



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation
Advisory Committee (PACAC)

From: Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

Meeting Date: September 3, 2015

Subject: Report PACAC15-028
Heritage Designation 252 Parkhill Road

Purpose

A report to recommend that the PACAC recommend to Council that 252 Parkhill Road (Ashley) be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Recommendation

That the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report PACAC15-028, dated September 3, 2015 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That 252 Parkhill Road (Ashley) be recommended to Council for designation pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

252 Parkhill Road, historically known as Ashley, is recommended for designation pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 10/06 as a property of cultural heritage value or interest. The house retains many significant architectural features including the steeply pitched gabled roof, lancet windows, and stained glass, making it an excellent representative example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Peterborough.

Ashley has been classified as a category 'A' property using PACAC's evaluation tool. Category 'A' properties are defined as being individually outstanding and have the broadest heritage significance in the City by virtue of architectural, historical, and environmental criteria along with overall integrity of design and construction. Category 'A' properties generally hold provincial and/or national significance.

The Designation Sub-Committee (DSC), an ad-hoc committee of the PACAC, met on September 3, 2015 to review the designation brief for Ashley as drafted by staff. After a brief discussion the DSC passed a motion that the Designation Sub-Committee recommends to PACAC the designation of the property.

Significance

Ashley was constructed c. 1885 for John Edward Hammond, farmer and local gentleman. Hammond was the husband of Harriet Macdonald, a niece of lumber merchant, Mossom Boyd, and sister-in law to noted architect John E. Belcher. Hammond named his house "Ashley" after his childhood home in England, but his tenure in the house was cut short by his death from typhoid in 1887. Hammond's widow Harriet remained at Ashley until at least 1913 when she moved in with her son, Dr. Arthur Hammond, at 232 Brock Street, known today as "Hammond Hall".

Hammond enjoyed a close relationship with Belcher. Built in the Victorian Gothic style, Ashley is grander but very similar to the house at 643 Bethune Street, designed by Belcher for his daughter the same year. Given the strong family connection, and the common design characteristics between the two properties, there is strong evidence that John Belcher designed and constructed the house at 252 Parkhill Road West. The property would have enjoyed a direct sightline of 269 Edinburgh Street (Smithtown Hill House), occupied by the Belchers during this period and previously occupied by Mossom Boyd.

252 Parkhill Road occupies a prominent site overlooking the City on the edge of the historic northern boundary of Peterborough on Smith Town Hill. The area is the site of the original European settlement of Smith Township in 1818. The property forms a part of the land annexed from Smith Township in 1872.

Submitted by,

Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator
Community Services Department

Contact Name:

Erik Hanson

Heritage Resources Coordinator

Phone: 705-742-7777, Ext. 1489

Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755

Fax: 705-748-8824

E-Mail: ehanson@peterborough.ca