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City Clerk's Office

DEC 22 2004

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Christine Archibald
Toronto and East York Community Council
City Hall, 4th Floor, West
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

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JAN - 4 2005
CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD

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

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

City of Toronto
Corporate Services
Joan Anderton, Commissioner
4th Floor, East Tower
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

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

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 71 Front Street West (Union Station) (Toronto Centre-Rosedale, Ward 28) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation

The property at 71 Front Street West is recommended for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural resource value or interest. Union Station was completed in 1927 as the shared terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway (later part of Canadian National Railways). Union Station extends across a city block from Bay to York Streets where it is set back from Front Street in an open plaza that emphasizes its scale. With the Dominion Public Building to the east and the Royal York Hotel, opposite, Union Station forms part of a precinct of landmark buildings around the Front and Bay intersection. Opening as the largest railway terminal in Canada, Union Station is historically significant as the transportation hub of Toronto. Architecturally, Union Station is considered the best example of a Canadian railway facility designed in the Beaux-Arts tradition. The design is recognized as the collaboration of the Montreal firm of Ross and Macdonald with CPR architect Hugh Jones and the noted Toronto architect John Lyle. Union Station was declared a National Historic Site by the federal government in 1975, and was among the first properties designated under the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act in 1989.

Union Station blends the monumentality, Classical inspiration and spatial planning of Beaux-Arts design principles with Canadian iconography. The heritage attributes consist of the exterior walls and roofs, the moat and team ways, and selected areas on the interior, principally in the Great Hall, West Wing and Concourses. Clad with limestone and rising the equivalent of seven stories from a

VRC

raised base, the exterior of the complex is organized with a centre block flanked by wings that terminate in pavilions. Behind a Doric colonnade that identifies the principal entrance, the centre block is extended by a raised attic and covered by a hipped roof. The cornice continues across the adjoining wings (east and west) where the symmetrically placed flat-headed window openings decrease in height in each storey. On the ends, hipped roofs and oversized round-arched entrances distinguish the pavilions. Classical detailing with inscriptions and a datestone marks the north façade. The train shed is not included in the Reasons for Designation.

On the interior, the rational spatial arrangement is identified as a significant feature. From the central Great Hall (ticket lobby), a ramp extends down to the departures concourse, which is flanked by the arrivals corridors that lead to the arrivals concourse where the moat provides access to Front Street. In the Great Hall, the overall scale and Classical detailing, the vaulted, tiled and (at the ends) coffered ceilings, the marble floors and limestone walls, the thermal and clerestory windows, the oversized round-arched openings, the stairs to the arrivals concourse below, and the carved inscriptions are significant elements. The Classical detailing and oversized skylight that mark the waiting room in the West Wing, the design of the departures ramp, the columns in the departures concourse, and the original vitrines in the arrivals corridors are notable elements. Important original finishes, detailing, fittings, fixtures and hardware throughout the building are identified on the drawings in the Review of Heritage Zones (1999) prepared by the federal government. Detailed descriptions of the property are found in the federal government's Heritage Character Statement (1989) and Commemorative Integrity Statement (2000).

The Reasons for Designation, including a description of the heritage attributes of the property, are available for viewing from the City Clerk's Department or from Heritage Preservation Services, Culture Division, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, City of Toronto.

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, c/o Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 21st of December, 2004. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 21st day of December, 2004.

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk