

Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel Meeting Minutes

2022 Report No. 3

Date of meeting: Monday, March 14, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Video/Telephone conference

Present: Paul Farrelly, Jane Clark, Susana Miranda, Panchetta Barnett, Adam Wynne (guest)

2022-03-01: Approval of Agenda

- PF moved to approve agenda with additions. Carried.

2022-03-02: Minutes

- PF moved to approve February 14, 2022 minutes. Carried.

2022-03-03: Reports

3.3.1 Chair's Report:

- Chair discussed some properties that were likely to be included in TPB meeting of March 23. Agenda was not yet published.

3.3.2 Social Media Committee:

- JC reported that the panel website is unstable and that the webmaster is unable to make changes without a complete re-design. May need a different host, can't just transfer content within the hosting service. PF suggested that website be re-done when new panel is appointed. AW suggested we keep panel contact information up in case people want to contact the panel. JC agreed and will investigate how to add contact info (form is unstable) as well as researching other hosting companies.

2022-03-04: Section Reviews/Vice-Chair Reports

3.4.1 Midtown

- No report

3.4.2 Downtown – PF

- AW reported on his recent heritage nominations, including:
 - **335 Jarvis Street, Toronto:** Located at the southeast corner of Jarvis Street and Gerrard Street East in the Garden District, 335 Jarvis Street is a 3-storey apartment building / hotel building. 335 Jarvis Street was designed by architect Herbert Charles Roberts, constructed in 1928/1929, and is in the Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture. The building was originally home to the *Crown Hotel* (1928/1929-1933), which was later known as the *Ambassador Hotel* (1934/1935-1942); the *Rideau Hotel* (1942-1953/1954); and the *Keystone* (c. 1953/1954 to 1970s). During this period, the building contained a mix of short-term and long-term tenants. The building is presently home to the *Econo Lodge* hotel franchise. TO Built link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=13864>

- o **16 Dundonald Street, Toronto:** Constructed in 1906/1907, 16 Dundonald Street is a 2-storey Edwardian style house that was one of the very first houses built on Dundonald Street in the Church-Wellesley Village. Of design note is that 16 Dundonald Street contains the only example of a crenelated bay window in the Church-Wellesley Village neighbourhood. 16 Dundonald Street was first home to Francis William Johnston and his wife Maria Island Johnston between 1906/1907 and 1925. Francis William Johnston was a grocer who also served as the alderman of Ward 3 in 1918-1920. In early 2022, 16 Dundonald Street and neighbouring 23-29A Gloucester Street were listed as a land assembly that is for sale for \$49 230 000. TOBuilt Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=13870>
- o **119 Dowling Avenue, Toronto:** Located at the southeast corner of Dowling Avenue and King Street West in Parkdale, 119 Dowling Avenue is a 2.5 storey houseform building that was constructed in 1889/1890. 119 Dowling Avenue was first home to Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott (1837-1913) and his family between 1890 and 1903. Dr. Abbott was Canada's first Black physician to also be born in Canada. The house was later home to the German-Canadian Anthes family — the owners of the *Anthes Foundry* — between 1903 and the mid-1950s. By the 1960s, the house had been converted to a rooming house. In March 1967, a large fire damaged 119 Dowling Avenue and the house was partially rebuilt. It remains in use as an apartment house as of early 2022. TOBuilt Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=13852> Note: Councillor Gord Perks recently featured AW's research on 119 Dowling Avenue and Dr. Abbott in the Ward 4 Newsletter.
- o **12 Alexander Street, Toronto:** Located in the Church-Wellesley Village, 12 Alexander Street was constructed in 1912/1913 and designed by Toronto architect Harold John Smith, 12 Alexander Street originally housed an automotive garage and showroom for *The White Company Ltd.* Of note is that 12 Alexander Street is one of only two pre-World War II buildings to survive on Alexander Street between Yonge Street and Church Street, as the rest of the street was razed during the City Park and adjacent redevelopments in the 1950s-1970s. Later uses of 12 Alexander Street include a brewer's warehouse and a hardware company. Since 1967, 12 Alexander Street has been used as a theatre and performance space. Since 1994, the theatre venue has been *Buddies in Bad Times Theatre* — now the world's largest and longest running LGBTQI / queer theatre. TOBuilt Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=8789>
- o **577-579 Church Street, Toronto:** Located near the southeast corner of Church Street and Isabella Street in the Church-Wellesley Village neighbourhood of Toronto, 577-579 Church Street is a semi-detached, early Bay and Gable style house that was designed in 1872/1873 by architect Henry Langley for businessman/politician William Bain Scarth. Scarth resided here during the 1870s and 1880s (originally in 579, then later at 577). During the late 1890s, 577 Church Street housed the *Church of England's Training House*, which trained deaconesses, missionaries, and Sunday School teachers. During the early 1900s, Rabbi Solomon Jacobs — an influential figure in Toronto's Jewish history — resided at 577 Church Street. A storefront addition — originally home to a neighbourhood grocer — was added to 577 Church Street during the 1920s. Both 577 and 579 Church Street presently contain commercial uses on their ground floors, with upstairs residential space(s). TOBuilt Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=14045>
- o **81-83 Isabella Street, Toronto:** Located on the south side of Isabella Street just east of Church Street, 81-83 Isabella Street is a 3-storey, 49-unit Edwardian apartment building known as *The Merlan*. 81-83 Isabella Street was designed in 1927 by Toronto architect Norman Alexander Armstrong. Former occupants of note include: [Dr. Ethel Chapman](#) between 1939 and 1974; and

queer poet and producer [Phyllis Webb](#) between 1965 and 1967. TO Built

Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=6662>

- o **214 Wellesley Street East, Toronto:** Located on the north side of Wellesley Street East in the St. James Town neighbourhood, 214 Wellesley Street East is a 3-storey, 39-unit, Revival style apartment building known as *The Palamar Apartments*. 214 Wellesley Street East was designed in 1928/1929 by architect Herbert Charles Roberts. 214 Wellesley Street East is one of only two pre-World War II buildings on the north side of Wellesley Street East between Parliament Street and Sherbourne Street, as the rest of the block was razed during the St. James Town redevelopment in the 1950s-1970s. Former occupants of note include James Bothwell Blair — the former superintendent of the Montréal Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway — during the late 1920s and early 1930s; and Clarence Charles Shragge — an artist — during the 1930s. TO Built

Link: <https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php?ID=13758>

- **135 St. George St. (the York Club):** Pauline Waters emailed the panel about this property. PF suggests she attend our next meeting.

3.4.3 West – JC

- **Queen Victoria School:** AW reported that five names have been selected for the short-list to rename the school.
- **2343 Dundas St. West:** AW reported that he is working on this nomination. He wrote to HPS regarding retaining the facade. A Heritage Impact Assessment has not been done.
- **OLT Update:** AW reported that developer for Brock/Queen development has appealed the heritage designation. The hearing is next month.
- **Parkdale Main St. HCD:** AW reported that he attended the first Local Advisory Committee meeting last week. AW will flag landmark buildings for them. Meeting again in early April.

3.4.4 East – PB

- **308 Gerrard St. East:** AW noted that there is a proposal to demolish this building. It dates to the 1850s.

3.4.5 Other Business:

- JC reported on Camp Samac property. OLT decision was to grant motion to dismiss the case based on jurisdiction of tribunal. JC will be pursuing divisional court.
- Canada's First Official Irish Heritage Month — AW noted March 2022 is Canada's first official Irish Heritage Month: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2022/03/the-government-of-canada-marks-the-first-official-irish-heritage-month-in-canada.html>
- Chloe Cooley - New Heritage Minute — AW noted that this new Heritage Minute follows Chloe Cooley, an enslaved Black woman in Upper Canada in 1793. Her acts of resistance in the face of violence led to Canada's first legislation limiting slavery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLPMINSQjOg>
- AW noted that the City of Toronto Archives re-open tomorrow (Tuesday, 15 March 2022); however, researchers must schedule an appointment time slot in advance. Researchers are limited to 1, 3-hour long appointment per calendar month.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.