



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 12, 2009
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: March 24, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Planning
SUBJECT: Heritage Designation - 1050 Odium Drive

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Council approve the designation of the Viani House at 1050 Odium Drive, listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register in the "B" category, as Protected Heritage Property.
- B. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the heritage designation by-law.
- C. THAT Council commend the building owner for designating their property on a voluntary basis and for participating in the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's *True Colours* program.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of Recommendations A, B and C.

COUNCIL POLICY

Heritage Policies and Guidelines state, in part, that: The City's long-term goal is to protect through voluntary designation as many resources on the Vancouver Heritage Register as possible.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This report seeks Council's approval for the designation of the house at 1050 Odium Drive, known as the Viani House, as protected heritage property under the Vancouver Charter. The owner of the house is requesting the heritage designation on a voluntary basis as part of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's *True Colours* grant program.

DISCUSSION

The Viani House at 1050 Odlum Drive is listed in the “B” category on the Vancouver Heritage Register (Site Map, Appendix A), (Photographs, Appendix B), having both historical and architectural significance. It was built in 1910 by contractor John L. McKenzie, who earlier built 1046 and 1036 Odlum Drive. For the next 20 years the house was rented to various workers and their families, including a carpenter, machinist, railway conductor and a baker. In 1930, 1933 and 1934 the house was vacant in the midst of the Depression. Stability arrived in the 1940s when the house was owner-occupied. The longest-term owner/occupants were Michele Viani and his wife Maria, from 1956 until 1988. Italian-born Michele was a construction worker and CPR cleaner, and the house is named after this couple.

In the 1990s the house fell into serious disrepair: it was run as a boarding house, and it sustained water damage, malfunctioning electrical and plumbing and vandalism throughout. In 1999 the house was sold and the two separate owners have since restored it to its original appearance. In 2007 a *True Colours* grant from the Vancouver Heritage Foundation helped complete the restoration, and in 2008 it was featured on the Foundation’s house tour.

Compatibility with Community Planning Objectives and Zoning: The house is located in the RM-4 Zoning District. Heritage designation of 1050 Odlum Drive supports the intent of the RM-4 District Schedule, which among other goals seeks to encourage retention of existing buildings. There is no development application for this site.

Support Required to Enable Conservation: The property owner has submitted a letter (on file with the Legal Services Department) requesting the designation of 1050 Odlum Drive and waiving any future compensation demands. Therefore, no additional support to achieve appropriate conservation of this building is required.

Notification: The Director of Legal Services has prepared the necessary Heritage By-law and requirements have been met for notification as specified by the *Vancouver Charter*.

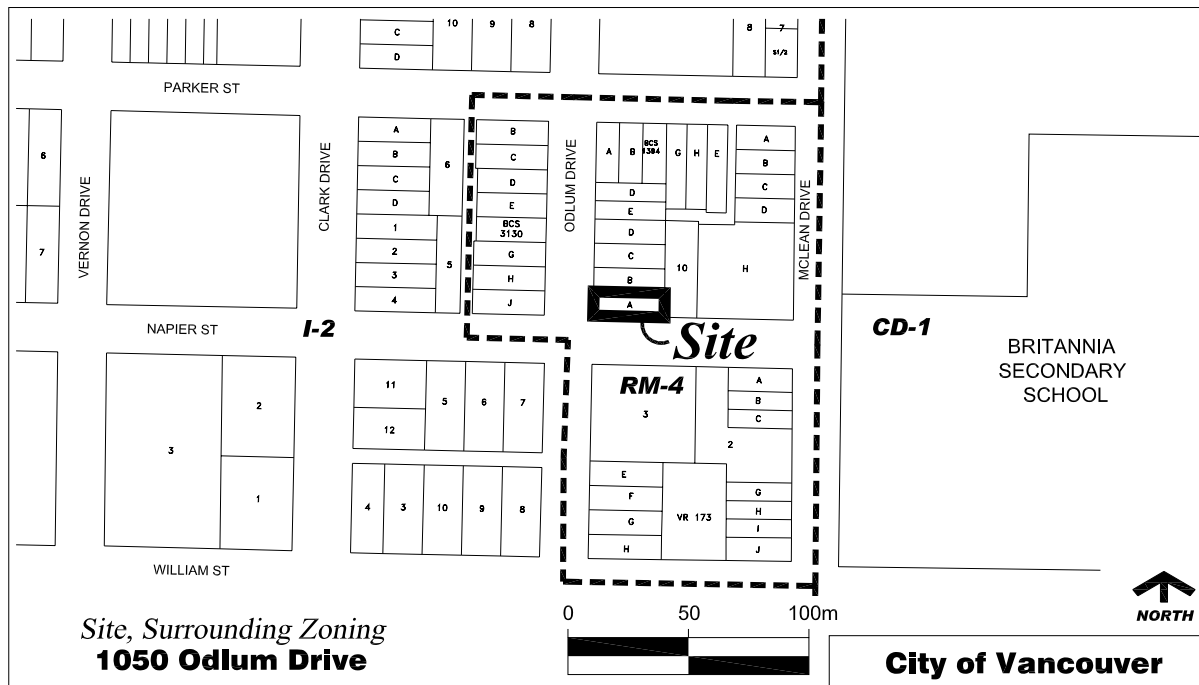
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

An important long-term heritage policy of the City is to protect heritage resources through voluntary designation. The owners of the Viani House at 1050 Odlum Drive have agreed to the heritage designation of this house as a condition of participating in the Vancouver Heritage Foundation’s *True Colours* program. Designation will protect this heritage house from inappropriate alterations and demolition in the future. It is therefore recommended that, subject to Council’s consideration of the representations made at the Public Hearing, Council designate 1050 Odlum Drive as Protected Heritage Property and the designation by-law be brought forward for enactment.

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Viani House, 1050 Odium Drive



Viani House, 1050 Odium Drive - seen from Napier Street