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REC'D/RECEIVED
04-04-2006

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
81 ST. NICHOLAS STREET
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE


81 St. Nicholas Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1W8

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

Drew Hauser
Stanford Downey Architects Inc.
3 Church Street, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1M2

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 81 St. Nicholas Street (Robert Barron Stables) (Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation:

Description

The property at 81 St. Nicholas Street, containing the south portion of the Robert Barron Stables, is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value or interest. The site is located on the east side of St. Nicholas Street in the block between St. Mary Street and St. Charles Street West. Historical maps and documents indicate that wood stables were completed on the property by 1895 for Robert Barron Limited, which operated a grocery business directly east at 724-728 Yonge Street. In 1911, a building permit was issued for two-storey brick stables according to the designs of Toronto architect George W. Gouinlock. The latter complex, consisting of present-day 81 and 83 St. Nicholas Street, was completed by 1912 when it was outlined on Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas. The property at 83 St. Nicholas Street, containing the north part of the Robert Barron Stables, is not included in the Reasons for Designation (but it is listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties).

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Cultural Heritage Value

The cultural heritage value of the Robert Barron Stables at 81 St. Nicholas Street lies in its architectural significance as a well-designed commercial building with the restrained Classical detailing favoured after the turn of the 20th century. The cultural heritage value is also related to the stables' association with the architectural practice of Canadian architect George W. Gouinlock, whose commissions included the nationally recognized collection of Beaux-Arts inspired buildings at the west end of Exhibition Place, as well as commercial and institutional structures throughout the city.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes related to the early 20th century Classical character of the Robert Barron Stables (81 St. Nicholas Street) are found on the two-storey principal (west) façade and the roof detailing. The attributes consist of the red brick cladding with brick, stone and metal trim, the door and window openings, and the detailing described below. Above a stone base with a brick water table, the west wall is extended vertically by a parapet with contrasting yellow brickwork in a lozenge and cross pattern beneath a running Greek key motif. The parapet is surmounted by a metal cornice with diminutive modillions, while a modest cornice with dentils separates it from the wall below. The first storey is organized into three bays with a trio of semi-circular-headed door and window openings. The centre bay features a monumental entrance arch (the door and window openings inside the archway have been altered) that is flanked by smaller window openings. The door and window openings have brick voussoirs and keystones, as well as corbelled brickwork that extends along the tops of the string courses that link the three openings. The second floor contains five round-arched openings. In the outer bays, two pairs of window openings with brick voussoirs are linked at the sill level by separate cornices with corbels. Between the windows, a round-arched opening for the former hayloft door is placed over the main entry. A wood remnant of the former pulley system survives above the hayloft door, but the decorative iron balcony marking the latter opening is not an original feature and is not included in the Reasons for Designation.

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, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 3rd of April, 2006, which is May 3, 2006. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 3rd day of April, 2006.

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk