12/4/13

Toronto Preservation Board
% Ms Janette Gerrad
City Clerks Department
City of Toronto

Re: Inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties – 33 Avenue Road

The paragraphs below from pg 13 & 14 of City Planning Staff Report – October 18 to Toronto Preservation Council and TEYCC summarizes why ABC Residents Association supports City Planning’s recommendation to include 33 Avenue Road (York Square) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. York Square is the essence of what our Association is trying to achieve for the planning & design of the Yorkville Area and is an important landmark in the City of Toronto.

In 1970 the Ontario Association of Architects gave 6 design awards one of new outdoor space which contributed significantly to the revitalisation of the historic Yorkville neighbourhood. York Square set an important precedent for heritage preservation, adaptive re-use, and for maintaining existing neighbourhood scale and character in opposition to the then standard practice of demolition. York Square is of significance to Yorkville as it provides a link with the vibrant times of the 1960s which was a significant point in the neighbourhood’s social and architectural evolution. It is significant to the history of architecture in the city of Toronto and its approach to urban renewal, heritage and intensification of sites without resorting to increased height. York Square is an early example of the significant Toronto-based architectural practise of Diamond and Myers whose work from 1968 onwards was innovative in its resistance to demolition as a form of urban regeneration opting instead to integrate historic buildings into new contemporary projects which achieved low rise/high density, new uses and enhanced neighbourhood character, identity and social cohesion.

SUMMARY
Following research and evaluation according to Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the award-winning property at 33 Avenue Road has design, associative and contextual values as an important example of early integration of historic buildings in an adaptive re-use scheme which contributed to the revitalization of a neighbourhood designed by the influential and important Toronto-based architects Diamond and Myers.

Respectfully,

Linda Chu

Linda Chu, Director
ABC Resident’s Association
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