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City Clerk's Office

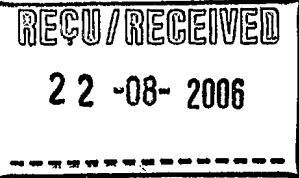
Secretariat
Christine Archibald
Toronto and East York Community Council
City Hall, 12th Floor, West
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
55 JOHN STREET
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

City of Toronto
5100 Yonge Street
c/o Chuck Donohue
Facilities & Real Estate
2nd Floor, Suite 2100
Metro Hall, 55 John Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 55 John Street (Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation

Description:

The property at 55 John Street is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value or interest, and meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design or physical value and historical value. Completed in 1992, the Metro Hall Council Chambers were designed as part of the three-building office complex located on the southeast corner of King Street West and John Street. The Toronto architectural firm of Brisbin Brook Beynon designed Metro Hall, where the Council Chambers are accessed from the second and third floors of the building. The exterior of Metro Hall and the interiors apart from the Council Chambers are not included in the Reasons for Designation.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

The cultural heritage value of the Metro Hall Council Chambers is related to its design or physical value as a rare example of a building type. One of a select number of city halls in the City of Toronto, the Council Chambers are located on the second floor of Metro Hall and extend to a mezzanine at the third-floor level. Access to the Council Chambers is provided by an exterior staircase, designed as a ceremonial entrance and placed outside the main (east) entrance to Metro hall, as well as from stairs, elevators and escalators inside the building. The Council Chambers are positioned to overlook the public park between Metro Hall and Roy Thomson Hall to the east, and the Toronto skyline.

The cultural heritage value of the Metro Hall Council Chambers is also connected to its historical value and its direct association with an institution that is significant to the City of Toronto. The Metro Hall Council Chambers were the first purpose-built Council Chambers for the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. The upper-tier municipality was created in 1953 when 13 cities, towns, townships and villages were brought together to provide more effective delivery of government services. In 1967, amalgamations reduced the 13 municipalities to six, composed of the five Cities of Toronto, North York, Etobicoke, Scarborough and York and the Borough of East York. The municipality initially provided water treatment and supply services and sewage treatment facilities, and constructed and maintained expressways and major arterial roads. Metro assumed additional responsibilities over time, including the administration of social services. With the creation of the current City of Toronto on January 1, 1998, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto was dissolved.

Heritage Attributes:

The heritage attributes of the Metro Hall Council Chambers related to its cultural heritage value as a rare example of a building type (city hall) are found on the interior of the Council Chambers, consisting of:

- The application of materials, with stainless steel, wood and painted metal, brass and aluminum
- The circular plan with a central dome and the division of the interior into quadrants by full-height metal columns
- The definition of the circular centre space by a ring of four clusters of eight columns; the four pairs of decorative triangular trusses that spring from the clustered columns and converge in the smaller ring inside the dome; and, the single trusses that extend from the central ring of columns to the outer ring of single columns that define the back of the gallery seating and the mezzanine on the upper level
- The upper mezzanine level, which extends around the north, east and south sides of the chambers and admits natural light from the exterior windows on the east wall; and, the stainless steel railings with perforated stainless steel panels that enclose the mezzanines

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Christine Archibald, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 21st of July, 2006, which is September 20, 2006. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 21st day of August, 2006.

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk