

Naming of an existing Public Lane east of Jarvis Street, extending northerly from Shuter Street

Date: January 11, 2021

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Wards: 13 Toronto-Centre

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Walnut Hall Place" be approved to identify an existing public lane located east of Jarvis Street, extending northerly from Shuter Street.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy which can be found at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/street-naming/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

Approve the name "Walnut Hall Place" for an existing public lane east of Jarvis Street, extending northerly from Shuter Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$250 and is included within the Transportation Services Division's Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council

COMMENTS

An application was received on July 29, 2020 from the Garden District Residents Association and subsequently considered complete as to support from the community in October 2020. The applicant requested to name the existing public lane located east of Jarvis Street, extending northerly from Shuter Street as, "Walnut Hall Place" in celebration of pre-Confederation residential architecture.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

"Walnut Hall Place"

"O'Donohoe Row was designed by renowned Toronto architect John Tully with elements of the Georgian style brick row in 1857 as a four-unit terrace. The building was converted into a combination apartment and rooming house in 1903 and renamed as the Walnut Hall Apartment House. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) purchased the building in 1973 with the intention of expanding the adjacent former RCMP headquarters (now the Grand Hotel). When the RCMP relocated to London, the land and building was sold to a developer in 1996 who intended to demolish Walnut Hall and rebuild. However, in May of 1997, they were designated as historical architecture under the Ontario Heritage Act and had to remain standing.

Another developer purchased the property in March 2007 with the intention of restoring Walnut Hall by incorporating the building into a condominium tower. On May 19, 2007, however, police and fire officials were called to the site when pedestrians noticed bricks falling from the second and third storeys. By the end of the afternoon, parts of the rear walls had begun to cave in. That evening, a city building inspector recommended that Walnut Hall be demolished for safety reasons, and the demolition was undertaken that night.

Heritage Canada included Walnut Hall in its "2008 Worst Losses" list, referring to the building's neglect and demolition as "a case of architectural euthanasia". Michael McClelland, a heritage architect and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants, described the loss of Walnut Hall as being emblematic of a "broken" heritage preservation system in Toronto.

Naming the laneway immediately west of the property boundary to "Walnut Hall Place" will serve as a tribute to remember the lost example of pre-Confederation residential architecture. The laneway is currently nameless and has been a source of some confusion with taxis, Uber and Lyft drivers, various City of Toronto services and the Toronto Police Services".

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Ward 13 Toronto Centre, supports this naming.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2021-003.

CONTACT

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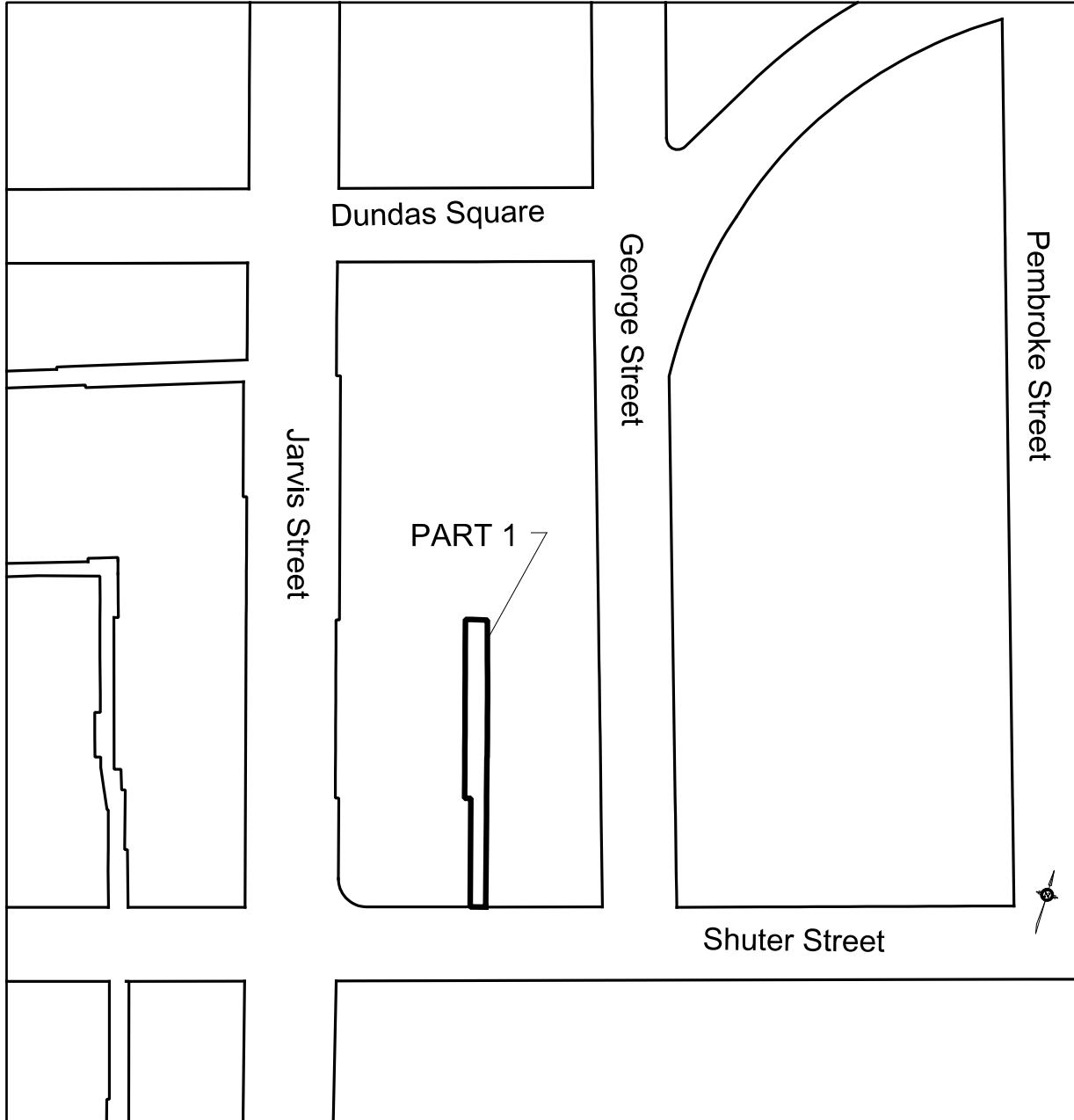
SIGNATURE

Avi Bachar, PMP, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2021-003

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2021-003, showing the location of an existing public lane located east of Jarvis Street, extending northerly from Shuter Street.



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NOTE:
 THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN
 COMPILED FROM OFFICE
 RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS
 ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY ANA MICHALEK
 PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE EAST OF
 JARVIS STREET, EXTENDING NORTHERLY FROM
 SHUTER STREET

WARD 13 - TORONTO CENTRE
 DATE: JANUARY 14, 2021

SKETCH No. PS-2021-003