

Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – Clarence Square

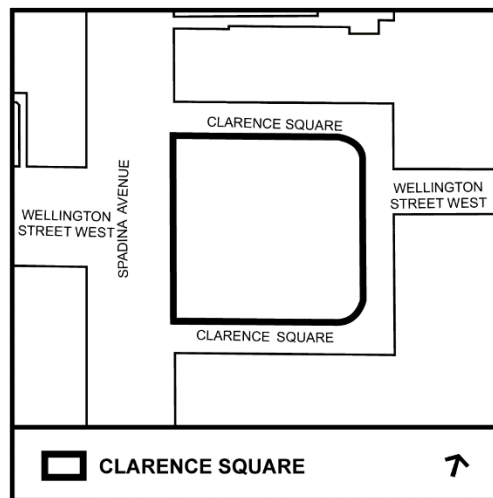
Date:	April 5, 2016
To:	Toronto Preservation Board Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
Wards:	Trinity-Spadina – Ward 20
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster B\PLN\TEYCC\TE16041

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council include Clarence Square on the City of Toronto’s Heritage Register and state its intention to designate the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Located on the east side of Spadina Avenue, north of Front Street West where it was laid out as a public square in the 1830s, Clarence Square is one of the oldest parks in the City.

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation, it has been determined that Clarence Square merits designation under Part IV, Section 29 for its cultural heritage values. The designation of Clarence Square under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act would help to ensure that all of the heritage values and attributes of the property are identified and conserved.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council include the property at Clarence Park on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register.
2. City Council state its intention to designate the property at Clarence Square under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, in accordance with the Statement of Significance: Clarence Square (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment No. 3 to the report (April 5, 2016) from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division.
3. If there are no objections to the designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
4. If there are objections to the designation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council direct the City Clerk to refer the designation to the Conservation Review Board.
5. If the designation is referred to the Conservation Review Board, City Council authorize the City Solicitor and appropriate staff to attend any hearing held by the Conservation Review Board in support of Council's decision on the designation of the property.
6. City Council include the views identified in this report in an amendment to the Official Plan Public Realm Policy, Section 3.1.1, Schedule 4.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

Official Plan

At its meeting of April 3 and 4, 2013, Toronto City Council adopted amendments to the Official Plan heritage policies. By-law 468-2013 enacting these policies was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. OMB issued a decision on May 12th for appeals of the Official Plan Amendment 199 giving approval of City of Toronto's Official Plan Heritage Policies except for those site-specific appeals that remain outstanding to this decision. HPS has considered the evaluation of the property within the context of these policies and specifically refers to the policies regarding views of heritage properties and natural heritage.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/bylaws/2013/law0468.pdf>

OPA 199, Section 3.1.1 The Public Realm is amended with the following policies:

Policy 10. Views from the public realm to prominent buildings, structures, landscapes and natural features identified on Maps 7a and 7b are important and are described in Schedule 4. Additional views from the public realm to prominent buildings, structures, landscapes and natural features may be added to Maps 7a and 7b through amendment to the Official Plan.

SIDEBAR: Maps 7a and 7b identify a selection of important views across the City, however this selection of views is not exhaustive. These maps are living documents which may be added to or modified from time to time, through an Official Plan Amendment.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

One of the oldest parks in Toronto, Clarence Square is an area of Special Identity in the King-Spadina Secondary Plan that is part of the City of Toronto's Official Plan, in which it is described as "unique in Toronto." The designation of Clarence Square under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act would identify all of the cultural heritage values and attributes of the property and help to ensure their conservation.

COMMENTS

A location map and photographs are attached as Attachments Nos. 1 and 2. Attachment No. 3 contains maps showing significant views to and from Clarence Square.

Staff have completed the attached Heritage Property Research and Evaluation Report (Attachment No. 5) for Clarence Square and determined that the property meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Located on the east side of Spadina Avenue, north of Front Street West, Clarence Square has design, associative and contextual values. As an early example of urban design in Toronto that became one of the City's earliest parks, Clarence Square is associated historically with the development and evolution of King-Spadina from an institutional and residential enclave in the 19th century, to the city's manufacturing centre in the 20th century, and a mixed-use neighbourhood in the 21st century. Contextually, Clarence Square supports the historical character of the King-Spadina neighbourhood where it is historically linked to its setting and remains a local landmark in the community. The view of Clarence Square from the west, as it terminates the vista along Wellington Street West from Victoria (Memorial) Square is significant, as well as those views from the centre of Clarence Square through the tree canopy west across Spadina Avenue and Wellington Street West to Victoria (Memorial) Square, and north to the surviving late 19th century row houses at 5-16 Clarence Square.

The Statement of Significance (Attachment No. 4) for the property at Clarence Square comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate and will be advertised on the City of Toronto's web site in accordance with the City of Toronto Act provisions and served on the property owners and the Ontario Heritage Trust according to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map
Attachment No. 2 – Photographs
Attachment No. 3 – Views Maps
Attachment No. 4 – Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation)
Attachment No. 5 – Heritage Property Research and Evaluation Report