



Toronto Preservation Board, Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board

Dear Chair & Members of the Toronto Preservation Board:

Re: Toronto Preservation Board Meeting of March 18, 2024, Agenda Item No. PB 15.2

ACO Toronto supports the designation of 6 and 8 Cawthra Square. 8 Cawthra Square has additional historical associative value through being the long-time residence of Reverend Brent Hawkes, an important figure in the 2SLGBTQ+ rights movement and a Member of the Order of Canada.

In addition, we urge the City of Toronto to also designate 10 and 12 Cawthra Square. We strongly advocate for the preservation and reuse of ALL of these beautiful homes. Constructed between 1891 and 1903, these houses work together with the houses on Monteith Street to form an impactful boundary for Barbara Hall Park and create a significant streetscape on the north side of Cawthra Square.

We support the City of Toronto's statements that 6 and 8 Cawthra Square meet Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act designation criteria as they have design, historical and contextual value. In addition, as per the listing reports, the properties at 10 and 12 have the same values and should be preserved. The same reports state that the properties at 6-8 Cawthra Square, constructed in 1892, have design value as representative examples of the eclectic Victorian architectural style, with design elements borrowed from both the Queen Anne and Romanesque styles AND the properties at 10 and 12 Cawthra Square, constructed in 1902-1903, also have design value as representative examples of the eclectic Victorian architectural style applied to the Bay and Gable typology. 10-12 Cawthra Square were designed by John Wilson Siddall and are valuable examples of his early residential projects, with the dual gable massing that is often seen in his designs.

The listing reports for all 4 properties state that they are functionally, visually, and historically linked to their surroundings, one of the few remaining streets that reflects the development patterns of the former Dundonald Estate where residences for middle class workers typically appeared in between main thoroughfares. The subject properties have additional contextual value by supporting the block of residential properties bounded by Cawthra Square, Jarvis Street, Gloucester Street, and Monteith Street, a majority of which are included on the Heritage Register.

Ample precedents exist in the City for preservation of the existing streetscape within the context of development. 1-11 Sultan Street / 7 St. Thomas Street is an excellent example of the retention of a similar grouping of heritage homes within a tower development. Cawthra Square was developed as an upscale residential enclave, all of these buildings work together to contribute significantly to the pedestrian scale, texture and animation of the street.

Sincerely,

ACO Toronto Board of Directors