



MARTA O'BRIEN  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

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June 18, 2019

**Re: June 20 agenda item PB7.9 City-wide Heritage Survey Feasibility Study**

Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

I strongly support the implementation of a City-wide Heritage Survey Feasibility Study. The Survey would have many advantages for the City.

In my work as an architectural historian, I am continually photographing and researching buildings of interest in Toronto. I have often been surprised to learn how many buildings of significance – historic, architectural, or contextual – are not listed on the city's Heritage Register or designated. We all know that HPS is often playing catch-up identifying properties of heritage value in our large and quickly-developing city. The hard-working HPS staff often scramble to document and protect buildings only once an application for alteration or change has been received by the city. This Survey would be pro-active in identifying buildings worth saving. This would benefit current and potential property owners, local communities, and make City staff's work more productive and efficient.

The former municipalities amalgamated in to the City of Toronto 20 years ago had varying levels of heritage identification. This Survey would be an important unifying step toward recognizing our entire city's built heritage. The Survey could also provide opportunities to work with communities throughout the city to document local historical information.

The June 6, 2019 Report for Action from the City Planner expresses other advantages very well.

With so much development in our great city, we have lost too many local landmarks and cared-about buildings this century. It is more important than ever to take steps to identify and protect our remaining worthy heritage structures.

Thank you for your work,

*Marta O'Brien*

