- Additionally on the flat-roofed pavilion on the south side of the building:
 - the pattern of horizontal windows with at the third floor level and the clerestory windows at the fourth floor level, all with white frames around the windows.
 - the chimney with its decorative details including the v-shaped white moulding at the top which replicates the form of the entry canopy and the main entry pavilion roof
- Additionally on the day care pavilion with the roof-top play ground:
 - the decorative rectangular screens with rectangular and square panels in red, blue and yellow.
 - the combination of open and covered playground area
- On the links between the pavilions:
 - the full-height glazing with its pattern of vertical mullions in white
 - the lighter buff brick cladding

Interior

- The vestibule, waiting area and lobby
- The stone walls, two-toned wood panels and terrazzo floor of the vestibule
- The fully-glazed doors between the vestibule and the waiting area with their wood handle pulls and wood push handles
- The lobby furnishings including the reception area counter tops, light fittings over the counter tops and the two-tone striped panelling on the walls
- The panel of wood parquetry on the end wall of the lobby as it connects with the corridor
- The original staircases in the links between the pavilions

The 1965-6 addition is not included in the heritage attributes