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City Clerk's Office

Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk

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Rosalind Dyers  
Toronto and East York Community Council  
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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAR 28 2012

RECEIVED

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND  
24 MERCER STREET (ALEXANDER JOHNSTON HOUSE)  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

2071430 Ontario Limited  
24 Mercer Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 1H3

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J2

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 24 Mercer Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Reasons for Designation**

**Description**

The property at 24 Mercer Street is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the north side of Mercer Street between John Street and Blue Jays Way, the Alexander Johnston House (1858) was constructed as a two-storey town house that was expanded with the addition of the third storey. The site was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1983.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The property at 24 Mercer Street contains the Alexander Johnston House (1858), which is a rare surviving example of an urban town house in Toronto and among the oldest surviving buildings in the city. While altered for factory use in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the third floor was added, the structure retains its appearance as a house form building from the mid 1800s.

The design of the Alexander Johnston House is credited to early Toronto architect John Tully, and remains one of the few extant examples of his work in the city.

Contextually, the property at 24 Mercer Street is historically linked to the King-Spadina neighbourhood as it evolved from its origins as an institutional and residential enclave to a commercial and industrial sector in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Alexander Johnston House was

converted to a hat block producing factory after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a transformation that ensured its survival during the era when most of the original residential housing in King-Spadina was replaced by commercial buildings and industrial warehouses.

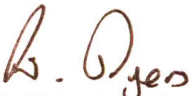
**Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes of the property at 24 Mercer Street are:

- The scale, form and massing of the structure that rises three stories above a raised base with window openings
- The brick cladding, with brick and stone detailing, including the pattern brickwork with quoins on the west facade
- The flat roof above the attic storey with its corbelled brickwork, oversized brackets and segmental-arched window openings
- The symmetrical organization of the principal (south) façade into three bays, with the main entrance elevated and recessed in the left (west) bay
- The flat-headed window openings in the first two stories, with stone lintels, six-over-six sash windows (that are characteristic of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), and sills
- The east elevation, which is viewed from Mercer Street.

Notice of an objection to the proposed designations 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 March 26, 2012, which is April 25, 2012. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

  
f Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk