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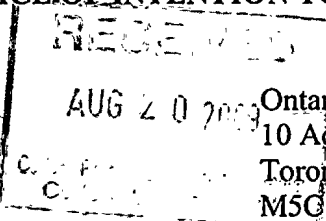
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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND  
251 KING STREET EAST  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**RECEIVED****AUG 07 2009****NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

Rams Head Development Inc.  
251 King Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 1K2



Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 1J3

Aird & Berlis LLP  
Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street  
Suite 1800, Box 754  
Toronto, ON M5J 2T9  
Attention: Ms. Kim Kovar

E. R. A Architects Inc.  
10 St. Mary Street, Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 1P9

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 251 King Street East under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Reasons for Designation****Description**

The property at 251 King Street East is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. Located on the southeast corner of King Street East and Sherbourne Street, the property contains a three-storey hotel. In 1973, the site was listed on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

Historically, the property has been associated with inn keeping since the mid 1800s, and the present building is purportedly the oldest surviving hotel in the original Town of York that is recognized on the City's heritage inventory. In the 1870s, William Burke operated the Grand Central Hotel on-site. By the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the operation was known as the National Hotel, and continued in business under this name through the post-World War II era. In 1905, the building was extended by a rear (south) addition.

The National Hotel was updated with highly crafted elements of Edwardian Classicism, the most popular style of the era that was favoured particularly for commercial and residential buildings. The National Hotel displays key elements of the style in the extended and decorated cornice marking the facades along King Street East and Sherbourne Street, the oversized voussoirs and keystones highlighting the round-arched door and window openings, and the other Classical detailing.

With the Classical updates added after 1900, the National Hotel is linked to the practice of Toronto architect Henry Simpson, who was eulogized as “one of the best known of Toronto architects in the era of building expansion” (Obituary, Henry Simpson, Toronto Star, December 17, 1926). Simpson began his architectural career as an apprentice to the prominent Toronto architect, E. J. Lennox before receiving further training in New York City. Returning to Toronto in 1888, Simpson’s designs included the landmark Metallic Roofing Company of Canada’s Pressed Metal Showroom in Toronto. While Simpson embarked on short-term partnerships with other architects, most of his portfolio involved individual commissions, including the updates to the National Hotel. Simpson’s name appears on the building permit for the addition to the 19<sup>th</sup> century building, and it is probable that this project included alterations to the original structure where the entrances complemented the classically detailed door surround introduced on the south wing.

The National Hotel also contributes to the existing historical character of the original Town of York neighbourhood. Following the founding of York (Toronto) in 1793, a 10-block town site was established with King Street as the community’s “Main Street”. The street linked the government and military precincts adjoining the town, and divided the industrial sector to the south from the residential area to the north. King Street was the location of the Town’s landmark commercial and institutional buildings, and continued as a financial and business sector through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The prominent intersections of Jarvis and Sherbourne streets attracted banks and hotels, with the hostelry historically known as the National Hotel as a predominant anchor building on the southeast corner of Sherbourne Street.

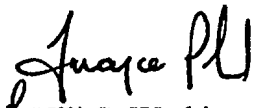
### **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes associated with the property’s cultural heritage value are:

- The scale, form and massing
- The three-storey original building with the complementary three-storey rear (south) wing
- The buff brick cladding with brick, stone, and metal detailing
- The Classical detailing, with the first-storey round-arched openings with oversized voussoirs and keystones, the pilasters on the north façade, the Ionic half-columns on the north entrance, the chamfered band courses, the quoins, the cornice highlighting the first-floor storefront, and the extended cornice with brackets above the third storey
- The flat-headed window openings with brick flat arches and stone sills
- The placement of the building, anchoring the southeast corner of King Street East and Sherbourne Street
- The situation of the building on the southward slope from King Street East

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, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009, which is September 8, 2009. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

  
Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk