



Recommendation to Designate 1099 King Street East, Hamilton (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool) Under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* PED21211 (Ward 3)

Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee

October 29, 2021

Aerial Image



Front / South Elevation



3

Background

- Staff received a third-party request for designation in September 2013
- In December 2013 the subject property was added to the Municipal Heritage Register and added to the work plan for designation
- In May 2018 the City retained Golder Associates Ltd to complete a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, which was revised and finalized in May 2021
- The Cultural Heritage Assessment recommended the property's designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Historical Background

- Opened in 1930 to serve for the inaugural British Empire Games, later the Commonwealth Games
- Home to the Hamilton Aquatic Club
- Named for Jimmy Thompson, a former Olympic athlete, swimming coach and instructor.



Photograph of the pool published in the December 14, 1929 Hamilton Spectator

Historical Background



Front façade of the pool, presumed while the building was still under construction since there is a board leaning against the wall that names the J. Earle Smith Construction Company and E.H. Darling.

Architect: Reginald Edwardes McDonnell
Engineer: Ernest Howard Darling

James (Jimmy) Gilmore Thompson,
1906-1966

- 1928 Amsterdam Olympics
- Gold with relay team at British Empire Games in 1930 at pool that now bears his name
- Coach of Hamilton Aquatic Club
- Coach for 33 years
- Teaching est. 60,000 children to swim
- 'Mr. Swimming'
- 1959 Thompson was named Hamilton's Citizen of the Year

Historical Background



Relevant Consultation

- The recommendation to add the property to the Register and the designation work plan was supported by the **Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee** at their December 19, 2013 meeting
- The **Inventory and Research Working Group** of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee reviewed and commented on the Cultural Heritage Assessment at their October 28 and November 25, 2019 meetings
- The **Ward 3 Councillor** has been informed of the recommendation to designate the subject property
- Note: The ***Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)*** requires that Council consult with its Municipal Heritage Committee respecting designation of property under Section 29 of the OHA

Cultural Heritage Evaluation for Heritage Designation

The property was found meet seven of the nine criteria contained in Ontario Regulation 9/06 in all three categories.

Design / Physical Value:

- The property is a rare and well executed example of a pre-1950 competition and public indoor pool and a unique example of Edwardian Classicism, demonstrates a high degree of artistic merit and technical achievement

Historical / Associative Value:

- The property has direct associations with the British Empire Games and Jimmy Thompson

Contextual Value:

- The property is important for contributing to the local architectural character, being the last remaining structure of the British Empire Games, and as a landmark

Heritage Attributes

Five-bay, two-storey south facade built in the Edwardian Classicism style with:



Semi-circular headed windows with two orders of gauged brick voussoirs and keystone, and filled with decorative brick

Flemish bond masonry combined with stone string courses and strong cornice

'Kicked' hip roof with skylights



Tall brick chimney on the west facade

Heritage Attributes

Interior features including:



Roof trusses



Spoon-shaped basin with di-chromatic tiling

Tiled pool barrier wall

Ascending concrete bleachers



Tiled changing rooms

Iron coal furnace door



Heritage Attributes

Attributes that reflect the property's contextual attributes include its:



Continued use for a municipal pool and as part of a larger recreation and sport land use area

Orientation to the street with minimal setback

Landmark qualities from its siting and clear sightlines on King Street East

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Conclusion:

- The subject property meets seven of nine criteria for designation under Ontario Regulation 9/06
- As such, staff recommend the subject property be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*
- With respect to the potential changes to the building, any proposal to affecting the heritage attributes will be subject to the approval of a Heritage Permit and any other required applications



Hamilton

THANK YOU