

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

March 1, 2000

To: Toronto Community Council

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) – Designation Under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Downtown

Purpose:

This report recommends that the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement :

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations :

It is recommended that:

- (1) City Council designate the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- (2) City Council request the Ontario Realty Corporation to require any future owner of the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) to enter into an Heritage Easement Agreement as a condition of the sale.
- (3) City Council request the Ontario Realty Corporation to consult with the Ontario Heritage Foundation about a provincial Heritage Easement Agreement on the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House).
- (4) should an Heritage Easement Agreement not be secured at the time of sale, City Council require any future owner of the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House)

to enter into an Heritage Easement Agreement with the City of Toronto as a condition of the rezoning of the site.

- (5) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

At its meeting of January 27, 2000, the Toronto Preservation Board had before it a staff report on the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) and adopted the recommendations listed above.

The property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) was included on the *City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties* on September 19, 1983. It is one of four adjoining properties at 515 and 519 Jarvis Street and 2 and 4 Wellesley Place that are currently for sale by the Ontario Realty Corporation. The Toronto Preservation Board considers the properties to be nationally significant.

Comments:

The property at 519 Jarvis Street is designated for architectural and historical reasons. The Chester D. Massey House was constructed in 1883 according to the designs of the important Toronto architect, E. J. Lennox. In 1907, the architectural firm of Sproatt and Rolph designed additions to the house, incorporating an interior mural by artist Gustav Hahn. Chester D. Massey served as the president of Massey-Harris Company, the largest producer of agricultural implements in the British Empire. The house was the childhood home of Vincent Massey, the first Canadian-born Governor General, and Raymond Massey, the famed Broadway and Hollywood actor.

The Chester D. Massey House is an excellent example of Queen Anne Revival design. A cross-gable roof with gabled dormers and brick chimneys covers the 2½-storey house. The north wing and the south entrance block have flat roofs. Resting on a rubblestone and brick foundation, the house is constructed of brick with red brick cladding and brick, stone, wood and terra cotta trim. Significant exterior features are the bay window on the principal (east) façade, the square bay window, oriel window, and corner tower on the south wall, the terra cotta clad jetty, oriel window and two-storey porch on the rear (east) wall, and the oriel window on the north wall. The house is extended to the north by a single-storey wing with a casement window on the north wall and a balcony on the east wall. An entrance bay with a sunroom and a porte cochere is attached to the south end of the house.

The first-floor vestibule, stairhall, drawing room, parlour, dining room and butler's pantry, the second-floor study and, in the north wing, the main-floor picture gallery and the basement billiards room are identified as significant interior areas. The interior elements are described in detail in the Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons for Designation). In the northeast corner of the site, a late 19th century stable assists in defining the original context of the property.

The property at 519 Jarvis Street is located on the east side of Jarvis Street in the first block north of Wellesley Street East. The Chester D. Massey House is historically important through its association with three generations of the Massey family and their contributions to the industrial development of Toronto and to Canadian government and culture. The house is an excellent example of late-19th century architectural design with significant interior features. The property at 519 Jarvis Street is important in context with “Euclid Hall” (Arthur McMaster/Hart A. Massey House) at 515 Jarvis Street and with the adjoining properties at 2 and 4 Wellesley Place.

Conclusions:

The Toronto Preservation Board recommends that City Council designate the property at 519 Jarvis Street (Chester D. Massey House) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

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Joe Halstead
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List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map – 519 Jarvis Street