



Corporate Report

NO: R037

COUNCIL DATE: March 10, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: March 7, 2008

FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development

FILE: 6800-20-203

SUBJECT: Statements of Significance for the Canadian Register of Historic Places

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve the Statements of Significance ("SOS"), related to seven rural schools in Surrey, attached as Appendix I to this report, for uploading to the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of seven additional SOS, drafted with the assistance of Don Luxton and Associates Inc. This report seeks Council's approval to forward the SOS to the Province, for uploading to the Canadian Register of Historic Places ("CRHP").

BACKGROUND

Between January 24, 2005 and September 11, 2006, Council received and approved the uploading to the CRHP, of 74 SOS, related to significant heritage sites, features and buildings in the City of Surrey. They were the product of work undertaken in conjunction with the City's Heritage Advisory Commission ("HAC"), with the assistance of Provincial funding.

A SOS is the format that has been chosen as a standard to describe heritage sites in Canada under the Federal Heritage Places Initiative ("HPI"). The HPI is a new approach, established by the Federal government, to assess heritage sites.

A SOS has a main descriptive element, consisting of the following three parts:

Location: This is a description that is designed to paint a picture of "the place" deemed to have heritage significance;

Heritage Value: This is a description of what is perceived to give a site heritage significance; and

Character-Defining Elements: This lists the physical elements that express the heritage value of the place.

Additional funding for this program was made available by the Province for 2007/2008. A recommendation from the HAC, approved by Council on October 1, 2007, directed staff to proceed with the preparation of SOS for an additional seven sites, with the assistance of Don Luxton and Associates. The City of Surrey is eligible for a \$9,000 grant in 2008, subject to forwarding the SOS to the Province by March 15, 2008.

On January 30, 2008, the HAC reviewed and found acceptable, the seven SOS, attached as Appendix I to this report.

This report seeks Council approval for uploading of these seven sites to the CRHP.

DISCUSSION

SOS have been undertaken in the last four years for 74 sites, selected from the Surrey Heritage Register, that were:

- Protected (e.g., subject to a Heritage Designation By-law or Heritage Revitalization Agreement By-law);
- Owned by a government or a private or public institution, such as a church or community hall;
- Part of an assembly of buildings operated as a single historical entity, such as a farm; or
- Sites in communities of Surrey that are under-represented on the CRHP.

The sites selected from the Surrey Heritage Register for this year's review are rural area schools. The sites include:

- **Clayton Elementary School (7541 - 184 Street)**

Clayton's first school opened in 1891, in a log cabin. That was replaced by the current building in 1921. The area is undergoing a transition from a suburban to an urban community. This SOS will assist in integrating this heritage site and landmark into the fabric of a new community.

- **Crescent Park Annex (2378 - 124 Street)**

The school opened in 1918 on donated land. It is only one of two one-room schoolhouses in Surrey that remains on its original site. It also has both architectural and historic significance. Unlike other schools, this one was not expanded to accommodate student growth.

- **East Kensington Elementary School (2795 - 184 Street)**

A one-room schoolhouse was built on this site in 1907, and the larger school was built in 1924. It is a common two-room school, elevated to provide play area and services on the lower floor. It retains its historic character and is a neighbourhood landmark. It represents efforts at adapting existing schools rather than removing them to build new ones.

- **Grandview Heights Elementary School Annex (17561 - 20 Avenue)**

This one-room schoolhouse, located behind the main school, is one of only two one-room schools on its original site in Surrey that is used for teaching purposes. Built in 1922, it retains the original double hung windows, six panes over six.

- **Mud Bay School (4382 King George Highway)**

This represents one of the remaining early schools, as well as exemplifies the adaptation and re-use of the school as a residence after the Elgin School was built to serve this rural area. This is an example of how former institutional buildings can be viably re-used and adapted while retaining their heritage character.

- **Port Kells Elementary School (19076 - 88 Avenue)**

Built in 1907, the site has been a focal point of Port Kells since 1891. Neo-Georgian influence in original massing, original siding has been replaced with stucco, and steel brackets have replaced the original wooden ones. The roof form is symmetrical hip with flared eaves, and double gables flank the main entry. This SOS assessment offers the opportunity to understand what key restorations would be most critical to restore the building to its original conditions.

- **Kensington Prairie Elementary School (16842 - 32 Avenue)**

This Craftsman style school built in 1914 is the third site for this school. The original site was across the street, in a shed structure offered for school use. The later school addition was done with little damage to existing building facades. Original detailing was preserved when covered over by stucco and the original building details are evident.

The sites include five schools owned by the Surrey School District. The East Kensington Elementary School is now owned by the City of Surrey and the former Mud Bay School is a private residence.

The Surrey School District arranged for Don Luxton and Associates to conduct field inspections of the identified schools still owned by the District. The drafts of the SOS were referred to the School District for comments in December 2007. The School District, in its response, has expressed reluctance in having any of their schools identified on a national level, as it gives a "perception" of the buildings being protected. They also referenced their opposition during the 2000 Heritage Register Review for having any schools listed by Council on the Surrey Heritage Register. However, Council made the decision at that time to add a number of heritage schools, including the ones that are the subject of this report, to the register due to their historical significance to Surrey. It is noted that listing on the CRHP does not provide protection, does not impose notification requirements and does not require referrals or approvals from federal government agencies. Building permit or heritage review processes or other City approvals are not affected by the national listing.

The City must submit the SOS to the Province by March 15, 2008, to qualify for the full grant of \$9,000. To meet this deadline, the SOS, attached as Appendix I, are being forwarded to Council for consideration. Once authorized by Council, the SOS will be forwarded to the Province.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to forward to the Province for uploading to the CRHP, the seven SOS that are attached as Appendix I to this report.

Jean Lamontagne
General Manager
Planning and Development

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Attachment:

Appendix I Statements of Significance