

NOTICE

In accordance with procedure By-law 160-2004, and in the matter of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18, and the matter of the lands and premises, known as Laird House located at 2838 Bovaird Drive West in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario:

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the City of Brampton intends to designate property situated at 2838 Bovaird Drive West (Laird House) in the City of Brampton, in the Province of Ontario, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property at 2838 Bovaird Drive West is located on the north side of Bovaird Drive West, west of Heritage Road. The 10.82 acre (4.379 hectares) lot contains a two storey house set back from the roadway, a large barn, four other outbuildings, mature vegetation and significant remnants of a large granite stone foundation. The east side of the property hosts a ravine containing a Credit River tributary creek. The property is also located within the Provincial Greenbelt Plan and adjacent to a place of worship.

SHORT STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION

The property at 2838 Bovaird Drive West is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value and contextual value.

Design/Physical Value:

The cultural heritage value of 2838 Bovaird Drive West is related to its design or physical value as a representative example of an Italianate style house. Its ornate detailing and decoration also displays the high degree of craftsmanship possessed by the Laird family who built the structure in 1886 and were known for building high-quality structures in the area.

The Italianate style, which was inspired by Tuscan and Italian Renaissance architecture, was popular for residential and commercial buildings in Ontario during the mid-late 19th century. Houses built in this style tend to be highly decorative with low-pitched roofs, broad eaves with brackets, tall and

narrow arched windows, bay windows, quoins, belvederes, cupolas, and pedimented windows and doors.

The two-storey, red brick house at 2838 Bovaird Drive West contains many features of the Italianate style including the low pitched hipped roof, overhanging eaves, decorative paired brackets under an ornamental cornice, a decorative diamond-patterned frieze, bay windows, and a small, one-storey entry porch with decorative millwork. The building is also distinguished by its three bay front façade, voussoirs, wood window shutters, and a corbelled chimney. The entranceway is embellished by a muntin-divided, segmentally arched transom with a buff brick voussoir and moulded double-doors with round-headed glass panels and uniquely decorated doorknobs.

The verandah on the east side of the house, now enclosed by glass, is also heavily decorated with fretwork but appears to be later in date. It is covered by a low-pitched roof and is supported by engaged posts and a turned-wood balustrade.

A board and batten rear addition was constructed at an unknown time, and is sympathetic in appearance to the original building. It has a separate entrance with an arched transom and sidelights, all of which is framed by a Classically inspired moulded door surround with pilasters and a keystone. The addition also features diamond shaped windows to the right of the doorway on the first and second storeys, a two-over two arched window on the second storey above the door, and a wooden cornice and diamond-patterned frieze. The frieze has a slightly different profile to that of the original house but is similar in design.

Located to the north of the house are numerous outbuildings, the most significant of which is a beautiful red gambrel-roofed barn as well as the remains of a granite fieldstone wall, approximately ten feet in height, which is close to the barn. It appears as though the courtyard created by this stone wall is currently being used as a picnic space on the property. Part of a door frame is still attached to the wall on the west side. Due to the proximity of this fieldstone wall to the extant house, which sits on the footprint of the original house, it is surmised that the wall was once part of an earlier barn which likely burned down in 1885 at the same time as the original house.

In form and function, Canadian barns are classified as Pennsylvanian, Dutch and English. The gambrel-roofed barn, which is often associated with Dutch Colonial design, became popular in Ontario near the turn of the 20th century when agricultural productivity increased and larger barns became necessary. The shape of the gambrel roof provided a larger loft capacity than other barn styles.

The barn on this property is clad in metal and has a stone foundation. The upper level of the interior was presumably originally accessed from the outside via an earth ramp on the north side. The difference in the wear pattern on the foundation supports this theory. Doors on the upper level of the barn on the east and west sides likely facilitated hay slings. Two barn cupolas/vents on the east and west gables of the roof as well as vents under the fascia provided ventilation for the building.

Historical/Associative Value

The property at 2838 Bovaird Drive West has historical or associative value for its connection to the Laird and Lucy Maud Montgomery families. As a homestead for one of the first families in the area, it also contributes to the understanding and history of the agricultural community of Norval.

The subject lands were occupied throughout most of the 19th and 20th centuries by the Laird family of Norval. The Lairds, a well-known United Empire Loyalist farming family, owned the property for over 140 years, beginning with Peter Laird who came to Upper Canada from Montpelier, Vermont in 1833. Peter Laird was a building contractor and the son of a shipbuilder who emigrated to the United States from Perthshire, Scotland.

Peter Laird purchased the west half of Lot 11 on Concession 6 in West Chinguacousy from Lewis Bradley in 1840, and was one of the first settlers of Norval. By 1851, he lived in a brick house with his wife, Catherine Miller, and his children. This home was lost to fire in 1885.

Peter Laird and his sons, Alfred, John, Peter, Louis, and Nelson constructed the present house at 2838 Bovaird Drive West in 1886 on the footprint of the original homestead. According to Murray Laird, the grandson of Peter Laird, the year 1886 was carved into the plaster of one of the windows. The Lairds, who operated a carpentry business for a time in Norval, were known for building homes and barns in the area and were paid as much as \$1000 for their work.

Alfred Miller Laird, Peter's youngest son, inherited the land from his father and lived at the ancestral residence, "Lairdholme", until his death in 1934. During this time, the Lairds grew a variety of crops including grain, barley, oats, wheat, turnips, and cow feed, and also raised poultry, sheep, dairy and beef cattle, and pigs. Alfred Laird was a well-known resident, and in his later years became heavily involved in the community as Chairman of the School Board. He was also a loyal Liberal supporter like his father.

Following Alfred's death, the property was taken over by his son, Murray Laird, the last of the family to farm on the property. Murray was a breeder of Jersey cattle and specialized in fruit growing. Shortly after his father's death, he married Marion Webb, the cousin of Lucy Maud Montgomery. She was a native of Green Gables, Prince Edward Island and met Murray during a stay in Norval with Lucy Maud. Murray Laird passed away in 1987. The family is also connected through marriage to other significant Peel families including the McClures and Haggerts.

Contextual Value

The property at 2838 Bovaird Drive West has contextual value as it helps to maintain and support the rural character of the area and is located in the Provincial Greenbelt Plan. It is also historically linked to the historic hamlet of Norval just west of the property. Other properties in the area also bear the Laird name, such as Laird's Hill along the road to Norval which is considered a cultural heritage landscape.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The heritage attributes comprise all façades, architectural detailing, construction materials and associated building techniques, as well as significant landscape elements and important vistas. The detailed heritage attributes/character defining elements include, but are not limited to:

- Italianate architectural style
- Two storey height
- Low pitched hipped roof
- Red brick cladding
- Overhanging eaves
- Paired wood brackets
- Wood soffit
- Wood frieze with detailing
- Wood fascia
- Wood dentil bedmould
- Wood sash windows
- Wood shutters
- Voussoirs
- Corbelled chimney
- Bay windows with bell cast roof and decorative paired brackets
- Porch with square columns and decorative millwork
- Side porch with square posts and decorative millwork
- Gambrel-roofed barn
- Fieldstone wall
- Setback of house from Bovaird Drive West
- Mature trees and vegetation

The short statement of reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the detailed Heritage Report: Statement of Reason for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Please contact Antonietta Minichillo, Heritage Coordinator, at 905.874.3744 to view this document, and for further information. Any objections to this proposed designation must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on July 3, 2016 (within 30 days of the publication of this notice).

Date: June 3, 2016

Peter Fay, City Clerk
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