

From: Cindy Carswell
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Poitras, Andrew
Subject: RE: List of Historical Resources - Nomination of Somerset Building, 294 Portage Avenue

We have received your notification regarding the EPC review of the Somerset nomination this Tuesday April 28th.

Unfortunately, our executives are currently engaged in crisis management and the provision of essential services as pertains to the global Covid-19 pandemic, and as such are unable to participate in the meeting.

As communicated previously, the property located at 294 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba (i.e. Somerset Building) does not meet the criteria as per City of Winnipeg Historical Resources By-law NO. 55/2014. It is of neither outstanding architectural nor historic significance, and there are no known significant historical events associated with the building.

Since its construction, the building has undergone more than 80 permitted alterations to both the interior and exterior; as communicated in the City of Winnipeg Building Synopsis May 2019 "Today, many changes have been completed on the exterior. The ground floor has been completely altered, the original window units replaced, the entablature removed and an overhead pedestrian walkway attached to the west side."

In addition, several of the features identified as "Character Defining Elements" by the Heritage Building Committee are not original, and were added in the 60s, 70s and 80's, most of which detract from the aesthetic and architectural qualities of the building. The protection of these elements would impede property improvements moving forward.

Once again, we respectfully request the building not be added to the list of historical resources, and be added to the Commemorative List where it belongs.

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