

## **8 Arnold Avenue - Inclusion on the Heritage Register**

**Date:** April 29, 2026

**To:** City Council

**From:** Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning

**Wards:** 5 – York South - Weston

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that City Council include 8 Arnold Avenue on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value and interest according to the Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion) found in Attachment 1.

The subject property at 8 Arnold Avenue is located just within the northern boundary of the Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood, south of Lambton Avenue, in the Mount Dennis area. The residence is notable as a red-brick, one-and-one-half-storey Ontario Farmhouse-style property, dating to the c. 1870s – 1880s, and historically known as the George Marshall Residence. The property, which is the earliest known house in the community, serves to recall the community's former farming and settlement past. A location map and current photograph of the heritage property are found in Attachment 1.

The property recommended for inclusion on the City's Heritage Register has been researched and evaluated by staff using the criteria prescribed in Ontario Regulation 9/06 and meets one or more of the provincial criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest and is believed to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

In 2021 the subject property was identified for its potential heritage value in the Mount Dennis Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA), which was completed as part of the Picture Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study. The Mount Dennis Secondary Plan Final Report, which was adopted by Council in July 2022, stated that properties identified as having potential heritage value through the CHRA would be reviewed for inclusion on the Heritage Register.

On January 1, 2023, amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act (the Act) through the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23) came into effect. Under the Act, as amended, a municipal heritage register may include properties that have not been designated but Council believes to be of "cultural heritage value or interest", and that meet one or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether they are of cultural heritage value or interest. The Act now also limits listing to a period of two years.

As of January 1, 2023, should a property be subject to an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application, properties must be listed on the heritage register prior to Part IV designation and before the occurrence of a prescribed event. A prescribed event is a point of time when the application for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application has been deemed complete and the City Clerk provides notice of that complete application to the public in accordance with the Planning Act.

The listing of non-designated properties on the municipal heritage register under the Act also extends interim protection from demolition and provides an opportunity for City Council to determine whether the property warrants conservation through designation under the Act should a development or demolition application be submitted.

Properties on the Heritage Register will be conserved and maintained in accordance with the Official Plan Heritage Policies. Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are required for development applications that affect listed properties.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, recommends that:

1. City Council include 8 Arnold Avenue on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in accordance with the Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion) attached as Attachment 1 to the report, April 29, 2026, from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On July 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2022 City Council adopted the Secondary Plan for the Mount Dennis area as a result of the Picture Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study completed the previous year <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EY33.11>

On January 5, 2022 the Picture Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study – Consultant's Final Report, which included the Mount Dennis Cultural Heritage

Resource Assessment, was considered at Etobicoke York Community Council <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EY29.2>

## **POLICY AND REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS**

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The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of good planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy and equitable communities. Heritage conservation in Ontario is identified as a provincial interest under the Planning Act. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>

Further, the policies and definitions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) identify the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage evaluation and heritage conservation will be implemented. [Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 \(ontario.ca\)](#)

Ontario Regulation 9/06 sets out the criteria for evaluating properties to be included in the Heritage Register under subsection 27 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act. The criteria are based on an evaluation of design/physical value, historical and associative value and contextual value. A property may be included on the Heritage Register as a non-designated property if the property meets one or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>

### **Official Plan**

The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime and provides policies to guide decision making within the City. It contains a number of policies related to properties on the City's Heritage Register and properties adjacent to them, as well as the protection of areas of archaeological potential. The Official Plan should be read as a whole to understand its comprehensive and integrative intent as a policy framework for priority setting and decision making. The Official Plan can be found here: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>

## **COMMENTS**

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Identifying properties of cultural heritage value or interest is an essential part of a municipality's role in heritage conservation. Including non-designated properties in the municipal register is a means to identify properties that the City believes to have cultural heritage value or interest.

In 2021 the Mount Dennis Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA) was completed as part of the Picture Mount Dennis Planning Framework Study, informing the Mount Dennis Secondary Plan. The CHRA identified the property at 8 Arnold

Avenue as having potential heritage value. The property has been identified as having design/physical, and historical/associative values.

More detailed historical research conducted through a future evaluation for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act may determine additional cultural heritage values for the subject property.

### **Inclusion of (non-designated) properties on the City's Heritage Register**

Non-designated listed properties do not have any protection under the Ontario Heritage Act, except insofar as an owner must give Council at least 60 days' notice of their intention to demolish or remove a structure on the property.

Properties that are listed on the City's Heritage Register are flagged for review by Heritage Planning staff once a demolition permit has been submitted and owners must follow established Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act following this action.

Although inclusion on the Heritage Register as a listed property provides interim protection from demolition, it does not preclude an owner's ability to make exterior and interior alterations in the case when demolition or a development application is not involved.

Listing does not trigger maintenance requirements over and above existing property standards and it does not restrict altering, removing or adding any features on the property. It does not allow the City to withhold a building permit for non-demolition related alterations and it does not preclude a property from undergoing renovation.

A municipality is not required to consult with property owners or the public before including non-designated properties on the municipal register under the Act. The City's current practice, developed prior to Bill 23 amendments to the Act coming into effect, notifies property owners and invites them to attend the Toronto Preservation Board meeting to discuss the recommendation of a property's inclusion on the City's Heritage Register. There is also an opportunity for owners and the public to share concerns (in person or writing) when Community Council or Planning and Housing Committee considers a heritage related matter.

Short descriptive listings are prepared using a method by which properties are identified and recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Register. This approach to listing provides sufficient information to meet the requirements of Section 27 of the Act to list a non-designated property on the Heritage Register.

Brief statements, named "Reasons for Inclusion", are prepared for all recommended properties explaining why the property is believed to have cultural heritage value and how it meets one or more of the provincial criteria under O. Reg 9/06 providing a preliminary evaluation of the cultural heritage value or interest of the property. The description may include features of the property that may warrant conservation should the property be subject to development and/or further evaluated and determined to

merit designation under Part IV of the Act. Location map and photographs are included in each Reasons for Inclusion.

Through Bill 108 and Bill 23, amendments were made to the Ontario Heritage Act to establish a process whereby owners can object to a property's listing on the Heritage Register and, should they do so, a subsequent decision on the listing must be made by the municipality. Owners can object to listings at any time. Chapter 103 of the Toronto Municipal Code establishes the process for Council consideration of objections to properties included on the Heritage Register.

## **CONCLUSION**

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Following research and evaluation of the property at 8 Arnold Avenue according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property, known as the George Marshall Residence, meets one or more provincial criteria and merit inclusion on the City's Heritage Register. The Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion) is included as Attachment 1

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Thorne  
Chief Planner and Executive Director  
City Planning

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – 8 Arnold Avenue Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion)

**Listing Statement (Reasons for Inclusion)**

Staff have undertaken research and evaluation for the property at 8 Arnold Avenue, known as the George Marshall Residence, and believe that the property has cultural heritage value or interest and meets at least one or more of the criteria prescribed in Ontario Regulation 9/06 for including a non-designated property on a municipal register under Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The subject property may meet additional criteria, which could be informed by community engagement and determined through further research and evaluation.

**Listing Statement:**

Description: The property at 8 Arnold Avenue is located just within the northern boundary of the Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood, south of Lambton Avenue, in the Mount Dennis area. The residence is notable as a red-brick, one-and-one-half-storey Ontario Farmhouse style property, historically known as the George Marshall Residence. The property, which is the earliest known house in the community, serves to recall the community's former farming and settlement past. A location map and current photograph of the heritage property are found in Attachment 1.

The property at 8 Arnold Avenue has cultural heritage value as it meets the following criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

The property has historical and associative value for yielding information about the settlement history of the Mount Dennis community. It was constructed c. 1870s -1880s, by prominent farmer, George Marshall (1837-1905) – who also became the first post master in Mount Dennis (1892-1905). The property survives as part of one of the earliest farmsteads in the Mount Dennis area, dating back to its acquisition in 1853 by his father Robert Marshall. The Marshalls were significant landowners in the area and owned half of one of the few 200-acre lots in the area not owned by the Dennis family, from which the area takes its name. George Marshall obtained the property upon his father's death in 1871, later replacing an earlier log home built sometime prior to 1861 with the present structure. The Marshall farm, along with the Dennis farm, stood in contrast to the heavily forested area that comprised the Mount Dennis area into the 1860s and recalls the agricultural character of the area into the 1890s. In 1891, upon George Marshall relocating his residence to his newly built store and post office on Weston Road, the first school classes in Mount Dennis were held in the two ground floor rooms of the house prior to the Dennis Avenue School being completed (1891).

The property also has design and physical value for being the earliest known house in the Mount Dennis area and for its representative Ontario Farmhouse-style architecture. Characteristic of such architecture styling, the symmetrical red-brick house is defined by its steeply pitched central gable with wooden, Gothic revival-style bargeboards. Given the early date of the house such residential architecture is rare in the Mount Dennis area.



8 Arnold Avenue, identified by outline. Note: This location map is for illustrative purposes only; the exact boundaries of the property are not shown (City of Toronto Mapping, 2026).



8 Arnold Avenue, view from the east (City of Toronto Heritage Planning, 2026)