

November 2, 2011

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: New Business—Intention to Designate 295 George Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

The building at 295 George Street is an architecturally significant structure but is not currently protected by heritage designation. The building is a surviving part of the early neighbourhood development in this area, and has recently received media attention for being one of the oldest in the city.

Reports indicate that the house was built in or around 1853, and served as the "Fegan Boys Distributing Home to bring destitute boys over from Britain and set them up to work in homes out west."

On October 19, 2011, the house caught fire in a three-alarm blaze, shortly after staff began work to review the property for its cultural heritage value, and the Fire Marshall has suggested arson as the cause. There is cause to believe that despite the fire, the house is largely salvageable.

Recommendation:

1. In order to protect the house from demolition, Toronto and East York Community Council add 295 George Street to the City's inventory of heritage properties.
2. TEYCC request that staff in Heritage Preservation Services complete its review of the cultural heritage value of the property at 295 George Street and provide recommendations at the November 24th, 2011 meeting of the Toronto Preservation Board.
3. The Toronto Preservation Board be requested to report directly to the November 29, 2011 meeting of City Council with its advice concerning the listing and designation of 295 George Street.

Respectfully submitted,

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