Heritage Hearing
Case No. H00469
5381 Spring Garden Road
Former Halifax Memorial Library Site

February 11th, 2020
Re: Item No. 12.1
Location
Application Details

• This is a “third party” application by David Bentley, a resident of Halifax.

• The property is owned by Halifax Regional Municipality and has been vacant since the completion of the Halifax Central Library in 2013.
Heritage Site vs. Heritage Property Evaluation

A Heritage site is defined as “an area, cultural landscape, or feature, together with any structures thereon, which is significant to the social, cultural, commercial, military or political history and development of Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province or Country.”

Properties evaluated under this set of criteria, if registered, will be formally designated a “heritage area” under the Heritage Property Act, which implies the same legal protection as a heritage property.

This designation provides more flexibility to consider landscape elements and the broader history of a site, rather than focusing on a structure.

Example: Public Gardens

At their November 27th meeting, HAC was provided with a choice of evaluating under either the “site” or “building” criteria. Due to the property’s long history predating the library, the heritage site criteria was used.
Heritage Site vs. Heritage Building Evaluation

The Evaluation Criteria for scoring a heritage site are broken down into four categories as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Highest Possible Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Age / Continuity of Use</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Historical Importance</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Integrity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Context</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In terms of importance, the site’s history can be broken down into three eras:

a) Site of the Halifax poor asylum burial grounds (~1760-1869);
b) Grafton Park (1870-1949); and
Age of the Site

Town of Halifax, 1762 (copy of original) HRM Archives

Plan of the Town of Halifax, 1835
Philippe Aubert de Gaspe 1814-1841

- French Canadian writer credited with writing the first Canadian Novel in 1835
Panoramic View of the City of Halifax, 1878
Memorandum on Future Land Use, 1882

1895 Fire Insurance Plan
Fire Station #5 in 1886, HRM

1921 Air Photo
THIS STONE WAS LAID UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE HALIFAX BRANCHES
OF THE CANADIAN LEGION
ON NOVEMBER 11, 1949.
BY HIS WORSHIP LT. COL. G.S. KINLEY V.D.
MAYOR OF HALIFAX.
THE FIRST SOD WAS TURNED FOR THIS
BUILDING BY MAYOR J.E. AHERN
ON APRIL 21, 1949.

LESLIE S. FAIRN, ARCHITECT
STANDARD CONSTRUCTION
CO. LIM., CONTRACTORS.
Turning the sod on the Memorial Library, 1949

Grand Opening and bestowing memorial designation, 1951
Leslie R. Fairn, FRAIC (1875-1971)

- Well-known Nova Scotian Architect
- Charter member and fellow, Royal Architecture Institute of Canada

Fairn’s notable buildings include:
- Kings County Courthouse (1903)
- Annapolis Royal Town Hall Memorial Building (1922)
- Administration Building, Acadia University, Wolfville (1924)
- Dominion Public Building, Amherst (1936)
- Henry Hicks Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1951)
- Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1971)
Construction Type

• Steel and concrete structure
• ‘T’ shaped floorplan
• Limestone and Aluminium façade
Architectural Style
• Modern Classical Revival (Neo-Classical) Style
• Good Example of mid-century institutional architecture
• A very late example of such architecture in Halifax
Memorial Aspects

- Statue of Sir Winston Churchill
- Dedication Plaque
- Books of Remembrance (moved to Central Library)
- Murals (Moved to Admiralty House Museum)
Surrounding Context

The adjacent historic buildings include:

- St. David’s Church (Victorian Gothic Revival, 1868)
- St. Mary’s Boys School (Second Empire, 1904)
- St. Mary’s Girls School (Second Empire, 1889)
- St. Mary’s Basilica (Gothic Revival, 1829)
- Halifax Provincial Courthouse (Classical Revival, 1862)
- Dalhousie Medjuck Building (Classical Revival, 1909)
Character Defining Elements

- mature trees, diagonal walkway and publicly accessible open space of Grafton Park;
- stone retaining wall circling the site;
- statue of Winston Churchill erected in 1979;
- mass gravesite of the early town and poor asylum;
- commemorative associations with the Second World War; and
- Modern-Classical library building with limestone façade, two semi-circular bays and decorative central entrance with classical detailing and inscriptions.
### SCORING SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY</th>
<th>DATE REVIEWED</th>
<th>REVIEWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax</td>
<td>November 27, 2019</td>
<td>Heritage Advisory Committee</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Highest possible Score</th>
<th>Score Awarded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a) Age of Site or 1. b) Continuity of Use</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Historical Importance</td>
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<td>3. Degree of Intactness</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. a) Relationship to Surrounding Area or 4. b) Community Value</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Score necessary for designation
Heritage Property Program

Designation Recommended? x YES NO
Recommendation

The Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

Approve the request to include 5381 Spring Garden Road in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the September 9, 2019 staff report, as a municipal heritage area under the Heritage Property Act.