



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

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REPORT #: CDS-24-023 **COMMITTEE DATE:** 2024-02-07
REPORT TO: Municipal Heritage Committee **DUE IN COUNCIL:** 2024-02-27
SUBJECT: Priority Designation Work – Phase I Update February 7, 2024

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1 The Municipal Heritage Committee endorse the third set list of Heritage Properties for Priority Designation in **Appendix I**; and
- 1.2 The Municipal Heritage Committee provide any further suggestions for Staff consideration.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In September 2023, Staff presented Report CDS-23-200 (**Appendix III**) to outline the list of properties for which designation should be prioritized and to seek Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) endorsement of the list so that Phase I can proceed.
- MHC and Council endorsed the list and Staff have been working diligently to prepare designation reports and by-laws to implement this direction. **Appendix IV** provides a status update of the work to date.
- To continue the momentum, this report provides the third set of properties under consideration for priority designation.
- MHC input and endorsement is requested prior to proceeding with the third set list of heritage properties for priority designations.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline the list of properties for which designation should be prioritized and to seek MHC endorsement of the list so that Phase I can proceed.

4. BACKGROUND

Following changes made to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23, Staff consulted the MHC on an approach to identify properties listed on the Town's Heritage Register as priorities for designation.

Staff have initiated the first part of Phase 1 for identifying listed properties for designation:

- Properties whose loss due to demolition, neglect or inappropriate alteration would result in the substantial loss of a piece of Niagara-on-the-Lake history or identity; and
- Properties that are likely to meet at least 2 (two) criteria for designation, and for which some background research is already prepared/available, whether through the Town

Historian or other qualified sources.

MHC and Council endorsed the list and Staff have been working diligently to prepare designation reports and by-laws to implement this direction. **Appendix IV** provides a status update of the work to date.

Following the same approach, Staff are now reporting back to MHC with the third set of the priority list (**Appendix I**).

5. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

5.1 Phase I Update

Additional candidate properties proposed for designation, for which some background information is available, are identified in **Appendix I** as the “Third Set.” It is important to note that Staff review of available background information on these properties is on-going and the list may change or expand accordingly.

In 2008, the Town prepared draft character statements for properties on the Heritage Register. These draft character statements have no status and were not endorsed by Council; however, the draft character statements do provide an initial assessment of heritage value and heritage attributes. These statements will be used as a starting point for Staff in the complete review and analysis of each property. The draft character statements are attached in **Appendix II** for MHC reference.

In addition, Staff will continue to work on the designation reports and background research for the properties identified in Staff Report CDS-23-200 (**Appendix III**) from September 2023. The status update of this list is included in **Appendix IV**.

If MHC members would like to locate these properties on a map, it is recommended that Niagara Navigator be used, which is an ArcGIS program hosted by the Niagara Region. The mapping program is a tool where properties can be located by address with aerial image overlays from different time periods: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/exploring/navigator.aspx>.

5.2 Next Steps

If the MHC endorses the list for priority designations, the following approach outlines the next steps for the Third Set:

- 1) Staff will reach out to property owners to advise that their property is being considered for designation, and to inquire whether the owner is interested in designation and in contributing further historical information on the property;
- 2) Staff to consult with the Museum on available background research for each property or assistance in collecting research;
- 3) Staff to consider any responses from owners and to bring a report to MHC for advice on which properties should be pursued for Part IV designation; and
- 4) If designation is to be pursued, MHC and Council to recommend to Staff to prepare designating by-laws for the properties and initiate the process for individual designation.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

The content of this report supports the following Strategic Plan initiatives:

Pillar

1. Vibrant & Complete Community

Priority

1.1 Planning for Progress

Action

1.1 b) Planning for Progress Initiatives

7. OPTIONS

- 7.1 Option 1: Recommend endorsement of Staff's proposed list of properties for designation and/or provide a list of additional properties. **(Recommended)**
- 7.2 Option 2: Recommend an alternate list of properties for designation. *(Not Recommended)*

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff are currently undertaking research in house and with the assistance of the Town Historian. If a heritage consultant is required to prepare any Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports, then costs will be incurred by the Town.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

The Minutes and recommendations of the MHC will proceed to Council for endorsement.

11. CONCLUSION

Staff are advancing Council's Planning for Progress work to move heritage designations prior to properties being removed from Town's Municipal Heritage Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (the "Heritage Register"). This report provides an update on the Work Plan for Priority Designations. MHC input and endorsement on the priority list for Phase I is requested.


12. PREVIOUS REPORTS

- CDS-23-200 – Bill 23 Implications – A Workplan for Priority Designations from the Heritage Register – Phase I Update September 6, 2023

13. APPENDICES

- **Appendix I** – Heritage Designation Priority List
- **Appendix II** – Draft Character Statements
- **Appendix III** – CDS-23-200 – Bill 23 Implications – A Workplan for Priority Designations from the Heritage Register
- **Appendix IV** – Status update on Phase 1 Priority Designation – First and Second Set

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sumra', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Sumra Zia, B. Arch, Dipl. Architectural Conservation
Heritage Planner II**