

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Built Heritage Sub-Committee / Sous-comité du patrimoine bâti  
May 11, 2017 / 11 mai 2017**

**and / et**

**Planning Committee / Comité de l'urbanisme  
May 23, 2017 / 23 mai 2017**

**and Council / et au Conseil  
June 14, 2017 / 14 juin 2017**

**Submitted on April 28, 2017  
Soumis le 28 avril 2017**

**Submitted by**

**Soumis par:**

**Court Curry,**

**Manager / Gestionnaire,**

**Right of Way, Heritage and Urban Design Services / Services des emprises, du  
patrimoine et du design urbain**

**Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department / Direction  
générale de la planification, de l'infrastructure et du développement économique**

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**Ward: RIDEAU-VANIER (12)**

**File Number: ACS2017-PIE-RHU-0009**

**SUBJECT: Designation of Macdonald Gardens Park, 99 Cobourg Street, Under  
Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act***

**OBJET: Désignation du parc Macdonald Gardens, situé au 99, rue Cobourg, en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario***

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Built Heritage Sub-Committee recommend that Planning Committee recommend that Council issue a notice of intention to designate Macdonald Gardens Park, at 99 Cobourg Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value, attached as Document 5.**

## **RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Sous-comité du patrimoine bâti recommande au Comité de l'urbanisme de recommander à son tour au Conseil de publier un avis d'intention de désigner le parc Macdonald Gardens, situé au 99, rue Cobourg, en vertu de la partie IV de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, conformément à la déclaration de valeur sur le plan du patrimoine culturel faisant l'objet du document 5 ci-joint.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Macdonald Gardens Park is located at 99 Cobourg Street in Lowertown East bound by Cobourg, Heney, Wurtemberg and Tormey Streets (see Document 1). The park was designed by landscape architect Fredrick G. Todd in 1914 on the site of a former cemetery.

In December 2016, the City received a request to designate this property under the *Ontario Heritage Act* from the Lowertown Community Association.

This report has been prepared because designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* must be approved by City Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Official Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement and the *Ontario Heritage Act* all provide policy direction related to the designation of individual properties under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

## **Official Plan**

The Official Plan has policies related to heritage in “Cultural Heritage Resources”, Section 2.5.5.2. These policies provide for the identification and designation of individual buildings under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

2.5.5.2 “Individual buildings, structures and cultural heritage landscapes will be designated as properties of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.”

## **Provincial Policy Statement (2014)**

Section 2.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2014) contains the following policy regarding the protection of cultural heritage resources: “Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.”

### *Ontario Heritage Act*

Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* provides municipalities with the authority to designate properties of cultural heritage value. Section 29 (4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, sets out the process for designation of individual buildings. It requires that Council consult with its municipal heritage committee and that the official notice served on the owner shall contain a description of the property so that it may easily be ascertained and a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property. Document 5 sets out the Statements of Cultural Heritage Value for this site.

## **Ontario Regulation 09/06**

Regulation 09/06 (Document 3) sets out criteria for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It states that:

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 ... These criteria are organized into three groups; design or physical value, historical or associative value and contextual value.

Through research and evaluation, staff have determined that Macdonald Gardens Park meets all three criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 09/06. A brief analysis of each of the criteria is provided below and more detailed information is attached in the Heritage Survey and Evaluation Form (see Document 4).

## **Design or Physical Value**

Macdonald Gardens Park is a large park in Lowertown East designed by landscape architect Frederick Todd in 1914. Todd was commissioned by the Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC), forerunner to the National Capital Commission, to design a park on the site of a former cemetery as part of the OIC's commitment to beautify the city and showcase Ottawa's natural landscape. The plan was to create a tranquil setting with winding paths, native trees and open spaces, intended for passive recreation. The design included plans for three built structures, however only one stands today, the summer house. This hexagonal gazebo sits atop a small hill on the western portion of the park with a direct view to Parliament Hill. The park includes about eight acres of land and was originally split in half by Charlotte Street. In an attempt to unify the park space, the street was closed in 1974 and a tree-lined pathway was put in its place. The eastern portion is flat with large open areas, and the western portion includes a small hill in the centre, upon which is located the summer house. A wading pool used to stand in the north west corner of the park, but was removed in 1968.

Despite the loss of many of the original pathways, the park still retains the original intent as a park meant for relaxation with lots of vegetation, open spaces as well as the summer house at the top of the hill.

## **Associative or Historical Value**

Macdonald Gardens Park is located on the site of a former cemetery. Between the years 1845 and 1873, the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Wesleyan Methodist and Roman Catholic churches used this site as the Sandy Hill cemeteries. Each denomination had approximately two acres of land, on land divided by Charlotte Street. When the cemetery closed in the 1870s, due to its poor state, the remains were moved to Beechwood and Notre-Dame Cemeteries. The land was then transferred to the City of Ottawa in 1909 to turn into a public park.

The Ottawa Improvement Commission took over ownership of the park in 1911 and hired landscape architect Frederick Todd to design the park in 1912. Frederick Todd was born in 1876, in New Hampshire and worked in Massachusetts with the Olmsted Brothers. He moved to Montreal in 1900 and completed many projects there and across the country. He was one of the founding members of the Town Planning Institute of Canada and is considered one of Canada's first landscape architects. Todd was hired by the OIC to create a plan for the national capital which included parks and parkways, many of which were incorporated into future plans for the city. Macdonald Gardens is typical of these plans, as it is one of the few large parks in an urban area in Ottawa.

Macdonald Gardens Park is located in Lowertown East, in an area of Lowertown that is relatively intact after the 1960-1970s urban renewal scheme in the neighbourhood in which many of Lowertown's working class houses were lost. The neighbours surrounding the park have traditionally been the elite of Ottawa, similar to that of Sandy Hill, just south of Rideau Street. The introduction of a streetcar line to Cobourg Street meant that the Macdonald Gardens neighbourhood was easily accessible by transit. Notable residents included the former Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, and Hayter Reed, who both lived on Wurtemberg Street.

### **Contextual Value**

Macdonald Gardens Park is a landmark in Lowertown. The iconic summer house at the top of the hill provides a visual landmark from Cobourg, Tormey, Heney and Wurtemberg Streets. Surrounding the park are a mix of housing styles and types. Wurtemberg is comprised of mainly larger lots which used to hold larger mansions, many of which have been lost to apartment towers. To the north are low-rise single and multi-unit residences with an assortment of simple housing forms to the more elaborate. East and south of the park are a mix of apartment buildings from a wide variety of eras and styles.

Macdonald Gardens Park is the only public park space east of Cobourg Street and north of Rideau and is surrounded by residences. It acts as a hub for the community to gather to enjoy the outdoors and socialize.

### **Conclusion**

The department supports the designation of Macdonald Gardens Park under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as it meets the criteria for designation in Ontario Regulation 09/06.

The park has design value as a good example of a planned park by a landscape architect, historical value for its association with landscape architect Frederick Todd and its ties to the Ottawa Improvement Commission, and contextual value as a recognizable landmark.

### **Provincial Policy Statement**

Staff have reviewed this proposal and have determined that it is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

The property is owned by the City of Ottawa, and a meeting was held with Parks and Recreation to discuss the designation process and implications. This designation will not hinder any on-going or future maintenance of the park. Any alterations or new construction in the park would require a heritage permit.

The Lowertown Community Association was notified of the proposed designation. The community association is supportive of the designation.

Heritage Ottawa was notified of the proposed designation.

## **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Fleury provided the following comments:

“We are happy to see the designation of Macdonald Gardens Park under part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. We would like to thank our community for preparing the historical review and for their diligent work on this important project. As this park was named after Sir John A Macdonald, I do believe that the protection and recognition of Macdonald Gardens Park ahead of the celebrations for our country’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is timely. The park is located in the heart of our city and is home to green space, a stone gazebo, an off-leash dog park, and beautiful walking paths that greatly contribute to the green urban infrastructure in Lowertown. Our office and our community are happy to see such an iconic area given the recognition that it deserves.”

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications associated with adopting the recommendation contained within this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendations documented in this report are consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Asset Management (CAM) Program ([City of Ottawa Comprehensive](#)

[Asset Management Program](#)) objectives. To fulfill its obligation to deliver quality services to the community, the City must ensure that assets supporting City services are managed in a way that balances service levels, risk and affordability. The designation of Macdonald Gardens Park under the *Ontario Heritage Act* will be considered in the ongoing long term operation, maintenance and capital renewal costs.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no accessibility implications associated with this report.

## **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

This project addresses the following Term of Council Priority:

HC4 - Support Arts, Heritage and Culture

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 Location Map

Document 2 Photos

Document 3 Ontario Regulation 09/06

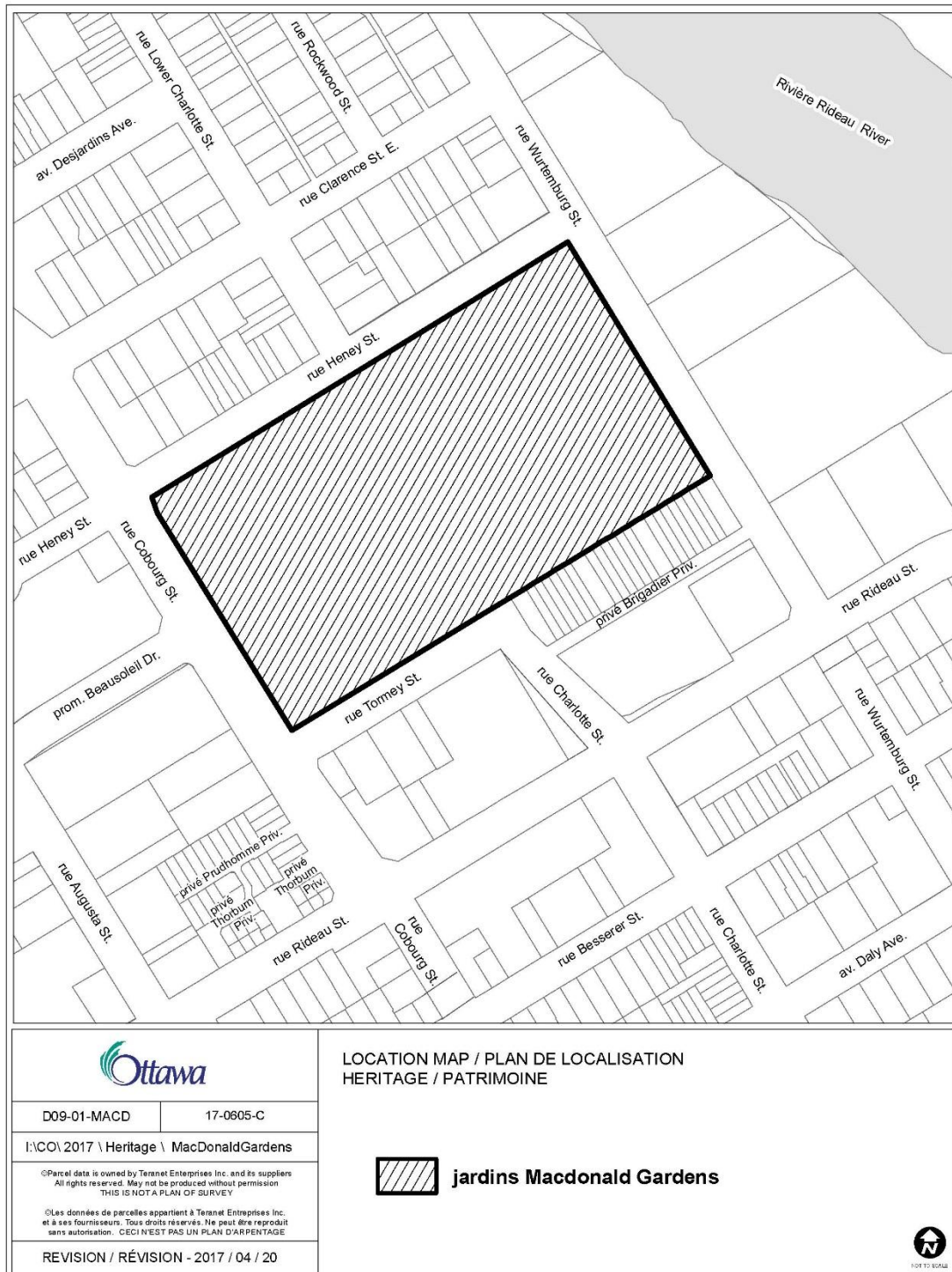
Document 4 Heritage Survey and Evaluation Form

Document 5 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

## **DISPOSITION**

City Clerk and Solicitor Department, Legislative Services, to notify the property owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust (10 Adelaide Street East, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3) of Council's decision.

## Document 1 – Location Map





## Document 2 - Photos



Summer House, 2016. City of Ottawa



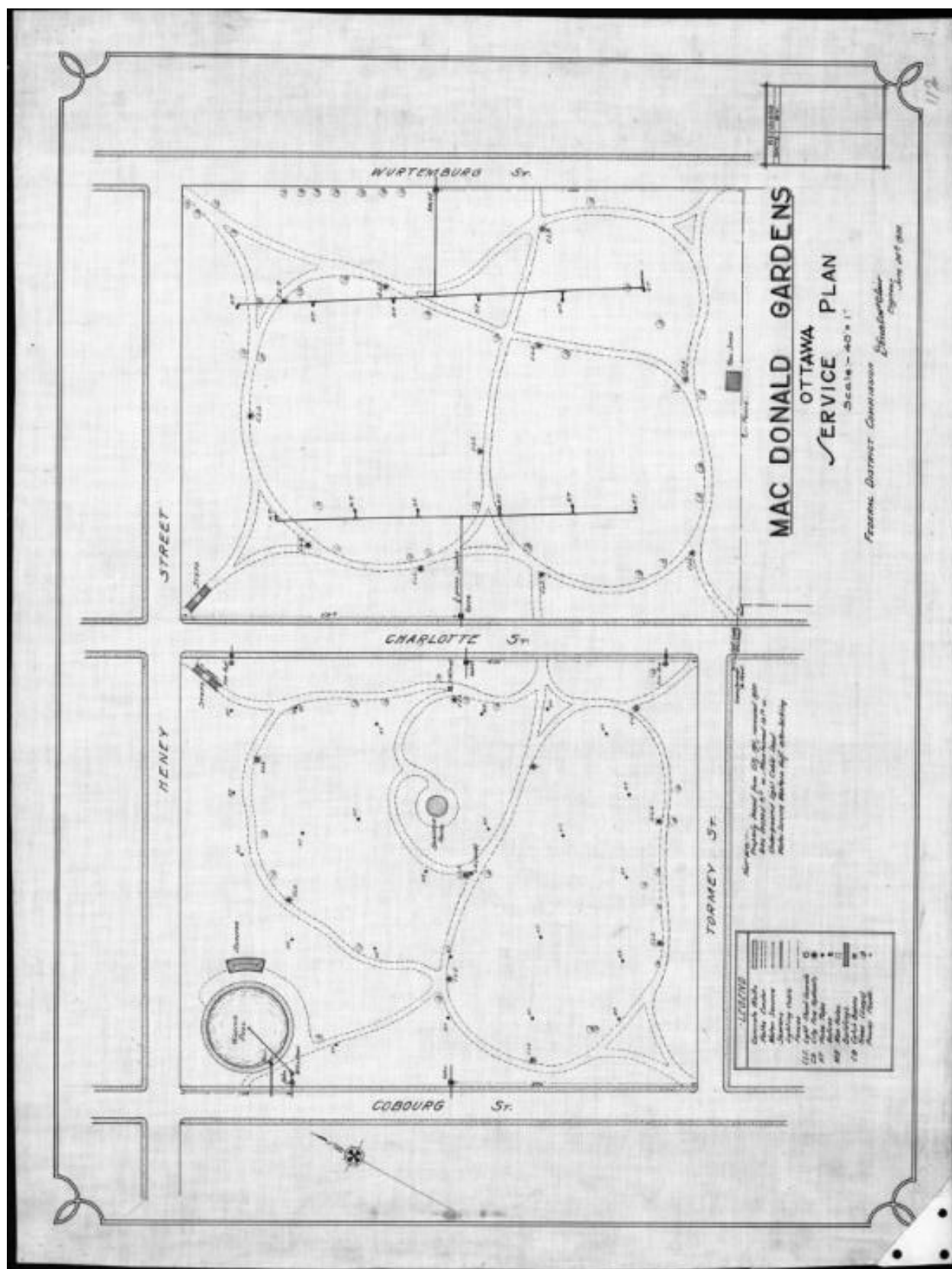
Summer House, 1920s. Library and Archives Canada PA034307



Summer House, 1920s. Library and Archives Canada PA034309



Aerial view from 1928 showing the original pathway system. GeoOttawa



**Document 3 – Ontario Regulation 09/06****CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

**Consolidation Period:** From January 25, 2006 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

No amendments.

**This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.**

**Criteria**

1. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (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).

### **Transition**

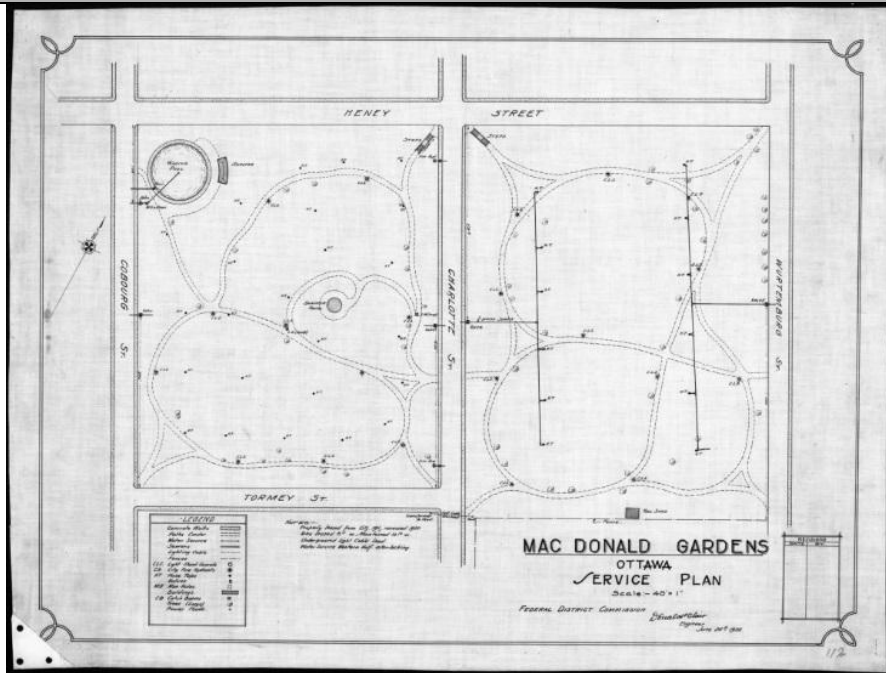
2. This Regulation does not apply in respect of a property if notice of intention to designate it was given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the *Act* on or before January 24, 2006. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 2.



## Document 4 – Heritage Survey and Evaluation Form

HERITAGE SURVEY AND EVALUATION FORM		Prepared By: Ashley Kotarba	
		Month/Year: April 2017	
Address	99 Cobourg Street	Building name	Macdonald Gardens Park  Bordered by Cobourg, Heney, Wurtemberg and Tormey Streets.
Construction date	1914	Original owner	City of Ottawa
			
CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE/ INTEREST			
	Yes	No	
Design Value	X		

Historical Value	X	
Contextual Value	X	
	A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets one of more of the above criteria. Ontario Regulation 09/06	
Design or Physical Value		



Service Plan for Macdonald Gardens, 1932. Library and Archives Canada NMC 190209



Aerial view from 1928 showing the original pathway system. GeoOttawa.

### Architecture

Is the property a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method?

YES

NO

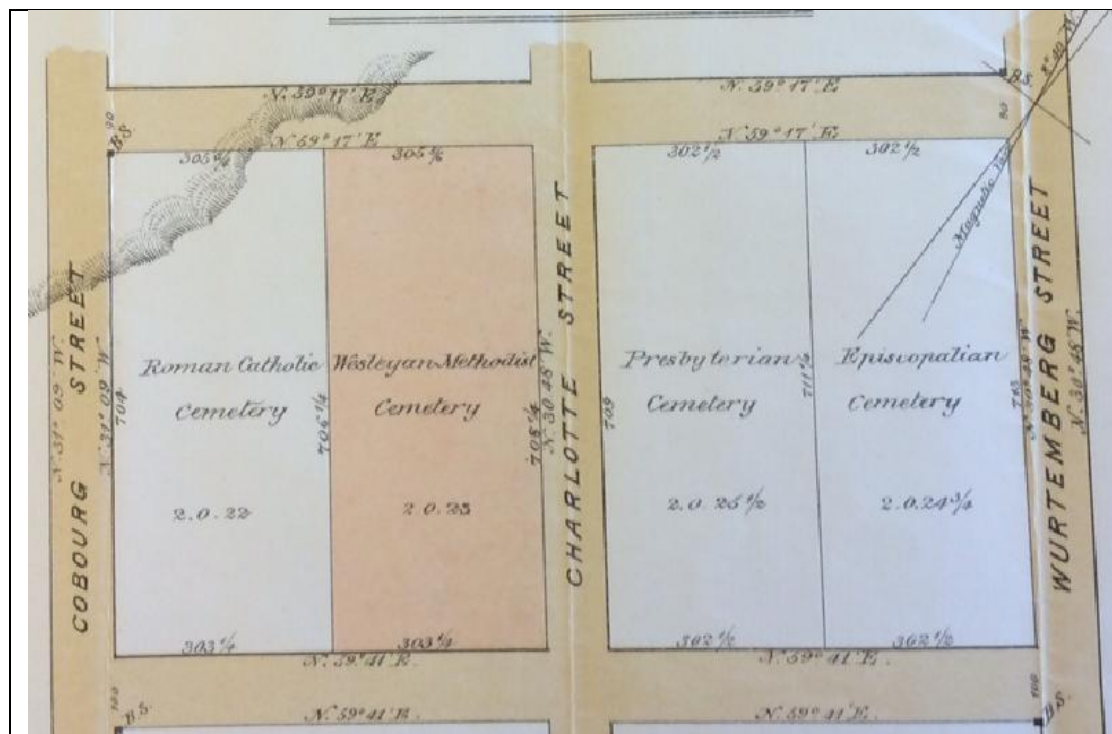


Macdonald Gardens is a large park to the north of Rideau Street in the Lowertown East neighbourhood of Ottawa. Designed by landscape architect Frederick Todd, the site is comprised of approximately eight acres of land and was originally split in half by Charlotte Street. Today, the road is closed, but a central line of trees divides the park into two halves – the east side is flat with few trees and the west side contains a small hill topped by a summer house, which is the only built structure standing from Todd's plan. It is a simple hexagonal stone gazebo with round arches and a red tiled roof and has a view of Parliament Hill. According to plans from the architect, three buildings were meant to be constructed and only one of them stands today.<sup>1</sup> Other built forms in the park include two low retaining walls in the northwest corner of the park, and a flight of stairs leading up from Heney Street, at Lower Charlotte Street.

Macdonald Gardens Park was planned and developed as part of the efforts to beautify the capital in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1891, Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier announced in his famous "Washington of the North" speech that he wanted to improve the city. This goal prompted the establishment of the Ottawa Improvement Commission in 1899, and the hiring of Frederick Todd in 1901 to develop a plan of parks and driveways for the capital.<sup>2</sup> The design concept for Macdonald Gardens Park was to create tranquil setting with winding paths, native trees and open spaces in an urban setting. Today, the original design of the pathways has been nearly all lost, and is instead replaced with gravel paths cutting each section of the park in half, diagonally.



<p>On the eastern edge of the park stands a modern air quality monitoring station put in place by the provincial government to monitor the air quality of the downtown.</p> <p>The park changed hands between the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC) a few times over its 100-year history. A reminder of this is the concrete aggregate light standards which line the paths, which were designed by the OIC. Through the OIC's city beautification movement, we can see the relationship between the location of these new urban parks and their residents, as many of the planned parks – Strathcona Park, Minto Park, Central Park are situated in wealthier neighbourhoods of the city.</p>					
<b>Craftsmanship/Artistic merit</b>  Does the property display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
N/A					
<b>Technical/Scientific merit</b>  Does the property demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
N/A					
<b>Summary</b>  Macdonald Gardens Park was designed by landscape architect Frederick G. Todd often called Canada's first landscape architect, and includes approximately eight acres of land and one built structure.					
<b>Sources</b>  1. Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN 3788391 2. "Macdonald Gardens: A Neighbourhood in Lowertown East. A Study in Community Heritage." Margaret Caron-Vuotari, Caitlin Charbonneau, Victoria Ellis, Stephanie Elliott, Sachi Hirono, Heather Leroux, Emily Websteer-Mason. Editors: Victoria Ellis, Susan Ross.					
<b>Historical and Associative Value</b>					
<b>Date of Construction (Factual/Estimated)</b>	1914				



Sandy Hill Cemeteries, 1859. City of Ottawa Archives MG110 ACHU 005



Summer House, Macdonald Gardens Park, 1920s. Library and Archives Canada PA034309



Summer House, Macdonald Gardens Park, 1920s. Library and Archives Canada PA034307

### Historical Associations

YES

NO

Does the property have direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity organization or institution that is significant to a community?



Macdonald Gardens Park was constructed on the site of a former cemetery. Between the years 1845 and 1873 the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Wesleyan Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in Sandy Hill used this site as a cemetery. The site was divided in half by Charlotte Street, which separated the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Methodist cemeteries from the Presbyterian and Episcopalian, with each denomination having approximately two acres of land.<sup>1</sup> By the 1870s, the site was closed for burials and many of the remains were slowly moved to Beechwood and Notre-Dame Cemeteries. The land was then transferred to the City of Ottawa in 1909 in response to a petition to turn the land into a public park.<sup>2</sup>

The Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC), forerunner to the National Capital Commission, took over management of the park in 1911 and hired Frederick G. Todd in 1912 to create a plan for a new park in Lowertown on the site of the former Sandy Hill cemeteries.<sup>2</sup> The OIC's goal was to create a picturesque parkway system to showcase Ottawa's natural and built landscapes. Todd started his work in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, planning beautification projects throughout Ottawa. He was one of Canada's early landscape architects, and was commissioned to complete many park plans across the country.<sup>3</sup> The plans for Macdonald Gardens included a stone shelter, a chalet, a children's shelter, an open grassy area, divided by windy pathways and split in half by Charlotte Street.<sup>4</sup> Of the three structures, only the stone shelter stands today.

### Community History

YES

NO

Does the property yield, or have the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture?



Lowertown is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Ottawa, populated with mainly working class residents. The 1891 streetcar line to Rideau and Wurtemberg Streets meant that Lowertown East was easily accessible to the downtown core, spurring development in this area. Of the streets surrounding

the park, Wurtemberg Street was home to the most elite with residents such as attorneys, military personnel and politicians such as Sir Robert Borden and Hayter Reed. Former Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden lived in a house that faced the park between the years 1907 and 1937.

In the 1960s and 1970s, urban renewal projects changed much of Lowertown's built form. Several blocks of working class houses were razed in order to develop large scale social housing projects. Much the Macdonald Gardens area was spared from destruction and the only major aspect of that scheme to have an effect on this area was the closure of Charlotte Street between Heney and Tormey Streets in 1974.

Macdonald Gardens Park has always served as a passive use park, rather than a recreational park. In fact, the residents facing the park often complained about the noise and vandalism by local children who were repeatedly cautioned by the police against playing in the area when there was another park a few blocks away. The park was designed as a greenspace in the city and was intended to be used for passive enjoyment rather than play.

### Representative Work

Does the property demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, building, designer or theorist who is significant to a community?

YES

NO



Macdonald Gardens Park is representative of the work of Frederick G. Todd.

Frederick G Todd was born in 1876 in New Hampshire. He worked for the Olmsted Brothers in Brookline, Massachusetts for four years before moving to Montreal in 1900.<sup>2</sup> Todd was one of the founders of the Town Planning Institute of Canada, and is considered one of Canada's first landscape architects.<sup>3</sup> In Montreal, he designed an alteration to Mount Royal Park and its surrounding neighbourhood, St. Helen's Island Parks, and Memorial Cemetery, to name a few. He also worked on projects across the country. In 1903, he created a plan of the national capital which included parks and parkways, many of which were incorporated into future plans for Ottawa.

### Summary

Macdonald Gardens Park is a good example of Ottawa's plan for beautification of the city. Designed by landscape architect Frederick G. Todd, this park was intended for passive recreation with winding pathways, trees and large open spaces.

### Sources

1. City of Ottawa Archives, MG110-ACHU 005
2. Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN 3788391
3. "Frederick G. Todd and the Origins of the Park System in Canada's Capital". David Gordon. Journal of Planning History.
4. Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN 3788391
5. "Macdonald Gardens: A Neighbourhood in Lowertown East. A Study in Community Heritage." Margaret Caron-Vuotari, Caitlin Charbonneau, Victoria Ellis, Stephanie Elliott, Sachi Hirono,

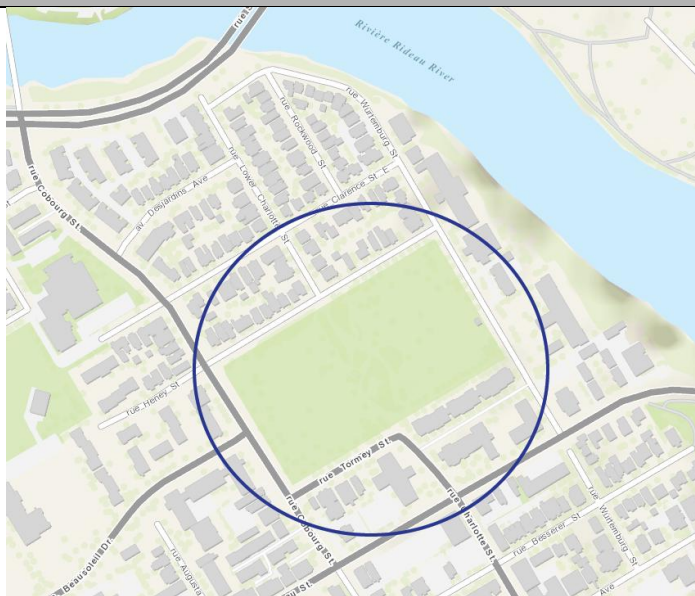
Heather Leroux, Emily Websteer-Mason. Editors: Victoria Ellis, Susan Ross.

6. American Society of Landscape Architects.

<https://www.asla.org/nonmembers/publicrelations/backgrdrbiog.htm>

7. "Frederick G. Todd and the Origins of the Park System in Canada's Capital". David Gordon. Journal of Planning History.

## Contextual Value



## Community Character

Is the property important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of the area?

YES

NO



Macdonald Gardens is surrounded by a mix of housing styles from a variety of eras. The area surrounding the park has always been primarily residential, with a few institutions, namely hospitals. Still standing today are the former Children's Hospital at 197-199 Wurtemberg Street now the Embassy of Turkey, and Wallis House at 589 Rideau Street, formerly a Protestant Hospital, both designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

While much of Lowertown was destroyed during the 1960s urban renewal scheme, the section of housing around the Macdonald Gardens Park remains relatively intact, with mostly multi-unit dwellings facing the park. In an attempt to unify the park, Charlotte Street between Heney and Tormey Streets was closed in 1974. This road cut the park two sections for 60 years, and has now been replaced by a tree-lined pathway. A wading pool was in operation in the north east corner during the early years of the park. It was closed and reopened several times after local residents complained of the noise, filth and nudity. The pool was finally removed in 1964.

Today, the park serves as a dog haven where many dog walkers meet after work to let their pets play, a picnicking area and recreational field. Given the steep hill in the centre of the western portion of the

park, the area turns into a toboggan hill used by local children in the winter months.		
<b>Context</b>	YES	NO
Is the property physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a park in the centre of a residential neighbourhood, Macdonald Gardens Park established the character of the area.		
<b>Landmark</b>	YES	NO
Is the property a landmark?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macdonald Gardens Park is a landmark within Lowertown East. It is the only green space north of Rideau Street and east of Cobourg Street, and is comprised mainly of open grassy areas and tree-lined paths. The iconic summer house at the top of the hill provides a visual landmark from Cobourg, Tormey, Heney and Wurtemberg Streets. The park also features the iconic National Capital Commission (NCC) concrete aggregate lamp posts, which are found in many NCC parks across the city.		
<b>Summary</b>		
Macdonald Gardens Park is an important park in Lowertown and is a visual landmark within the community. The housing stock facing the park is relatively intact and has been home to many of Ottawa's elite. Today the park is a hub for the community to gather to enjoy the outdoors and socialize.		
<b>Sources</b>		

## Document 5 – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

### **Description of Property- Macdonald Gardens Park, 99 Cobourg Street**

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value- Macdonald Gardens Park, 99 Cobourg Street

### **Description of Property- Macdonald Gardens Park, 99 Cobourg Street**

Macdonald Gardens Park is an urban park bounded by Tormey, Cobourg, Heney and Wurtemberg Streets and is identified as being of cultural heritage value. The park was designed by landscape architect Frederick Todd in 1914 and is located in Lowertown East.

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

Macdonald Gardens Park, an evolving cultural heritage landscape, is of cultural heritage value as a park designed by Frederick Todd, one of Canada's early landscape architects, who planned many parks across the country. The park has evolved from a cemetery, to one of Ottawa's early planned landscapes with winding paths, native trees and open spaces, and a stone summer house on top of a hill, and is now a recreational park.

Macdonald Gardens Park is of historical value as an early project of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, which was established in 1899 to beautify the capital. The park also has historical value because it was constructed on the site of a former cemetery. Between the years 1845 and 1873 the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Wesleyan Methodist and Roman Catholic churches used this site as the Sandy Hill cemeteries.

Macdonald Gardens Park's contextual value lies in its landmark setting within the Lowertown area and its prominently located summer house on a hill.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key elements that embody the heritage value of Macdonald Gardens Park include its:

- The landscaped grounds and pathways including its mature trees
- Remnants of the landscape architect-designed plan by Frederick Todd
- Hexagonal stone summer house with round arches on top of hill
- Large open lawn on east side with sloped grass-covered hill on west side
- Tree-lined path following the old route of Charlotte Street
- Stone retaining wall on the north west side of the park



- Ottawa Improvement Commission fixtures in the park, including the iconic National Capital Commission light posts



Summer House, Macdonald Gardens Park 2016. City of Ottawa

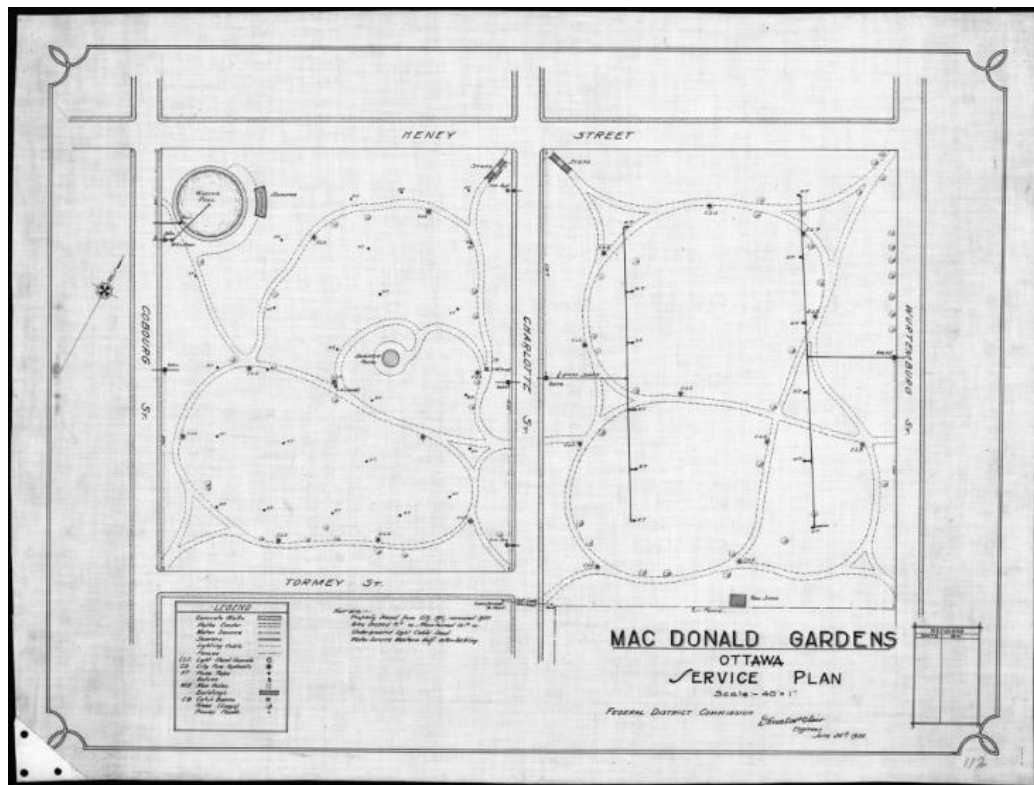




Summer House, Macdonald Gardens Park, 1920s. Library and Archives Canada PA034307



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Service Plan for Macdonald Gardens, 1932. Library and Archives Canada NMC 190209