

P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5 Canada

# Item No. 9.1.1 Heritage Advisory Committee February 27, 2024

TO:	Chair and Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee				
SUBMITTED BY:	-ORIGINAL SIGNED-				
	Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer				
DATE:	January 23, 2024				
SUBJECT:	H00574: Deregistration of Lot 1SM1-1 (PID 41518333), 12 York Redoubt Crescent, Fergusons Cove				

## <u>ORIGIN</u>

On December 12, 2023, Regional Council put and passed the following motion unanimously:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report initiating a heritage de-registration of PID41518333 (Lot 1SM1-1), a subdivided portion of a registered heritage property known as York Redoubt, located at 12 York Redoubt Crescent, Ferguson's Cove, Nova Scotia.

#### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

*Heritage Property Act,* R.S.N.S., 1989, c. 199, sub-section 16(1)

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- Commence the deregistration process by setting a date for a public hearing to consider deregistering the municipally registered heritage property at 12 York Redoubt Cresent, Ferguson's Cove, known as PID 41518333 and designated as Lot 1SM1-1 on Attachment A of this report; and
- 2) Deregister the property at 12 York Redoubt Cresent, Ferguson's Cove, known as PID 41518333 and designated as Lot 1SM1-1 on Attachment A of this report.

### BACKGROUND

The property at 4 York Redoubt Crescent, Fergusons Cove has been a Municipally Registered Heritage Property since 1994 (Map 1). The property contains the former Stella Maris Church, an Elizabethan or "country Romanesque" style church built in 1846. The property owner has recently subdivided the property as shown on Attachment A to create two lots as follows:

12 York Redoubt Cresent	New Lot:	1SM1-1	(PID 41518333)	Vacant
4 York Redoubt Cresent	Remainder Lot:	1SM1	(PID 40079733)	Contains church

The subdivision process can not change a heritage designation boundary of a Municipally Registered Heritage Property. Consequently, a heritage designation is applied to both 4 and 12 York Redoubt Cresent. The intention of the property owner is to develop and/or sell 12 York Redoubt Cresent. As 12 York Redoubt Cresent retains its heritage designation, any development proposed on the property is subject to heritage standards and requirements. Therefore, the property owner has requested that the heritage designation applied to 12 York Redoubt Cresent be removed.

#### Heritage Property Act

The Heritage Property Act seeks "to provide for the identification, designation, conservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, public-building interiors, structures, streetscapes, cultural landscapes, areas and districts of historic, architectural or cultural value, in both urban and rural areas, and to encourage their continued use". HRM's Heritage Property Program derives its authority from the Heritage Property Act which enables municipalities to establish a municipal registry of heritage properties. The subject site is listed within HRM's heritage registry as 4 York Redoubt Crescent, Fergusons Cove, which now consists of two lots of land as described above.

Section 16 of the *Heritage Property Act* identifies provisions under which Council may consider deregister a property from the Registry as follows:

- "16(1) On the application of an owner of a municipal heritage property or on its own motion, the council may deregister a municipal heritage property where:
  - (a) The property has been destroyed or damaged by any cause; or
  - (b) The continued registration of the property appears to the council to be inappropriate as a result of the <u>loss of the property's heritage value</u>, as identified in the property's heritage file or notice or recommendation, unless the loss of the heritage value was caused by neglect, abandonment or other action or inaction of the owner after holding a public hearing to consider the proposed deregistration"

The Heritage Property Act defines:

<u>Heritage value</u> as "the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations and embodied in <u>character-defining materials</u>, forms, locations, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings."

<u>Character-defining elements</u> as "the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to heritage value and that must be sustained in order to preserve heritage value."

If Council holds a public hearing on the deregistration, the hearing must be held not less than thirty days after a notice of the hearing is served on the registered owner of the municipal heritage property and published in a newspaper circulating in the area. If the property is deregistered, the *Act* requires that council shall cause notice of the deregistration to be sent to the registered owner of the property and a copy thereof to be deposited in the registry of deeds for the registration district in which the property is situated.

### DISCUSSION

Staff have reviewed the requested deregistration application and advise that the deregistration of 12 York Redoubt Cresent can be considered by Council pursuant to Section 16(1)(b) of the *Heritage Property Act*, after holding a public hearing to consider the proposed deregistration. Staff advise that the continued registration of the property is unnecessary as 12 York Redoubt Cresent contains no heritage value nor character defining elements of the registration. All the heritage value and/or character defining elements of the site are located within 4 York Redoubt Cresent and the property will remain a registered heritage property even if 12 York Redoubt Cresent is deregistered.

The *Heritage Property Act* does not include appeal provisions of Council decisions regarding deregistration. If the heritage registration was to continue to apply to 12 York Redoubt Cresent, approval of a substantial alteration to the heritage property by Regional Council may be necessary to enable the development of the subject property and all future permit applications for the property would require heritage review. Staff advise that a substantial alteration process for property that has no heritage value would be an undue burden for all parties.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HRM costs associated with processing this application can be accommodated within the proposed 2023-2024 operating budget for C340 – Culture, Heritage, and Planning Information Services.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As per section 16(2) of the *Heritage Property Act*, community engagement is required for a heritage deregistration in the form of a public hearing. A public hearing will be held by Regional Council prior to Council's decision on the deregistration.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant environmental implications associated with the recommendations in this Report.

#### ALTERNATIVES

1. The Heritage Advisory Committee may recommend that Regional Council retain the heritage registration on 12 York Redoubt Cresent known as PID 41518333 and designated as Lot 1SM1-1 on Attachment A of this report. This is not the recommended course of action for the reasons outlined in this report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Map 1:Location MapAttachment A:Plan of Subdivision

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <u>halifax.ca</u> or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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