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OCT 17 2007

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk**RECEIVED**
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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
703 DOVERCOURT ROAD (CENTENNIAL JAPANESE CHURCH)
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE


Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3


Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 703 Dovercourt Road under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation:

Description

The property at 703 Dovercourt Road is worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value or interest, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, historical and contextual value. The church is located on the east side of Dovercourt Road, south of Bloor Street West, where historical records indicate it was constructed in 1906. The property was included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2004.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Centennial Japanese Church has design or physical value as a representative example of an early 20th century church with elements drawn from the Neo Gothic style. Popularized in the early 1900s for educational and ecclesiastical architecture, the style was characterized by Tudor-arched openings and detailing inspired by the medieval period. Centennial Japanese Church is distinguished by the treatment of its principal (west) façade where twin towers are surmounted by pyramidal steeples.

Historically, the church is an institution of importance in the Dovercourt neighbourhood. The present building replaces the original Centennial Methodist Church, dating to 1891 and constructed on the same site. In 1925, the church was renamed Centennial United Church, following the creation of the United Church of Canada from an amalgamation of Methodist, Congregational and many Presbyterian churches. In 1986, Centennial United Church joined with the Nisei congregation of the Toronto Japanese Church to form Centennial Japanese Church.

Centennial Japanese Church is a local landmark on Dovercourt Road, south of Bloor Street West, where is a visible presence as an institutional building with Neo-Gothic detailing. In the vicinity, Dovercourt-St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (1905) at 700 Dovercourt Road and the Anglican Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Cyprian (1913) at 42 Westmoreland Avenue are also recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of Centennial Japanese Church related to its design value as a representative example of an early 20th century church with Neo-Gothic detailing are found on the exterior walls and roof, excluding the rear (east) wall and consisting of:

- The plan that rises one extended storey from a raised base with brick and stone facing and flat-headed window openings
- The red brick cladding with stone applied for the trim on the doors, windows and towers
- The low-pitched gable roof with twin towers on the southwest and northwest corners and an octagonal skylight near the centre
- The symmetrical organization of the principal (west) façade, with a central frontispiece between towers containing entrances
- The central frontispiece on the west facade, with a stepped triangular parapet with stone coping that is flanked by buttresses and incorporates a trio of Tudor-arched window openings with stone applied for a continuous sill, hood moulds, spandrels, and a nameplate
- The square towers, where stone is applied for the cornices, band courses, and coping along the top of the battlements, which incorporate arcades and provide the bases for pyramidal steeples
- The placement of an entrance at the base of each tower, where a stepped triangular frontispiece with stone coping and buttresses contains a Tudor-arched stone surround with a hood mould, quoins and a multi-paned transom
- Above the entries on each tower, the diminutive flat-headed window openings with stone sills and hood moulds, which are repeated on the side walls (north and south) of the towers
- Near the top of each tower, the inset of stone-trimmed Tudor-arched window openings flanked by buttresses
- The side elevations (north and south) of the church, which are identical and placed under the gable ends of the roof where each wall is flanked by buttresses and incorporates a trio of narrow Tudor-arched window openings with stone trim
- The datestone for the original church, placed at ground level on near the west corner of the south wall and reading "Centennial Methodist Church, erected A. D. 1891"

The rear (east) wall and extension are not included in the Reasons for Designation.

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Christine Archibald, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 12th floor, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 19th of October, 2007, which is November 19th, 2007. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 19th day of October, 2007.

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk