

Notice of Objection

15800 Yonge Street

March 9, 2023

Dear Town of Aurora, Senior Planner Adam Robb,

On behalf of the Board of Governors of St. Andrew's College, I am writing to express our concern about the Notice of Intention received on February 6, 2023, to designate the St. Andrew's College property to be of cultural heritage value or interest. We appreciate that this is an important issue for the Town and its residents; however, we request a pause on the designation to allow the College to investigate the implications of the designation, including the changes to the Ontario Heritage Act under Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022. We would like to emphasize that the College has a long history of respecting and preserving the architectural design of its facilities. Additionally, the College is a not-for-profit educational organization with different goals and mission than a single-dwelling homeowner or for-profit business owner.

St. Andrew's College has been a part of the Aurora community for almost a century and is an integral part of the Town's heritage. Throughout its history, the College has undergone numerous renovations and building projects but has always maintained a commitment to preserving the architectural design of its facilities. The College has collaborated closely with architects and designers to ensure that any new buildings or renovations meet its students' needs while respecting the campus's existing architecture and heritage.

We see ourselves as "good stewards" of our historic facilities and spaces and fully understand that their cultural heritage value is part of the College's identity. However, the College must continue developing facilities to meet modern educational and boarding needs, as well as its ability to fulfill its mission and offer a robust education to its students. Balancing the need for modern educational and boarding facilities while preserving certain historic elements could pose unique challenges, including impacts on financial resources.

We believe the proposed cultural heritage designation could have significant implications for the College and its operations, and we ask that the College has the opportunity to thoroughly investigate the implications before the Town includes the College property in any designation by law. This will allow the College to determine how the designation will affect its ability to maintain and improve its facilities, including the impact on the College's long-term Strategic and Financial Plan currently under development.

Therefore, at this time, we respectfully object to the proposed cultural heritage designation of the St. Andrew's College property and request the Town pause the proposed designation. This will allow the College to conduct a thorough investigation of the implications of the designation and work collaboratively with the Town to determine if a plan that balances the needs of the College with the importance of preserving the Town's heritage can be developed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,



Kevin McHenry
Head of School, St. Andrew's College

**Notice of Intent to Designate
15800 Yonge Street**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO DESIGNATE 15800 YONGE STREET**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended. A statement of reasons is included.

15800 Yonge Street
St. Andrew's College
Pt Lt 84, Concession 1, King Pt 3, 65r1463; Aurora S/t Ease in Gross Over Pt 1,65r30756 As In Yr1261631 St/t Ease in Gross Over Pt 2, 65r30756 As In Yr1261632; Town of Aurora
PIN: 036270792

Description of Property

The property known municipally as 15800 Yonge Street is located on the west side of Yonge Street, south of St. John's Sideroad. The property is recognized as St. Andrew's College, which was founded in Toronto in 1899 and moved to the 126-acre Georgian-style campus in Aurora in 1926.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

15800 Yonge Street is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest based on its design and physical value, historical and associative value, and contextual value.

Design and Physical Value:

The property is a representative example of a Georgian style campus. The property features a number of buildings that display a high degree of design detail and craftsmanship, including the Memorial Chapel with its steeple and brick construction, the Flavelle House and Memorial House with their polychromatic brick voussoirs and centred main entrances with architraves, the Sifton House with its roundels and arched window and door openings, Dunlap Hall with its two storey massing, transoms, parapet and belt courses, and the McDonald House with its entablature and classical balusters. The 126-acre campus and Georgian buildings are indicative of the period of construction and high craftsmanship and detail, with the campus also designed around the traditional quadrangle form. The property is specifically unique as a campus with such rich architectural detail, making it a highly rare and very well preserved example of institutional Georgian architecture.

Historical and Associative Value:

The property is associated with St. Andrew's College, which was originally established in Toronto in 1899 and then re-located to the Aurora location in 1926. St. Andrew's College was founded as a residential and day school by Rev. Dr. George Bruce, the School's first Headmaster. During the First World War, over 600 alumni served, and 104 were killed in action. The move to Aurora in 1926 was a result of needing more space and a setting away from the perceived negative influences of the city. The Chapel was consecrated in 1931 and prevails as a welcoming symbol of the School. Today, St. Andrew's College has more than 650 students, representing Canada and some 30 other countries. Many well-known and prominent Canadians attended St. Andrew's College including Vincent Massey, Lawren Harris and Kiefer Sutherland. The Chapel building was also designed by E.H. Paisley of Marani and Paisley, who were well-known Toronto based architects. The subject property has strong association with the development of the Town, but is also recognized nationally and internationally for its dedication to education.

Contextual Value:

The property defines, maintains and supports the growth of Aurora and Canada at large. Notable alumni have made positive contributions to society and the campus and buildings themselves provide a significant link and connection to the community. St. Andrew's College is a recognized leader in education and a prominent community hub. A number of the buildings on the campus can also be considered landmarks, such as the Memorial Chapel and its steeple.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following provides a description of heritage attributes for the property which contribute to the reasons for which the property is of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Important to the preservation of the property are the original key attributes of the building that express its value, which include:

Exterior Elements

a) Memorial Chapel

- Overall massing and brick construction
- Steeple
- All original features indicative of the Georgian architectural style including the portico with stone pillars, the circular windows, the cornice return, the architrave around the main entrance and arched window openings at the north elevation

b) Flavelle House

- Overall 2-2.5 storey massing and brick construction
- Archways to the south
- All original features of the Georgian architectural style including the centred main entrance with architrave, transom and sidelights, the shed dormers, the semi-circular bay windows with belt course, the polychromatic brick voussoirs and the northern portion of the building that has a belt course and parapet with classical balusters

c) Memorial House

- Overall 2-2.5 storey massing and brick construction
- Archways to the north
- All original features indicative of the Georgian architectural style, including the centred main entrance with architrave, transom and sidelights, the shed dormers, the semi-circular bay windows with belt course, the polychromatic brick voussoirs and the building portion to the south with parapet, classical balusters and a centred entrance with fanlight and side lights

d) Sifton House

- Overall 2.5 storey massing and brick construction
- Archways to the south and north
- All original features indicative of the Georgian architectural style, including the shed dormers, polychromatic brick voussoirs, roundels, and rounded arches over the first storey window/door openings

d) Dunlap Hall

- Overall 2 storey massing and brick construction
- All original features indicative of the Georgian architectural style, including the main entrances with transom light, frontispiece, and entablature with pilasters, the polychromatic brick voussoirs, the centered clock with

pediment, the parapet with classical balusters, the belt course and entablature, the roundels and the rounded arches around the windows on the north and south portions of the building with keystones

e) MacDonald House

- Overall 2-3 storey massing and brick construction
- All original features indicative of the Georgian architectural style, including the main entrance with transom, frontispiece, entablature, belt coursing, roundels, and parapet with classical balusters, the shed dormers, the semi-circular bay windows with belt coursing, and the polychromatic brick voussoirs

Notice of objection to this notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Aurora within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate in the local newspaper. This notice of objection must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora shall consider the objection and make a decision whether to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property or not.

Michael De Rond

Town Clerk

Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1

mderond@aurora.ca

For any other inquiries, please contact:

Adam Robb, MPL, MCIP, RPP, CAHP

Senior Planner, Development/Heritage

Planning and Development Services

arobb@aurora.ca

365-500-3104

Property Photos and Information

15800 Yonge Street

Macdonald House



Campus Aerial



