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October 14, 2020

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Attention: Members of Toronto East York Community Council

RE: TE19.11 Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, Alterations to Designated Heritage Properties, and Authority to Enter into a Heritage Easement Agreement - 80 and 84 Queen's Park (Ward 11)

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to provide Community Council and Council pertinent information that may help inform their decision on the above noted item, namely that the surrounding area and site have been studied extensively and have been given due consideration as part of the design development process.

Background

At the past Toronto Preservation Board meeting regarding Item PB 17.4 a motion was brought forward to amend staff recommendations, that are in support of the proposed development, and alternatively to proceed with the designation of 80 and 84 Queen's Park and defer consideration of the development application in order to further study the Queen's Park area. Unfortunately, due to the online format and meeting procedures, ERA did not have the ability to address Panel members' questions when discussion around an area study arose.

Experience and Previous Studies

ERA Architects was retained as Heritage Architect for the development application. Over the past few years we have been working closely with the University of Toronto, design team, city staff, working group participants – lead by the local Councillor, and consulted with the public.

ERA's experience and understanding of heritage matters extend well beyond the project site, and includes previous work on the Queen's Park North Improvements project working for the City; where we completed a detailed assessment of the evolution and heritage value of the landscape around the Ontario Legislative Assembly (see attachment 1 for excerpt of report, link to project information - <https://bit.ly/3jnlUj>).

ERA has been the heritage consultant in the University of Toronto initiated Official Plan Amendment to update the Secondary Plan. As part of that application, ERA prepared a Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment for the entire St. George campus. This comprehensive study identified significant landscapes



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and character areas with themes, attributes, and resources (see attachment 2 for excerpt of report, link to project information - <https://bit.ly/3lru9pU>).

Together this experience as well as ERA's involvement in numerous projects in the immediate vicinity has helped to inform the site-specific heritage approach. Working collaboratively with the design team, city staff, and stakeholders a robust conservation strategy for the site has been developed, which reflects a built form that meets project objectives while minimizing heritage impacts and provides a compatible fit with the surrounding context (see attachment 3 for excerpt of report, link to project information - <https://bit.ly/3d8x1Fj>).

Conclusion

ERA is pleased to share this additional information for your consideration. We trust this provides sufficient information on the heritage value of Queen's Park North, the broader landscape, and the collection of buildings owned by the University of Toronto. All of which has been studied thoroughly and considered as part of the heritage approach for this application.

We will be in attendance at the upcoming Community Council meeting and would be glad to answer questions that may arise.

Thank you

Andrew Pruss, Principal

ERA Architects

Attachment 1 - Queen's Park North Improvements Project – Background Research and Analysis

Attachment 2 – Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment – Identification of Significant Landscape

Attachment 3 – Heritage Impact Assessment – Zones of Impact and Conservation Strategy

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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT Queen's Park North

Issued: July 16, 2015



Queen's Park North

PREPARED FOR:

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PREPARED BY:

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Project: 14-047-02
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2 BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Site History

Queen's Park is one of Canada's earliest public parks and exemplifies the public park movement that was at the forefront of civic improvement during the 19th century.¹ The park site was originally part of the King's College (now the University of Toronto), which had acquired this large area of land by purchasing approximately 168 acres of park lots from several prominent landowners in the late 1820s. (Figures 4 and 5) In 1859, the University was given permission to lease approximately 49 acres of this land to the City for use as a public park.² The Park officially opened in 1860 and provided much needed recreational and social space for the citizens of Toronto.³

In its early days, the west edge of the Park was lined by Taddle Creek and remained visually connected to the nearby university grounds. Early documentation of the site also reveals evidence of a continuous carriageway across the creek. (Figure 6) The visual connection between the university and the Park was compromised when the creek was buried in 1884⁴ and when Queen's Park Crescent was widened in 1947.⁵

During the 19th century, the Park was situated within a relatively undeveloped area to the north of the town. The Park remained connected, however, via a large, public promenade known as "the College Avenue" (present day University Ave.), which between the 1830s and 1850s, functioned as a popular public space.⁶ Once the Park was opened to the public in 1860, the College Avenue promenade provided a direct link to the larger open public space to the north. This grand linear promenade stretched from Queen St. W northward to the south end of the Park and was lined on both

1 Wright, J.R. "Urban Parks in Ontario, Part 1: Origins to 1860". p. 63,79. (1983).

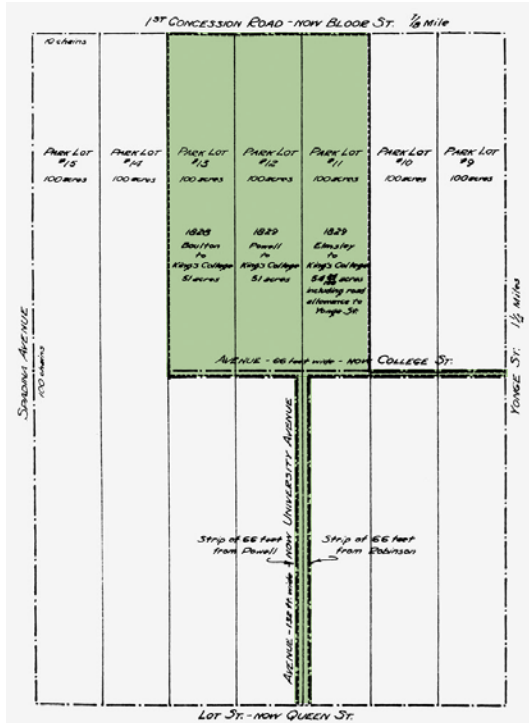
2 Bain, David. "The Queen's Park and its Avenues: Canada's First Public Park", *Ontario History* 95:2 (2003), 193.

3 *Ibid.*, 213.

4 *Ibid.*, 204.

5 The Avenue in Time: The Evolution of University Avenue, pp. 12 and 133.

6 Bain, "The Queen's Park and its Avenues", pp. 195-96.



4. Diagram detailing name of original owner of park lots, year and size of land sale. These park lots made up the King's College and Queen's Park site. (Source: Heritage University of Toronto, website; annotations added by ERA Architects Inc.)



5. Diagram highlighting area of park lots that composed the original Queen's Park and U of T site prior to creation of Queen's Park Crescent West; image ca. 1935. (Source: Toronto Archives, annotations added by ERA Architects Inc.)

sides by a double-allée of pink-flowering horse-chestnut trees. A plan for the promenade and the university grounds it connected to appear to have been prepared by André Parmentier, a prominent European landscape garden designer of the period.⁷ Parmentier was Belgian-born, but moved to North America in the 1820s, where he developed a substantial landscape practice across Canada and the United States.

Parmentier's promenade allowed for activities such as strolling and carriage-riding and served as a general meeting place.

In 1893, the provincial legislative buildings were constructed on the south portion of the park site, thereby reducing the original area of the parkland and modifying the function of the southern connection to University Ave.

2.2 *Historic Context*

The Public Park Movement

The original intention of Queen's Park was to provide a public space for the people of Toronto. The need for public space stemmed, in part, from a desire to improve living conditions and public health, and was informed by a larger public park movement which had originated in Great Britain. As 19th century cities industrialized and became more populated, urban conditions deteriorated and health and sanitation became a concern.⁸ Queen's Park is one of the earliest public parks in Canada and plays a prominent role in the origins of the public park movement in Ontario. For a summary of urban park history in Ontario, see "Urban Parks in Ontario" Parts 1 and 2 by J.R. Wright.

⁷ Crawford, Pleasance, and Stephen A. Otto. "Andre Parmentier's "Two or Three Places in Upper Canada", Journal of the New England Garden History Society, Volume 5, Fall 1997, The New England Garden History Society of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, pp. 2-3.

⁸ Rogers, Elizabeth Barlow, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*, Henry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001, 312-13.

The Landscape Precinct

Queen's Park, historically, was part of a larger landscape precinct that surrounded it to the north, east and west. Although it has been altered over time, remnants of this larger landscape precinct still exist today.

The landscape precinct originated in the 1820s with the consolidation of three 100-acre park lots that together formed the university grounds and parkland. The area was characterized by large, treed, connected spaces of open land that provided a forested, park-like setting within which various institutional, university and government buildings were situated. The characteristics of the precinct were aligned with those of the picturesque landscape style that was popular during the 19th century. The picturesque style "sought to evoke a "natural" landscape appearance rooted in "asymmetric composition" as an alternative to the ordered and axial landscape styles that it preceded.⁹ There were varied definitions of this style as it evolved over the 19th century, but the North American interpretation involved the deliberate placement of shrubs and trees, graded slopes, and framed vistas that gave one the sense of being immersed within a naturalized setting.

Elements of the 'gardenesque' style, which was closely related to the later phase of the picturesque, are also found in this landscape precinct. The gardenesque style emerged from a heightened interest in horticulture and specimen plants during the late 19th and early 20th century and involved the use of exotic plant materials typically arranged in garden beds set within the larger picturesque landscape.¹⁰ Colourful, flowering plants were often used to create patterns, while shrubs and small trees were used for their formal qualities to create an understorey layer that contributed to the carefully constructed picturesque views.¹¹

9 "Picturesque", The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Website. February 2015.

10 "Picturesque and Gardenesque Styles", Garden Visit: The Garden Landscape Guide, Website. July 2015.

11 "Victorian Gardenesque", The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Website. July 2015.

These picturesque and gardenesque qualities were exhibited within Queen's Park and extended beyond the Park boundaries into the surrounding landscape context. (Figure 6)

As the city grew, the landscape precinct evolved. Beginning in the 1860s, portions of the land to the east and south of the Park were subdivided into grand residential estate properties. In 1892, the legislative assembly building was completed in the south portion of the Park, followed, in the 1920s and 30s, by additional government buildings which formed the Whitney complex in the southeast corner of the precinct. (Figures 10 and 11)

Since the middle of the 20th century, changes to infrastructure and grading to the west of the Park, along with continued development to the south along College St., have reduced permeability across the landscape precinct. (Figure 7) While the connectivity within the larger landscape has been diminished, substantial portions of the precinct remain intact. (Figure 8) The University of Toronto's Secondary Plan includes a Significant Open Space Structure Plan (Figure 9), illustrating the larger landscape precinct.



6. Early postcard showing view towards University College from northwest corner of legislative buildings (looking westward from present-day Wellesley St. W). (Source: chuckmantorontonostalgia.wordpress.com, Internet blog)



7. Current view from Wellesley St W. at northwest corner of legislative buildings looking west towards university grounds (Source: Google Streetview)

2.3 Park Design and Usage

Queen's Park originally featured a variety of large canopy trees such as maple, oak, elm and white pine.¹² A formal horticultural program was also part of an early design for the Park, and included a botanical garden intended for the university's use, although this feature was never realized.¹³ Rather than adhering to a single designed master plan, however, it appears that Queen's Park was influenced by a series of plans over time.¹⁴

Several early landscape design practitioners were involved in shaping the layout of the Park. These designers included André Parmentier, William Mundie and Edwin Taylor, as well as the architects Cumberland & Storm and Buffalo-based landscape architect Bryant Fleming.

Parmentier Plan

It is believed that Parmentier, a well-known and respected designer based in Brooklyn, New York, was the first designer invited to submit a design for what were then the university grounds in the late 1820s¹⁵ ¹⁶ (in the same year that the last of the park lots was acquired by the university). Early plans for the University grounds and adjacent parkland reveal Parmentier's interventions on the site. "In the southeast quadrant of the Park stood trees and shrubs in thick, curvilinear plantations along the boundaries and in clumps and a row punctuating an area in front of the intended building site."¹⁷ This perimeter of trees defined main gateways into the grounds and strengthened the connection to the University Avenue promenade to the south.

12 Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario Heritage Trust, Website. <http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/CMSImages/5b/5bb04ece-859b-4094-b1ae-4b8d91734304.pdf>

13 Bain, *The Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 206.

14 Bain, *The Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 210.

15 Bain, David, "Queen's Park and Its Avenues", 195.

16 Crawford, Pleasance, and Stephen A. Otto. "Andre Parmentier's "Two or Three Places in Upper Canada", *Journal of the New England Garden History Society*, Vol. 5/Fall 1997, 2-3.

17 *Ibid.*, 3.

William Mundie Plan

Subsequently, in 1856 or '57, William Mundie was commissioned to draft a proposal for the landscape design of Queen's Park, as well as for the larger university campus.¹⁸ Mundie was a Scottish immigrant and a known landscape design practitioner in the Toronto region. For the area immediately in front of University College, "Mundie's approach was to allow carriageways to meander throughout the grounds presenting various picturesque vistas and culminating in a great loop to the south of the complex. The college itself was to be set on a terrace without foundation plantings and allowed to be viewed across a green meadow, as a single dominant entity."¹⁹ Mundie's use of picturesque landscape elements in the design of the university grounds and park exhibits the influence of contemporary landscape trends popular in Great Britain during this period. Similar landscape elements were employed by Frederick Law Olmsted in his design of Central Park in New York City, which opened in 1858.

One of the key features proposed in Mundie's design for Queen's Park was a botanical garden intended for use by the neighbouring university.²⁰ (Figure 14) This feature was typical of the gardenesque style popular in this period due to the a heightened interest in horticulture and specimen planting at this time. Although it appears the botanical garden began to be implemented, ultimately it was never fully realized.²¹

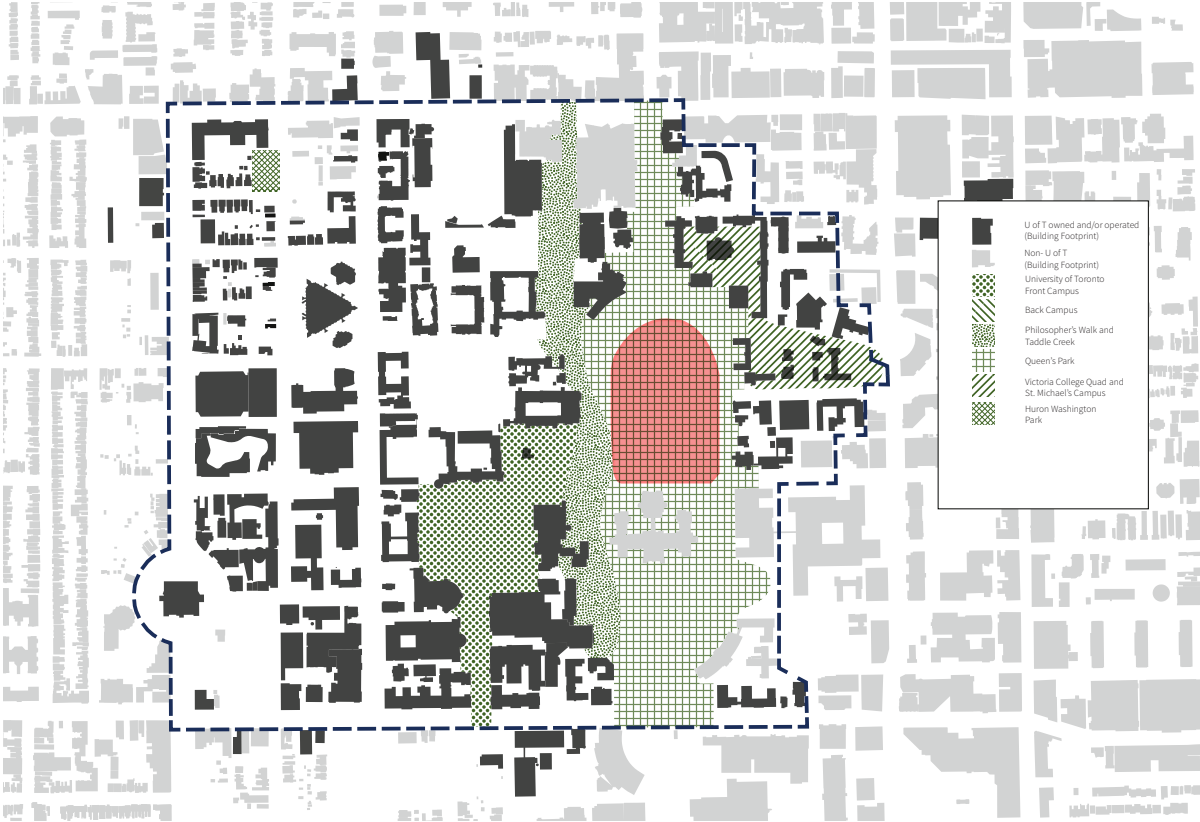
18 Bain, David. William Mundie, landscape gardener. *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 298-308., p. 305.

19 Bain, David. William Mundie, landscape gardener. *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 298-308., p. 305.

20 Bain, David. "William Mundie, landscape gardener", p. 300.

21 Bain, David. "William Mundie, landscape gardener", p. 300.

Heritage Impact Assessment: Queen's Park North

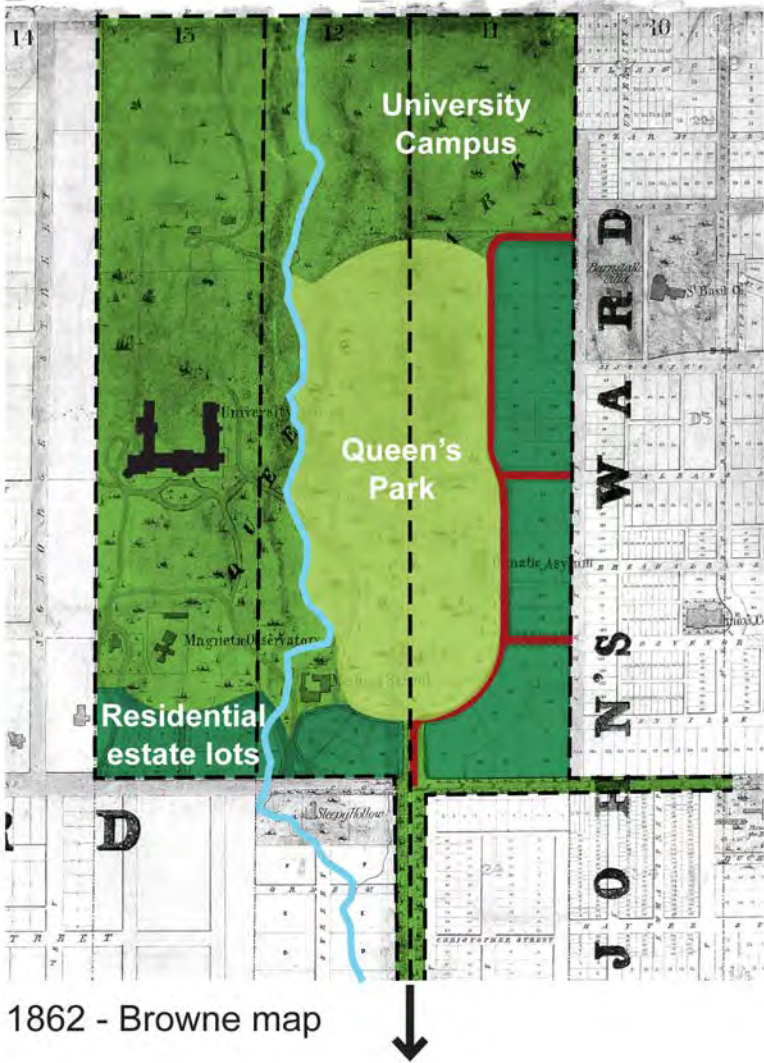


8. Diagram of open space context across U of T campus and Queen's Park; adapted from University of Toronto Secondary Plan Significant Open Space Structure Plan; red area represents Queen's Park North (Source: City of Toronto Planning Division, annotations by ERA Architects Inc.)



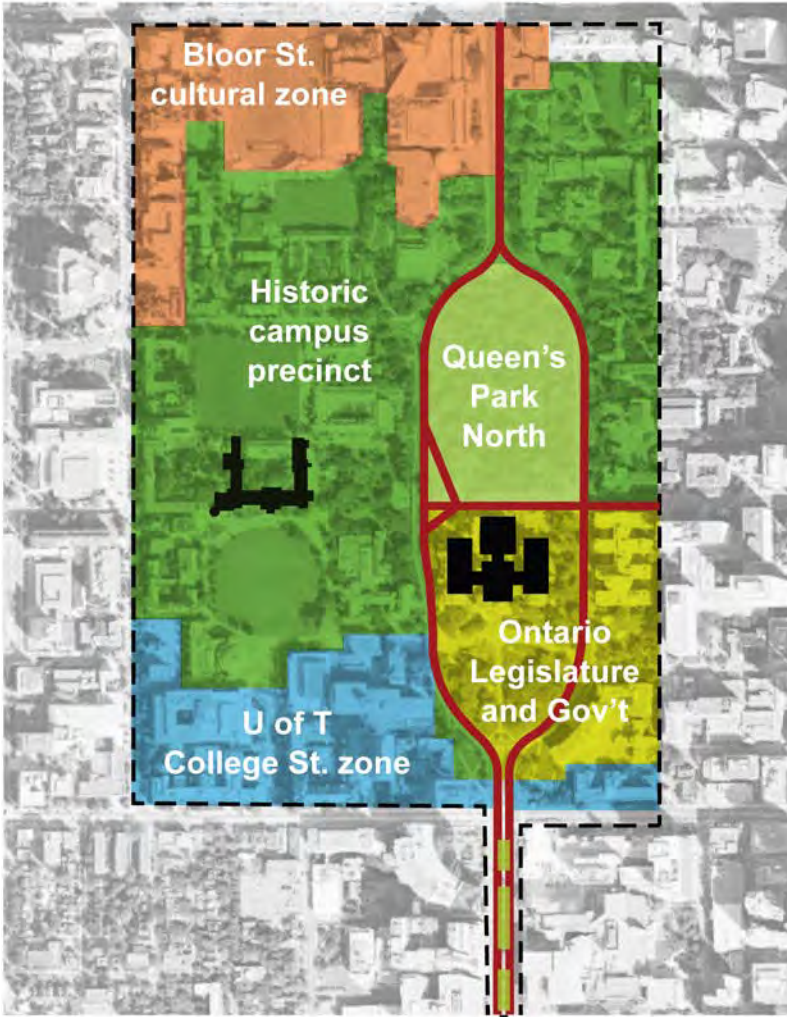
9. Diagram of present-day open space network surrounding Queen's park. (Source: The Planning Partnership)

Then



10. Diagram illustrating Queen's Park in larger precinct context, ca. 1862.
(Source: Browne map, 1862, annotations by ERA Architects Inc.)

Now



2015 - Present day aerial

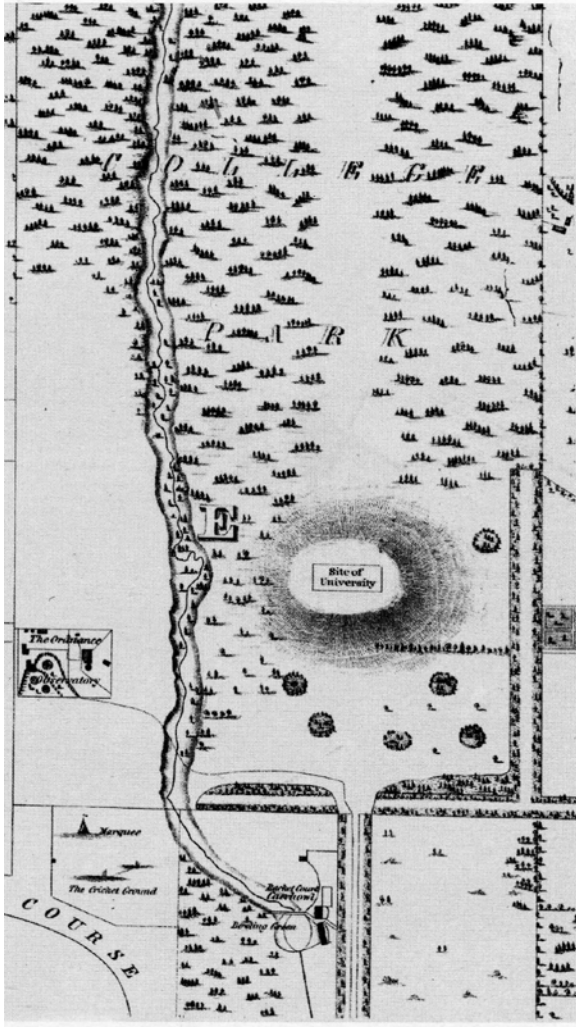
11. Diagram of present-day precinct surrounding Queen's Park (Source: Aerial from Google Earth, annotations by ERA Architects Inc.)

Mundie was unable to complete his designs for the Park,²² but it appears that many of his original picturesque and gardenesque concepts were carried through in later plans. In 1859, Edwin Taylor, who was a pupil of famed British landscape gardener Sir Joseph Paxton and was involved in the design of Allan Gardens in Toronto,²³ continued to work on the plans for the Park and university grounds. His work “clearly employed Mundie’s 1857 plan and respected the ideas sketched out at that time,”²⁴ however, it focused mainly on the area surrounding the college building; the rest of the grounds’ road-work was not completed due to financial constraints.²⁵

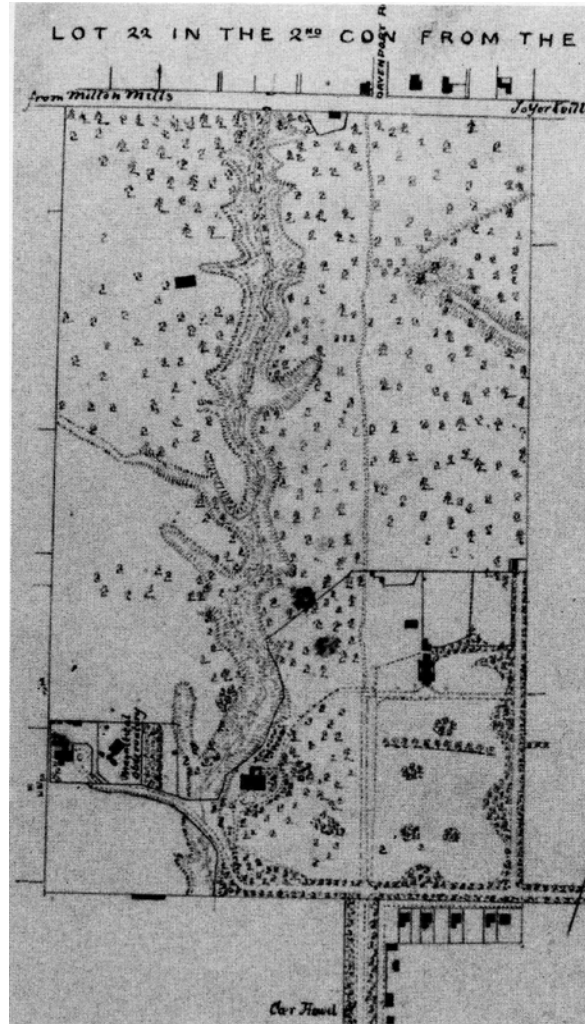
Cumberland and Storm Plan

A later plan for the university grounds and Park was drafted by Cumberland and Storm architects who were hired by the university in 1856 to design University College, completed in 1859. It appears from their plan of the grounds dating to 1857-58 (Figure 15), that they drew upon many of the earlier proposed elements, including the botanical garden as well as scattered clusters of trees set within large, open, green spaces. It seems that there were several improvements made just before the opening of the Park in 1860, which included the planting of 500 trees along the east-west avenue at the south edge of the Park, in addition to entrance and roadway improvements; it appears that no professional designer was involved in this improvement program, but the improvements seem to have followed Storm’s and previous designers’ ideas for the Park.²⁶

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- 22 Bain, David. “William Mundie, landscape gardener”, p. 305.
23 The Cultural Landscape Foundation, <http://tclf.org/landscapes/allan-gardens> Website.
24 Bain, David. “William Mundie, landscape gardener”, p. 305-306.
25 Bain, David. “William Mundie, landscape gardener”, p. 305.
26 Bain, David. “Queen’s Park and Its Avenues”, p. 198.

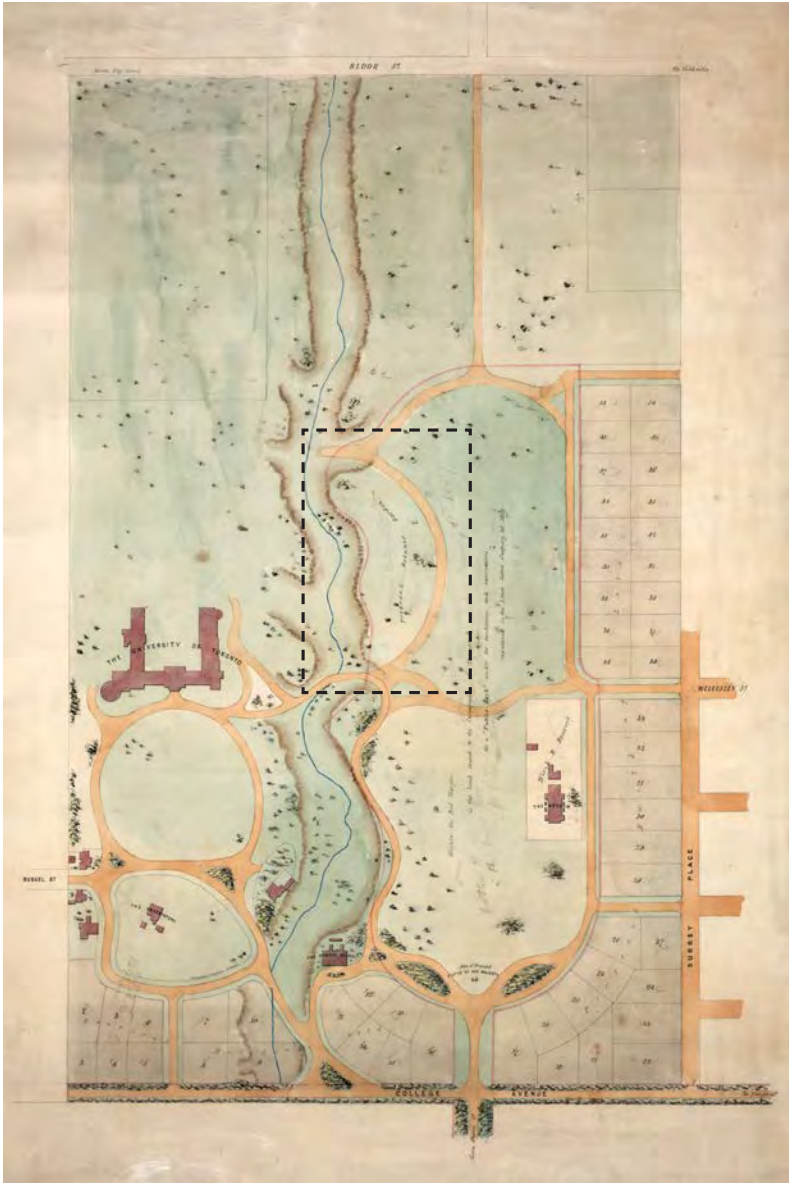


12. A detail of an early King's College Park plan, drafted by James Cane in 1842; (Source: Article by Pleasance Crawford and Stephen A. Otto (see Appendix 5))



13. An early plan of University Park, ca. 1854, drafted by Frederick F. Passmore; note plantings in curvilinear beds at the park's south and east perimeter. (Source: Article by Pleasance Crawford and Stephn A. Otto (see Appendix 5))

Heritage Impact Assessment: Queen's Park North



14. Unattributed plan of university and park grounds, ca. 1859; area within dashed line shows proposed location of Botanical Garden, which was never realized; note also the location of formal garden beds at the entrances, suggesting gardenesque influences. (Source: U of T Archives, via Heritage University of Toronto website; dashed line annotation added by ERA Architects Inc.)

Bryant Fleming Plan

In 1917, Buffalo-based landscape architect Bryant Fleming was commissioned by the University to propose a landscape plan for the grounds.²⁷ (Figure 16) This plan encompassed the university, government precinct, and Queen's Park, illustrating that a larger landscape precinct was being considered.

City of Toronto Parks Department Plan

A year prior to the Fleming plan, in 1916, the Parks Department drafted a plan of the Park which reveals the layout of the Park about 50 years after it first opened to the public. (Figure 17) This plan reveals the location of the Park's trees and also indicates a pavilion in the Park's centre. It appears that by this point a pathway network has developed in the north portion of the Park. The direct and linear nature of this pathway network would have been a departure from the originally-intended picturesque style of the Park, which featured curving carriageways. The planting program revealed in the plan, however, is more in keeping with the Park's picturesque origins, as suggested by the various clusters of shrub areas found primarily at pathway junctions and Park entrances which are organized in random patterns (as opposed to an orderly, formal design).

These shrub plantings, along with the randomly scattered trees and open areas of lawn, or glades, suggest that over 50 years after the Park's inception, there was an intention to maintain the Park's picturesque and gardenesque qualities.

This plan also reveals ideas about the larger landscape precinct of which this Park was a component part. Trees along the Park's edge are balanced on the other side of the roadway to create a treed boulevard all along the Queen's Park Crescent circuit. These trees extended beyond the edges of the parkland to the other side of the road which would have left vehicular passengers feeling that they

27 "University of Toronto Heritage Conservation Study", Report for the Toronto Historical Board, Polymath & Thaumaturge Inc., et al. July, 1993.



15. Plan of University grounds and Queen's Park attributed to W.M. Storm, ca. 1857. (*) (Source: Archives of Ontario via Ontario Capital Precinct Working Group, Website) (*Note): Exact date and author of this map unclear; Bain attributes this map to Mundie ca. 1856, while the Ontario Capital Precinct Working Group website attributes it to W.M Storm, ca. 1857).

were travelling through the parkland rather than around it. At the same time, the perceived boundary from within the Park would have been expanded as well.

The City's Parks department has continued to make alterations to the Park in more recent decades. Such modifications include the introduction of a modernist fountain in the southwest corner of the Park in the 1950s, as well as more recent alterations to the base of the King Edward VII statue. Although not necessarily part of a larger design intention, these additions would have served as focal points and added to the Park's program. The fountain, for instance, might have functioned, in part as a gateway marker to the neighbouring university while the statue at the centre, even to this day, serves as a central meeting and gathering location.

Historically, this Park was one of the few spaces in early Toronto where a variety of park activities, including recreation such as football and baseball, as well as passive uses such as concerts and picnics, took place.²⁸ With the introduction of the legislature building, the uses of the Park evolved, and the north portion, where more active uses once occurred, was transformed into a more passive space with mixed plantings of trees.²⁹ The pavilion at the centre of the Park would have served as a gathering place until it was replaced by the statue of King Edward VII in 1969. While the Park accommodated a wide range of activities in its earlier days, the Park today has less active uses than during earlier periods.

In his studies of the Park's history, David Bain concludes that "Queen's Park developed its own unique character as a people's park, without any overall sense of planning."³⁰ According to him, in the end, the Park's "landscape was only a partial success,"³¹ due to lack of commitment, delays and multiple designs over many years which resulted in a park

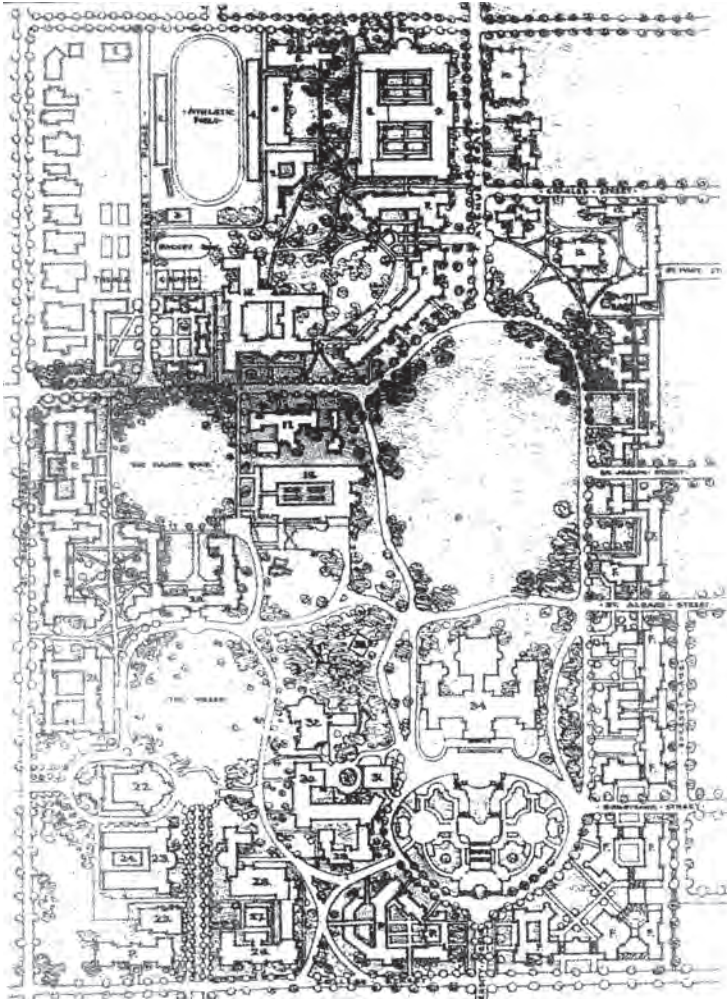
28 Bain, *The Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 198.

29 Bain, *The Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 208.

30 Bain, *Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 198.

31 Bain, David. "William Mundie, Landscape Gardener", *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 298-308., p. 306.

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17 — University and government precinct plan, by Buffalo landscape architect B. Fleming.

16. 1917 plan of University grounds by Bryant Fleming, including Queen's Park site. (Source: University of Toronto Heritage Conservation Study, 1993.)

“not large in either size or ideas”.^{32 33} While the full potential of this public space may not have been realized by one specific plan, the Park instead evolved in an organic way, adapting to “the needs and tastes of a changing population.”³⁴

2.4 Park Typologies

Queen's Park exhibits characteristics typical of several park and open space typologies. In addition to having the qualities typical of a large, picturesque park, it also functions as a type of hybrid between a park square and a university quadrangle.

The university quadrangle typology is characterized by a large open space network within which institutional buildings are situated. A pathway network connects the buildings across spans of lawn that are typically dotted with a variety of large trees. Queen's Park functions as a university quadrangle for the many U of T students that use its pathways to cross from one side of the campus to the other.

Queen's Park also shares similarities to a park type known as the park square, although there is no evidence to suggest that this was intended as part of the original design of the park. It seems, rather, that as specific elements have been introduced over time, the Park has adopted some of the qualities of a park square, particularly within the Park's central area (see sidebar, this page).

The Park square's uses typically include “casual use, passing through secondary pedestrian routes, eating lunch, entrances to surrounding institutions, special uses such as public demonstrations, celebrations, ceremonies, performances and exhibitions.”³⁵

Park Square:

Originally found in early towns and settlements, these small bounded spaces are amongst the oldest continuous land use in American town planning. Historically, New England commons are derived from the Puritan idea of communal shared grazing lands, with the central green also serving as a parade ground, marketplace, and the cross roads for the community. Originally located on land not suitable for farming, by the 19th century these grounds frequently were transformed into more formal urban civic spaces, comprising a variety of shapes, and at times served as an important element of the larger city plan.

Ideally, they were located throughout the city, as is seen in the L'Enfant plan for Washington, D.C. or Oglethorpe's plan for Savannah, Georgia. Usually found on level sites enclosed by streets and adjacent buildings, these spaces often employ formal and symmetrical designs and include simple plantings, a prominent sculptural element, and harmonious furnishings or embellishments. The surrounding walks and the paths through the park, often lined with benches, connect it to the fabric of the neighborhood and provide a daily accessible park experience for the residents.

(Source: The Cultural Landscape Foundation)

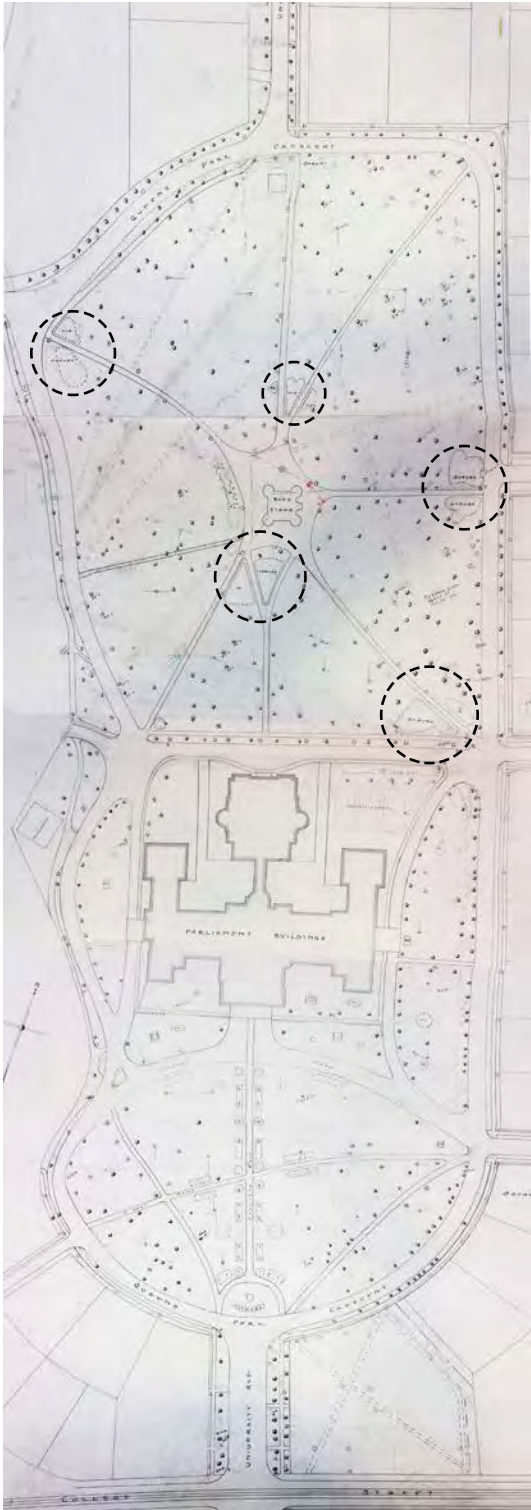
³² Bain, *The Queen's Park and its Avenues*, p. 210-211.

³³ Bain, David. “William Mundie, landscape gardener”, *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 298-308., p. 306.

³⁴ Bain, David. “The Queen's Park”, p. 211.

³⁵ “Brown, James, et al. “The Open Spaces of Toronto: A Classification”. Brown and Storey Architects for Department of Planning, City of Toronto., p. 96.

Heritage Impact Assessment: Queen's Park North



17. 1916 plan of Queen's Park, City of Toronto Park Department. Note the formal plantings located at entrances and pathway junctions (within dashed areas). (Source: Toronto Archives; annotations by ERA Architects)

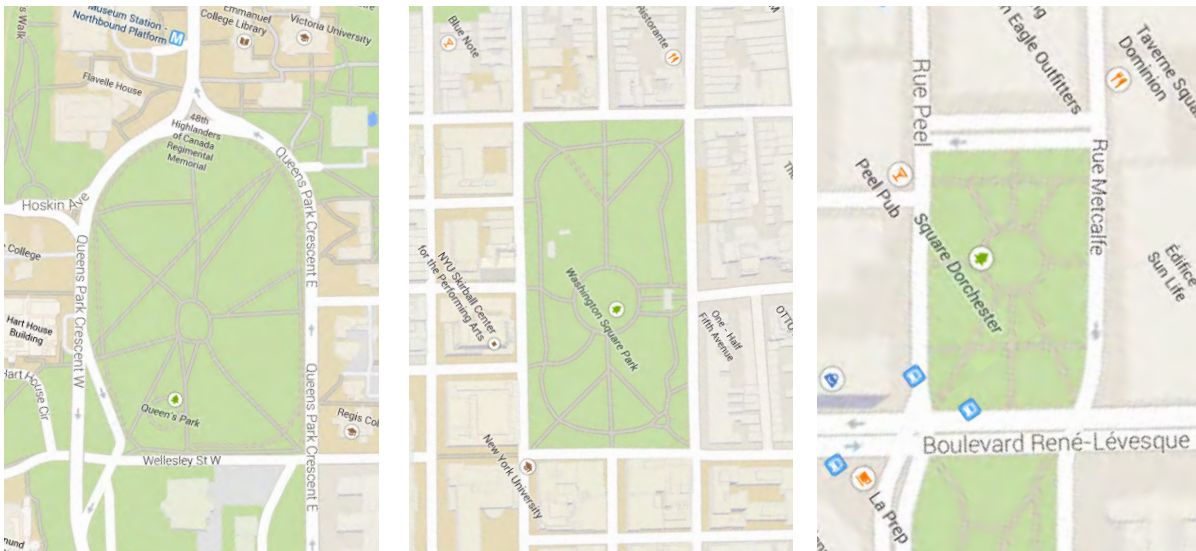
Examples of park squares include Dorchester Square in Montreal and Washington Square Park in New York City. (Figures 18 and 19) Washington Square Park and Queen's Park are comparable in size (Figure 18), however, Washington Square's central hardscaped area is much larger than that of Queen's Park, which allows for a more focused central gathering space where large group events can take place. Dorchester Square is comparatively smaller (Figure 18), but despite its size, it also exhibits qualities typical of a park square in that it has a dense canopy of trees surrounding a paved gathering area at the centre.

The centre of the park square typically functions as the common gathering space and often features an anchoring element within a hardscaped area. Dorchester Square and Queen's Park both feature a monument at the park's centre, while Washington Square features a fountain as well as a large architectural gateway leading to the central plaza (Figures 20, 21 and 23). In the park square typology, the central area is typically accessed via a series of pathways often with one or two being the primary pathway or 'mall'. The pathway network that leads to the King Edward VII statue at the centre of Queen's Park is similar to the pathway systems exhibited in other park squares in that they all converge at the central area. (Figures 22 and 23)

Queen's Park can be considered a unique hybrid of several park typologies. While the park square and university quadrangle typologies might not have been part of the original design intention for the Park, the emergence of the features and functions typical of these typologies reflect the organic way in which this Park has evolved to meet the changing needs of its users. Enhancing these features to meet 21st century demands will serve to further this Park's potential as a central civic space.



18. Scaled aerial photo comparison of Queen's Park, Washington Square and Dorchester Square. (Source: Google Earth and Bing Maps; annotations by ERA Architects Inc.)



19. Maps of Queen's Park, Washington Square and Dorchester Square (not to scale). Note similar pathway network structures with multiple paths leading to central area. (Source: Google Maps)

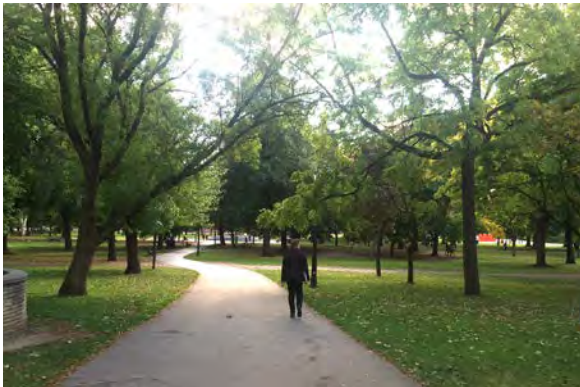
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20. Example of a park square: Dorchester Square, Montreal. (Source: lesbeautesdemontreal.com, website)



21. Example of a park square: Washington Square Park, New York. (Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/>, website)



22. Pathway leading to central statue at Queen's Park, Toronto. (Source: *The Planning Partnership*)



23. View across tree-lined lawn towards central statue at Queen's Park, Toronto. (Source: *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/toronto-feature-queens-park/>, website)

2.5 Park Chronology and Inventory

The Queen's Park site has evolved significantly since it was first established as part of the unique University landscape precinct in the 1820s. Since then, it has been shaped and influenced by the growing city surrounding it. What follows is a chronological summary and inventory of the Park's features and alterations, which highlights its evolution over time. Refer to Appendix 4 for supporting images.

1829

King's College (now University of Toronto)purchases grounds for new university
College St promenade (now University Ave.) laid out by Andre Parmentier

1830-33

Horse-chestnut trees planted along College St. promenade

1842/43

King's College residence building constructed on east side of property³⁶

1849

King's College becomes University of Toronto³⁷

1856

King's College building converted into 'lunatic asylum'

1856/57

First plans for University Park drafted by landscape designer William Mundie; plans never realized

1858

Plans for university grounds and park drafted by Cumberland and Storm

1859

East lands leased to City of Toronto for 999 years
University College constructed; designed by architect Frederick William Cumberland
Edwin Taylor drafts new plans for University grounds; this plan only partially executed and focused on grounds immediately adjacent to University College building³⁸

36 "Queen's Park, Toronto", Featured Plaque of the Month, Article. Ontario Heritage Trust, July 2010.

37 "Welcome to Queen's Park", Toronto's Historical Plaques, Website. http://www.toronto-plaques.com/Pages/Welcome_to_Queens_Park.html, 2014.

38 Bain, David. "William Mundie, landscape gardener", p. 305.

Heritage Impact Assessment: Queen's Park North

1860

City implements program of improvements including east-west road construction (now Wellesley Ave.) and the planting of 500 trees³⁹
Queen's Park - "the people's park" - opened to the public by Prince of Wales (later to become King Edward VII)

1870

Canadian War Volunteers Memorial unveiled⁴⁰; originally located on the west edge of the Park, with the construction of Queen's Park Crescent West, it now sits just outside the Park boundary to the west of the roadway (Figure 53, Appendix 4)

1884

Taddle Creek is buried (Figure 50, Appendix 4)
Bandstand is constructed at south end of Park in front of location of proposed legislature building⁴¹; bandstand later moved to north end of Park

1886

King's College building ('lunatic asylum') demolished
South portion of Park appropriated by province for construction of legislative building

1888

Hoskin Ave. built up to west side of Park

1891

Sunday preaching meetings are banned from the Park⁴²

1892

Parliament buildings are completed at the south end of the Park
Large pavilion constructed at centre of northern grove on future site of King Edward VII statue (replaces bandstand which had been moved to north end of Park) (Figure 54 in Appendix 4) North end of Park transformed from sports and recreation venue to Park composed of mixed plantings of trees⁴³

1914-1918

The more formal, southern portion of the Park serves as the site of a parade for troops heading overseas during the First World War (Figure 55, Appendix 4)

1917

Landscape plan for University of Toronto precinct developed by Buffalo landscape architect B. Fleming

39 Bain, David. "The Queen's Park", p. 198.

40 "Welcome to Queen's Park", Toronto's Historical Plaques, Website.

41 Bain, David, "The Queen's Park", p. 204.

42 *Ibid.*, p. 208.

43 *Ibid.*, p. 208.

1923

48th Highlanders Regimental Memorial, designed by Eric Wilson Haldenby and Alvan Sherlock Mathers, unveiled at north end of Park⁴⁴

1947

University Ave. becomes broad avenue; all trees removed

1949

New road constructed along west side of the Park (Queen's Park Crescent West) (Figure 52, Appendix 4)

1957

Modernist fountain by J. Austen Floyd constructed in southwest corner of Park (Figure 56, Appendix 4)

1969

King Edward VII statue, designed by English sculptor Thomas Brock,⁴⁵ shipped from India and placed in centre of Park⁴⁶ (Refer also to Section 4.4)

2008

Bronze statue of poet Al Purdy, created by sculptors Edwin and Veronica Dam de Nogales, unveiled in Queen's Park (Refer also to Section 4.4)

⁴⁴ City of Toronto, Website.

⁴⁵ Bateman, Chris. "This Toronto statue has been half way around the world", blogto.com; http://www.blogto.com/city/2013/03/this_toronto_statue_has_been_half_way_around_the_world/, Website.

⁴⁶ "Welcome to Queen's Park", Toronto's Historical Plaques, Website.

2.6 Park Features

Although a complete design master plan for the Park was never fully executed (Figures 12-17), Queen's Park North exhibits a character illustrative of the picturesque style with gardenesque elements, which was popular in 19th century landscape design (refer to sidebar). These landscape styles provide the foundation for the other features found within the Park, which are described in detail below.

2.6.1 Tree Canopy

One of the most dominant features of the Park is its dense tree canopy, which is composed of a large collection of mature shade trees. This canopy consists of a wide variety of specimens, and, based on an assessment of the trees conducted by TPP, it is believed that some of the existing trees were present on the site when the park opened in 1860. The tree canopy is an important landscape feature that contributes to the picturesque qualities of the Park.

2.6.2 Landscape Character zones

Since Queen's Park appears to have evolved in an incremental fashion rather than under the guidance of a single design vision, for the purposes of conservation and enhancement over time, the picturesque qualities of the Park may then be understood by identifying and describing the component 'landscape character zones' of the Park.

Three landscape character zones have been identified in this report ('the picturesque core', 'the open glade' and 'the picturesque perimeter') and are described below. A fourth zone related to the gardenesque (called 'gardenesque entrances') has also been identified as contributing to the overall landscape character of the Park, and is discussed further in section 2.6.3 Entrances. The general location of each zone is shown on the Landscape Character Zones diagram (Figure 23).

Picturesque landscape:

A popular landscape design style of the mid-19th century, originating from the landscape painting tradition in Great Britain. The picturesque landscape style had many variations, but in North America came to be characterized by asymmetrical composition and the careful composition of vistas through the use of meandering pathways, open lawns, clusters of shrubs and scattered groves of large canopy trees. (Sources: The Cultural Landscape Foundation, website; Elizabeth Barlow Rogers "Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History)

Gardenesque landscape:

A landscape style closely related to the picturesque, concerned primarily with horticultural displays consisting of colourful plant materials and exotic specimens. This style was connected to the contemporary interest in botany and horticulture. Gardenesque displays were often set within a larger picturesque setting and were generally confined to defined garden beds, planters or botanical gardens. (Sources: The Cultural Landscape Foundation, website; Garden Visit, website)

(A) *'The picturesque core'* describes the general character of the interior portions of the Park as one moves along the pathways. The character in this zone is created by a nearly full canopy (during seasons where trees are in leaf) where sunlight hitting the ground is dappled and views of the sky are mostly closed or small. The canopy creates a relatively low ceiling which creates a sense of enclosure. Irregularly spaced trees of varying species define layered fore, middle and back ground views in most directions. Views in this zone are generally of a tighter, more enclosed character. The paths that define movement through the zone are aligned to generally follow direct routings which connect elements of the Park, or destinations on either side, but include some irregularities shaped by trees, gently rolling topography or Park features such as monuments, light fixtures or benches. These subtle irregularities in path routings generally prevent long axial views and thereby contribute to an overall picturesque character.

The ground plane in this zone consists of a surface of lawn or mulch (or a dense coverage of fallen leaves in fall), defined by a gently rolling topography which creates subtle picturesque vignettes, creating the effect of a larger uninterrupted expanses of understory lawn. Additionally, the rolling character of the ground plane is made more evident through sunlight and shade patterns that vary through the season.

(B) *'The open glade'* describes the general character of several zones of the Park that are surrounded by 'The picturesque core', which are defined by clearings in the tree canopy. These zones allow direct sunlight to hit the ground plane as well as views to the open sky. From within the open glades, views are defined by a mid ground of canopy trees which can be seen in profile, enclosing the glade, and in some instances, background views of the cityscape and sky beyond.

The ground plane in open glade zones is defined by either rolling lawns and mulch surfaces, sometimes featuring hardscape paths. Two such zones, the area surrounding the modern fountain in the

south west quadrant of the Park, and the central area of the Park surrounding the King Edward the Seventh statue, are largely defined by these elements as focal points. The shape of open glade zones is generally irregular, but broadly oval.

(C) *'The picturesque perimeter'* describes the outer edge of the Park and extends beyond the Park boundary to adjacent lands. This perimeter enhances the sense of the larger landscape precinct, and can in the future play an important role in maintaining key views within the Park by minimizing views of the road and cars. The picturesque perimeter may typically consist of irregular understorey shrubs and small trees that would occupy areas on either side of the roadway, acting as a visual buffer while at the same time extending the sense of the landscape beyond the Park.

(D) *'Gardenesque entrances'* describes the entrances to the park characterized by garden beds and flowering plants. There are currently multiple entrances to the Park; some are less formal, however two primary entrances (one at the northwest corner at Hoskin Ave, and the other at the southeast corner at Wellesley Ave.), are more formalized with landscape treatments in the form of planters or beds with flowers and small paved plazas.

As revealed by the 1916 Parks Department plan, (Figure 17) it appears that, historically, the entrances to the Park were formalized and defined by irregularly shaped garden beds, flanking either side of the pathway at key entrance points, which created visual cues to guide pedestrians along major routes through the Park. At the same time, these garden beds would have created an understorey layer of plants, which would have contributed to the 'gardenesque' qualities of the Park's landscape.



24. Landscape Character Zones Diagram (Source: ERA Architects Inc.)

2.6.3 Fountain

A decommissioned fountain is located in the southwest quadrant of the Park in an open glade. The fountain was designed in the 1950s for the Parks Department by J. Austin Floyd, a prominent Canadian landscape architect whose work straddled the Beaux-Arts and Modernist styles.⁴⁷ Contemporary descriptions and sketches suggest that the fountain was executed in a modernist style and featured a coping of blue glazed brick.⁴⁸ It also included an integrated coloured lighting system of red, blue and green, which changed every minute and cycled through a series of changes every hour.⁴⁹ The centre of the fountain featured a total of 69 water jet spouts that ranged in height from 8 to 15 and 25 feet high.⁵⁰ These features are no longer extant in the fountain. The perimeter of the fountain, which appears to have included a paved pathway and benches, has been removed and covered with soil, and is currently used for annual planting displays.

It is unclear why the fountain was sited where it is, but the scale of the water spray and colour scheme suggest it may correspond with emphasis on vehicular improvement projects of the period and may have been considered as a gateway feature as one entered U of T from the east along Wellesley, or to be seen from a vehicle as one drives around the Park. A pedestrian pathway and benches that appear to have surrounded the fountain (Figure 25) would have allowed it to be experienced from a closer perspective

47 Affum, Mark. *Modernism in the Canadian Landscape: James Austin Floyd's Gardens and the Emergence of Modern Landscape Architecture in Canada, 1950-1970*. MLA Thesis presented to The University of Guelph. April 2014. p. 107.

48 McCarthy, Pearl. "Fountain is being Built at Queen's Park", *The Globe and Mail*, July 25, 1957.

49 *Ibid.*

50 *Ibid.*

as well. It appears that the circular pathway around the fountain at one time tied into the existing pathway network (Figure 25). Remnants of these pathway links remain visible today (Figure 26).

The modernist style of the fountain is of the same period of the public work that later occurred along University Avenue to the south of the Park, which was designed by Dunington-Grubb and Stensson. The fountain is evidence of the stylistic ideas from the modern period, and would likely have been a significant investment at the time.

The fountain is one of James Austen Floyd's few remaining works. It also represents an important layer of the site's modernist history and relates to other elements of the period within the larger precinct, such as University Ave.

2.6.4 Monuments

Three commemorative monuments currently occupy the Queen's Park North site. An additional number of monuments occupy the grounds surrounding the legislature and Queen's Park South. The selection and placement of existing monuments has been executed on an ad-hoc basis and no municipal monuments strategy is known to exist.

The three monuments within Queen's Park North include the Highlanders Memorial (1870) at the north end (Figure 36), a bronze statue of poet Al Purdy (2008) in the northeast quadrant of the Park (Figure 37), and an equestrian statue of King Edward VII in the centre of the Park (placed on the site in 1969) (Figure 38).

The Highlanders Memorial commemorates the Toronto-based 48th Infantry Regiment group, which has played an active role in the Canadian military since 1891. This memorial was designed by Toronto-based architects Mathers & Haldenby, and was unveiled at north end of Park in 1923.

This monument has been recently restored, however it continues to experience mild deterioration made evident by cracks in the joint-work. The area at the base of the monument is slated for improvements, including the repair/replacement of unit paving.

The Al Purdy statue is made of bronze and was created by sculptors Edwin and Veronica Dam de Nogales. It was commissioned to commemorate this Canadian poet and was installed in the Park in 2008.

The equestrian statue of Edward VII, Prince of Wales, was designed by English sculptor Thomas Brock and was originally located in a Park in New Delhi, India, before it was purchased by a Toronto art patron, and re-located to the centre of Queen's Park in 1969. Prince Edward was the son of Queen Victoria, after whom the Park is named. Prince Edward opened the Park in 1960. It has been restored in recent years and is now situated on top of a granite plinth in the centre of an earthen mound, which is surrounded by a recently-constructed granite seat wall.



25. Sketch of fountain at Queen's park by J. Austin Floyd, ca. 1917. (Source: *Modernism in the Canadian Landscape: James Austin Floyd's Gardens and the Emergence of Modern Landscape Architecture in Canada, 1950-1970*, by Mark Affum, p. 107)



26. Current condition of fountain (Fall, 2014). (Source: *The Planning Partnership*)



27. Highlanders Memorial, north end of Queen’s Park. (Source: Wikipedia, Website)



28. Al Purdy statue, northeast quadrant of Queen's Park. (Source: *lostcitypress.com, Website*)

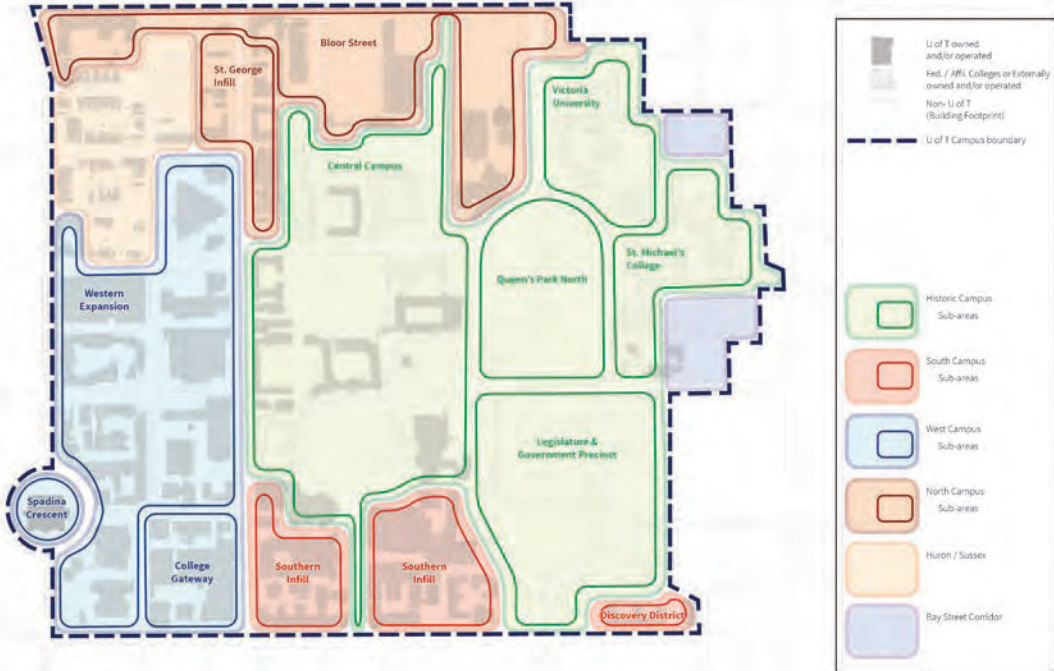


29. Edward VII statue, centre of Queen's Park, January 2015. (Source: *ERA Architects Inc.*)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment

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5. Identification of significant landscapes:

The term ‘cultural heritage landscape’ is defined very broadly by the province and the City of Toronto, and can be used in a number of ways. Because of this, it was necessary to develop a University-specific approach for the identification of significant landscapes within the study area. This approach needed to address the special patterns, qualities, and functions of the study area, and align with the University and City’s planning frameworks.

The analysis of the origins and evolution of the study area revealed that it is defined as much by a network of open spaces, as it is by its buildings and complexes. Its network of open spaces has served as a major structuring element of the campus since its establishment in the 19th century and as such can be considered to have considerable heritage value, although its boundaries, forms, and features have evolved considerably since that time.

This network of open spaces was identified and mapped in the 1997 University of Toronto Secondary Plan, which set out a framework for its stewardship and conservation. According to the Secondary Plan, the Significant Open Spaces comprise:

- University of Toronto Front Campus
- University of Toronto Back Campus
- Philosopher’s Walk and Taddle Creek
- Queen’s Park and adjacent open space
- Victoria University and St. Michael’s College Campus

The Secondary Plan stipulated that:

“The network of open spaces shown on Map 20-3 will be protected, extended and enhanced to provide a landscaped setting for institutional buildings, spaces for civic, institutional and recreational uses, pedestrian circulation, physical access and safety, and natural areas with mature trees.” (3.1.1, Open Space)

The provisions of the 1997 Secondary Plan addressed the physical dimensions of the open spaces, their cultural and symbolic meaning to the University, as well as their functions. As this corresponds with contemporary cultural landscape approaches to urban and rural areas, it is recommended that this framework for stewardship and conservation be maintained when the University of Toronto Secondary Plan is updated.

6. Protection of significant views

The 1997 University of Toronto Secondary Plan recognized and mapped (map 20-4) significant views and vistas that contribute to the character of the St. George Campus.

According to the Secondary Plan, “(t)he buildings, landscapes and special landmarks of the University of Toronto Area are distinctive in use, configuration and siting. Particular elements that are readily viewed from a distance serve to identify the individual institutions and the major access and location points, and contribute to the unique vistas and prestigious character of the University of Toronto Area.” (3.2, Open Space)

The 1997 Secondary Plan included provisions for the preservation and enhancement of the identified views and vistas through appropriate built form and landscape controls, and encouraged the establishment of new ones when new development is planned.

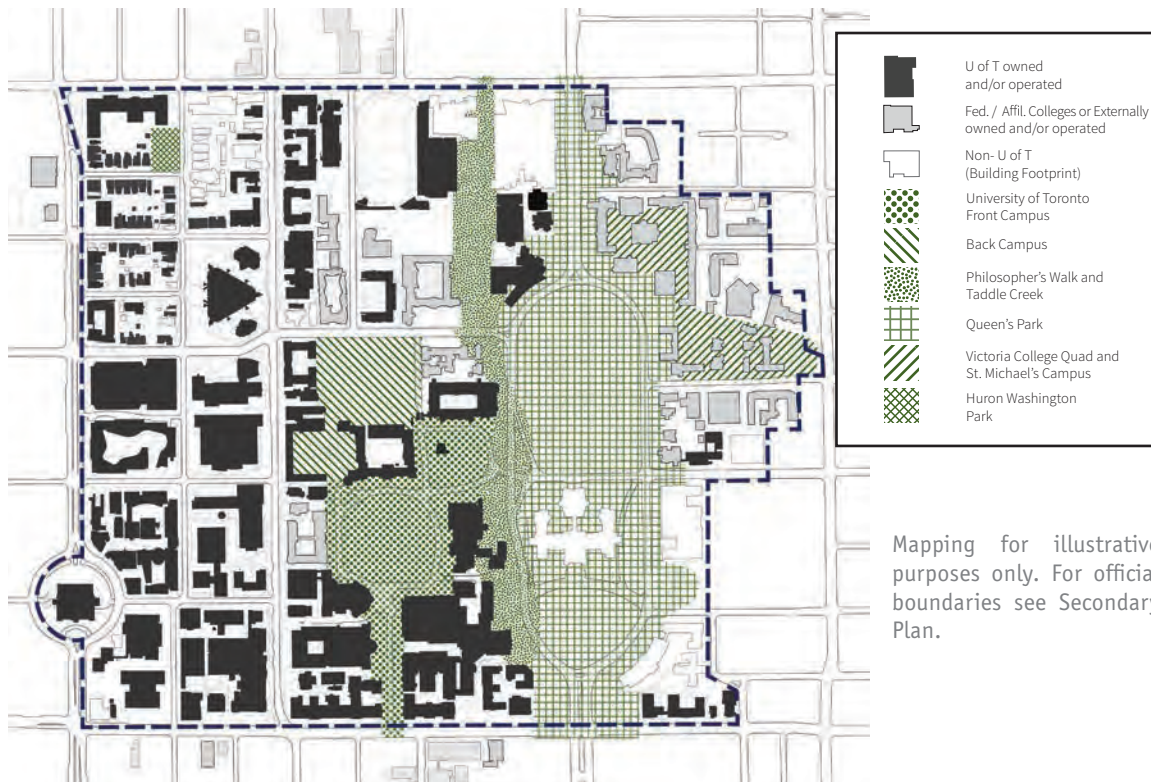
The new Official Plan Heritage Policies introduced new policies for view protection and a schedule of protected views. These views, which correspond to the major view termini of the Secondary Plan, are:

- A1: Queen’s Park Legislature
- A4: Knox College Spire
- A5: Knox College
- A7: University College

7. Additional Recommendations

The approach that has been developed for this cultural heritage resource assessment has resulted in considerable analysis of the study area as a whole, its Character Areas, and its Sub-Areas. The goal of this approach was to adhere to the Master Plan recommendation that built and landscape features be considered not in isolation, but as character-defining features of their respective historic contexts.

In order to continue to maintain and apply this approach in the stewardship of the St. George Campus and its built and landscape resources, it is recommended that the map of Character Areas be included in the updated St. George Campus Secondary Plan, as well as the short descriptions of each Character Area provided in this report. Together with the Inventory of Campus Historic Resources, these will create a stewardship framework that helps to ensure that growth and development occur in a manner that sustains and enhances the character of the campus as a whole.



Mapping for illustrative purposes only. For official boundaries see Secondary Plan.

Map 20-3: Significant Open Space (Existing and Proposed) Structure Plan, 1997.
(Source: University of Toronto Secondary Plan)

CENTRE FOR CIVILIZATIONS, CULTURES & CITIES

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

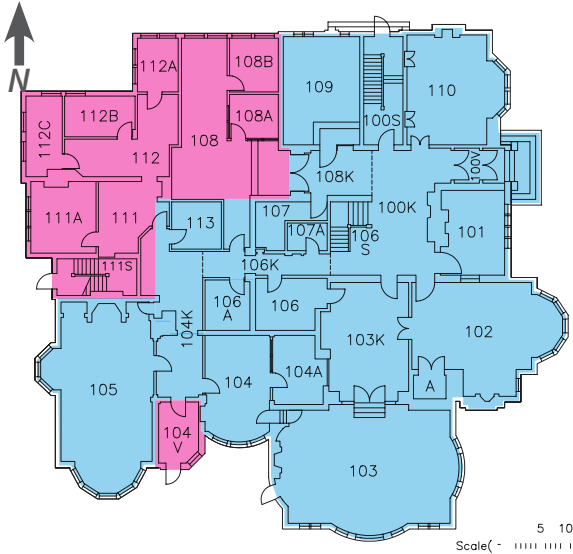
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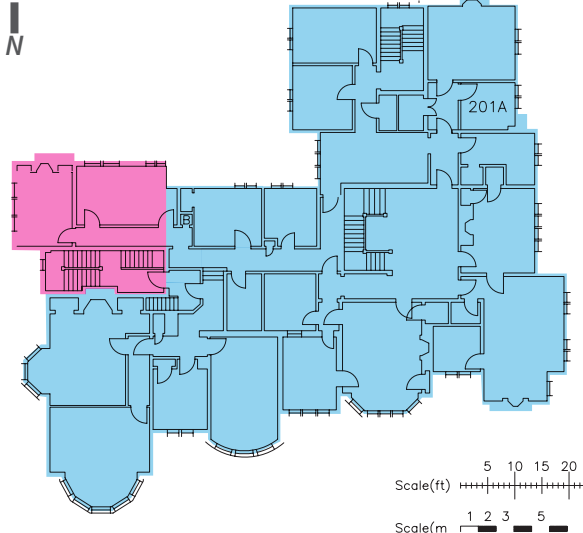
Project # 15-060-01
Prepared by AP/DE/PP

ERA

Zones of Impact



Falconer Hall, existing ground floor plan depicting approximate areas of retention (blue) and areas of removal (pink) (University of Toronto, 2000; annotation by ERA).



Falconer Hall, existing second floor plan depicting approximate areas of retention (blue) and areas of removal (pink) (University of Toronto, 2000; annotation by ERA).



Above two images: south vestibule addition proposed to be removed (ERA, 2018).



Retention and removal areas on the west elevation (ERA, 2018).



West and north views of retention and removal areas (ERA, 2018).

9 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The proposed conservation treatment for the site is rehabilitation. As defined by the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (2010), rehabilitation is:

The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of an historic place, or an individual component, while protecting its heritage value.

A heritage Conservation Plan will be submitted at a later date to describe the detailed extent and location of conservation work required for the heritage resource as a result of the proposed development.

The general, preliminary scope of conservation work includes:

- Repairs and conservation work to newly re-exposed areas of the building after demolition work is carried out. The existing condition of these areas cannot be fully determined until the removal work begins. The intent is to re-instate as closely as possible the original conditions and provide sympathetic modifications to ensure a compatible transition to the new building.
- New construction adjacent and connected to Falconer Hall will be designed to provide a sympathetic transition. This element of the design continues to be refined by the project team.
- Renewal of the landscape elements including some trees, the gates and masonry gate posts, and soft landscaping. The landscaped areas of the site have been modified over time. However some landscape elements shown on the 1934 Plan of Queen's Park and Environs may still exist and will be maintained to the greatest extent feasible.
- Site commemoration and interpretation for Falconer Hall in a publicly-accessible location of the redeveloped CCC site.