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Heritage Advisory Committee January 25, 2012

TO:

Chair and Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY:

Phil Townsend, Director of Planning & Infrastructure

DATE:

December 28, 2011

SUBJECT:

Case H00361 - Substantial Alteration to 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax, a

Municipally Registered Heritage Property

<u>ORIGIN</u>

Application by Geoff Keddy Architects on behalf of the property owner, New Future Investments, for a substantial alteration to 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax, a Municipally Registered Heritage Property.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the substantial alteration to 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax, a registered heritage property, as outlined in Attachments A to D of this report.

BACKGROUND

A development permit application (#119864) was submitted for approval of alterations to 5651 Inglis Street, a Municipally Registered Heritage Property. The alterations consist of interior conversion to eight residential units, a two-storey addition on the south side of the building, and minor alteration of windows and doors on the rear façade to accommodate the re-organization of interior space. Staff has determined that the scope of the proposed work constitutes a substantial alteration to the heritage property, and therefore the application must be approved by Regional Council.

Heritage Value

This building is located at the corner of Inglis and Lucknow Streets in Halifax and is part of a block of buildings on the north side of Inglis which were registered as a Heritage Streetscape in 1982 (see Map 1). The building forms part of an attractive streetscape of two storey Victorian houses. Although the structures have a variety of architectural details, there are certain elements which repeat in most facades, such as brackets, bay windows, and mansard roofs. Thus, there is quite a good balance between unity and diversity in this streetscape.

While the subject dwelling has been modified over the years, it maintains its architectural style and continues to contribute positively to the heritage value of the streetscape.

Character Defining Elements

The character-defining features of the building include:

- Mansard roof, slightly bell-cast, with peaked dormers, and bracketted eaves;
- Symmetrical front elevation with a central entrance bay culminating in a mansard roofed tower;
- Large mullioned windows on front façade with stained glass transom lights, wide board trim, and large bracketed hoods;
- Palladian window on second floor of entrance bay;
- Wood shingle cladding with wide cornerboard, baseboard, and eaves trim. Eaves trim on front façade is bracketed. All other trim on sides and rear is plain;
- Single storey supporch on west side, finished in same materials and trim as main house;
- Rectangular bay window on east side, facing Lucknow Street;
- Tall, double flue chimney; and
- Rear ell with mansard roof and dormers.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Alterations

Addition: The proposed side addition is shown in Attachments A to D (Site Plan & Elevation Drawings) and can be visualized in context with the existing building, as shown in Attachment E

(Photos). The addition will be a two-storey structure with a mansard roof integrated with the existing roof and will have two pitch-roofed dormers matching those on the existing building. It will also have wooden cladding and trim to match the existing building. An existing exterior staircase will be removed to accommodate the new addition.

Window and Door Alterations on Rear Façade: The interior conversion of the building will require that the existing door on the rear façade be changed to a window and the existing window be changed to a door.

Building Conservation Standards

The proposal must be evaluated against HRM's Building Conservation Standards for Heritage Properties (Attachment F) and staff offers the following comments relative to applicable standards:

- There is no change proposed to the historic use of the building it will remain residential and the historic character of the property will not be diminished by the side addition. While the new addition will be visible from the street, it will be recessed behind the existing sun room. The main facades facing the abutting streets will be unchanged.
- Some historic material will be removed from the side of the building to make way for the addition specifically a portion of the existing roof, a dormer, and the first and second floor windows but these will all be replicated in the addition.
- The addition will be compatible in terms of massing, size and scale.
- The changes to the existing window and door on the rear façade will be minor and will not substantially alter the existing character

Staff is of opinion that the proposed alterations generally meet the Building Conservation Standards for Heritage Properties, and based upon these considerations staff recommend that the proposed alterations be approved.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The HRM costs associated with processing this application can be accommodated within the approved operating budget for C310.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement was information sharing, achieved through the HRM website and public accessibility to the required Heritage Advisory Committee meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Council could approve the request for approval of the substantial alteration as outlined in this report.
- 2. Council could refuse the request for approval of the substantial alteration to the heritage property as outlined in this report. The Heritage Property Act does not include appeal provisions for decisions of Council regarding substantial alterations, and the owners would be permitted to proceed with their proposal three years from the date of the application.

ATTACHMENTS

Map 1 Location Map – 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax Attachment A Site Plan

Attachment B Front Elevation (proposed)

Attachment C Left (South) Elevation (proposed)
Attachment D Rear (North) Elevation (proposed)

Attachment E Recent Photographs of 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax Attachment F HRM Heritage Building Conservation Standards

A copy of this report can be obtained online at http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

Bill Plaskett, Héritage Planner - 490-4663

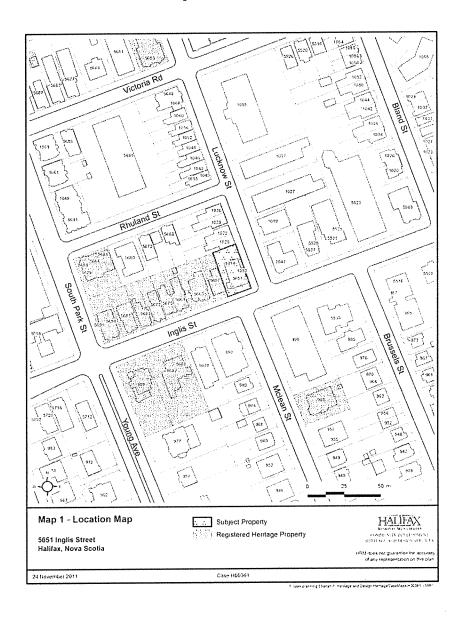
Report Approved by:

For Austin French, Manager of Planning Services - 490-6717

Financial Approval by:

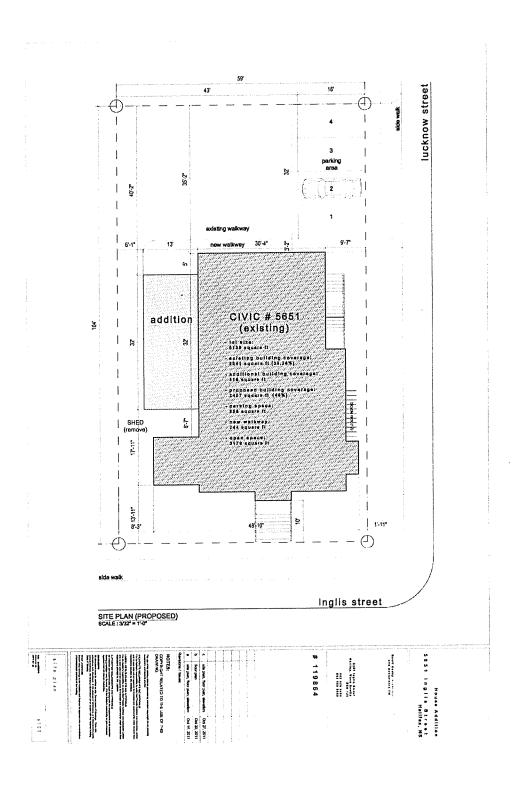
James Cooke, Director of Finance, 490-6308

Map 1: Location Map

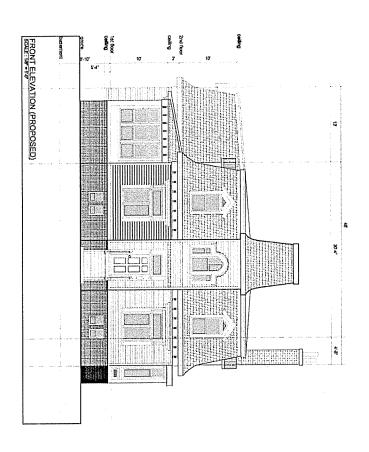




ATTACHMENT A: Site Plan

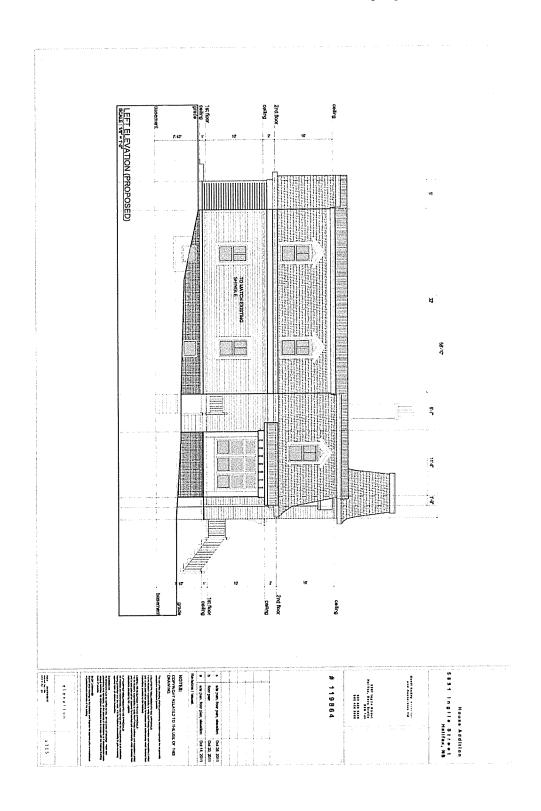


ATTACHMENT B: Front Elevation (proposed)

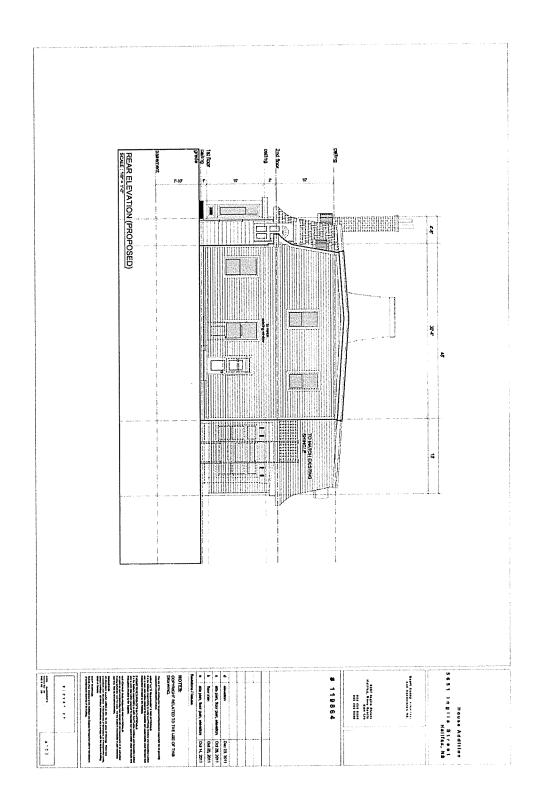


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ATTACHMENT C: South Elevation (proposed)



ATTACHMENT D: Rear Elevation (proposed)



Attachment E: Recent Photographs

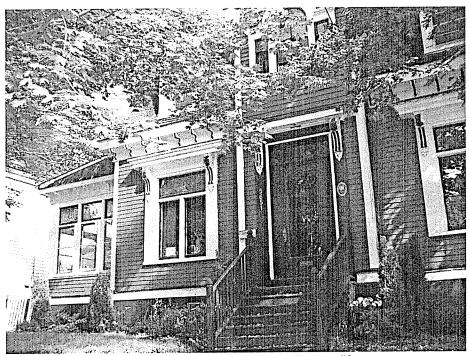


Figure 1: Front elevation of 5651 Inglis St, Halifax.

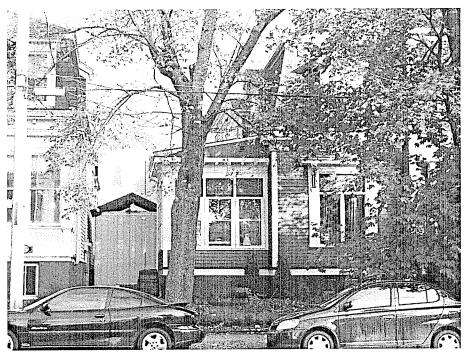


Figure 2: Front and side elevation of 5651 Inglis Street, Halifax.

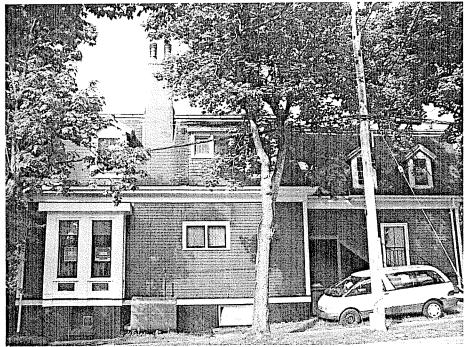


Figure 3: Side elevation - Inglis and Lucknow Streets, Halifax.

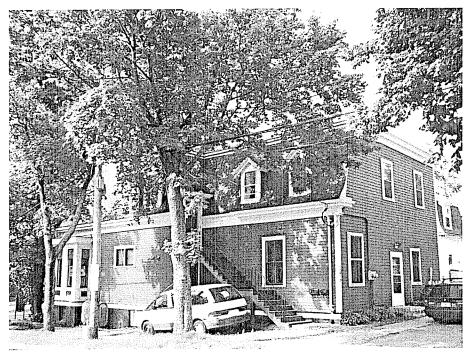


Figure 4: Side and rear elevation from Lucknow Street.

Attachment F: HRM's Heritage Building Conservation Standards

The following standards will be used to assess all applications for property alteration and financial assistance. The historic character of a heritage resource is based on the assumptions that (a) the historic materials and features and their unique craftsmanship are of primary importance and that (b) in consequence, they are to be retained, and restored to the greatest extent possible, not removed and replaced with materials and features which appear to be historic, but which are in fact new.

- 1. The property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building, its site and environment.
- 2. The historic character of the property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize the property shall be avoided.
- 3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding hypothetical features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- 4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- 5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the property shall be preserved.
- 6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old design in colour, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- 7. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials, shall not be used.
- 8. Significant archaeological resources affected by the project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
- 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.