

APPENDIX M

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Maple GO Station



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Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Property Name: Maple GO Station, Vaughan

Description of property:

The Maple GO Station property is composed of the station itself, tracks, platforms and expansive parking lot to the south, east, and north. The property runs roughly 490 metres north-south at the tracks, and measures 50 metres wide at the north, and 145 metres wide at the south end. The station building is located centrally on the eastern edge of the property. It is a small Stick Style train station (roughly 13 metres by 7 metres), typical of those built by the GTR at the early 20th century. The single storey structure is nearly symmetrical in plan, boasting a steeply pitched hipped-roof punctuated by gables on three sides. The station is finished with quality woodwork on the interior and exterior, the latter boasting a polychromatic colour scheme.

It is recommended that Metrolinx proceed with identifying Maple GO Station as a Provincial Heritage Property.

Cultural Heritage Value:

The Maple GO Station is of cultural heritage interest for its design, historical, and contextual values.

Historical Values

The Maple GO Station property has direct associations with the first steam railway line in Canada West, as well as the Grand Trunk Railway.

Railway uses on the Maple GO Station property date back to 1853, when the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad Company constructed the first steam train line in Canada West. The inaugural train ran between Toronto and Aurora in May of 1853, before opening further to Bradford and finally Barrie later that year. A station was built at Maple, but named Richmond Hill Station for the larger settlement to the east. A fire destroyed the original station in 1903, and the new station built by the GTR that same year bore the name of Maple. The reconstruction occurred within a broader regimen of upgrades being undertaken by the GTR, and it shares a form and appearance with numerous other structures from the era.

Design Values

The Maple GO Station is a representative example of the small, Stick Style railway station buildings adopted by the Grand Trunk Railway between 1898 and 1910. The Maple GO Station retains a high degree of integrity through its surviving form, spatial and functional organization, domestic scale, and wooden detailing as built in 1903. It is one of a series of railway stations built or replaced at this time, based on the 'Milton pattern' or Milton Station, to instill a corporate standard.

The Maple GO Station demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship, as seen in the quality of the woodwork details both on the interior, and exterior.

Contextual Values

The Maple GO Station has a contextual relationship to the Barrie GO Line that runs along the west side of the property. The relationship dates back to 1853, when the first railway in Canada West was laid beside the Village of Maple by the OSHR. The relationship has served two stations on the property, the present station since its construction in 1903.

Heritage Attributes:

The key attributes essential to the cultural heritage value or interest of Maple GO Station are:

- Stick Style treatment of cladding and wood detailing:
 - V-jointed panels and board-and-batten cladding;
 - framing elements;
 - bargeboards;
 - brackets;
 - finials;
 - and trellis work
- Near-symmetrical modest rectangular form arranged around the agent's polygonal bay window
- Steeply-pitched hipped roof, interrupted by three gables and covered in wood shingles
- Fine balance inherent in its overall vertical definition
- Rhythmic placement of apertures below a consistent wooden string course
- Polychromatic paint scheme
- Integrity of interior finishes in the waiting room and agent's office: the beaded boarding aligned with the high flat ceiling; framing elements; elaborate coved wood cornice in the waiting room
- Integrity and display of original signage
- The high quality of joinery work evident on exterior and interior wood finishes
- The painted mileage signs on the bay, indicating distances to Aurora and Toronto
- The two-track switchboard set within the bay window

Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:



Figure showing the location of Maple GO Station (red), Vaughan.