



**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Planning Division**

<b>TO:</b> Chair and Members Planning Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> WARD 3
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> December 3, 2013	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Request to Designate 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool) Under Part IV of the <u>Ontario Heritage Act</u> (PED13182) (Ward 3)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Joe-Anne Priel Acting General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Alissa Golden (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1214
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That Council include 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool) in the Municipal *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*, as per the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, and that staff make appropriate amendments to the *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*;
- (b) That Council direction to staff pertaining to further Cultural Heritage Assessment of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool), to determine whether the property is of cultural heritage value worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, be added to the Outstanding Business List pending further information on the programming requirements for the proposed recreation facility for the Pan Am Stadium Precinct;

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- (c) That Report PED13182 be forwarded to the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee for information and consultation prior to the Council-approved inclusion of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool) in the Municipal *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*;
- (d) Subject to Council support of Recommendation (a) of PED13182, that Council receive this report as notice of intention to demolish Scott Park Arena, listed as 876 Cannon Street East but located on the subject property municipally addressed as 1099 King Street East (Hamilton).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On September 3, 2013, staff received a third-party request for designation of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool), under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The City-owned property, municipally addressed as 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (see Appendix "A"), is comprised of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool and Scott Park Arena, listed as 1099 King Street East, and 876 Cannon Street East, respectively, and Scott Park.

Under the Council-approved designation process, this Report contains background on the request and the proposed redevelopment of the subject property, and summarizes the preliminary evaluation of the building using the criteria contained in *Ontario Regulation 9/06*, to provide the basis for a recommendation for addressing the request for designation and further assessment work.

Redevelopment of the southeast portion of the subject property is being proposed for the construction of a new recreation facility as part of a comprehensive community plan for the Pan Am Stadium Precinct. During the planning process, Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool was identified as a potential cultural heritage resource. As a result, staff commissioned the Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment of the existing facility, which indicates that the building is of cultural heritage value or interest and identifies attributes worthy of conservation and integration into the new proposed facility.

Staff concludes that Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is of cultural heritage value or interest due to its physical design, its setting within the community and its historic association with the development of public recreation facilities in the City of Hamilton. Through this Report, staff recommend that Council direct staff to carry out a Cultural Heritage Assessment of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool) to determine whether the property is of cultural heritage value worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

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Staff recommends that the determination of the work program priority for further Cultural Heritage Assessment work be added to the Outstanding Business List pending further information on the programming requirements for the proposed recreation facility for the Pan Am Stadium Precinct. In doing so, Council will be presented with the necessary information to make a decision about potential designation of Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool in relation to the potential redevelopment of the site, including the feasibility of integrating the identified heritage attributes into the new recreation facility given the programming requirements.

Further, staff recommends that 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) be included in the Municipal *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. Inclusion in the Register will ensure that the cultural heritage value or interest and identified Heritage Attributes of the building are conserved during redevelopment of the site should designation not be pursued in the short term.

In addition, demolition of Scott Park Arena is being proposed as part of the redevelopment of the subject property. Subject to Council support to include the subject property in the Municipal Register, staff also recommends that Council receive this Report as a notice of intention to demolish Scott Park Arena in order to start the required 60-day moratorium on the demolition of any building or structure on a property included in the Municipal Register.

***Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 10.***

<b>FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
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Financial: None.

Staffing: None.

Legal: The City's Legal Council was consulted in the preparation of the original staff Report regarding the new designation process (Report PED08211). As per the designating process approved by Council on October 29, 2008, this Report provides staff with direction to complete further research and evaluation of the property for a later decision by Council. If staff is directed to proceed, Council will make a decision on designation at a subsequent state in the designation process when it has before it staff advice, the Cultural Heritage Assessment, a draft designation By-law, advice from the Municipal Heritage Committee, and the positions of any other interested parties.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

On June 27, 2013, staff were copied on a third-party request to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport for designation of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) known as Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The City-owned property, municipally addressed as 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (see Appendix "A"), is comprised of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool (listed at 1099 King Street East), Scott Park Arena (listed as 876 Cannon Street East) and Scott Park. The request demonstrated a public interest in the preservation of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool as a potential cultural heritage resource (see the request and Ministry response attached as Appendix "B").

As a result of the request to the Province, Municipal staff commissioned a consultant in July 2013 to prepare a Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment of the building as part of the Stadium Precinct planning process and the proposed redevelopment of the subject site for a new recreation facility. The assessment report (attached as Appendix "C"), finalized on August 20, 2013, indicates that the building has cultural heritage value or interest and identifies Heritage Attributes worthy of conservation and integration into the new proposed facility.

On September 3, 2013, staff received a third-party request for designation of 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool), under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (see Appendix "B"). Under the Council-approved process for considering requests for designation (see Appendix "D"), this Report includes a preliminary screening using the criteria contained in *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (see Appendix "E"), as identified in the consultant's Preliminary Screening Report, to determine if the property warrants inclusion in the Municipal Register, and to determine if further Cultural Heritage Assessment work is warranted.

Through this Report, staff recommends that further assessment work is warranted, but that the Council postpone directing staff to carry out further assessment work until such time as rehabilitation of the existing facility has been adequately explored. Furthermore, staff recommends that Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool be included in the Municipal *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* to ensure that the cultural heritage value or interest, and identified Heritage Attributes of the building, are conserved during redevelopment of the site should designation not be pursued in the short term.



**Work Program Priority:**

The Council-approved designation process provides for the prioritization of detailed research and assessment work, including the preparation of a comprehensive Cultural Heritage Assessment report and draft designation By-law. Committee and Council may assign a high, medium, or low priority to a designation request in the context of a one- to five-year timeframe. Work program priorities are assigned based on a number of factors, including:

- Risk of the property with respect to demolition or removal;
- Funding eligibility;
- Heritage value associated with the property;
- Current level of property maintenance;
- The property is City-owned; and,
- Work program/staff resources.

The currently approved work program priorities are contained in Appendix “F”. An analysis of staff recommendations can be found on Page 6 of this Report.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

**Ontario Heritage Act:**

Inclusion in the *Municipal Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* under Section 27 (1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act requires that Council be given 60-days notice of the intention to demolish or remove any building or structure on the property, and the demolition and removal of any building or structure is prohibited during this time period.

**Urban Hamilton Official Plan:**

Section B.3.4 - *Cultural Heritage Resources Policies* of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP) states that the City shall “protect and conserve the tangible cultural heritage resources of the City, including archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes for present and future generations” (B.3.4.2.1(a)) and “identify cultural heritage resources through a continuing process of inventory, survey, and evaluation, as a basis for the wise management of these resources” (B.3.4.2.1(b)).

The policies also provide that the “City may, by By-law, designate individual and groups of properties of cultural heritage value under Parts IV and V, respectively, of the Ontario Heritage Act” (B.3.4.2.3) and “encourage the rehabilitation, renovation, and restoration of built heritage resources in order that they remain in active use” (B.3.4.1.4).

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The UHOP states that the City shall ensure that properties listed in the *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* will be “protected from harm in the carrying out of any undertaking subject to the Environmental Assessment Act or the Planning Act” (B.3.4.2.5) and, as such a cultural heritage impact assessment shall be required by the City as part of a Planning Act application that “has the potential to adversely affect” an identified cultural heritage resource (B.3.4.2.12).

### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

This Report is the initial stage in the consideration of a request for designation; staff will follow the Council-approved process (see Appendix “D”) and formally consult with the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, prior to inclusion of the subject property in the Register.

### **ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

#### **1099 King Street East (Hamilton) (Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool):**

1099 King Street East is a 5.6-acre City-owned property (PIN# 172120029, see location map attached as Appendix “A”) comprised of two addresses:

- 1099 King Street East (Roll No. 251803026351570): 0.4 acres comprised of Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool; and,
- 876 Cannon Street East (Roll No. 251803026351630): 5.2-acres comprised of Scott Park Arena and Scott Park.

The subject building, listed as 1099 King Street East, is located on the northwest corner of King Street East and Balsam Avenue North. The two-storey building, designed in the Mediterranean or Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style, was constructed in 1930 with significant modifications made in 1974-75, including a brick one-storey front addition. The property is considered to be of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### **Preliminary Assessment:**

In 2006, the Province issued criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act (see Appendix “E”). The regulation identifies three broad categories of criteria: Design/Physical Value, Historical/Associative Value, and Contextual Value, under which three subsets of criteria are further identified.

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Staff commissioned a consultant in July 2013 to prepare a Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment of the building as part of the Stadium Precinct planning process and the proposed redevelopment of the subject site for a new recreation facility. The assessment report, finalized on August 20, 2013, indicates that the building has cultural heritage value or interest, and identifies heritage attributes worthy of conservation and integration into the new proposed facility.

The following are the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Heritage Attributes outlined in the consultant's preliminary assessment report, and the summary statements for each of the three broad categories of criteria contained in *Ontario Regulation 9/06*. For the full Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment report, please refer to Appendix "C".

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

*The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is the only remaining structure from the 1930 British Empire Games. The building was the first municipal pool built by the City of Hamilton and opened in the year that the City assumed responsibility for the operation of municipal recreational facilities. The bleachers, barrier walls, tiling, and the various tiers of the swimming pool floor create a distinctive character of a purpose-built competitive-event swimming pool. The extensive use of poured concrete has produced a very functional interior finish to the building. The Mediterranean style front facade has been partially obscured by the 1974 addition, but the upper level of windows and hipped, low-pitch roofs are distinctive elements of the building.*

Heritage Attributes:

*The primary exterior heritage attributes of the building are:*

- *Low-pitch, hip roofs of the front (south) façade*
- *Romanesque Arches on the front façade*
- *Band courses of stone and decorative red brick on the front façade*
- *Large brick chimney on the west façade*

*The primary interior heritage attributes of the building are:*

- *Skylight trusses (if surviving)*
- *Concrete bleachers*
- *Pool staircases from change rooms*
- *Tiled pool barrier wall*
- *Pipe tunnels and pool lighting system (to confirm)*
- *Graffiti in the ground floor storage room*

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Design/Physical Value:

*Although modifications made over time for ground floor, the pool level is largely unchanged from when it was built in 1930. The skylight trusses may or may not have design value; they were not visible during the site assessment.*

Historical/Associative Value:

*The pool was built in conjunction with, and used by the first, 1930 British Empire Games (Now Commonwealth Games).*

*The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is the only surviving structure from this event. The Canadian, James (Jimmy) Thompson won the gold medal at the British Empire Games in Hamilton for the 4 x 400 yard freestyle relay event held in the Memorial Pool.*

*The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool was the first municipal pool built by City of Hamilton. The demand for public pools was stimulated by the declining water quality of Hamilton Bay.*

*The design of the pool may or may not have historic value but no comparable sites were assessed in this report. The use of pool tunnels to service the pool, the commonness of large roof skylights, and the number and size of comparable pools built in the early 20th century in Ontario would affect its historic value.*

Contextual Value:

*The Mediterranean architectural elements of the front façade, and the building's massing, fit into the neighbourhood setting. However, the building is visually dominated by the adjacent Scott Park Secondary School building.*

**Conservation Recommendations:**

Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool has been determined to be of cultural heritage value or interest and, as such, is an identified cultural heritage resource. Cultural Heritage Resource Policies in the Urban Hamilton Official Plan not only promote the protection and conservation of built heritage resources (B.3.4.2.1a), but also encourage the rehabilitation of those resources to ensure they remain in active use (B.3.4.1.4).

Redevelopment of the subject site for a new recreation facility is being proposed as part of a comprehensive community plan for the Pan Am Stadium Precinct, with the goal to increase fitness and community space and provide greater access to recreation and community activities for all ages. Staff from the Recreation Division are in the process of identifying the program requirements for the proposed new facility.

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As part of the planning process, staff commissioned the Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment of the existing facility to identify the potential heritage value and attributes worthy of conservation and integration into the new proposed facility. Staff are currently commissioning a consultant to develop a range of design options for the proposed facility to determine the feasible methods of conservation given the program and facility requirements, and the heritage attributes, identified in the preliminary assessment report. Planning staff continue to work closely with staff from the Recreation Division on the proposed redevelopment of the subject site and are included in the joint staff committees reviewing the development of the project.

Staff recommends that further assessment work is warranted, but that the Council postpone directing staff to carry out further assessment until such time as rehabilitation of the existing facility has been adequately explored (see Recommendation (b)). In doing so, Council will be presented with the necessary information to make a decision about potential designation of Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool in relation to the potential redevelopment of the site, including the feasibility of integrating the identified Heritage Attributes into the new recreation facility given the programming requirements. Adding the determination on the work program priority for further assessment work to the Outstanding Business List shows regard for the planning process currently underway as part of the Pan Am Stadium Precinct and for the efficient allocation of staff resources.

In the interim, staff recommends that Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool be included in the Municipal *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* to facilitate the conservation of the identified Heritage Attributes during redevelopment of the site, should designation not be pursued in the short term. In addition, inclusion in the Register requires that Council be given 60-days notice of the intention to demolish or remove any building or structure on the property, prohibiting any demolition and removal during this time period.

**Notice of Intention to Demolish:**

Staff notes that Scott Park Arena, listed as 876 Cannon Street East and located on the subject property, has not been identified as being of potential cultural heritage value or interest. Demolition of the arena is being proposed as part of the redevelopment of the property. If Council supports the staff recommendation directing staff to include 1099 King Street East (Hamilton) in the Municipal Register, then the required 60-day notice of intention to demolish will also apply to Scott Park Arena. In order to expedite the process, staff have included a recommendation for Council to receive this report as a notice of intention of demolish Scott Park Arena on the subject property in order to start the 60-day period (see Recommendation (d)).

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Council may consider the following alternatives:

- Council may decide not to include the subject property in the *Municipal Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. If the property is not included in the Register, then staff would be unable to protect the heritage resource from demolition and/or review any potential redevelopment. This alternative is not considered to be an appropriate conservation alternative.
- Council may direct staff to not complete a Cultural Heritage Assessment, and no further work will be completed by staff. This alternative is contrary to the Council-approved process for considering requests for designation whereby legitimate requests for designation must be addressed, and cannot be dismissed without complete consideration of all the issues.
- Council may assign a work program priority for further Cultural Heritage Assessment work at this time, rather than waiting for an update on the planning process for the new recreation facility proposed for the subject site. Given the consideration of all the factors noted in the Analysis/Rationale for Recommendation section of this Report, staff is of the opinion that postponing the determination of further Cultural Heritage Assessment work is warranted. This alternative may result in the allocation of staff resources and time necessary for the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Assessment and draft designation By-law that is contradictory to the planning processes already underway.

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Strategic Priority #1 - A Prosperous & Healthy Community:**

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

**Strategic Objective:**

1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

**Staff Comments:**

The inclusion of this property in the Register will allow staff the opportunity to review any proposed demolition, new development, or redevelopment on or adjacent to the subject property to ensure consistency with the City's approved planning policies. There is demonstrated public interest in the cultural heritage value of this property and its

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conservation as a community resource. The approval of the recommendations of this Report acknowledges this public interest.

The approval of the recommendations of this Report demonstrates:

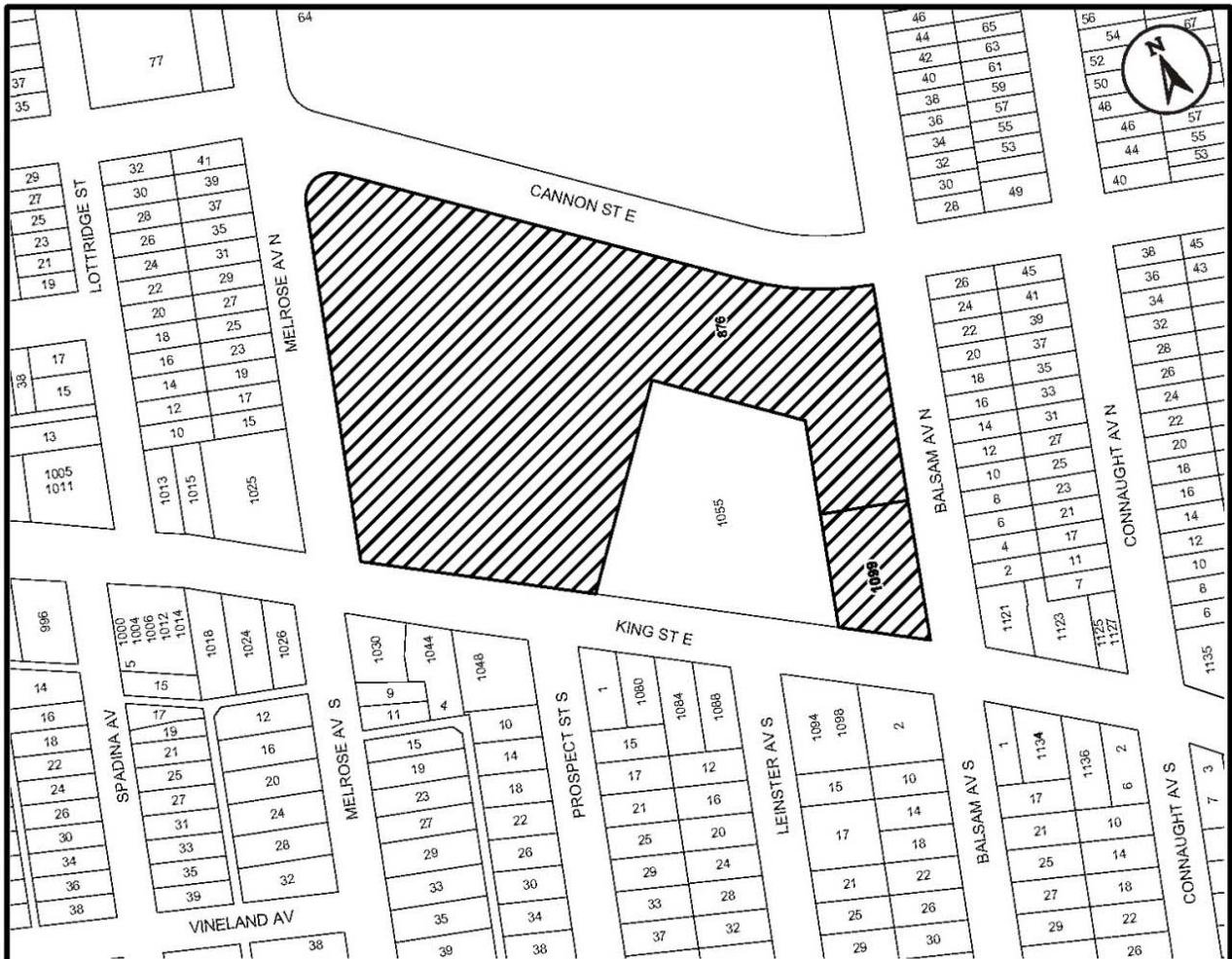
- Council's commitment to the Council-approved designation process and to existing planning policies; and,
- Council's commitment to conserving cultural heritage resources, as directed by Provincial and Federal level policies.

#### **APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

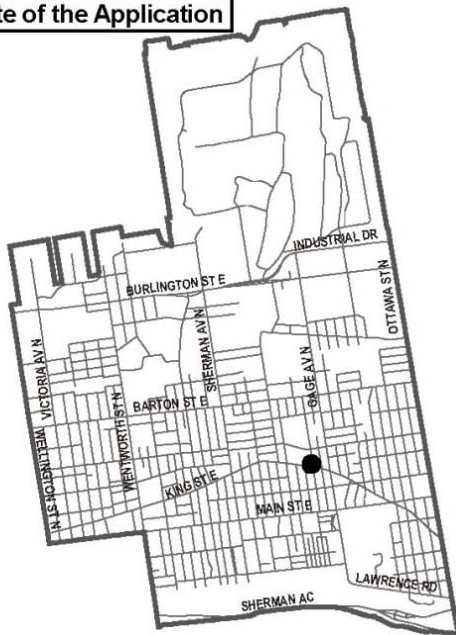
- Appendix "A": Location Map
- Appendix "B": Provincial and Municipal Requests for Designation
- Appendix "C": Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Appendix "D": Council-Approved Designation Process
- Appendix "E": Ontario Regulation 9/06
- Appendix "F": Requests to Designate Properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: Priorities (as amended by Report PED13168)

:AG


Attachs. (6)



● Site of the Application



Ward 3 Key Map

N.T.S. 

## Location Map



**Hamilton**

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

File Name/Number:  
1099 King Street East

Date:  
Sept. 27, 2013

Appendix "A"

Scale:  
N.T.S.

Planner/Technician:  
AG/DB

### Subject Property



1099 King Street East



## Provincial Designation Request

June 21, 2013

**VIA MAIL AND**  
**VIA E-MAIL**

Hon Michael Chan, MPP  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hearst Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2E1  
mchan.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Dear Sir:

**Re: The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool, 1099 King Street East, Hamilton (the "Pool")**

The undersigned are concerned that the City of Hamilton is planning to demolish the Pool, which is an important heritage building and a valuable city asset. If the City Council is unwilling to designate this property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, then this would be an appropriate provincially-significant property for you to designate under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The Pool was built for the FIRST British Empire Games (the "Games") held in Hamilton in the summer of 1930. The world - at the least the part of it that pledged allegiance to the King of England - was coming to swim in a pool that the Games program declared to be "one of the finest in the *Western Hemisphere*". The Pool cost \$110,000.00 to build, is 75 feet long, 25 feet wide, was the first indoor pool in the City of Hamilton and the largest in the Dominion. The brick building has a skylight (now covered over) which during the day would make the Pool as light as if you were swimming outdoors, while at night powerful lights above, together with a special underwater lighting system, would give it a spectacular effect. The viewing area sits 1,200 spectators.

In 1930, 11 countries sent 400 athletes to take part in 6 sports and 59 events at the Games. Bobby Robinson, a major influence within athletics in Canada at the time, finally spearheaded the implementation of what had been talked about amongst Commonwealth nations for over thirty years with the City of Hamilton providing \$30,000.00 to help cover travelling costs of the participating nations.

Since then, the Games have been conducted every four years (except for 1942 and 1946 due to World War II) and the event has seen many changes, not least its name. From 1930 to 1950 the Games were known as the British Empire Games, from 1954 until 1966 the British Empire and Commonwealth Games and from 1970 to 1974 they took on the title of British Commonwealth Games. Then in 1978 at the Edmonton Games this unique, world class and multi-sports event changed its name to the Commonwealth Games.

The City of Hamilton has demolished all of the other structures built for the 1930 Games so the Pool is the only remaining structure.

The Pool has not been significantly altered over the years in part because it was built to last. No other pool in the City of Hamilton offers better spectator viewing. The Pool has been and continues to be a beauty and continues to be used extensively.

Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC) has stated that Canadians have always had a special relationship with the Commonwealth Games in part because Canada was the host of the first Commonwealth Games (Hamilton - 1930).

Some forty years ago the Pool was named after Jimmy Thompson who was one of the competitors in the Pool representing Canada where he and his freestyle relay team won gold for Canada in 1930. In 1932, the City of Hamilton hired Jimmy Thompson as its pool manager but he was more than that. It is estimated he taught 60,000 children how to swim, he looked after the pool like a new car, and he made sure it was scrubbed every day with hard bristle brushes, he produced a great number of swimming champions, he taught youth to be reliant on self and friendly to all, he opened the way for beneficial treatment and enjoyment for those who were physically and mentally challenged through water therapy, he directed youngsters to hundreds of provincial, national and international swimming championships in swimming, diving and water polo. He was known as Mr. Swimming in Hamilton. Demolition of the Pool would be an insult to Jimmy Thompson's memory.

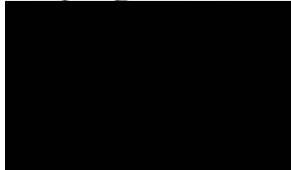
In addition to the heritage reasons for preserving the Pool, there is a saying that "the greenest building is an existing building". It sometime appears that we care more about plastic bottles than buildings. Why demolish this perfectly good building which is still fully used? Such demolition would be a waste of existing City infrastructure and also environmentally irresponsible.

Given your position as the Minister of both Culture and Sport and given the heritage significance of this Hamilton property, we are requesting that you take steps to have this property designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

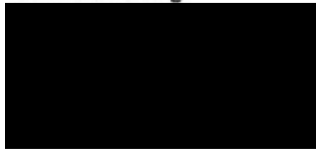
We are also enclosing various photos and newspaper articles. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



Patty Bogumil



Jo-Ann Young



## Municipal Designation Request

August 30, 2013

**VIA MAIL AND**  
**VIA E-MAIL**

The Honorable Bob Bratina  
Mayor of the City of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Sir:

**Re: The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool, 1099 King Street East, Hamilton (the "Pool")**

We believe that the Pool should be designated as a heritage property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and here are the reasons:

1. The Pool was built for the FIRST British Empire Games (the "Games") held in Hamilton in the summer of 1930. **The world - at the least the part of it that pledged allegiance to the King of England - was coming to swim in a pool that the Games program declared to be "one of the finest in the *Western Hemisphere*".**
2. The Pool is unique because it was the first indoor pool in the City of Hamilton and the largest in the Dominion. The brick building has a skylight (now covered over) which during the day would make the Pool as light as if you were swimming outdoors, while at night powerful lights above, together with a special underwater lighting system, would give it a spectacular effect. The viewing area sits 1,200 spectators. No other pool in the City of Hamilton offers better spectator viewing.
3. The materials and design used to build the Pool were the best of the time. There is so much embodied energy in this building. It would be cost prohibitive to lay bricks in the Flemish bond pattern today.
4. The Pool is the last legacy of the British Empire Games in Hamilton. All other buildings have been demolished.

5. Adaptive reuse is often a problem with heritage buildings. This is not a problem with the Pool which is still being used by swim clubs, water polo clubs, public schools competitions and Canusa Games competitions. Also, it is more cost-effective to retrofit the Pool to comply with accessibility legislation than to construct a new facility.

6. The Pool is one of the few remaining examples of Hamilton's built heritage from the 1920-1930's in the neighbourhood.

7. No Hamilton institution could be more closely associated with one man's name as Jimmy Thompson. Some forty years ago the Pool was named after Jimmy Thompson who was one of the competitors in the Pool representing Canada where he and his freestyle relay team won gold for Canada in 1930. In 1932, the City of Hamilton hired Jimmy Thompson as its pool manager but he was more than that. It is estimated he taught 60,000 children how to swim, he produced a great number of swimming champions, he taught youth to be reliant on self and friendly to all, he opened the way for beneficial treatment and enjoyment for those who were physically and mentally challenged through water therapy, he directed youngsters to hundreds of provincial, national and international swimming championships in swimming, diving and water polo. He was known as Mr. Swimming in Hamilton. Demolition of the Pool would be an insult to Jimmy Thompson's memory.

8. Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC) has stated that Canadians have always had a special relationship with the Commonwealth Games in part because Canada was the host of the first Commonwealth Games (Hamilton - 1930).

9. A project of the Corporation of the City of Hamilton through the Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee of the Hamilton Historical Board/Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee had a plaque Unveiling Jimmy Thompson/British Empire Games on September 13, 1997.

10. The Pool has not been significantly altered over the years in part because it was built to last so it still embodies its 1930 heritage attributes.

Given the heritage significance of this Hamilton property, we are requesting that you take steps to have this property designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. If we can assist the City's staff in assessing the heritage value of the Pool by providing further information, we would be pleased to do so. In addition to the heritage value of the Pool, there are other valid reasons to preserve this building.

We are also enclosing various photos and newspaper articles. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

*Jo-Ann Young*  
*Patty Bogumil*

Jo-Ann Young



Patty Bogumil



20 August 2013



FINAL REPORT



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

**Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool**  
**1099 King Street East, Part of Lot 7, Concession 2**  
**Geographic Township of Barton, City of Hamilton**  
**Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, Ontario**

**Submitted to:**

Ms. Alissa Golden, MCIP, RPP  
City of Hamilton  
Planning and Economic Development Department  
Development Planning, Heritage and Design  
71 Main Street West, 5th Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5  
Tel: (905) 546-2424 Ext:1214

**Report Number: 13-1136-0032-R01**

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**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

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**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A**

Statement of Qualifications: Christopher Andreae



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 1.0 STUDY PURPOSE

#### 1.1 Study Purpose

The City of Hamilton retained Golder Associates Ltd to prepare a Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment describing the potential cultural heritage value or interest of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool at 1099 King Street, Hamilton (Map 1). The property is located within the City of Hamilton's Stadium Precinct Area, which is undergoing a Neighbourhood Strategy for revitalization in conjunction with construction of a new Stadium for the 2015 Pan American Games.

#### 1.2 Study Method

This Cultural Heritage Assessment Report was prepared following the outline in Appendix 1 of the City of Hamilton Terms of Reference for this assignment.

An overview history of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool building was prepared to evaluate the cultural significance of the building (See Section 2). A field assessment of the building was undertaken in July, 2013 to identify and photograph potential heritage features of the property (See Section 3). The building was evaluated using O.Reg 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. (See Section 4).

This Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken by Christopher Andreae, Senior Built Heritage Specialist, Golder Associates. His qualifications are provided in Appendix A of this report.

When completed in 1930, the pool was known simply as the Hamilton Municipal Pool. The building was renamed the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool sometime between 1966 and 1975.




**REFERENCE**

PLAN BASED ON CANMAP STREETFILES V.2008.

**NOTES**

THIS DRAWING IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ACCOMPANYING TEXT.

ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

PROJECT		JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT			
TITLE		STUDY AREA MAP			
PROJECT No.	13-1136-0032	FILE No.	1311360032-R01001		
CADD	LMK	July 31/13	SCALE	AS SHOWN	REV. 0
CHECK			<b>MAP 1</b>		
		LONDON, ONTARIO			



## 2.0 SITE HISTORY

### 2.1 Design of Indoor Public Swimming Pools

By the time the Hamilton Municipal Pool opened in 1930, the design and construction of indoor public swimming pools was well understood. As early as 1888 the first indoor YMCA pool in Canada was built in Toronto and was followed in 1892 with one at the Montreal YMCA. In 1894 the YMCA in Hamilton built an indoor pool for swimming classes and provided free swimming with funds provided by the City.<sup>1</sup>

The Municipal Pool dimensions of 75 by 45 feet were in keeping with the standardization of design that was occurring in the 1920s. By then, the optimal pool dimensions in Britain were of 75 feet in length and 30-49 feet wide while in the United States typical dimensions were 60-75 feet in length and 20-30 feet wide. A length of 75 feet had become the preferred minimum for official swimming events. The width was determined by the number of lanes; based initially on a lane width of five feet wide although this lane width increased over time. By the 1950s seven-foot wide lanes were the minimum width for competitive swimming pools.<sup>2</sup>

International competitive swimming venues, particularly the Olympics, adopted multiple of 25 metres (82 feet). The 1908 British Olympics was the first time a pool – albeit temporary and outdoors – was used; the previous three Games had used a sea, lake and river. The 1908 pool was also the only metric pool – 100m by 15 m – built in Britain until the 1960s. The 1924 Paris Olympics was the first indoor Olympic pool.<sup>3</sup> Thus the indoor Hamilton Municipal Pool followed the designs used for major competitive swimming events although in keeping with the Commonwealth use of Imperial measurements it was a 75 ft (25 yd) and not 25 m pool.

No information on the original Municipal Pool’s filtration system was determined. In the early 1920s two methods of water treatment were in use. The “Fill and Draw (or Empty)” system was declining in popularity while the recirculating filtering and chlorination system was becoming common; and was probably used at Hamilton. As the “Fill and Draw” name implies, the pool was filled with water, used for period of time, commonly a week, and then completely emptied and the cycle would start again. Not only did the recirculating system filter and sterilize the water, the pool had a complete changeover every 12 hours or less.<sup>4</sup>

Underwater pool lighting at the Municipal Pool seems to have been a relative new innovation at the time. Apparently pool lighting was introduced into competitive pools as a requirement for water polo.<sup>5</sup>

Skylights figured prominently in the design of British indoor competitive and recreational pools from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.<sup>6</sup> The use of skylights in American pools was not researched in this HIA.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bouchier, Nancy and Ken Cruikshank, “Abandoning Nature: Swimming Pools and Clean, Healthy Recreation in Hamilton, Ontario, circa 1930s-1950s,” *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 28: 2, 2011; Photocopies of undated newspaper clippings provided by City of Hamilton, Planning and Economic Development Department.

<sup>2</sup> Ian Gordon and Simon Inglis. *Great Lengths; The Historic Indoor Swimming Pools of Britain* p 109, 115-116; Nash *Organization and Administration of Playgrounds and Recreation*, 1928 p.453-454; Ramsey and Sleeper. *Architectural Graphic Standards* 1956, 639.

<sup>3</sup> Gordon, . *Great Lengths*, p.119, 175-76.

<sup>4</sup> Nash *Playgrounds and Recreation*, p.464-68; Gordon, . *Great Lengths*; p.116, 118, 171-72.

<sup>5</sup> Ramsey and Sleeper. *Architectural Graphic Standards* p.646.





## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 2.2 The Hamilton Municipal Pool

Two developments led to construction of the Municipal Pool in 1930. The first issue was the declining water quality of Hamilton Harbour in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The second, more specific issue was the holding of the British Empire Games in Hamilton in 1930.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Hamilton citizens that wished to swim used Hamilton Bay. In 1912 the City acquired waterfront land on the bay outside the city limits across the bay on the north shore. The City developed this land as Wabasso (later renamed LaSalle) Park. But as an indication of the growing industrial use of the bay’s water, by the mid-1920s the beach had become so polluted that it could not be used on a regular basis for swimming. Other parts of the Bay continued to be used until they too, became too dirty.<sup>7</sup>

In 1930 Hamilton hosted the first British Empire Games in an area known as Scott Farm, later Scott Park, two blocks west of Gage Ave. The main events were held in the Civic Stadium located between Cannon Street and Beechwood Ave. The stadium was later renamed Ivor Wynne Stadium and remained in use until it was demolished to be replaced with a new facility for the 2015 Pan American Games.

In December 1928 City council proposed a by-law to fund construction of a swimming pool that would be used for the British Empire Games and then become the first municipal pool (Figure 2). The building was to be located in Scott Park, south of the Civic Stadium.<sup>8</sup>

The architect for the Municipal Pool was not identified in this HIA but the design of the pool room skylight and the column decorations seems to hint at British, rather than American design influence. Architecturally the building was designed in the “Mediterranean” or “Italian Renaissance” style popular in the 1920s. The Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion in Toronto, opened June 1922, was a much larger and grander version of the style than that used in Hamilton eight years later; the swimming pool was only completed in 1925 (Figure 1). The original intention was that bathers would use Lake Ontario. However, the water was too cold and the heated, outdoor swimming pool was built. The Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion was designed purely for recreation, unlike the competitive sport design for the Hamilton Municipal Pool. The Sunnyside pool was also immense with dimensions of 300 by 75 feet.<sup>9</sup>

Not all swimming events were held at the Municipal Pool. Swimming and water polo events were held in the pool but the diving events occurred in Hamilton Bay. The diving events for the Games consisted of men’s and women’s 1, 3, 5 and 10 metre boards.<sup>10</sup> Although pool dimensions were Imperial, diving events were metric. Yet the undated, c.1930 Figure 2 depicts what could be a five metre diving board.

<sup>6</sup> Gordon, *Great Lengths*; p.116, 118, 171-72.

<sup>7</sup> According to the authors the business community perceived swimming pools as a technological fix for an urban public health crisis. Artificial pools for swimming allowed Hamilton to abandon the natural waters of the bay in order to promote industrial activity: Bouchier, “Abandoning Nature,” 2011.

<sup>8</sup> Bouchier, “Abandoning Nature,” 2011.

<sup>9</sup> *Toronto Harbour, The Passing Years*. 1985. p.93-96.

<sup>10</sup> Bouchier, “Abandoning Nature,” 2011.



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

Moreover, an article in the *Hamilton Herald* noted that some of the swimmers were practicing off the “high and low diving boards” in the new municipal pool.<sup>11</sup> There appears to be some ambiguity in the location of the diving venues.



Figure 1: Sunnyside Pavilion, Toronto in the 1920s. Source City of Toronto Archives

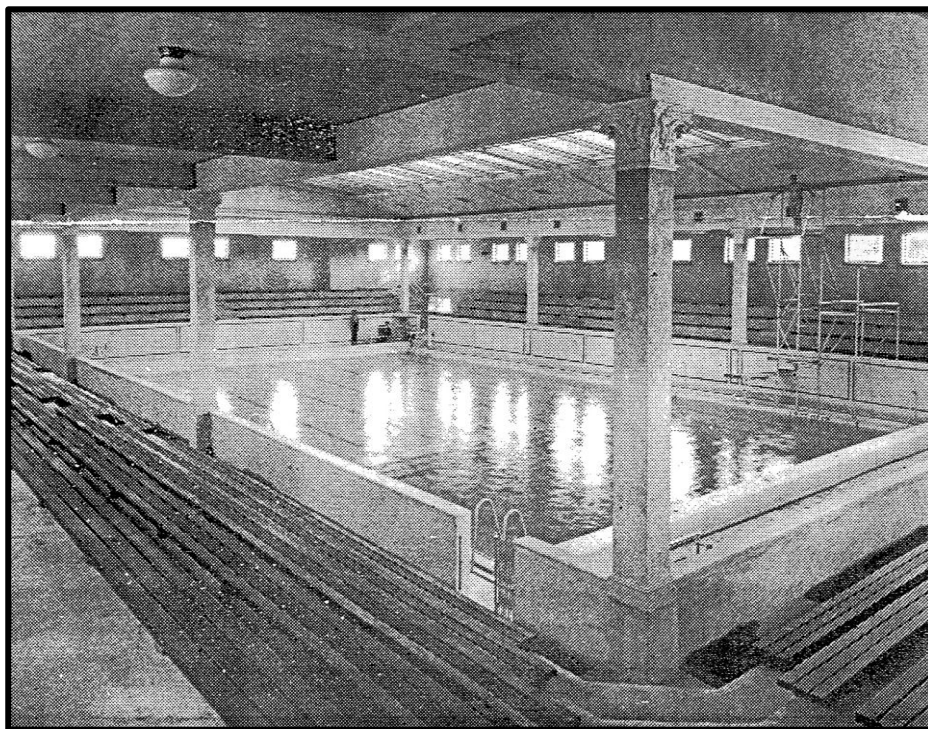


Figure 2: This undated (1930s) photograph shows the pool and bleachers virtually unchanged for the present. The most noticeable changes are the absence of the “Corinthian” column design, skylight, dome lighting over the bleachers, and diving board.

<sup>11</sup> *Hamilton Herald* August 7, 1930.



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The second British Empire Games held in Wembley England in 1934, indicate that the swimming facilities were considerably larger than at Hamilton. The pool was 200 feet by 60 feet with a capacity of 5-7,000 people depending on configuration. The Hamilton Municipal Pool held 1,700. Unlike the Jimmy Thompson the Wembley pool has been covered over and is now an arena for events.<sup>12</sup>

In 1971 the Municipal Pool was renamed the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool in honour of James Thompson for his contributions to teaching swimming in Hamilton. Thompson was born in Scotland, immigrated to Toronto with his family as a child and settled in Hamilton in 1932. In 1928 he was a member of the Canadian team that won the Olympic bronze medal for the 4X200 metre freestyle relay event. At the British Empire Games in 1930 his Canadian team won the gold medal for the 4X200 yard freestyle relay event. He died in 1966.<sup>13</sup>

Based on the types of building materials observed in the site visit, it appears that some renovations dated to the 1960s. The first documented changes were made in 1974/75 (Figures 3-6). This resulted in the removal of the skylight, upgrading of the mechanical systems, and construction of lifeguard change rooms in parts of the men's and women's change room. Visually, the most pronounced change was the construction of an addition to the front of the building to provide public washrooms. The second documented revisions occurred in 2004 and were primarily improvements to health and safety. New railings were installed and an additional emergency escape was built at the north-west corner of the building.

In 1930 the City of Hamilton formally assumed the responsibility for providing playgrounds for its citizens. The Playground and Recreation Commission was appointed by City council to manage and control the City's 17 playgrounds. Prior to this time a volunteer organization known as the Playgrounds Association was organized in 1909 by the local Council of Women.<sup>14</sup>

Municipal pool building in Hamilton seems to have ceased after completion of the Municipal Pool; possibly due first to the Depression and then the War. In 1950 the City's Recreational Council began a program of building outdoor municipal pools. The first was constructed as the Eastwood swimming pool. This was followed a few years with pools at Inch Park, Coronation Park, Parkdale, and Green Acres. With the exception of the Eastwood Pool, the others are still in use today.<sup>15</sup>

Although the Municipal Pool was the first indoor pool constructed by the City of Hamilton, earlier indoor pools existed in the city. In 1894 the YMCA had an indoor pool for swimming classes and provided free swimming with funds provided by the City. The City did not build another indoor pool until the 1960s. In 2008 Hamilton had 17 indoor pools of which five pools had the minimum 25 m Olympic standard and 12 pools were 75 feet/25 yards<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Gordon, *Great Lengths*, p.196-201

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia, "James Thompson;" Photocopies of undated newspaper clippings provided by City of Hamilton Planning and Economic Development Department

<sup>14</sup> Bouchier, , "Abandoning Nature," 2011.

<sup>15</sup> Bouchier, "Abandoning Nature," 2011; Monteith Brown Planning Consultants "City of Hamilton, Use, Renovation and Replacement Study for Hamilton Recreation and Public-Use Facilities Final Report" August 25, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> Bouchier, , "Abandoning Nature, 2011; Photocopies of undated newspaper clippings provided by City of Hamilton; Monteith Brown "City of Hamilton, Use, Renovation and Replacement Study" 2008





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

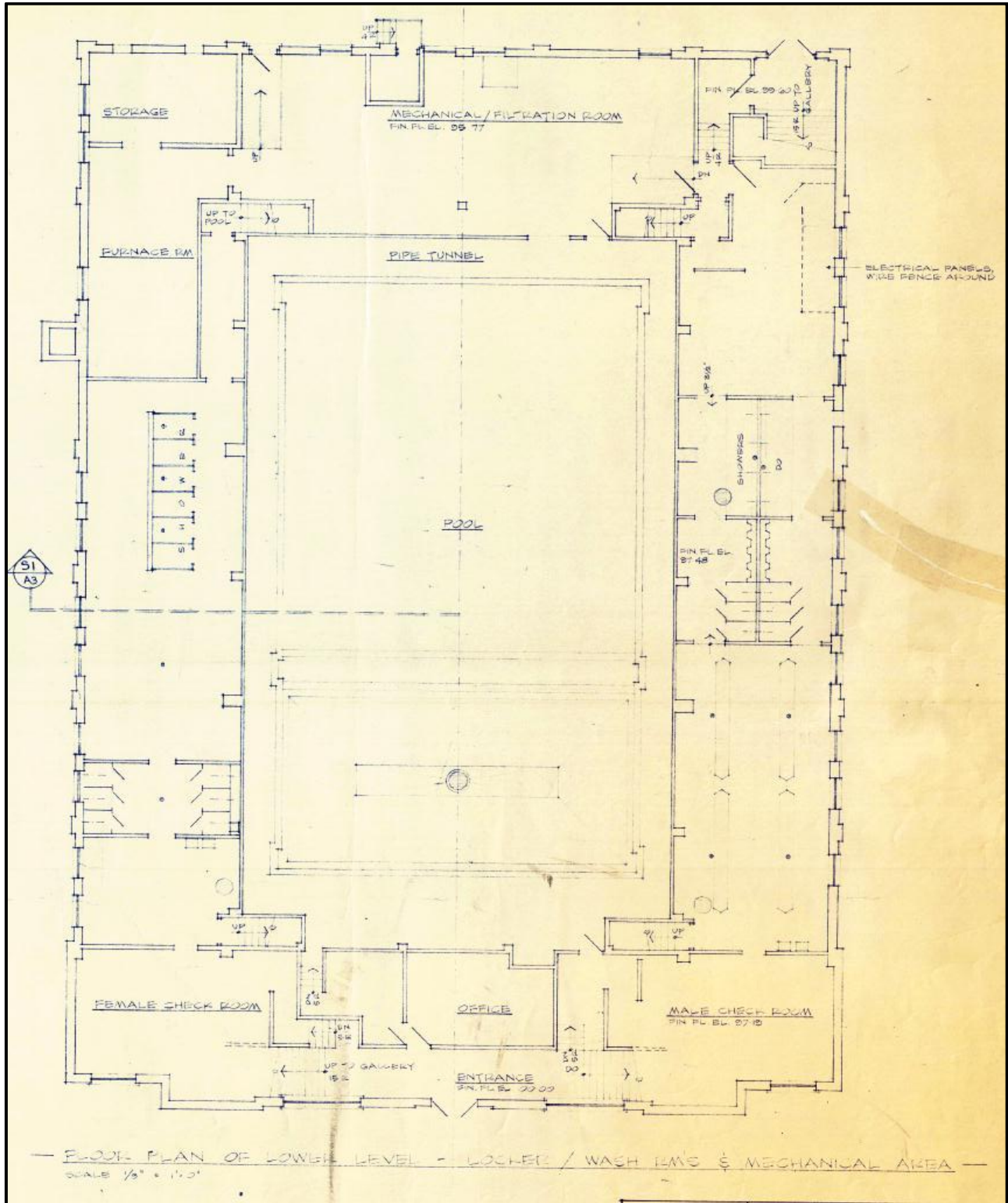


Figure 3: Ground floor showing existing conditions in 1974.



# PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

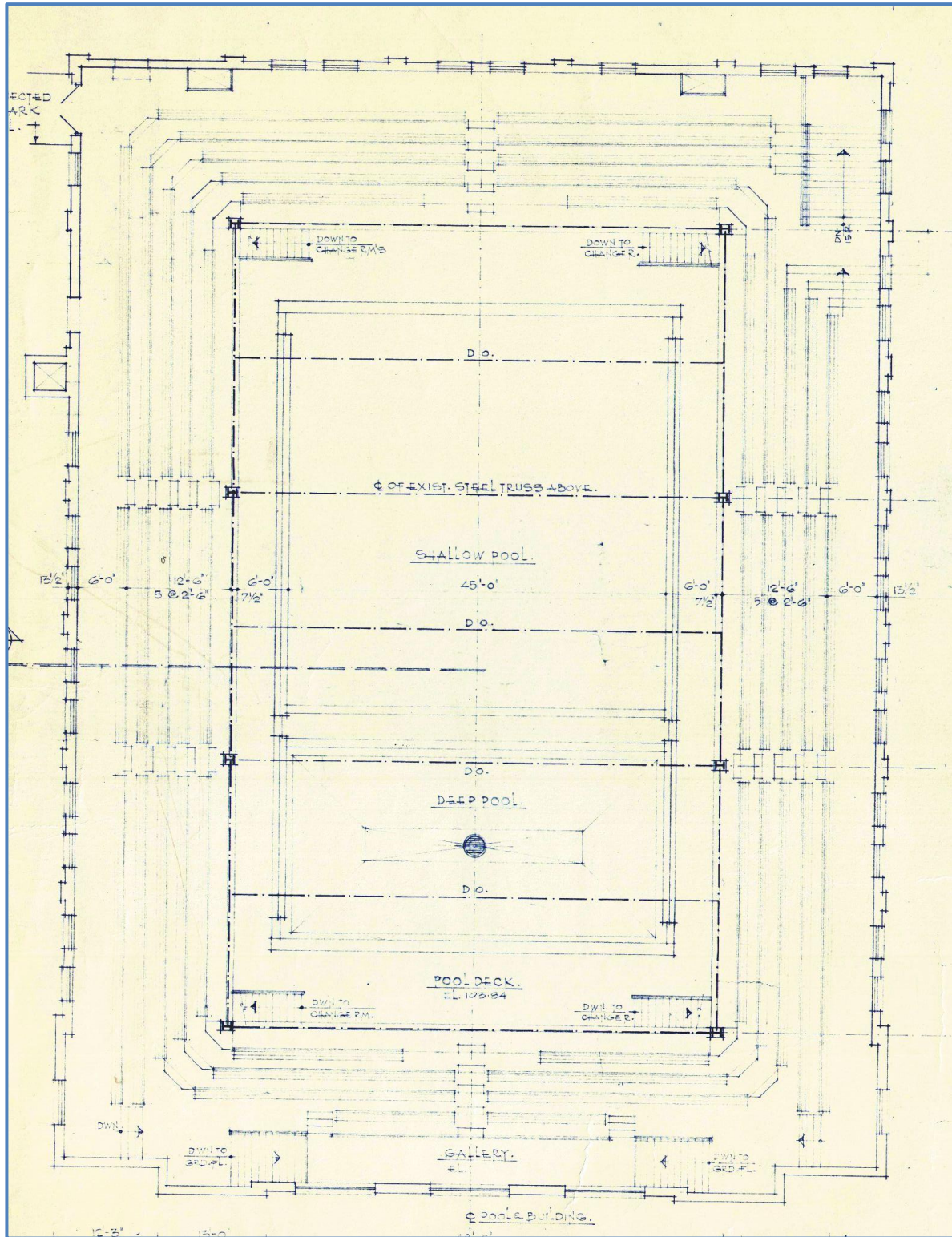


Figure 4: Pool floor showing existing conditions in 1974.





# PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

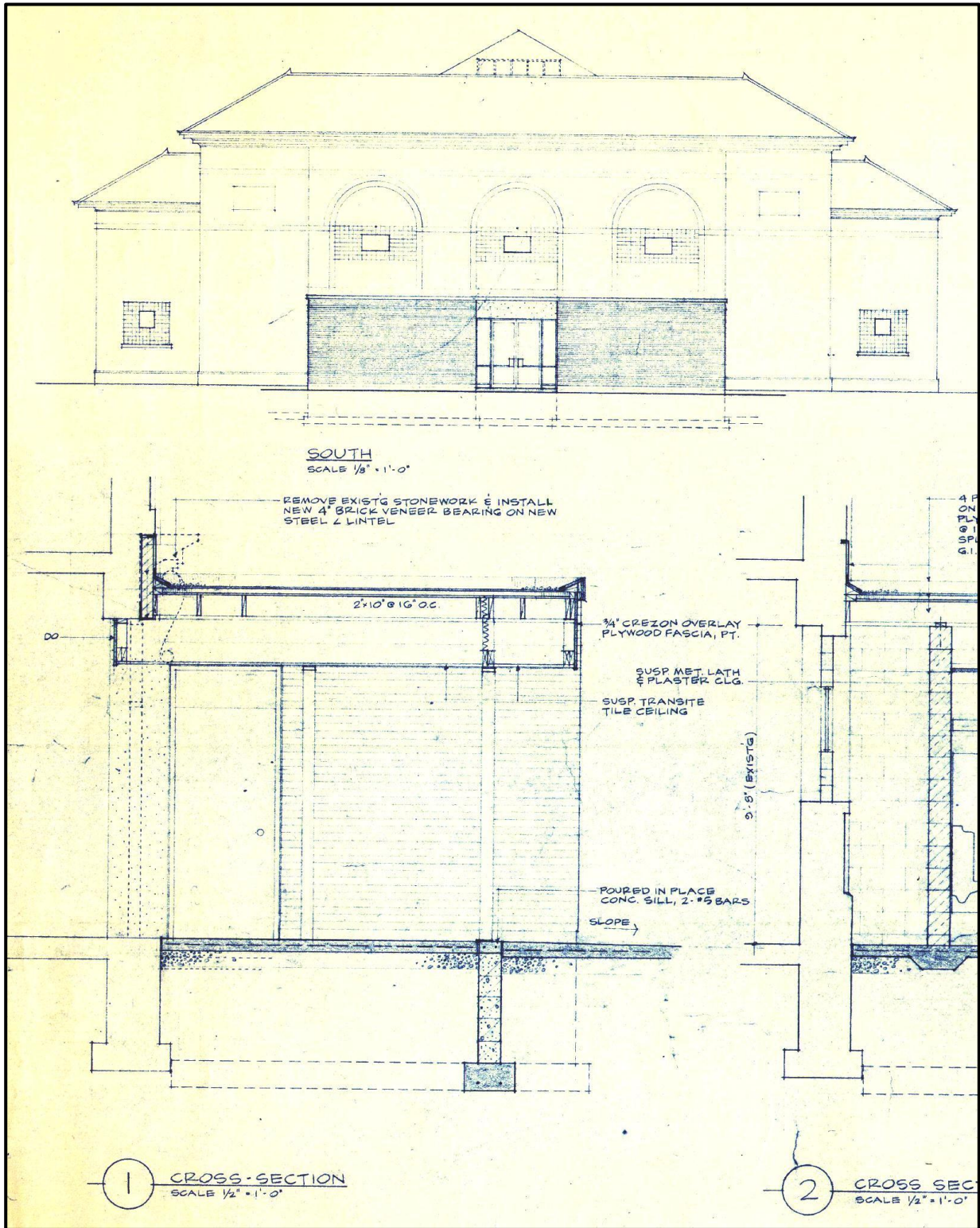


Figure 5: Front (King Street) elevation showing plan for new addition, 1974







## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

#### 3.1 Setting

In the 1920s, Scott Park, or Scott Farm, was a long narrow strip of land bounded by King Street on the south, Balsam Ave on the east, Melrose Ave on the west and Beechwood Ave on the north. This area was the venue for the 1930 British Empire Games. Later, Scott Park was reduced to the land between King Street and Cannon Street. Over time, this smaller park was divided into three lots. The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool occupies a small plot on the south east corner of the block. The former Scott Park Secondary School faces onto King Street and occupies about 20 percent of the former park. This immense building was built in 1968 and the mass of the building dwarfs the Memorial Pool. After the school was closed and sold in 2004 it was used for temporary activities but is now vacant. The open space of Scott Park now consists of the west half of the block and, along with a City Arena building and parking lot, occupy about 75 percent of the block (Maps 2, 3, Figures 7-8).

The residential buildings fronting onto King Street and Balsam Ave are contemporary in age and scale to the Memorial Pool. The Jubilee Apartments, for example, has some “Mediterranean” architectural elements and used the same brick as the Memorial Pool (Figure 9).



*Figure 7: Scott Park Secondary School rising behind the Memorial Pool with King Street in the foreground.*



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*Figure 8: Parking Lot at rear (north side) of Pool with housing on Balsam Street on left*



*Figure 9: Jubilee Apartments, northwest corner of King Street (right) and Balsam Ave (foreground) the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is just out of the photo on the right*





**LEGEND**

----- PROPERTY LINE

**REFERENCE**

PLAN BASED ON 2010 ORTHOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPH BY FIRST BASE SOLUTIONS; AND CANMAP STREETFILES V.2008.

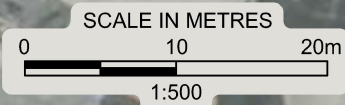
**NOTES**

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ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

PROJECT		JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT	
TITLE		SITE PLAN	
PROJECT No.	13-1136-0032	FILE No.	1311360032-R01001
CADD	LMK/DCH Aug. 22/13	SCALE	AS SHOWN REV.
CHECK		<b>MAP 2</b>	
			





**LEGEND**

----- PROPERTY LINE

**REFERENCE**

PLAN BASED ON 2010 ORTHOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPH BY FIRST BASE SOLUTIONS.

**NOTES**

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ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

PROJECT		JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT	
TITLE		<b>BUILDING PLAN</b>	
PROJECT No.	13-1136-0032	FILE No.	1311360032-R01001
CADD	LMK/DCH	Aug. 15/13	SCALE AS SHOWN REV. 0
CHECK			<b>MAP 3</b>





## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 3.2 Exterior

The front façade of the Memorial Pool was designed with Mediterranean or Italian Renaissance Revival architectural details style (Figure 10). The two storey building has a symmetrical façade of three large Romanesque arches. It has a low-pitched, hipped roof with projecting wings clad in red asphalt shingles. A stone (or concrete) band extends across the façade below the cornice in line with the top of the arches. A second band course is located at the springing line of the arches. Between these two band courses are stone (or concrete) plaques at the left and right side of the building. The arches are filled with recessed, decorative brickwork and have stone (or concrete) keystones. Relatively small glass-block windows are located below the arch. The bottoms of the arches have been cut-off with the 1974 addition (Figure 11).

The side wing extensions are slightly recessed from the main façade and are quite plain. They continue the lower band course line and contain glass block windows at the ground level. The brick work continues for a few metres along the east and west facades of the building (Figure 12).

The 1974-75 addition extends about five metres in front of the building (Figure 10). It contains public washrooms. The brick for the addition matches the original 1930 construction. However it has a flat roof and no exterior ornamentation. In addition the new construction blocked in ground floor windows on either side of the original entrance. The floor is terra cotta tile of unknown age. I would assume it is modern to the addition. The original entrance to the building was through an approximately three metre wide opening. No photograph or drawings of the building prior to 1974 were located and it is not clear how the front facade looked prior to the addition.

The side and rear facades show the concrete post and beam construction of the building (Figures 13-14). These structural members are visible and the spaces between them have a brick or block infill. The walls are broken with pilasters between every two windows.

Historically there was an enclosed bridge connection to the Scott Park High School at the northwest corner of the Memorial Pool. Since the Secondary School is now abandoned, the bridge is closed. A large, abandoned brick chimney is located on the west façade (Figure 15). A new emergency exit was completed in 2004 at the rear of the building.

The low pitch roof of the former skylight is visible from rear (north end) end of the building (Figure 14). The former skylight has been re-roofed with metal.



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Figure 10: Front Facade facing King Street with 1974 addition



Figure 11: Front (south) Facade detail of brickwork on new addition and original building. Note the decorative brick pattern in the arches.



Figure 12: Balsam Street (east) facade showing decorative brick carried around from front





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*Figure 13: Balsam Street (east) facade showing common brick, pilasters, and glass block windows*



*Figure 14: North facade showing hipped roof of skylight, new fire escape extension of right and furnace room chimney*



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON



Figure 15: West facade showing brick "bridge" to Scott Park School in rear, behind chimney

### 3.3 Interior

#### 3.3.1 Overview

Building plans describe the interior as having two floors. This description is somewhat misleading. The "floor" at the pool level is effectively a walkway surrounded by bleachers rising at an angle to the back walls. The street entrance from King Street does not align with either the pool or ground floors. This report identifies three floors; a ground floor, lobby floor, at the level of King Street, and the pool floor – which is in effect a series of levels from the pool deck to the back of the bleachers. A ramp on the ground floor slopes down an additional foot to the mechanical/furnace rooms but this is included as part of the ground floor.

The layout of the building resulted in numerous staircases some are quite short, while others, like that from the lobby to the pool level are long. As well, the ceilings of the lobby and ground floors are variable height due to slope of bleachers.



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 3.3.2 Lobby Floor

The lobby floor is the street level entrance to the building (Figures 16-17). At either end of the lobby are short staircases down to the ground floor and longer, concrete staircases leading to the pool floor. (Figures 18-19). The staircases are original but the railings appear to be later additions.

The configuration of the two offices was established by 1974 but the style of some of the concrete block partitions suggest that the offices were created possibly in the 1960s (Figure 20). A staircase leads from the west office down to the storage/pipe room on the ground level. The lobby area has been modified by the addition of a new entrance onto King Street in 1974/75 and contains public men's and women's washrooms.

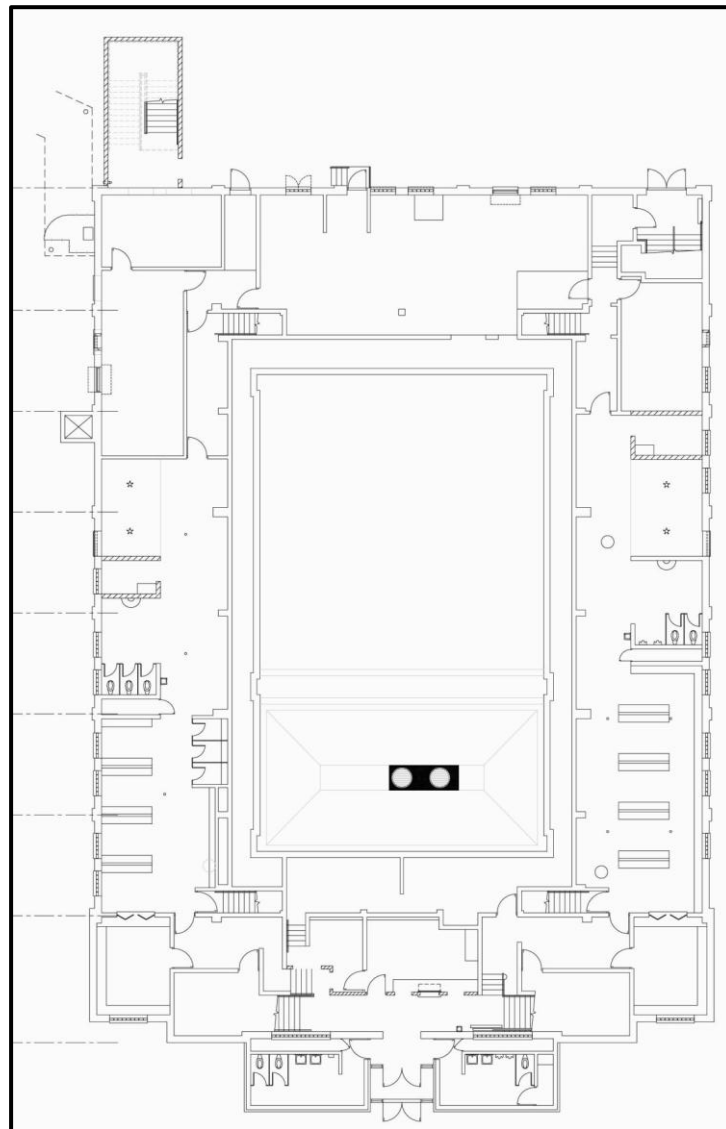


Figure 16: Plan of Ground Floor and Lobby Floor, 2004





## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON



Figure 17: "New" addition showing men's washroom. The original front of the building is the wall on the left.

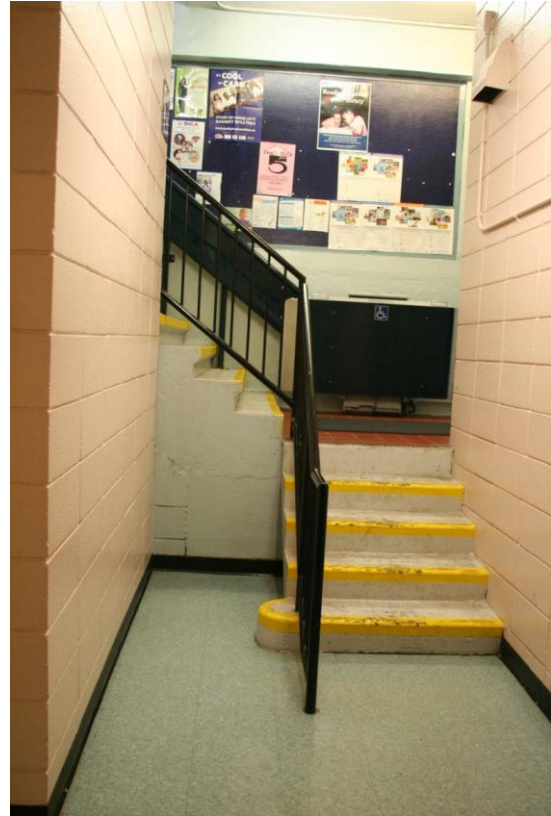


Figure 18: Steps down from lobby floor to ground floor men's changing room. Stairs in rear lead up to pool floor



Figure 19: Large office and staircase to pool floor



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON



Figure 20: Large office on east side

### 3.3.3 Ground Floor

The rooms at the south (front) end of the building were significantly altered in the 1974/75 additions resulting in a number of small rooms with odd corridors. The main changes were dividing up part of the men's and women's change rooms into lifeguard change rooms and clothing check/basket rooms (Figures 21-22).

Apart from these alterations, the men's and women's change rooms appear to occupy the same areas as when the facility was first built. The fixtures have been modernized over time, as one might expect (Figure 23). There are staircases to the pool deck at each end of the change rooms. Today only the staircases at the north (rear) of the change rooms are used.

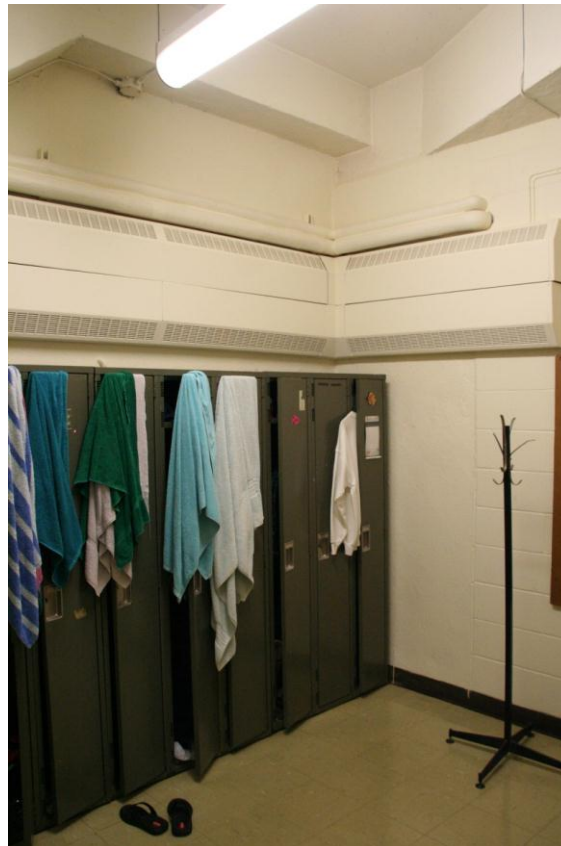
A storage room/pipe tunnel is located under the pool deck and therefore has a very low ceiling. The room provides access to changing the four pool lights at the south end of the pool (Figure 24). The room contains graffiti with the names of previous pool staff. The earliest dated one and the most eloquently done is the "guard room honour roll 1967" (Figure 25).

Three utility rooms are located at the rear (north) end of the buildings. Part of the former men's change room was converted into an electrical/storage room in 1974/75 revisions (Figure 26). The Mechanical/Filtration room is in its original configuration although all of the equipment appears to have been replaced over time (Figure 27). The mechanical room provided an entrance into the pipe tunnel located around the perimeter of the pool. This tunnel was inaccessible at the time of the site visit. The furnace room is also in its original size but all of the equipment has been modernized (Figure 28).



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

The main emergency exit was located at the north east end of the floor. A wide staircase came down from the pool floor to exit doors on the north wall. A corridor from the men's change room also connected to this exit. Until the 1974/75 renovations there was no direct emergency exit from the north end of the women's change room. At that time a wall was removed and a short staircase built to reach the furnace room floor. From there, a corridor led to an exit door on the north wall (Figure 29).



*Figure 21: Women's lifeguard change rooms. This was created in the 1974 renovations from the basket room. The men's lifeguard room is similar.*





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**



*Figure 22: Men's change room looking south with basket check room behind grill*



*Figure 23: Men's change room looking north showing slope of pool bleachers in ceiling*



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON



Figure 24: Storage room showing one of the pool's light fixtures on the north end of the pool. The marks of the board forms in the concrete are visible.



Figure 25: Storage room under pool deck; swimming pool wall on the right, and "Guard Room Honour Roll 1967" graffiti on left.





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**



Figure 26: Electrical room showing ground-level windows.



Figure 27: Filter room showing ramp down from ground floor. Air ducts at top of photo



**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
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*Figure 28: Furnace room containing modern furnaces. The exterior chimney is outside the wall at the furthest furnace.*



*Figure 29: Wooden steps leading from emergency exit hall to women's change room. This doorway constructed in 1974/75. The wooden steps are the exception within the building.*



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 3.3.4 Pool Floor

Due to the poured concrete construction of the pool floor, the configuration of this room appears to be unaltered from its 1930 construction (Figures 2, 4, 30). There are four ceiling support columns on either side of the pool. There is no remnant of the decorative finish originally used on the columns.

The east and west sides of the pool contain five rows of bleachers divided into three sections by stairs (Figures 31-33). The rear (north) bleachers consisted of five rows divided into two sections by stairs. The front of the building contains four bleachers plus a gallery against the back wall. A judge's booth has been built at a later date on this gallery (Figure 34).

The side and rear walls contain small, glass-block windows. Some of these windows have centres that can be opened. Three larger solid glass block windows are located along the front wall.

A low, white-tiled concrete barrier wall separates the bleachers from the pool deck. Black tiles are used to trace a pattern in the walls (Figure 34). Entrances are located in the four corners of the pool deck.

The pool deck is connected by staircases at the four corners of the pool to the change rooms below (Figure 35). The stairs connect to each end of the respective men's and women's change rooms. Over each staircase a decorative semi-circular platform that extend out from the edge of the columns (Figure 36). Gutters are located along the sides but not the ends of the pool (Figure 37). Pool lights are accessed from pipe tunnels below the pool deck rather than from the deck (Figure 24). The deep end is at south end, in front of the judging booth.

A wide emergency staircase, at the north east side, dates from 1930 and extends down to the ground floor with exit doors on the north wall. An emergency escape was not constructed until 2004 in a new extension built on the northwest side.

Doors to the bridge connecting to the Scott Park Secondary School are located on the west wall at the north end.





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

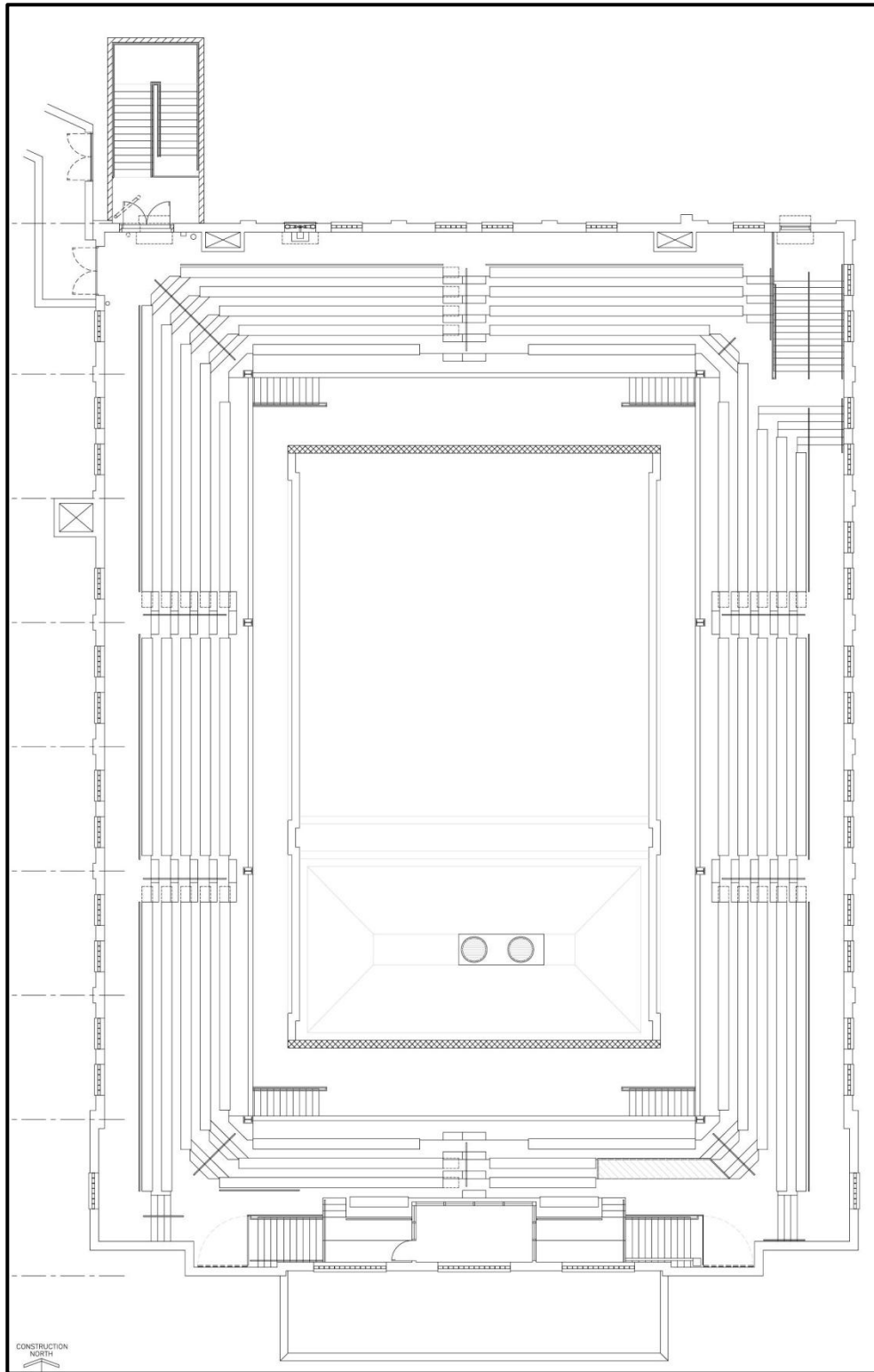


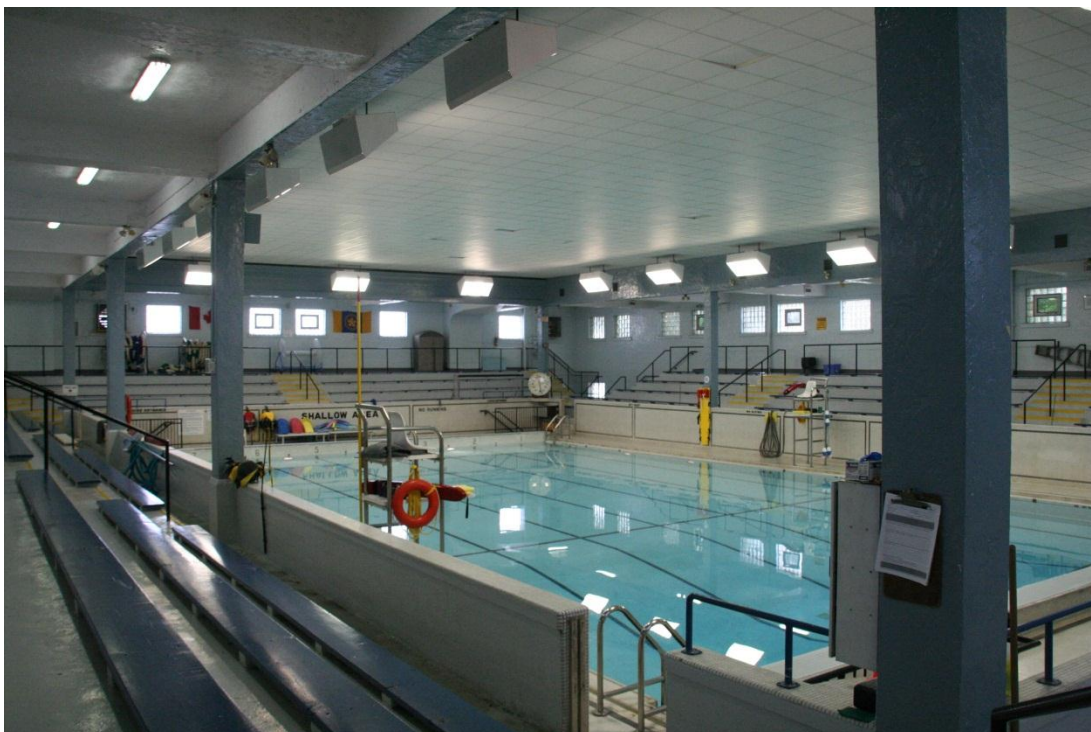
Figure 30: Plan of pool floor 2004



**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**



*Figure 31: Looking south east to front at King Street and to Balsam Street. Roof columns and judging booth are evident*



*Figure 32: Looking north east to rear parking lot and to Balsam street. Roof columns are evident. The ceiling cover of the former skylight is visible.*





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
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Figure 33: Bleachers on west side showing window patterns, roof posts and beams and 2004 emergency escape door

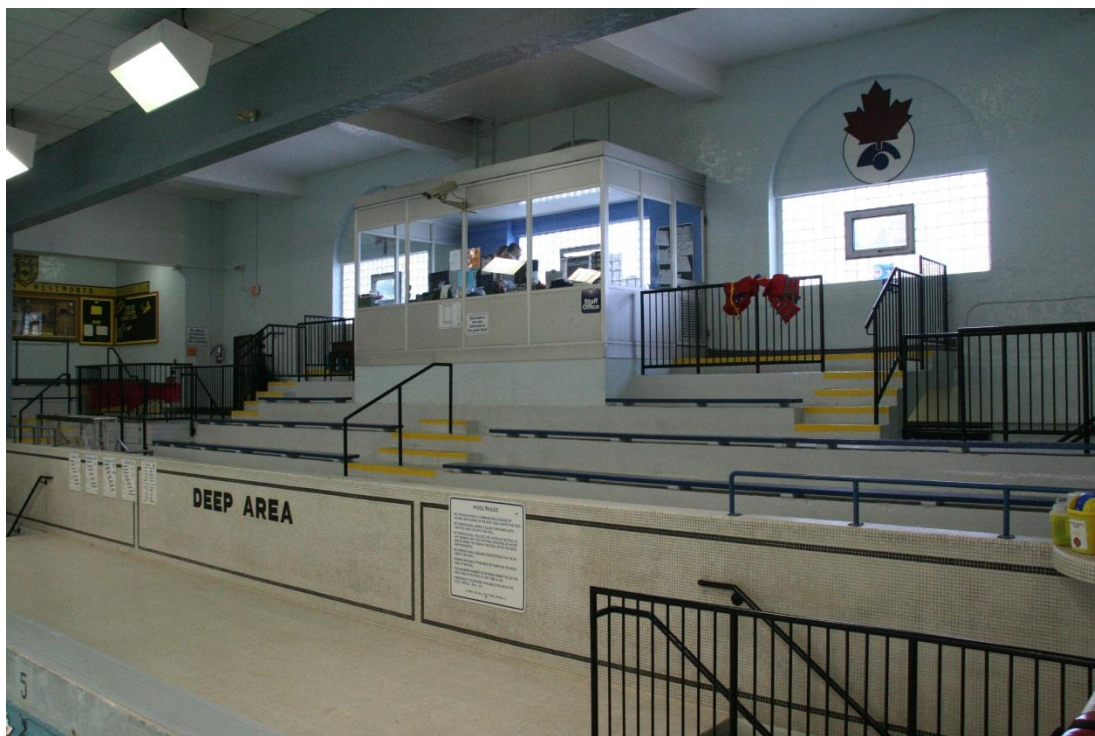


Figure 34: Judging booth and bleachers at south end of pool





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
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*Figure 35: Barrier tiles, steps to bleachers, staircase to mains change room (not used) at south east side*



*Figure 36: Detail of pool barrier wall at end column*



**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
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*Figure 37: Ladder, barrier tiles, gutter, staircase to women's change room at north west side. The letters are painted*



## 4.0 EVALUATION

### 4.1 Ontario Regulation 9/06

*Ontario Regulation 9/06* provides criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest of a property. If a property meets one or more of the following criteria it may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest according to *Ontario Regulation 9/06* are as follows:

- 1) The property has **design value or physical value** because it:
  - Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method;
  - Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit; or
  - Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
- 2) The property has **contextual value** because it:
  - Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area;
  - Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings; or
  - Is a landmark.
- 3) The property has **historic value or associative value** because it:
  - Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community;
  - Yields, or has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture; or
  - Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.

## 4.2 Cultural Heritage Value

### 4.2.1 Assessment Limits

This cultural heritage assessment of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool was unable to comment on three potential design characteristics of the building:





## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

- The pool skylight is inaccessible although the profile of the roof can be observed from the outside. Figure 6 indicates that the glazing has been removed but that the trusses still remain.
- No comparable research was done on the design of the pipe tunnels that wrap around the pool tank. It could not be determined if this was typical or exceptional design practice for the 1920s.
- More research could be undertaken to determine if the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool was typical or atypical of municipal pool design in Ontario in the 1920s and 1930s. Information about surviving indoor, competitive swimming pool facilities from this era could influence the validity of the contextual value and/or the historical/associative of the facility.

### 4.2.2 Design/Physical Value

Although modifications made over time for ground floor, the pool level is largely unchanged from when it was built in 1930. The skylight trusses may, or may not, have design value; they were not visible during the site assessment.

### 4.2.3 Contextual Value

The Mediterranean architectural elements of the front facade and the building's massing fit into the neighbourhood setting. However, the building is visually dominated by the adjacent Scott Park Secondary School building.

### 4.2.4 Historic/Associative Value

The pool was built in conjunction with, and used by the first, 1930, British Empire Games (Now Commonwealth Games). The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is the only surviving structure from this event.

The Canadian, James (Jimmy) Thompson won the gold medal at the British Empire Games in Hamilton for the 4 X 400 yard freestyle relay event held in the Memorial Pool.

The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool was the first municipal pool built by City of Hamilton. The demand for public pools was stimulated by the declining water quality of Hamilton Bay.

The design of the pool may, or may not, have historic value but no comparable sites were assessed in this report. The use of pool tunnels to service the pool, the commonness of large roof skylights, and the number and size of comparable pools built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Ontario would affect its historic value.



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 4.3 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is the only remaining structure from the 1930 British Empire Games. The building was the first municipal pool built by the City of Hamilton and opened in the year that the city assumed responsibility for the operation of municipal recreational facilities. The bleachers, barrier walls, tiling, and the various tiers of the swimming pool floor create a distinctive character of a purpose-built competitive-event swimming pool. The extensive use of poured concrete has produced a very functional interior finish to the building. The Mediterranean style front facade has been partially obscured by the 1974 addition but the upper level of windows and hipped, low-pitch roofs are distinctive elements of the building.

### 4.4 Heritage Attributes

The primary exterior heritage attributes of the building are:

- Low-pitch, hip roofs of the front (south) façade
- Romanesque Arches on the front façade
- Band courses of stone and decorative red brick on the front façade
- Large brick chimney on the west façade
- Glass block windows (if original to the 1930s)

The primary interior heritage attributes of the building are:

- Skylight trusses (if surviving)
- Concrete bleachers
- Pool staircases from change rooms
- Tiled pool barrier wall
- Pipe tunnels and pool lighting system (to confirm)
- Graffiti in the ground floor storage room

### 4.5 Assessment

The property is located within the City of Hamilton's Stadium Precinct Area, which is undergoing a Neighbourhood Strategy for revitalization in conjunction with construction of a new Stadium for the 2015 Pan American Games.



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**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

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Hamilton City Council is proposing to have a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hamilton Wentworth District School board to jointly develop a school and community centre within the Precinct. This proposed development would be located on the site of the existing Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool. This would require demolition of the Memorial Pool or integration of some, or all of the facility into the proposed development.

This Cultural Heritage Assessment Report has identified that the property has cultural heritage value or interest due to its physical design, its setting within the community and its historic association with events in the development of public recreation facilities within the City of Hamilton.

The physical design of the interior of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool is completely influenced by the functional requirements of operating a public swimming pool. The ways in which the design expresses the 1920s ideas of how a swimming pool should operate is the building's most important cultural heritage value. The architectural detailing of the front (south) façade is distinctive but has been compromised by the 1974 addition.

Any future proposals for the building should take into account the importance of the pool floor. If the building cannot be maintained as a public swimming pool, alternatives to physical conservation of the entire structure should be considered to commemorate its cultural significance in the evolution of the City's recreational facilities.



## PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON

### 5.0 SOURCES

- Bouchier, Nancy and Ken Cruikshank, "Abandoning Nature: Swimming Pools and Clean, Healthy Recreation in Hamilton, Ontario, circa 1930s-1950s," *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 28:2 (2011), p.315-37.
- Gordon, Ian and Simon Inglis. *Great Lengths; The historic indoor swimming pool of Britain*. Swindon UK: English Heritage 2009.
- Hamilton, City of (Drawings): "Alterations to J. Thompson Memorial Pool" Hamilton City Architectural Department, Sept 1974, various scales
- Hamilton, City of (Drawings): "Renovations to Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool" MB International Project managers/Engineers, Fonthill, Ont. February 2004, various scales
- Hamilton, City of. Planning and Economic Development Department . Photocopies of undated newspaper clippings
- Hamilton Public Library *Hamilton Fire Insurance Plan, 1933*.
- Monteith Brown Planning Consultants. "City of Hamilton, Use, Renovation and Replacement Study for Hamilton Recreation and Public-Use Facilities Final Report," August 25, 2008
- Nash, Jay B. *Organization and Administration of Playgrounds and Recreation*. New York: A. S. Barnes, 1928
- "Owner describes Scott Park damage as 'totally overwhelming'" *Hamilton Spectator* Sept 20, 2012 (Access online July 25, 2013)
- Ramsey, Charles George, and Harold Reeve Sleeper. *Architectural Graphic Standards* New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1956 (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- "Scott Park price tag: \$8.8 million" *Hamilton Spectator* January 26 2012 (Access online July 25, 2013)
- Toronto Harbour, The Passing Years*. Toronto harbour Commissioners, 1985.
- "The YMCA of Greater Toronto History" <http://www.ymcagta.org/en/who-we-are/history.html> (Access July 25, 2013)





**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

**6.0 CLOSURE**

We trust that this report meets your current needs. If you have any questions, or if we may be of further assistance, please contact the undersigned.

**GOLDER ASSOCIATES LTD.**

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Michael Greguol, M.A.  
Junior Cultural Heritage Specialist

MG/CAA/slc

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Christopher Andreae, Ph.D., CAHP  
Associate, Senior Built Heritage Specialist

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**PRELIMINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT  
JIMMY THOMPSON MEMORIAL POOL, HAMILTON**

# APPENDIX A

## Statement of Qualifications: Christopher Andreae



**Education**

PhD Geography,  
University of Western  
Ontario, London, Ontario,  
2006

Masters of Social Sciences  
Industrial Archaeology,  
University of Birmingham,  
Birmingham, England, 1992

Masters of Museum  
Studies, University of  
Toronto, Toronto, Ontario,  
1981

**Certifications**

Licensed Consulting  
Archaeologist - Ontario  
Ministry of Tourism &  
Culture

**Golder Associates Ltd. – London**

**Employment History**

**Golder Associates Ltd. – London, Ontario**

*Associate, Senior Built Heritage Specialist (2009 to Present)*

Christopher is an Associate and Senior Built Heritage Specialist who provides heritage assessments and industrial archaeology assessments of resources that may impact engineering work. He has worked on a wide range of heritage and industrial studies. From 1981 until joining Golder Associates Ltd. in 2009, Christopher operated his own heritage planning company. Dr Andreae has a PhD in Geography (University of Western Ontario, 2006) and he has written widely on historic industrial and transportation themes including a major work, Lines of Country; An Atlas of Railway and Waterway History in Canada (1997). He is a past-president of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, a past director of the Ontario Historical Society and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP), and its president in 1988-9.

**Historica Research Limited – London, Ontario**

*President (1980 to 2009)*

**PROJECT EXPERIENCE – HAMILTON SPECIFIC**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Crooks Hollow</b><br/>Spencer Creek,<br/>Crooks Hollow, Ontario,<br/>2011-2012</p>                | <p>Heritage Impact Assessment of the Crooks Hollow Dam as part of an Environmental Assessment. Recommendations were made to mitigate the adverse impacts associated with removal of the dam. Both the removal of the dam and restoration of Spencer Creek was monitored.</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Rheem Factory</b><br/>Hamilton, Ontario, 2011</p>   | <p>Photographic documentation of the Rheem Factory building prior to demolition. Report included detailed site description, historical summary and documentation.</p>   |
| <p><b>Hamilton Museum of<br/>Steam &amp; Technology</b><br/>Hamilton, Ontario, 2004,<br/>2004, 1997</p> | <p>Prepare a cultural landscape assessment of the impact on the museum landscape of a new controlled access highway interchange on the QEW. Archaeological monitoring of rehabilitation of distribution mains on the museum property. Archaeological testing of the 1859 pumphouse and associated buildings</p> |
| <p><b>Red Hill Creek Parkway</b><br/>Hamilton, Ontario, 1997,<br/>1994, 1989</p>                        | <p>Assessment of built heritage of the proposed Red Hill Creek Parkway in Hamilton. Heritage review of historic archaeological resources in right-of-way for the Red Hill Creek Expressway.</p>   |
| <p><b>Dundas Limestone<br/>Crushing Plant</b><br/>Hamilton, Ontario, 1988</p>                           | <p>Evaluate historic significance of limestone crushing plant at Dundas as part of study to determine feasible reuse of structure.</p>  |
| <p><b>Wentworth Heritage<br/>Village</b><br/>Hamilton, Ontario, 1987</p>                                | <p>Assessment of collections and conservation requirements and preparation of recommendations to upgrade facility.</p>  |



## PROJECT EXPERIENCE – ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Mattamy Homes Corp**  
Brampton and Milton  
Ontario, 2012  
Heritage assessment and landscape analysis of four 19<sup>th</sup> century residential sites in advance of site development. Detailed site assessment of residential structures included interior and exterior architectural description, analysis, evaluation and recommendations pertaining to development plans.
- Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital**  
Hamilton, Ontario, 2012  
Heritage Impact Assessment of redevelopment area of the hospital grounds.
- Ottawa OLRT**  
Ottawa Ontario, 2011  
Assessment of built heritage and planning policies along the above ground and tunnelled sections of the Ottawa Light Rail Transit corridor.
- Highway 400 Widening**  
MTO, 2011  
Architectural assessment of a 1921 house in location of proposed exit ramp in Town of Bradford West Gwillumbury,

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE – HERITAGE PLANNING

- Ottawa OLRT**  
Ottawa Ontario 2011  
Assessment of municipal planning policies pertaining to the heritage impact of the proposed Ottawa Light Rail Transit corridor.
- Port Hope Pier**  
Port Hope, Ontario, 2009  
Research historic land use for re-development of warehouses on pier in Port Hope Harbour.
- Southwest London Area Plan**  
London, Ontario, 2009  
Built heritage assessment of the Southwest London Area Plan to guide the development of the Area Plan.
- Oil Springs - Cultural Resources Inventory**  
Lambton County,  
Ontario, 2008 - 2009  
Inventory and analysis of features and landscapes of the Fairbank Oil Property, the oldest operating oil field in North America to establish boundaries and management policies for a proposed Heritage Conservation District set out by Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE – CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- Aggregate Quarry,**  
Region of Waterloo,  
2010  
Policy review of heritage impact of proposed license for aggregate extraction operation; prepare impact assessment of proposed property.
- Trent Canal**  
Peterborough, 2010  
Preliminary evaluation of impacts of a proposed hydro development on the cultural landscape adjacent to Locks 24/25 on the Trent Canal. (2010) Review and assessment of Parks Canada cultural heritage landscape assessment of a proposed hydro development adjacent to Parks Canada property.
- Inglewood Quarry**  
Caledon, Ontario, 2007  
Cultural landscape assessment of former brick-shale quarry at Inglewood.
- Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology**  
Hamilton, Ontario, 2004  
Prepare a cultural landscape assessment of the impact on the museum landscape of a new controlled access highway interchange on the QEW.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants, Toronto  
Society for Industrial Archeology, Houghton, Michigan

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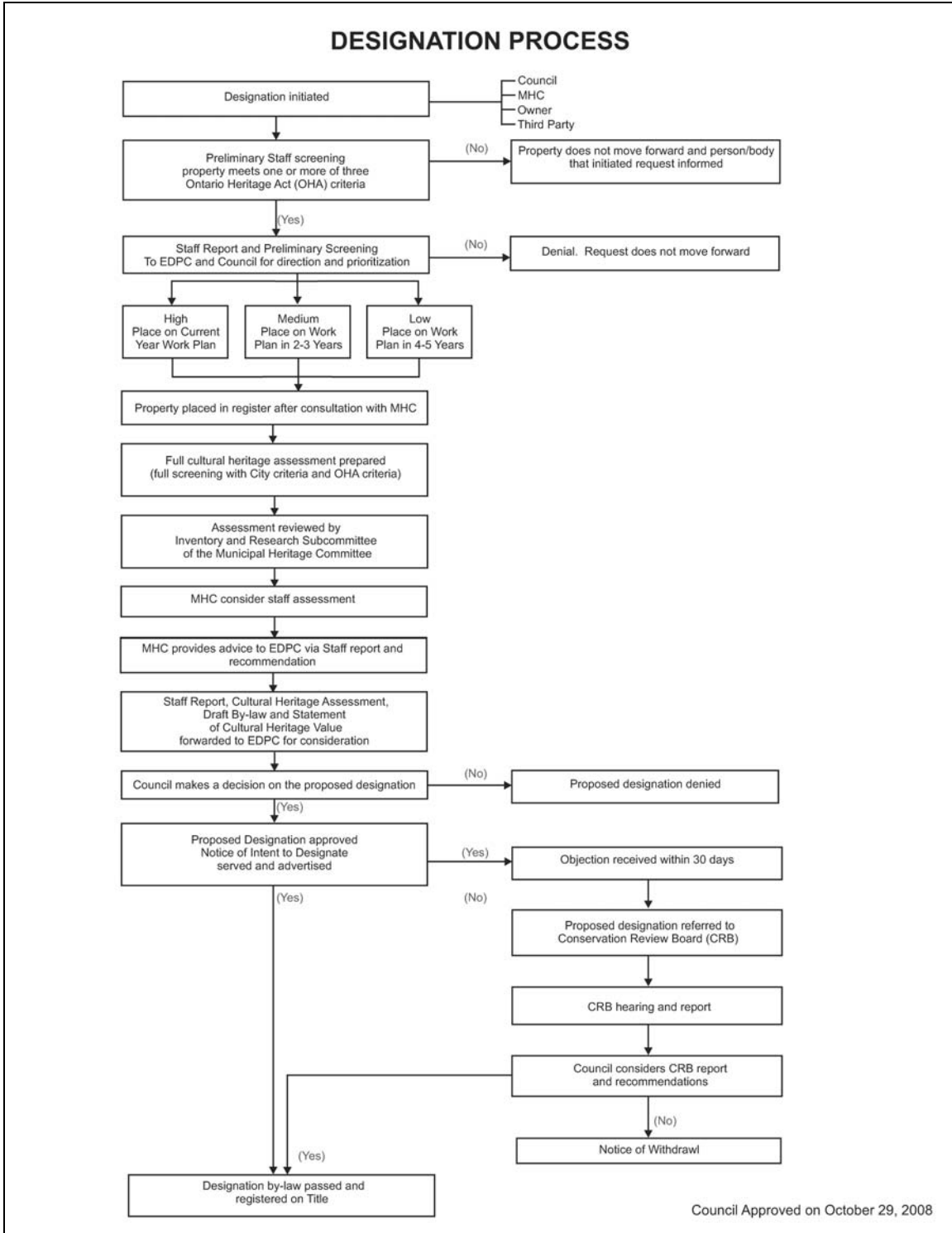
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**Ontario Heritage Act**

**ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06**

**CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

**Criteria:**

- 1.(1) The criteria set out in Sub-section (2) are prescribed for the purposes of Clause 29 (1) (a) of the Act. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (1).
- (2) A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:
  1. The property has design value or physical value because it:
    - i. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method;
    - ii. Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit; or,
    - iii. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
  2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:
    - i. Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community;
    - ii. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture; or,
    - iii. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.
  3. The property has contextual value because it:
    - i. Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area;
    - ii. Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings; or,
    - iii. Is a landmark. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).

**Requests to Designate Properties Under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act:  
Priorities (as Amended by Report PED13168)**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Property</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Request</u></b>
<b>2013</b>	104 King Street West, Dundas (Dundas Post Office)	24-Sep-09
<b>2013</b>	71 Claremont Drive, Hamilton	28-May-09
<b>2013</b>	82-112 King Street East , Hamilton (Royal Connaught)	09-Apr-08
<b>2013</b>	167 Book Road, Ancaster	24-May-07
<b>2013</b>	1284 Main Street East, Hamilton (Delta Secondary School)	17-May-12
<b>2014</b>	52-56 Charlton Avenue West, Hamilton	24-Apr-07
<b>2014</b>	91 John Street South, Hamilton	25-Oct-07
<b>2014</b>	140 Locke Street South, Hamilton	03-Jun-09
<b>2014</b>	3027 Homestead Drive, Mount Hope	24-Jan-08
<b>2015</b>	1395-1401 King Street East, Hamilton	04-Aug-09
<b>2015</b>	1062 Golf Club Road, Binbrook (Woodburn)	27-Mar-08
<b>2015</b>	Gage Park, Hamilton	23-Mar-06
<b>2015</b>	Gore Park, Hamilton	24-Apr-08
<b>2016</b>	Tisdale House, Ancaster	16-Aug-01
<b>2016</b>	111 Kenilworth Access, Hamilton (Barton Reservoir)	26-Feb-09
<b>2016</b>	262 MacNab Street North, Hamilton	18-Dec-08
<b>2016</b>	378 Main Street East, Hamilton (Cathedral School)	04-Aug-13
<b>2017</b>	Desjardins Canal, Dundas	26-Feb-09
<b>2017</b>	1065 Highway 8, Stoney Creek	27-Aug-09
<b>2017</b>	170 Longwood Road North, Hamilton	15-Feb-11
<b>2017</b>	4-12 John Street North, Hamilton (Treble Hall)	08-Feb-11
<b>2018</b>	7 Ravenscliffe Avenue, Hamilton	10-Jun-11
<b>2018</b>	39 Lakeview Drive, Stoney Creek	17-Feb-11
<b>2018</b>	231 Ferguson Avenue South (Ferguson Avenue Pumping Station), Hamilton	18-Oct-11
<b>2018</b>	2251 Rymal Road East, Stoney Creek (Former Elfrida Church)	20-Dec-12
<b>2019</b>	105 Erie Avenue, Hamilton	02-May-13
<b>2019</b>	634 Rymal Road West, Hamilton (Paradise Corner Children's Centre and Former Union School)	07-June-13