



HURON SUSSEX RESIDENTS ORGANIZATION

September 25, 2020

Attention: Toronto Preservation Board
Chair & Members

We are writing to voice our concern regarding the University of Toronto's application for development at 78-90 Queen's Park, and the impact of such a development on the surrounding Queen's Park precinct. This area is a gateway to the University, and is beloved by those who live, work, study in and visit this part of the City.

It is our view that the proposed designation of 80 Queen's Park and 84 Queen's Park, while well intentioned, does not go far enough to address the heritage context of the Queen's Park precinct. A full study of the conditions of this area, prioritizing both built form and public realm, is critical.

The Huron Sussex Residents Organization (HSRO) was a member of the Working Group for this site and was disappointed to see little progress made through this process. While we recognize the University's need for new learning spaces on the St. George Campus, we believe that the proposed development at 78-90 Queen's Park is ill-suited to the site. This concern was raised by community members throughout the Working Group process. Unfortunately, these arguments have not been adequately addressed by the applicant.

The proposed development completely overwhelms the ROM to the north, Flavelle House to the south, Falconer Hall to the south east, and Edward Johnson to the west. It looms over Philosopher's Walk and introduces more hard surface paving into an area which should be a green artery, connecting Philosopher's Walk to Queen's Park to the south for pedestrians and cyclists.

There is a total lack of harmony of scale at this site: the proposal doesn't relate to its built environment or its natural environment. Surely a building devoted to the study of Cities, Civilizations and Culture should be committed to *enhancing* its physical space within the Queen's Park precinct and the St. George Campus. Instead, we see the building as being *in conflict with* its surroundings.

The HSRO does not want to preserve the St. George Campus or Queen's Park precinct in amber. The mix of architectural styles and periods across Campus is part of what makes the area so distinctive. But we urge the Toronto Preservation Board to imagine this site as a space where the scale of buildings and landscapes of historical and cultural significance, both old and new, can be in better balance.

Yours sincerely,

The Huron Sussex Residents Organization