

#### Evaluation of 17250 Yonge Street According to *Ontario Regulation 9/06* Town of Newmarket

Prepared for Patricia Cho Planner/Secretary-Treasurer **Town of Newmarket** 395 Mulock Drive Newmarket, ON Tel: (905) 953-5300, ext. 2462

By

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# **GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ARA – Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. CADD – Computer-Aided Drafting and Design CHVI – Cultural Heritage Value or Interest OHA – Ontario Heritage Act O. Reg. – Ontario Regulation

#### PERSONNEL

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# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Newmarket has requested that Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) evaluate the cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) of the York Region Administrative Centre located at 17250 Yonge Street according to *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (*O. Reg.*) to determine if the property is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA).

# 2.0 METHOD

This report examines the design of the property, presents its history and describes its context.

## 2.1 Site Visit

A site visit was conducted on March 11, 2020. Permission to enter the property was not required as the York Region Administrative Centre is a public building. ARA staff were accompanied by a Town of Newmarket Planner.

## 2.2 Research

Background information was obtained from historical maps (i.e., illustrated atlases), archival sources (i.e., historical publications and records), published secondary sources (online and print) and Douglas Cardinal's personal website. York Region indicted they have materials in their archives related to the building. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the materials were not accessible.

## 2.3 Consultation

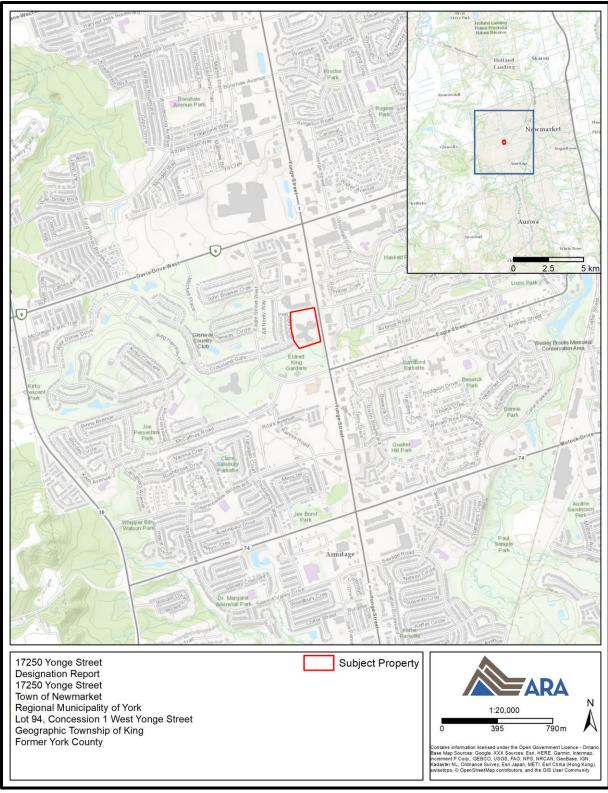
ARA contacted York Region on March 9, 2020 in advance of the site visit to obtain any available information. A reply was received on March 18, 2020 indicating that due to COVID-19 their ability to access information in the archive is very limited. At the time of report writing no additional information has been received.

## 2.4 Method Conclusion

Using the results of the site visit and research detailed above, the CHVI of 17250 Yonge Street is evaluated against the criteria prescribed in *O. Reg. 9/06* of the OHA. If the property meets any of the criteria, a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest is then provided including a list of heritage attributes.

## 3.0 PROPERTY INFORMATION

Civic Address: 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, ON Common Name: York Region Administrative Centre Legal Description: Part Lot 94, Concession 1 West Yonge Street (WYS)



Map 1: Subject property in the Town of Newmarket (Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)

## 4.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

#### 4.1 Exterior



Figure 1: Oblique view of 17250 Yonge Street looking west (Google Earth 2005; Facing West)

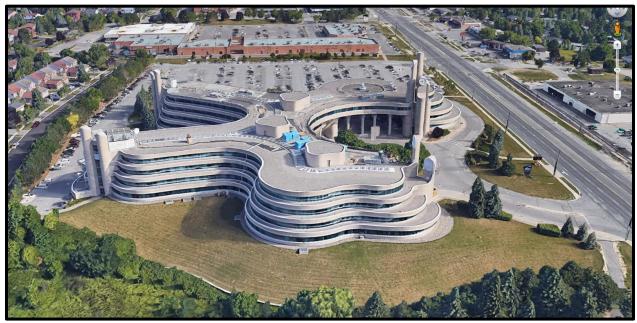


Figure 2: Oblique view of 17250 Yonge Street looking north (Google Earth 2005; Facing North)

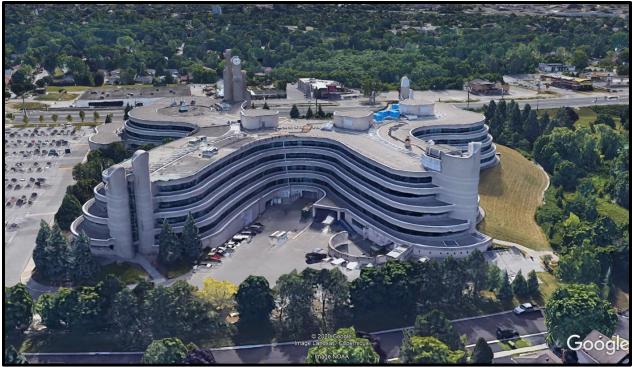


Figure 3: Oblique view of 17250 Yonge Street looking east (Google Earth 2005; Facing East)



Figure 4: Oblique view of 17250 Yonge Street looking south (Google Earth 2005; Facing South)



Map 2: Photo locations at 17250 Yonge Street (Produced by ARA under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri)



Image 1: Main entryway – Northeast wing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 2: Main entryway doors – Detail (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 3: Main entryway – North side of circular entry with four clock towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 4: Four clock towers – Northeast wing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Northwest)



Image 5: South side of main circular entry – Southeast wing with two towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing South)



Image 6: View to main entryway from Yonge Street (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Northwest)



Image 7: Detail of commemorative plaque (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 8: Detail of varied stonework (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 9: Detail of foundation and landscaping treatment (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 10: Recent addition of enclosed walkway access to neighbouring building (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 11: Enclosed walkway access to neighbouring building at 17150 Yonge Street (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 12: Enclosed walkway access looking toward southeast wing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing West)



Image 13: Southeast wing in foreground, southwest wing in background (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 14: Property topography – South side (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 15: Sympathetically designed gas metre housing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing North)



Image 16: Northwest wing with two towers and secondary entryway (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)



Image 17: West side – Southwest wing (right) and northwest wing with two towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing East)



Image 18: Service entryways (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing East)



Image 19: Secondary entryway between northwest towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing East)

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Image 20: Northwest wing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)



Image 21: Parking lot (north) side circular driveway (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)



Image 22: Northeast wing (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing East)



Image 23: Parking lot entryway, north side (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)



Image 24: Sympathetically designed and constructed water hook up (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)

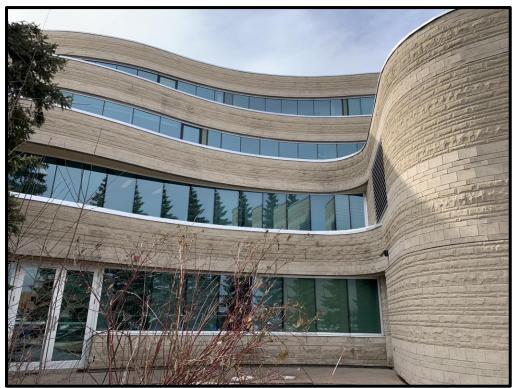


Image 25: View of differing curves (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing Southeast)



Image 26: North side – Northeast wing with four clock towers (left) and northwest wing, each with two towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing East)



Image 27: Northeast wing with clock towers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020; Facing southwest)

## 4.2 Interior



Image 28: Main entryway with stone pillars (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)

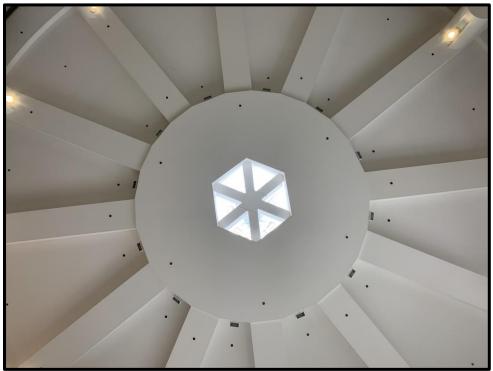


Image 29: Sunburst hexagonal oculus – Main entryway (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)



Image 30: Sunburst hexagonal motif in tiles beneath oculus – Main entryway (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)

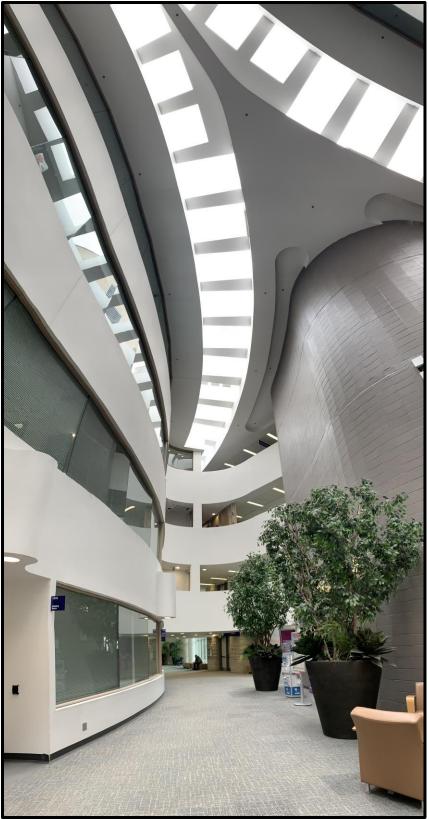


Image 31: Gently curving lines – Interior (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)

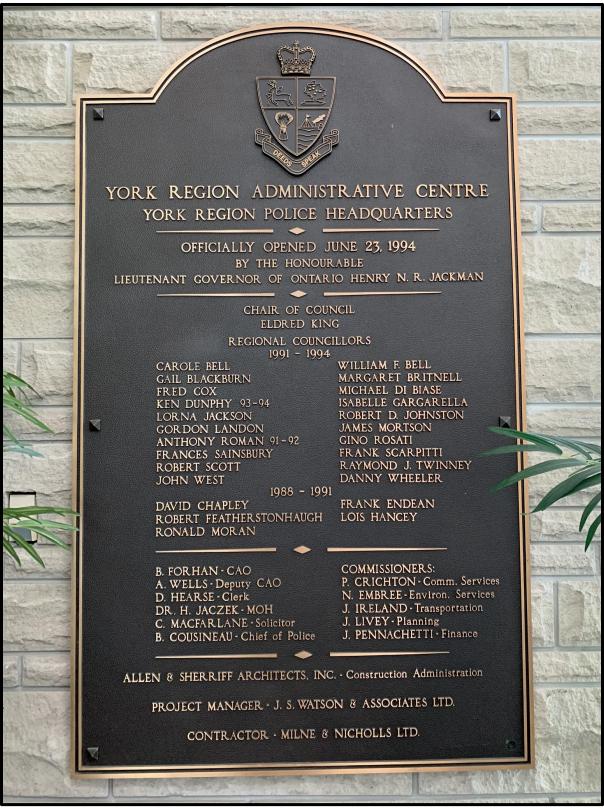


Image 32: York Region Administrative Centre plaque (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)

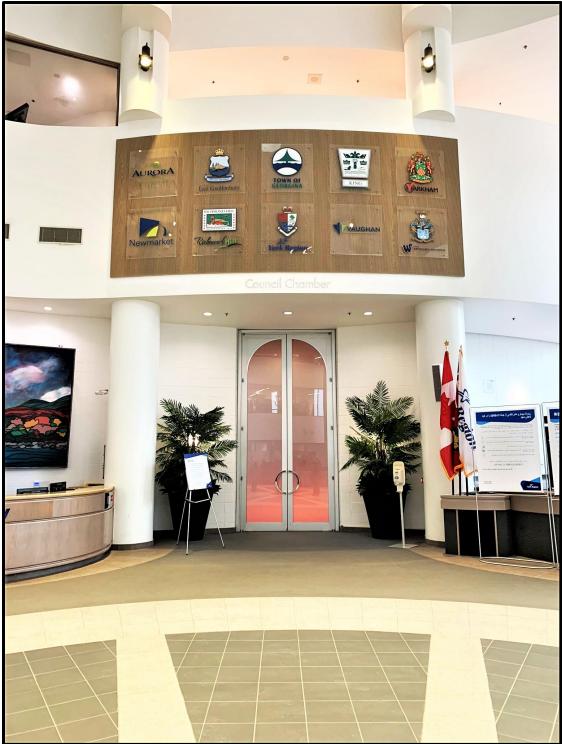
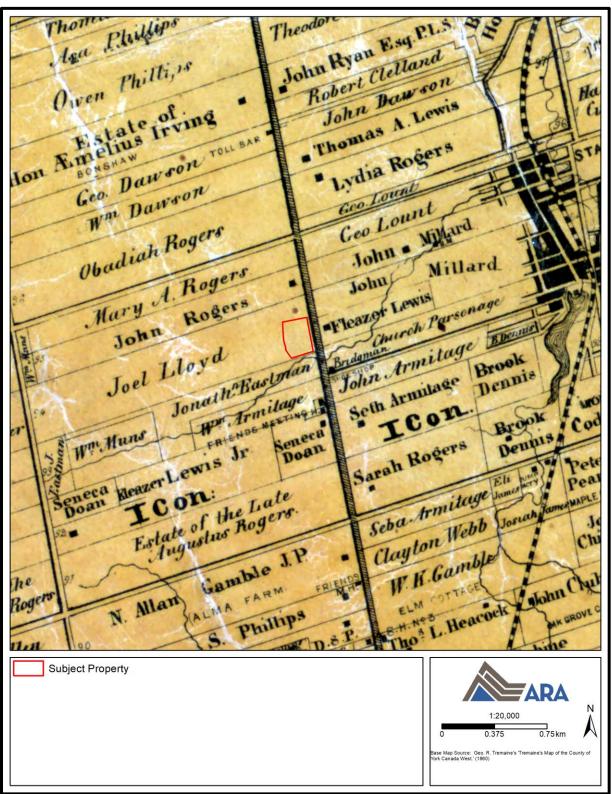


Image 33: Tall double doors leading to Council Chambers (Photo taken on March 11, 2020)

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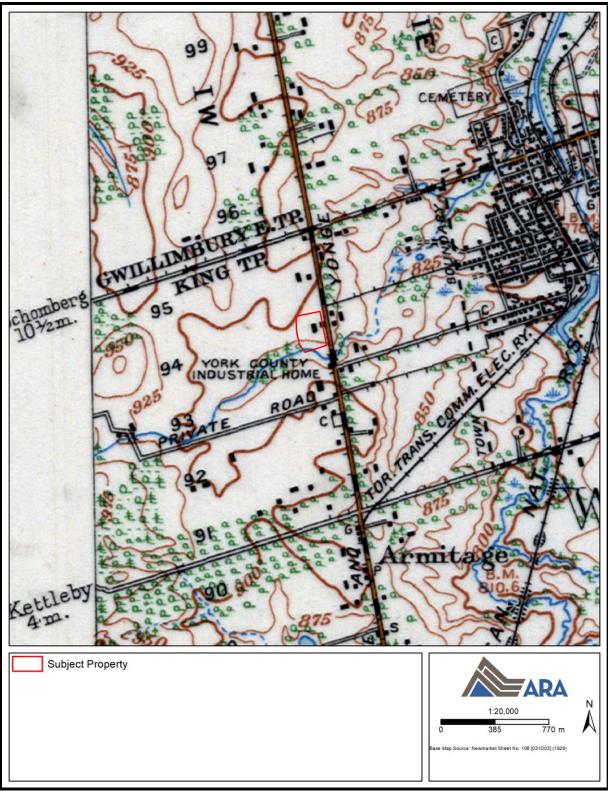
#### 5.0 MAPS



Map 3: Subject property shown on an 1860 historic map (Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; OHCMP 2018)

Ede Inc. Rogers Hunter P nin Michael Wastey ILL 93 Hann Dout Levi Rogers Jonal" Regers Jno.3 edgin. L. Lewis 91 r Ingustus Rogers 1.5 92 Rog Roger: Seby Armitage gustus efer:s otiver S. Phillips 90 is. Allen 30 Dand S. Philbipsing Alf. Stevensi 89 Chs. : Dant Phillips Prat Est Vicht 98 Subject Property N 1:15,000 580 m 290 Source: 'South King' from Miles & Co.'s 'Illustr ity of York and the Township of West Gwillimb the County of Simcos, Ont.' (1878)

Map 4: Subject property shown on an 1878 historic map (Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; McGill University 2001)



Map 5: Subject property shown on an historic 1929 topographic map (Produced under licence using ArcGIS® software by Esri, © Esri; OCUL 2018)

### 6.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 6.1 Architecture or Design

- The subject property is a four-storey postmodern (late modernist) Canadian Indigenous prairie style administrative building (Kalman 2000:568-581; Ricketts, Maitland and Hucker 2004:211-233; Kyles 2016; see Figure 1–Figure 4);
- If each architectural style is a response to its forerunners, the "Architecture of Aboriginal Peoples" is a regional interpretation of the Expressionist and later postmodern style. A *Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles* wrote a dedicated chapter to First Nations architecture, meaning designed by or for First Nations cultures (Ricketts 2004:217);
- The postmodern architectural style is evident in the subject property with the stone and glass ribbons flowing over four storeys, the emphasis on the horizontal, as well as the organic form and plan (Image 1-Image 26);
  - The founding International style is one from which many Western architects diverged, creating their own variations of the 1950's Contempo or modernism shift. According to the *Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles*, the Expressionist style became popular in Canada in 1960-70. Influential architects of the European movement, specifically Gaudi and Le Corbusier, and later Frank Lloyd Wright, are listed as the main influences of the subject property's architect, Douglas Cardinal (Cardinal 2020);
- The building was designed by Douglas Cardinal, an Indigenous Canadian architect of Siksika descent. His work is distinctively organic and curvilinear.
  - As a prairie-region inspired architect, Cardinal is among the founding members who contributed to the creation of some of "the most powerfully original buildings in the post-war era...perhaps the only truly Canadian – as against adopted – architectural images have been created in the prairies, out of this harsh necessity for strong forms in a landscape wide as Heaven or Hell" (Kalman 2000:574);
  - According to Ontario Architecture, A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the present, postmodernists "rethought function to incorporate personal tastes and group aesthetics as legitimate design factors... layered with ambiguous or symbolic meaning, thus becoming representative of a pluralistic and multicultural society (Blumenson 1990:245);
    - This perspective aligns with Cardinal's philosophy:

Douglas Cardinal expresses his buildings in a signature style of harmonious curvilinear forms. Yet, the elegance of his designs is not limited to aesthetics – he has a deep understanding of architecture as a tool to better the world. A proponent of Organic Architecture, Douglas Cardinal understands architecture as a holistic enterprise where all members of the architectural process conjunctively create a legacy for the future. Indeed, Douglas believes that each building takes a life of its own as a living, organic being shaped in close partnership with the client and all stake holders (Cardinal 2020).

- Pulling from his International/Expressionist style influences (specifically from the earlier European Expressionist movement headed by Antonio Gaudi), Cardinal looked to create remarkable structures with dramatically "curved concrete or brick walls, cantilevered roofs" (Ricketts 2004:211);
- Kyles notes that, "The most apt phrase to describe his [Cardinal] buildings is 'ribbons of stone.' The forms intertwine, undulate and are organic in the real sense of the word" (Kyles 2016);

- As a post-war period architect following the general trend of Expressionist and postmodern styles, Cardinal was a "forerunner of philosophies of sustainability, green buildings and ecologically designed community planning. His architecture springs from his observation of Nature and its understanding that everything works seamlessly together" (Cardinal 2020). Cardinal instilled the value of the interrelationship between building and landscape. He captured the "sweeping lines of the land" in the undulating outer walls of the subject building. By harmonizing the natural topography with the York Region Administrative Centre, and with an eye to the increasing urbanization of Newmarket, the building exemplifies the Indigenous translation of postmodern architecture (Ricketts 2004:222);
- The subject building has striking similarities to Cardinal's Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec (now called Canadian Museum of History). Construction on the museum finished in 1989 and the subject building was completed only three years later;
- Cardinal was a pioneering adopter of early computer technology, harnessing the power of computers as early as the 1960s to create his signature organic forms. By the late 1970s, Cardinal's practice became the first to be fully computerized, using their own proprietary architectural programming (Cardinal 2020);
  - Identified as a pioneer and world leader in Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) systems (Kalman 2000:580);
  - Cardinal's firm was selected as a CADD demonstration site to test and advance the technology in Canada;
- The irregular organic floor plan stretches out in four directions with four wing elements (see Map 2);
- Each wing ends with a tower element: the northeast wing has four clock towers of differing heights, the clockface is black on white with a simple design of Roman numerals; the other three wings have two towers, all with different heights and window/door configurations (see Image 3–Image 6, Image 16 and Image 19);
- The general appearance of the stepped storeys are stacked inward (see Image 10, Image 13, Image 14 and Image 25);
- Ribbons of alternating rusticated and ashlar masonry, punctuated with continuous bands of windows creates interesting and dynamic undulating horizontal lines (see Image 13, Image 14, Image 17, Image 18, Image 21 and Image 26);
- Each wing radiates from the circular driveway area, each with their own natural lighting;
  - A continuous band of skylights follows the central hall of the southeast, southwest and northwest wings, while an octagonal skylight brightens the large northeast wing (see Map 2 and Figure 1–Figure 4, Image 29 and Image 31);
  - The structure takes advantage of the natural light afforded by the centrally placed ribbon skylight throughout the building, thus minimizing the need for lighting and reducing energy use;
- The main entryway is located within a semi-circular colonnade with a plain cornice supported by plain columns (Image 1–Image 5);
- Utility infrastructure, including the gas metre housing (see Image 15) and the water hook up (see Image 24), were designed and built to be sympathetic to the building's design and construction materials;
- While interior features were not included in the scope of this report, it is important to note that some exterior elements of the subject building do extend to the interior. For example, some stone walls extend to the interior as pillars, the skylight is both an interior and exterior feature of the structure, and the arched glass within the rectangular outer

doors are echoed in some interior doors. The dominant white colour noted as a postmodern feature is also prevalent inside the building and the tiled floor in the foyer is designed to mirror the hexagonal skylight above (see Image 27–Image 33).

As postmodern architecture is essentially a bucking of all previous style trends as design ideologies with 'rules', it is difficult to list elements of such an eclectic style. In addition, the Canadian and First Nations interpretation of this style is recognized as characteristics of the regional (prairie) expression of postmodern, thus further adapting the style (Kalman 2000:579). To help conceptualize postmodern architecture, Table 1 lists typical characteristics of the style as outlined in *A History of Canadian Architecture* (Kalman 2000:579); *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles* (Ricketts et al. 2004: 211-233); *Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Foundations Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation* (Fram 2003); and *Post-Modern Style (1870-1910)* in *Ontario Architecture (*Kyles 2020). The York Region Administrative Centre exhibits many of the characteristics of the style and can therefore be considered a representative example of a postmodern style institutional building. The table also highlights elements characteristic of the International style, from which the postmodern movement was borne (Fram 2003:31).

| Style Characteristics  | Characteristics of 17250 Yonge Street  |
|--|--|
| Dramatically curved concrete or brick walls  | Yes  |
| Cantilevered roof  | No   |
| Laminated wood in idiosyncratic shapes   | No   |
| Complex organic forms  | Yes  |
| Evident symbolic intent expressed  | Unclear  |
| Futuristic shapes  | Yes  |
| Horizontal emphasis  | Yes – Four storeys of alternating stone and window ribbons                                     |
| Flat roof  | Yes  |
| Appearance of thinness and lightness in deliberate contrast to surrounding buildings | Yes  |
| Stucco, concrete or smooth brick walls   | Yes – Alternating rusticated and smooth cut stone cladding                                     |
| Undecorated neutral surfaces   | Yes – Simple columns, etc.   |
| Extensive areas of glass (usually horizontal bands)                                  | Yes  |
| White as dominant colour, reinforcing institutional overtones                        | Yes – Light coloured stone, light columns, dominantly white interior, white skylight surrounds |
| Quirky animated garden furniture and sculpture                                       | No   |

Table 1: Characteristics of Postmodern Institutional Buildings

In addition to the importance of determining the degree to which the subject building exhibits postmodern characteristics, it is also important to evaluate the York Region Administrative Centre to other comparable buildings in Douglas Cardinal's portfolio (i.e., institutional buildings). Table 2 illustrates the subject building along with a selection of comparable institutional works. This exploration of images makes it clear that the subject building is a representative example of Douglas Cardinal's distinct postmodern Canadian Indigenous prairie style.

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| Building                                | Location         | Construction<br>Date | Image    | Reference   |
|---|------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| York Region<br>Administrative<br>Centre | Newmarket,<br>ON | 1992                 | <image/> | ARA 2020    |
| Museum of<br>Canadian<br>History        | Hull, QC         | 1989, 1999           |          | Kaalan n.d. |

Table 2: Comparison of Douglas Cardinal's Institutional Buildings

| Building                                      | Location                               | Construction<br>Date | Image | Reference          |
|---|--|----------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Museum of<br>the American<br>Indian           | National<br>Mall,<br>Washington,<br>DC | 2004                 |       | David Coleman 2011 |
| Alberta<br>Government<br>Services<br>Building | Ponoka, AB                             | 1975                 |       | Rainone 2017       |

| Building                    | Location   | Construction<br>Date | Image | Reference     |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| First Nations<br>University | Regina, SK | 2003                 |       | Cardinal 2020 |

# 6.2 History

- Part of the Joel Lloyd farm is on Lot 94, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, King Township in 1860 (see Map 3);
- Part of the Michael Wasley farm in 1878 (see Map 4);
  - Possible that the Wasley residence and associated orchard were located on the subject property;
- Former location of the York County Industrial Home (see Map 5);
  - Fifty-acre farm on the west side of Yonge Street at Eagle Street in Newmarket purchased for the erection of the County Industrial Home, colloquially known as the Poorhouse;
  - Four storey Queen Anne-style brick building constructed in 1883 to function as a poorhouse;
  - Name changed to House of Refuge in 1933, then County Home for the Aged in 1949 and York Manor;
  - New York Manor building constructed on the property in 1959;
  - Buildings demolished in 1993 for the construction of the York Regional 'HQ' (MacLeod 2019);
- The Region of York acquired the property in 1985 (LRO #65);
- Douglas Cardinal was contracted as the architect for the project, completing the building for official opening on June 23, 1994;
  - Douglas Cardinal (born 1934 in Red Deer, AB to Métis parents) is an Indigenous Canadian architect of Siksika descent;
  - Studied at the University of Texas School of Architecture where he developed his architectural style;
  - Cardinal was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1990, awarded the Canada Council Molson Prize for the Arts in 1992, received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2005, Gold Medal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1999, received the Governor General's Award for Visual Media and Arts in 2001, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, and had been granted 19 honorary doctorates by 2013 (Acl and Baic-Bender 2018; Cardinal 2020).
- Construction was photo documented (see Appendix A)

## 6.3 Context

- The York Region Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street, is built on a property historically owned and operated by the government;
- The building is situated on a rise of land to the north of a ravine;
- The current location of the subject building is in proximity to the newly constructed York Region facility at 17150 Yonge Street, expanding upon the government district along this portion of Yonge Street, of which the York Region Administrative Centre is the founding building. According to the Region:

The development of 17150 Yonge Street supports Ontario's Places to Grow Act, York Region's Official Plan and Newmarket's Secondary Plan by locating the facility on the Yonge Street Rapid Transit Corridor. Once built, 17150 Yonge Street and its grounds will create a civic campus within an established government district (York Region 2020).

# 7.0 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

| Criteria                    | Description  | √ V |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|--|
|                             | Is a rare, unique, representative or<br>early example of a style, type,<br>expression, material or<br>construction method                      | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre is a representative example of a postmodern style administrative building, specifically, a Canadian Indigenous prairie variation of the style.   |
| Design or Physical<br>Value | Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic value  | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre<br>displays a high degree of artistic value with<br>its striking scale and curvilinear massing<br>including the nature of the horizontal<br>waving bands of stone and glass.   |
|                             | Displays a high degree of technical or scientific achievement  |     | The York Region Administrative Centre<br>does not display a high degree of technical<br>or scientific achievement.   |
|                             | Has direct associations with a<br>theme, event, belief, person,<br>activity, organization or institution<br>that is significant to a community |     | The York Region Administrative Centre<br>does not have direct associations with a<br>theme, event, belief, person, activity,<br>organization or institution that is significant<br>to the community.   |
| Historical or               | Yields or has the potential to yield<br>information that contributes to the<br>understanding of a community or<br>culture                      |     | The York Region Administrative Centre<br>does not yield information that contributes<br>to the understanding of a community or<br>culture.   |
| Associative Value           | Demonstrates or reflects the work<br>or ideas of an architect, builder,<br>artist, designer or theorist who is<br>significant to a community   | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre<br>demonstrates and reflects the work and<br>ideas of prominent postmodern Indigenous<br>Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal with<br>its curvilinear massing and organic forms.<br>He was a pioneering adopter of early<br>computer technology, harnessing the<br>power of computers as early as the 1960s<br>to create his signature organic forms. |
|                             | Is important in defining,<br>maintaining or supporting the<br>character of an area   | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre is<br>the founding property around which the<br>Town of Newmarket and York Region are<br>creating a civic campus within an<br>established government district along<br>Yonge Street.   |
| Contextual Value            | Is physically, functionally, visually<br>or historically linked to its<br>surroundings   | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre is<br>physically and visually linked to the<br>topography of the land on which it is built.<br>Architect Douglas Cardinal specifically<br>designed the structure to harmonize with<br>the natural features of the landscape.   |
|                             | ls a landmark  | ~   | The York Region Administrative Centre is a landmark along Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.   |

# Table 3: Evaluation of the Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of 17250 Yonge Street in Accordance with O. Reg. 9/06

## 8.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

## Introduction and Description of Property

17250 Yonge Street, the York Region Administrative Centre, is located on the west side of Yonge Street between Millard Avenue West and Eagle Street West, Lot 94, Concession 1 West of Yonge

Street, in the Town of Newmarket, York Region. The property consists of a four-storey postmodern Canadian Indigenous prairie style administrative building. The structure was built between 1992-93 and officially opened on June 23, 1994.

#### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

#### Physical/Design Value

The York Region Administrative Centre is an excellent example of a postmodern institutional building; specifically, the Canadian Indigenous prairie interpretation of the style. The building displays elements of the prairie regionalism branch of postmodernist architecture exemplified by its organic and curvilinear design. Typical of this style, the flat roofed four-storey stone and glass structure has an irregular, organic floor plan with a horizontal emphasis on each stepped storey of alternating rusticated and smooth stone bands with continuous window ribbons. The structure's windows are plain and unadorned and feature extensive areas of glass, indicative of the style. Four wings radiate from the large central circular driveway with colonnades and two sets of tall double doors flanked by a shorter door on each side, all with semi-arched glass insert and semicircular door handles. The entryway apparatus is installed within a curved wall of windows. The York Region Shield is etched in the window above the entrance. The northeast wing terminates at the clock tower feature with four towers of varying heights, each with a round simple clockface of black on white Roman numerals. The other three wings terminate at two towers of varying heights. White is a dominant colour of this building style and as been integrated into the building's light coloured stone and columns, reinforcing institutional overtones. Attention to detail is evident in the utility infrastructure (gas metre housing and water hook up) designed and built in a manner sympathetic to the building's architecture. The York Region Administrative Centre displays a high degree of artistic value with its striking scale and curvilinear massing including the nature of the horizontal waving bands of stone and glass.

#### Historical and Associative Value

The York Region Administrative Centre demonstrates and reflects the work and ideas of renowned Indigenous Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal. Cardinal was born in 1934 in Red Deer, AB to Métis parents and is of Siksika descent. He studied at the University of Texas School of Architecture where he developed his architectural style that was influenced by Antonio Gaudi, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier. His notable buildings include the: Museum of Canadian History, Hull, QB (1989, 1999); Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC (2004); Alberta Government Services Building, Ponoka, AB (1975); and First Nations University, Regina, SK (2003). As a post-war period architect, Douglas Cardinal was a forerunner of philosophies of sustainability, green buildings and ecologically designed community planning. His architecture springs from his observations of nature and its understanding that everything works seamlessly together. This philosophy is clearly demonstrated by the manner in which the York Region Administrative Centre harmonizes with the natural features of the landscape through its curvilinear massing and organic forms. Cardinal is known for curvilinear designs which is demonstrated in this building. He was a pioneering adopter of early computer technology, notably Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) systems, harnessing the power of computers as early as the 1960s to create his signature organic forms. By the late 1970s, Cardinal's practice became the first to be fully computerized, using their own proprietary architectural programming.

#### Contextual Value

The York Region Administrative Centre is designed to harmonize with the natural features of the landscape, physically and visually linking the building to the surrounding topography. It is the

founding property around which the Town of Newmarket and York Region are creating a civic campus within the established government district along this area of Yonge Street. Due to its striking architecture, the building is a physical and visual landmark along Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

## Cultural Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes that contribute to the CHVI of 17250 Yonge Street include, but are not limited to:

- Four-storey postmodern Canadian Indigenous prairie style building;
- Organic curvilinear plan;
- Flat roof;
- Rusticated and smooth stones laid in horizontal undulating bands;
- Alternating horizontal lines of continuous glass ribbons;
- Four radiating wings from a main circular driveway;
- Two variable height towers at the terminus of the southeast, southwest and northwest wings;
- Four clock towers of varying heights at the terminus of the northeast wing;
  - Simple black on white round clock faces with Roman numerals;
- Continuous lines of skylights through the centre of three wings;
- Colonnades at main circular driveway and entryway;
- Large glass wall at main entryway with two sets of tall double doors flanked by a shorter door on each side, all with semi-arched glass insert and semi-circular door handles;
- Utility infrastructure sympathetically designed to harmonize with the building's stone material and treatment;
- Visible recessed concrete foundation;
- Situation on a rise in topography north of a ravine along Yonge Street; and
- Location in the government district of York Region.

# 9.0 CONCLUSIONS

*O. Reg.* 9/06 of the OHA requires that to be designated, a property must meet one or more of the criteria grouped into the categories of design or physical value, historical or associative value and contextual value. The York Region Administrative Centre at 17250 Yonge Street meets all three criteria for determining CHVI as outlined in *O. Reg.* 9/06.

The Provincial Policy Statement notes that CHVI is bestowed upon cultural heritage resources by communities (MMAH 2014). Accordingly, the system by which heritage is governed in this province places an emphasis on the decision-making of local municipalities in determining CHVI. It is hoped that the information presented in this report will be useful in those deliberations.

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York Region

- nd Selection of construction photographs of Regional Administrative Centre (Document Number: 10769794)
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#### Appendix A: Historic Photos (York Region nd:1-11)

Selection of construction photographs of the Regional Administrative Centre



York Region Archives photo no.4600812



York Region Archives photo no.4601209

1 Page



York Region Archives photo no.4600619



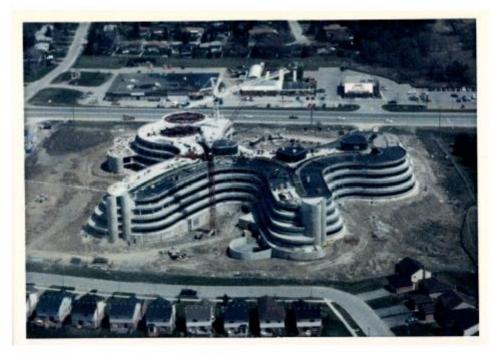
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York Region Archives photo no.4600582



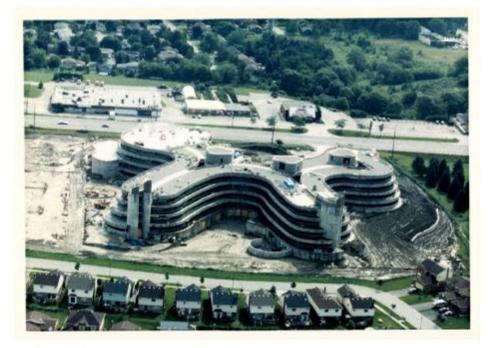


York Region Archives photo no.4600689

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York Region Archives photo no.4601512

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York Region Archives photo no.4600407

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