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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18 AND  
41 ALCINA AVENUE  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

OCT 20 1997

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

To: [Redacted]  
41 Alcina Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2E7

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

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, at its meeting held on the 22nd and 23rd day of September, 1997 decided to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 41 Alcina Avenue (York Wilson House).

**Short Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation**

The property at 41 Alcina Avenue is designated for architectural and historical reasons. The house was completed in 1955 according to the designs of Toronto architect, John B. Layng, who worked closely with his client, artist R. York Wilson. The design incorporated a studio and living quarters for the artist and his family. York Wilson (1907-1984) was one of Canada's preeminent abstract artists, whose works were exhibited internationally and are represented in private and public collections in Canada and abroad. He is recognized as the most important Modern Canadian mural designer, executing over a dozen murals, including the "Seven Lively Arts" in the lobby of the O'Keefe Centre (now the Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts).

The York Wilson House is an important example of post-World War II residential design in Toronto, displaying elements drawn from Modernist architecture. The custom-built design contains living space and an artist's studio in a unique split-level plan covered by a butterfly or inverted gable roof. The exterior brick walls mix broad expanses of windows on the north and south elevations with smaller openings on the side walls and in the clerestory. The main entrance door, placed on the west wall, was designed by York Wilson. The interior is organized into an artist's studio (north) and living quarters (south) divided by a hallway. At the west end of the hall, an open stairway, with a balcony above, leads down to the living areas. A secondary staircase, linking service areas on two levels, is found at the east end of the hall. In the south part of the house, the first-floor combination living and dining room has a brick (north) wall with a fireplace and a cantilevered stone hearth. Opposite, a continuous glass wall (south) faces the garden. Flagstone floors in the hall and living-dining room contain radiant heating coils. In the north section of the building, a two-storey artist's studio has a special door on the east wall for the removal of large paintings.

The York Wilson House is located on the south side of Alcina Avenue, midway between Bathurst Street and Wychwood Avenue and adjacent to the Wychwood Park Heritage Conservation District. As the custom-designed residence and studio of the important Canadian artist, York Wilson, the house is a significant example of post-World War II Modernist architecture, and an individual neighbourhood landmark.

Heritage Toronto's Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons for Designation) respecting the property is available for viewing at the City Clerk's Department at City Hall and the offices of Heritage Toronto.

Notice of an objection to the designation may be served on the City Clerk, Second Floor, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 16th day of October, 1997, setting out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 16th day of October, 1997.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sydney K. Baxter', written in a cursive style.

Sydney K. Baxter  
City Clerk