

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

June 24, 2004

To: Toronto Preservation Board
Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: 153-185 Eastern Avenue (Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company) - Inclusion
on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties
Toronto Centre-Rosedale - Ward 28

Purpose:

This report recommends that the property at 153-185 Eastern Avenue (Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company) be included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Council include the property at 153-185 Eastern Avenue (Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties; and
- (2) The appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

As part of the City's interest in the revitalization of the West Donlands, staff surveyed the area bounded by the Don River (east), King Street East (north), Trinity Street (west) and the railway corridor (south). During the survey, the property at 153-185 Eastern Avenue, former site of Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company and containing four heritage buildings, was identified as meriting inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Comments:

The Reasons for Listing are listed below. A location map (Attachment No. 1) and photographs (Attachment No. 2) are attached.

Reasons for Listing:

The property at 153-185 Eastern Avenue is recommended for inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural resource value or interest. The property is located on the south side of Eastern Avenue, east of Cherry Street and opposite the entrance to St. Lawrence Street. In 1914, the Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company, producer of railway equipment, began a long-term occupancy of the site as the tenants of the Canadian Northern Railway (later absorbed by Canadian National Railways). Surviving historical maps and records indicate that the four buildings on the site that are identified for inclusion on the Inventory of Heritage Properties were constructed between 1917 and 1929. Collectively, they are historically and architecturally significant as a good example of an industrial enclave in the area adjoining the lower Don River.

The heritage attributes of the buildings are found on the exterior walls and roofs of the former foundry (#153), warehouse (#169), office building (#171) and, to the rear (south), machine shop (#185). The four buildings share red brick cladding and restrained Classical detailing. The two-storey foundry at #153 Eastern features a large rectangular plan covered by a low-pitched gable roof. The principal (north) façade extends four bays where full-height brick piers organize flat-headed window openings. The latter openings, that extend two stories and incorporate industrial sash windows, are repeated along the side walls (east and west). To the east, the former warehouse at #169 Eastern features a two-storey plan beneath a flat roof with brick corbelling. The walls are marked by flat-headed window openings set in singles or pairs with brick and stone detailing. Its neighbour to the east, the former office building at #169 Eastern, is slightly lower in height. Brick piers with stone detailing organize two floors of closely set flat-headed window openings. An entrance is asymmetrically placed on the principal (north) wall where it is marked by single-storey pilasters.

While the latter three buildings share a setback along Eastern Avenue, the former machine shop at #185 Eastern is placed behind (south of) the former office building at #171 Eastern. The height and roof pitch of the machine shop is similar to that of the former foundry at #151 Eastern. However, it differs in its application of two tiers of windows on the three-bay north wall, with full two-storey window openings on the east elevation.

Conclusions:

It is recommended that Council include the property at 153-185 Eastern Avenue (Dominion Wheel and Foundries Company) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

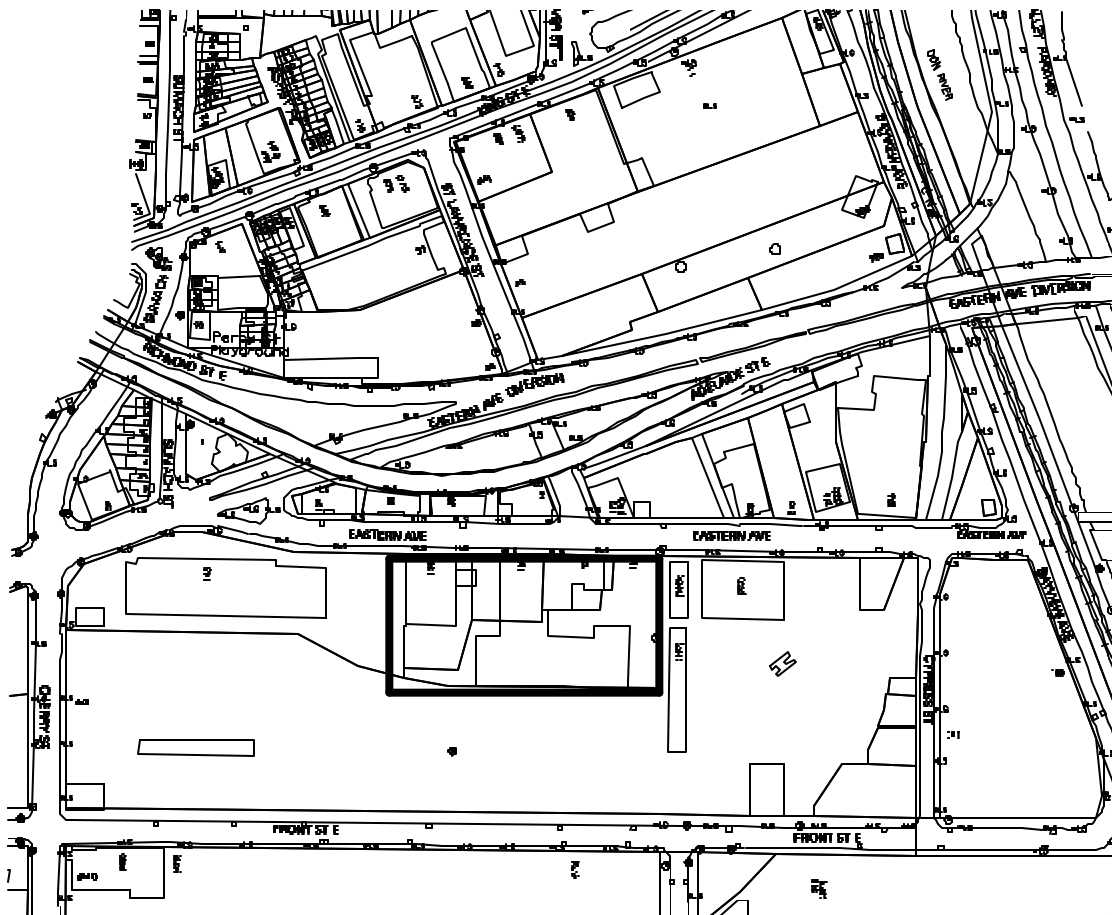
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Joe Halstead
Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map – 153-185 Eastern Avenue
Attachment No. 2 – Photographs – 153-185 Eastern Avenue





above: 153 Eastern Avenue



above: 169 Eastern Avenue (right)



above: 171 Eastern Avenue



above: 185 Eastern Avenue (rear)