



Nomination to designate 1850s Long Branch farm house



Farina Shepard
Etobicoke Guardian

An amendment is about to support heritage designation of what is being called the only remaining heritage farm house in Long Branch.

Etobicoke Historical Society president Derise Harris nominated the house at 28 Daisy Ave. for heritage designation because it is a rare, representative and early example of a style, material and construction method, she wrote in her heritage property nomination form filed recently to the city's heritage preservation services department.

An early example of the Gothic Revival cottage style, the circa 1850 house is the only remaining example in Etobicoke of a lace-over-stone

construction, Harris said she discovered in her research.

It is one of the oldest remaining houses in Long Branch. One of the top four or five oldest houses in Etobicoke," Harris said in an interview. "We know the men who built it bought the property in 1847 and the house was up and recorded in the 1852 Census."

A property may be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria: It is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, material or construction method; it has historical or associative value with a theme, event, person, activity or organization significant to a community or it has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

Harris argued in her nomination that the property meets all three designation tests under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The one-and-a-half-storey, five-room, three-bedroom house at the northeast corner of Twenty-Sixth Street is currently up for sale, listed for \$464,900.

The current owners of the house did not respond to The Guardian's request for comment prior to deadline Wednesday.

Harris said the house is the area's last link to the township's pre-confederation agricultural roots.

It was typical of farming communities all over Etobicoke," Harris said of the property. "It was sold two generations later for housing. The developer kept the house when the area was developed in 1910. The developer sold it to the farmer the next lot over. It was saved then. It's still there. Let's not lose it."

The house at 28 Daisy Ave. is listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. That means the city's heritage preservation services department should be informed and involved when an owner applies for municipal permits or approvals.

The city's inventory lists approximately 8,000 properties across the city, some 4,500 of which are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, the city's website indicates.

By comparison, designation is a legal status on a property by a city bylaw under the Ontario Heritage Act which gives Toronto City Council the legal authority to refuse an application that will adversely affect the property's heritage attributes.

Members of local preservation panels, typically residents with an interest in heritage preservation, keep an eye on homes on the city's inventory for changes, such as building permits or for-sale signs.

Often, panel members then proceed with heritage designation nominations to the city.

Harris is a member of the Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel.

Harris sent a copy of her nomination form to Etobicoke Historical Society members, some of whom, she said, have already written letters to the city in support of her nomination of 28 Daisy Ave. for heritage designation.

Heritage preservation services will now consider the nomination and any letters of support. Staff then recommends to city council whether to designate it under the Ontario Heritage Act. City council would then seek the opinion of the volunteer Toronto Preservation Board when considering a recommendation for designation.

Harris, for one, is hopeful 28 Daisy Ave. will be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Long Branch has lost a lot of important buildings, including Colonel Sam Smith's 1797 home," she said. "People are still talking about it and it was taken down in the '60s. It was the second-oldest building in Toronto."

Non-cash-to diagram (80's long 5 rows from house)

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