ATTACHMENT NO. 5

REVISED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SUMMARY:
51 PANORAMA COURT

Principal (north) façade of the former Sick Children's Hospital (County Branch) Thistletown, now the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents
(Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Date</th>
<th>Historical Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>By 1800 the Conat family had settled on the land that would become known as the settlement of Conat's corners, later Thistletown at the intersection of the concession line now known Islington Avenue and the Albion Road which had been surveyed as early as 1799.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>John Grubb and his large family arrive and own two vast tracts of land west of the Humber.</td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>The village of St Andrews laid out by the John Grubb and named for his Scottish birthplace. To avoid confusion with St Andrews in New Brunswick, the village is renamed Thistletown.</td>
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<td>1878</td>
<td>The York County Atlas of 1878 shows that Concession A Lot 35 has been settled by Alex Card and a grist mill is recorded to be in operation at the eastern edge of the property near the Humber River.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>The property now identified as the Kaiting/Bouton/Rowntree property is purchased by the Hospital for Sick Children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927 May</td>
<td>Construction of the new hospital Thistletown branch hospital begins. Buildings constructed include the power plant. (the garage was added later).</td>
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<td>1927 July 4</td>
<td>The cornerstone is laid by the Premier of Ontario, G Howard Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928 Oct 10</td>
<td>The new hospital is opened with accommodation for 112 patients. It replaces the 1883 John Ross Robertson Lakeside Home for Children located on</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>The Ontario Department of Health purchases the hospital for use as a mental health hospital for the care of juvenile patients and shorter-term residential treatment centre.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>The hospital is renovated for new accommodations, fire exits, patient and staff dining rooms, washrooms and temporary kitchen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>The hospital is the first in Canada to provide treatment for emotionally disturbed children.</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>A centre for autism research and a ward for treating autistic children is opened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>New electrical building is constructed adjacent to original power plant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>New pool and gymnasium are constructed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>The facility is renamed The Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>New daycare centre is completed and opened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>New house-form residential buildings are constructed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>New school building is constructed for short and long-term care residents.</td>
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The location of the property at 51 Panorama Court is shown on the property data map below (Image 1) on the south side of the street north east of Kipling and Finch Avenues with the Humber River bounding its eastern edge. 51 Panorama Court is located north of the historic village of Thistletown on part of Lots 35 and 36 which, in 1878, were owned by Jason Carruthers and Alex Card respectively. The map (Image 2) indicates that the Card property had a driveway from Kipling Avenue which lead to a homestead, orchard and to a gristmill on the eastern edge of the property, which is bound by the Humber River. By 1926, when the Hospital for Sick Children was looking for a rural satellite location, the property was known as the Kaiting, Boulton and Rowntree lands. The new hospital replaced an earlier satellite treatment centre, the John Ross Robertson Lakeside Home for Children, which opened in 1883 and was located at Hanlan's Point, Toronto Island.

Designed on a T-shaped plan, the north wing accommodated reception and administration, as well as the doctor's offices and medical staff residences, while the south wing had the patient dormitories with the linking part of the 'T' including the school rooms and day rooms and the kitchen and dining rooms for staff on the upper levels. (Image 4) The T-shaped plan provided a clear separation of accommodation between staff and patients but also permitted maximum daylight. The building was designed with two principal facades: north and south. The north façade was the principal public face of the building (Images 5, 6 and 7) as it housed the administrative, admissions and medical staff facilities. It features a symmetrical design with a central entrance flanked by pairs of windows at the first and second levels and triplets at the third. The windows, belt courses and cornices are elaborated with classical cast stone details. The entrance has a cast stone door case including engaged columns entablature and broken pediment whose

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1 The site has not been identified as an archaeological site although it is identified as an area of archaeological potential as per the City of Toronto’s Archaeological Management Plan. A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was conducted in 2004 by D R Poulton and Associates and recommended a field-based assessment be conducted prior to any severance or to any landscape alteration that could represent an impact to any archaeological remains that might be present.

Amending Reasons for Listing – 51 Panorama Court  Attachment No. 5
volutes part to flank an urn. The south façade of the south wing which could accommodate 112 patients featured cast stone pilasters and a central loggia of 4 pairs of Tuscan columns. (Image 8) It is significant that both the main public face of the north administration building and the south facade of the patients' wing were treated with the dignity and care rendered by the cast stone details of Georgian Classicism. The side and rear facades of the north and south wings are comprised of brick without the cast stone elements.

On the interior of the north wing, at the intersection of corridors, a circular rotunda is featured and lined with stone door cases and fluted pilasters in Caen stone, and a sky lit dome with circular tracery, which further conveys the sense of civic dignity and pride in a facility dedicated to the long-term care and well being of children and youth. (Images 9 and 10). Due to its distance from the city, the hospital also featured numerous technical elements including its own power and heating plants, independent water filtration system, high pressure fire-fighting system, sewage plant and in the case of emergency an electricity generator.

Initially constructed by Sick Children's Hospital as a satellite hospital located in the country side for the long term care of children recovering from surgery or tuberculosis, the site was chosen for the opportunity of "country air and sunshine". The site was "chosen for its altitude and also because it enjoys the maximum number of hours of sunshine per day in this locality."

An aerial photograph dating to 1947 shows access to the site from both Kipling and Islington Avenues. (Image 3) Before plans were approved for the new hospital, funds were allocated for the construction of a new road and entrance. Gates were to be designed with a gatekeeper's cottage, and an additional ten acres of land purchased in order "to make a proper entrance" to the hospital grounds from Islington Avenue. The road itself was the subject of discussion and debate among the hospital trustees and one of the staff, Dr. Edmund Boyd took a particular interest to prepare plans for the road which was ultimately constructed by the engineer John Hole.

The old farm road which originally provided access to the farm from Kipling Avenue as illustrated on the 1878 map (Figure 3) was intended to be re-used. The part that ran east-west along the north edge of the property from Kipling was to be kept as a service road and for ambulances. (Image 11) The portion of the road that extended parallel with the Humber River to the old grist mill was to provide a new entrance route from Islington Avenue. As this section of road was very steep it was decided that it was necessary to use only the lower portion, which headed north-west from Islington Avenue, and then to deviate by swinging back to the south-west following a natural ravine and then continue in a great curve which eventually arrived at the north-west corner of the building and the administrative wing entry. (Image 12)

4 *Minute Book, 1926-30, Trustees, Hospital for Sick Children*, 26 September 1926
Dr. Boyd's designs for the long circuitous route from the Islington Avenue entrance south east corner of the site to the main entrance in the hospital's north wing provided a variety of views of the hospital building. \(^6\) As the land was lower at the south-west entry point it allowed for a gradual ascent as the old farm road headed north-west parallel to the course of the Humber River. To avoid the steep ascent of the farm road the new driveway turned heading south-west and then into a steady curving path which provided glimpses of the south façade of the hospital (Images 13 and Image 14) eventually coming close enough to the hospital building to provide a series of views of the balconies and boardwalk which in the finer months would have been occupied by children. (Images 15 and Image 16)

The intent of the hospital to provide long term care in a country "retreat" with fresh air and sunshine would have been emphasized by this circuitous route lined with trees and the intermittent views of the hospital. As Flynn was to write: "This resulted in a longer and more costly road but I think everyone who knows Thistletown Hospital is agreed that the arrangement added much to the beauty of the grounds particularly when the tree and shrub plantings reached maturity."\(^7\) An aerial view of the site today shows the current extent of the entrance road that provided access from Islington Avenue but now terminates just north of Finch Avenue. The view also shows the current entry via Panorama Court from Kipling Avenue that originally provided access to the farmhouse and was kept for ambulance arrival to the west side of the north administrative building. (Image 17)

Much consideration was given by the Hospital Trustees to the planting of the original 98 acre site. In April of 1928, as the building was nearing completion, the hospital Superintendent Watson Swaine met on site with Dr Henry J Moore, the lead horticulturalist of the Provincial Department of Agriculture \(^8\) to arrange for the planting of trees and shrubs. Before the building was opened in October 50,000 seedlings had been planted. Further plans were proposed to the hospital trustees in the spring of 1930 and this included the planting adjacent to the roadway leading into the hospital. "The area surrounding the hospital and the land for a hundred feet on either side of the main road was cultivated and seeded resulting in the beautiful lawns surrounding the building and driveway. Shrubs and trees were planted in accordance with a carefully developed plan and in the course of the years the whole site took on a park-like appearance."\(^9\) (Images 18, 19 and 20)

The layout of the site with this circuitous route owes much to the Picturesque landscape tradition which evolved in England in the eighteenth century at the same time that Georgian Classicism was being adapted to country house use. Just as the architectural prototype was adapted to the functions of a children's hospital, the landscape too was designed to respond to the needs of health. It was reported that a majority of the children

\(^6\) Flynn, p.23.
\(^7\) Ibid.
\(^8\) Dr Henry Moore is best known for his creation of the International Peace Garden in Manitoba, 1928.
\(^9\) Flynn, p 34.
at the hospital suffered from tuberculosis. \textsuperscript{10} “The eighteenth century English landscape movement brought the idea of healing landscapes to a prominent position in social and medical opinion… Nature and beautifully constructed landscapes were believed to have a power to heal… The cure was found then by locating oneself in an extreme opposite of city life, engulfed by the benefits of nature, fresh air and sunlight.”\textsuperscript{11} “Tuberculosis patients were initially prescribed to remain out of doors for the majority of the day…”\textsuperscript{12} (Images 21, 22 and 23) Among its planting of 50,000 seedlings, were groves of pine trees. Along with sunlight and fresh air, the scent of pine trees was believed to be beneficial in the cure of breathing ailments including Tuberculosis.\textsuperscript{13} It is reported that the boardwalk connected to pathways that led to groves of pine trees where patients would be taken to enhance their cure and recovery.\textsuperscript{14} Groves of pine trees continue to cluster around the south wing of the hospital on the lawns to the south and west. (Images 24 and 25)

Initially constructed by Sick Children's Hospital as a satellite hospital located in the countryside for the long term care of children recovering from surgery or tuberculosis, the site was chosen for the opportunity of “country air and sunshine.”\textsuperscript{15} Uses of the building evolved to include the treatment of polio in the 1940s and '50s. In the 1950s the hospital was taken over by the Ontario Department of Health and in 1957 it became the first facility for children with serious mental health conditions providing both a mental hospital and a short-term residential treatment centre for children. In 1960 the first centre for research on autism in Canada was established on this site. A gymnasium and pool were built in 1961. In the 1970s a school and a series of residential "cottages" were constructed on the site highlighting a less institutional and more domestic form for the care of young patients suffering from mental illness.

The extension of Finch Avenue and other development have reduced the size of the property from its original 98 acres to 36 and the connection to the original entrance from Islington Avenue has been lost. However important sections of the original 19th century farm road that ran parallel to the Humber River as well as the 1920s circuitous driveway remain as does the park-like setting and the groves of pine trees.

EVALUATION: Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed by the Province of Ontario for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design or Physical Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>i. rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. displays high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
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\textsuperscript{10} The Toronto Daily Star, October 20, 1928, p 16.
\textsuperscript{11} Nolt, Jill, p 2.
\textsuperscript{12} Op cit. p. 3
\textsuperscript{13} Short, p 1 and Buddha, p.1.
\textsuperscript{14} Ken Copeman, Maintenance Foreman at the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents for 29 years
\textsuperscript{15} Construction Journal, June 1929, p 193.
iii. demonstrates high degree of scientific or technical achievement

**Historical or Associative Value**

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<tr>
<td>i. direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community</td>
<td>X</td>
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**Contextual Value**

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<tr>
<td>i. important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii. landmark</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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The Hospital for Sick Children (Thistletown Branch) now the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents is a fine representative and well-crafted example of a satellite rural hospital designed in the Georgian Classicism style in Toronto. The elements of the style are evident in the symmetry and hierarchy, brick cladding combined with cast stone elements such as the door and window surrounds, the string courses and cornices of the north façade and long colonnade of pilasters and loggia of Tuscan Doric columns on the south facade. An interior feature of special interest is the entry rotunda which is faced in Caen stone, with fluted pilasters, doorcases with pediments and a naturally lit domed skylight with tracery. The setting of the hospital with its curvilinear drive circling through the site as well as the groves of pine trees were significant landscape elements in the design of the "country" branch of the Sick Children's Hospital and, with the latter, a part of the cure of tuberculosis which affected the majority of patients in the initial stage of the hospital's history. The south-eastern portion of the drive which terminates just north of Finch Avenue is part of the original Alexander Cade farm road which led from the homestead to the grist mill and runs parallel to the Humber River.

The design of the satellite branch for the Hospital for Sick Children (Thistletown Branch) has historic and scientific value because it contributes to an understanding of the principles and evolution of healthcare, both physical and mental, for children and adolescents in Ontario and Canada when it opened in 1927-8. Addressing issues of long-term recovery, tuberculosis, polio and autism specifically, the practical care and research embraced a variety of concepts and methods which were increasingly focused on a holistic de-institutionalized approach that consistently encompassed the benefits of a natural landscape setting. The design of the main building adapted the T-shaped plan in order to maximize exposure to sunlight and fresh air needed for long-term recoveries and the treatment of tuberculosis. This was evident in the plan but in particular in the approximately 200' long south-facing patient dormitory wing, whose rooms opened directly onto a boardwalk and upper balcony so beds could be moved outdoors for
therapeutic benefits and in the inclusion of pine trees in the planting of the site. The design of the building and the layout of the site with the circuitous drive emphasized the dignity and civic pride in the treatment that the hospital provided for their young patients through diverse means.

The design of the Hospital for Sick Children (Thistletown Branch) is associated with the architects Sproatt and Rolph, partners in one of Toronto's leading firms from 1900-1934 with a reputation for its range of commissions for residential, institutional, commercial and industrial buildings. The practice extended its influence across Ontario and as far away as Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Important projects included the Birge Carnegie Library, Victoria College (1908-10), Hart House (1911-19), Upper Canada College (1923-4), Canada Life Building (1930-31), Royal York Hotel (1927-29 with Ross and Macdonald), and Eaton's College Park (1929-30 with Ross and MacDonald) and the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission Building (1934-5), now the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Contextually, the property at 51 Panorama Court maintains and supports the historical character of this portion of Thistletown as it evolved from a farm with a grist mill to a rural branch of Sick Children's Hospital which comprised 98 acres of countryside bounded by a branch of the Humber River and substantial tree planting, to its current character as an area of mixed use, partly institutional on the south side of the street with the adjacent Rexdale Community Legal Clinic and surrounded by apartment high rises of the later 20th century on the north side. Through its dignified Georgian Classical character the hospital building in its Picturesque park-like setting is visually linked to the 1920s history and character of the area and is a key component in the evolution of the neighbourhood's growth and development.

SUMMARY
Following research and evaluation according to Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 51 Panorama Court has design, associative and contextual values. The Hospital for Sick Children (Thistletown Branch) now the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents (1927-1928) is an important representative and well-crafted example of a satellite hospital building located in a rural setting designed in a Georgian Classical style in a Picturesque park-like setting. It was constructed according to the plans of the notable architectural partnership of Sproatt and Rolph whose work over 30 years made a significant contribution to both institutional and commercial architecture in Canada and especially in Toronto. The complex represents innovative and evolving advances in physical and mental health care for children and youth in Ontario. Contextually the hospital maintains and supports the historical character of the neighbourhood where it remains visually and historically linked to its surroundings. Its longstanding presence, the quality of the design and detail of its hospital building as well as the surrounding undulating park-like setting with its paths connecting lawns, meadows and wooded spaces adjacent to the Humber River, contribute to the character of the property and the local community.
SOURCES

Aerial Photograph, 1947, (City of Toronto Archives).
Anon. 'Sick Children's Hospital (County Branch) Thistletown Ontario,' Construction Journal, June 1929, pp 185-189, 193-196, 199.
Anon. 'Hospital at Thistletown to be Palace of Sunshine,' The Toronto Daily Star, February 8, 1928, p 20.
Anon. 'Delegates See New Children's Hospital,' The Toronto Daily Star, October 20, 1928, p 16.
Bower, Joseph H. W. Memo to Dr. J. L. McDonald, October 26, 1932. (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)
Given, Robert A. 'New and Old' accessed 3 June 2014 http://www.etobicokehistorical.com/Stories/New_and_Old/body_new_and_old.html
Harris, Denise. 'Rural hospital was a 'palace of sunshine,' Etobicoke Guardian, December 26, 2013, p 6.
Miles and Co. 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York, Toronto, 1878.

Interviews:
Pedro Ramiro, Facilities Operations Manager, and Ken Copeman, Maintenance Foreman, Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents (December 20, 2013)
1. **City of Toronto Property Data Map:** showing the location of the property at 51 Panorama Court where the **arrows** marks the site of the Hospital for Sick Children (Thistletown Branch) now the Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents.

2. **1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of York:** showing the location of the Alex Card (Lot 36) and Jason Carruthers estates (Lot 35) 'GM' marks the location of the grist mill.
3. **Aerial Photograph, 1947:** showing the hospital site with access from both Kipling Avenue (as currently) and from Islington Avenue.
4. **First Floor Plan**: showing the north administrative wing with the rotunda (marked by the arrow) at the intersection of the entry and corridors (Construction Journal, June 1929, p 186)
5. **North Façade with rear side of South Wing**  (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)

6. **North Façade, Main Entry Door Case:** with the classical elements of the Tuscan Doric columns, broken pediment flanking an urn and decorative entablature with bulging frieze above and volute bracket (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)
7. North Façade: details of the second and third storey windows, the cornice and belt course. (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)

8. South Façade: stone details of the central loggia with 4 pairs of Tuscan Doric columns and adjacent pilasters flanking windows (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)
9. Interior Rotunda: showing skylight with tracery and Caen stone details including fluted pilasters, and door cases (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)

10. Rotunda Details: Caen stone details including fluted pilasters, door cases and brackets and the tracery details of the skylight (Heritage Preservation Services, December 2013)
11. **Photograph of the farm road on the north side of the hospital building:** The road provided access from Kipling Avenue (to the right of the image) and led down towards the river and grist mill (to the left). (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

12. **Photograph from the second level of the south face of the patient wing:** showing a view to the south east of the entry road from Islington Avenue with the Humber River beyond. (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)
13. **Photograph from the south east looking north west to the south face of the hospital patient's wing:** showing groves of pine trees in the foreground (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

14. **Photograph from the south east driveway looking north west to the south face of the hospital patient's wing:** showing groves of pine trees in the middle ground (Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014)
15. Photograph from the south west looking north east to the south face of the hospital patient's wing: showing the development of the lawns and planting (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

16. Photograph from the south west on the driveway looking north east to the south face of the hospital patient's wing: showing mature planting and lawns (Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014)
17. **Aerial View of the Country Hospital site since the extension of Finch Avenue:**
The cut off the original entrance on Islington Avenue from the Hospital. The arrows show the views illustrated in Images 13-16 towards the north façade of the administrative block and the south façade of the patients' wing.

(Google Maps
https://maps.google.ca/maps?q=51+panorama+court+etobicoke&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&bvm=bv.69411363,d.b2U.pv.xjs.s_en_US.SU4soCeLfY._Q&biw=1344&bih=668&dpr=1&wrapid=tljp140319249068910&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&ei=gsjU8mOLcmUqAaKwoGwDw&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAQ accessed 28 May 2014)

18. **Photograph of the planting along the edge of the entry road to the hospital:**
showing alternating deciduous and pine trees  (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)
19. Photograph of the planting along the edge of the entry road to the hospital (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

20. Photograph of the planting along the edge of the entry road to the hospital: showing the current landscape (Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014)
21. Photograph of the south side of the patient's wing with children's beds rolled out onto the boardwalk: showing the pursuit of exposure to sun and fresh air as therapy (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

22. Photograph of patients in the landscape of the Country Hospital: showing the pursuit of exposure to sun and fresh air as therapy (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)
23. **Photograph of patients in the landscape of the Country Hospital:** showing the pursuit of exposure to sun and fresh air as therapy in colder seasons and adjacent to newly planted pine trees (Hospital Archives, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto)

24. **Photograph of the view looking south west from the loggia in the south façade of the patient’s wing:** showing three groves of pine trees as indicated with arrows (Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014)
25. **Aerial View of the Country Hospital site since the extension of Finch Avenue:**
the arrows indicate the groves of pine trees.  (Google Maps
https://maps.google.ca/maps?q=51+panorama+court+etobicoke&bav=on.2,or.r_of.&bvm=bv.69411363,d.b2U.pw
xjs.s.en_US+U4soCeLFY&bih=1344&biw=668&dpr=1&wrapid=tljp14031924190689108&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&ei=gp5IJU8mQLcmUqAaKwoGwDw&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAQ accessed 28 May 2014)