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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND  
580 – 582 CHURCH STREET (WILLIAM ST. CROIX HOUSES)  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

Church 18 Holdings  
638A Sheppard Avenue West  
Suite 222  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3H 2S1

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 580 -582 Church Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Reasons for Designation**

**Description**

The properties at 580-582 Church Street are worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value, and meet the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the northwest corner of Church Street and Dundonald Street, the William St. Croix Houses (1877) are 2½-storey semi-detached house form buildings, which were relocated one building north of their original site in 1904 when Dundonald Street was opened. The properties were listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1976.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The William St. Croix Houses have design value as well-crafted examples of late 19th century semi-detached houses with Second Empire features, which was one of the most favoured architectural styles for residential designs during the Victorian era. The visibility of the building on Church Street is enhanced by the distinctive mansard (double-gable) roof with dormers, while the central tower and second-storey sun porch are unique features of the design. The William St. Croix Houses were among the earliest residential house form buildings constructed along this section of Church Street, and were relocated and preserved following the opening of Dundonald Street.

The property at 580 Church Street is associated with the notable Toronto entrepreneur Robert Simpson, who was the first occupant of the dwelling from 1878 to 1884. Simpson opened a dry goods business on Yonge Street in 1872, which he developed into one of Toronto's first department store that was headquartered in a landmark complex at Yonge Street and Queen Street West. He settled on Church Street, then one of the city's favoured residential enclaves, before moving to his custom-designed mansion at Bloor Street East and Sherbourne Street.

Contextually, the William St. Croix Houses are historically linked to their surroundings as part of a group of surviving residential buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries adjoining the southwest corner of Church Street and Gloucester Street. Located on the former Dundonald Estate, the single and semi-detached house form buildings and low-rise apartment houses in this block are an important collection of buildings from the period when Church Street was among the most desirable residential neighbourhoods in Toronto.



### **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes of the properties at 580-582 Church Street are:

- The 2½-storey semi-detached house form buildings
- The scale, form and massing of the structures with the rectangular-shaped plans
- The materials, with red brick cladding and contrasting buff brick, stone, wood and slate trim
- The mansard roof with extended eaves and brackets, a central tower on the east slope, round-arched dormer windows and, on the north and south ends, pairs of brick chimneys
- The principal (east) façade, which is symmetrically organized with centrally-placed entrances set in round-arched surrounds and protected by an open porch with decorative wood posts
- Above the entries, the enclosure of the second storey as a sun porch, with wood detailing and round-arched windows
- Flanking the east entrances, the single-storey bay windows with round-arched openings, hood moulds, and keystones
- On the north and south elevations, the round-arched window openings on the main body of the house and the rear (west) wings that are visible from Church Street and Dundonald Street
- On the south wall, the open verandah with classical detailing that represents the evolution of the building
- The setback of the William St. Croix Houses on the northwest corner of Church Street and Dundonald Street

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Rosalind Dyers, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of August 16, 2011, which is September 15, 2011. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011

  
 Ulli S. Watkiss  
 City Clerk

Copy to: Interested Parties  
 Mary L. MacDonald, Acting Manager, Heritage Preservation Services  
 Jasmine Stein, Municipal Law Unit, Legal Division  
 Deputy Chief Building Official and Director, Building Division Toronto & East York