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City Clerk's Office

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City Clerk

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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
57 BOND STREET (ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL)
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the
Archdiocese of Toronto
67 Bond Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1W2

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

David H. Finnegan
Director, Planning, Properties and Housing
Archdiocese of Toronto
1155 Yonge Street, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1W2

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 57 Bond Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Reasons for Designation

Description

The property at 57 Bond 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. St. Michael's Cathedral (1845-48, with subsequent additions) is located on the northeast corner of Bond and Shuter Streets. The site was listed on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1973.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

St. Michael's Cathedral has associative value as an institution of significance in Toronto that contributed to the formation and evolution of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto (originally the Diocese) and the development of the Roman Catholic community and its institutions

in the city. The construction of the Cathedral building is associated with Michael Power, the first Bishop of Toronto, and John Elmsley and other community leaders who provided funding.

St. Michael's Cathedral is historically associated with the career of the English-trained architect William Thomas who was one of the most important practitioners in 19th-century Toronto. Designing more than 30 churches in Canada, St. Michael's Cathedral is among Thomas's first and largest commissions in Toronto and an early example of his work in the city. With the additions to the Cathedral, beginning with the spire in 1865, other important Toronto architectural firms were engaged, among them Gundy and Langley and Joseph Connolly.

As the oldest surviving Roman Catholic Church in Toronto, St. Michael's Cathedral is a rare extant example of its type and style. The design value of St. Michael's Cathedral relates to its status as the first church in Toronto to be correctly designed in the Gothic Revival style according to medieval prototypes and encouraged by the ecclesiology movement in mid-19th century England. The Cathedral typifies Gothic Revival design in its siting, cruciform shape, dominant tower, buttresses, steeply pitched gable roof, and pointed-arch openings. The church complex displays a high degree of craftsmanship related to its richly detailed decorative brickwork, cut stone, and stone carvings, as well as stained glass windows dating from 1858 and afterward that were executed by notable Canadian and European firms.

Contextually, St. Michael's Cathedral is landmark in Toronto by virtue of its presence as the city's Roman Catholic Cathedral and its symbolic meaning to practitioners. The Cathedral is historically, physically, functionally and visually related to its surroundings where it forms an institutional enclave at Bond and Shuter Streets with the neighbouring Bishop's Palace, St. John's Chapel, St. Michael's Choir School and St. Michael's Hospital. In the neighbourhood east of Yonge Street, the Cathedral contributes to a precinct of important church complexes in downtown Toronto, with St. James' (Anglican) Cathedral on King Street East and Metropolitan United (formerly Methodist) Church directly south on Queen Street East.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes on the exterior of St. Michael's Cathedral are:

- The scale, form and massing of the Cathedral structure
- The cruciform plan with abbreviated north and south transepts
- The materials, with brick masonry on a stone foundation
- The steeply pitched gable roof with slate cladding and dormer windows (added in 1890)
- At the west end, the square tower with paired stone buttresses, the octagonal metal spire, and the pinnacles
- On the west facade, the triple entrance with the central entry placed at the base of the tower
- The detailing on the entrances, featuring pointed arch openings with stone reveals and carved faces that contain paired wood doors with half sidelights, and the wood tracery and stained glass in the entries and the clerestory windows above
- On the side elevations (north and south), the buttresses with stone pinnacles that extend through the gable roof and organize the pointed arched window openings and rose windows containing stained glass

- The monumental stained glass window on the east wall depicting Christ on the Cross (1858)
- The abbreviated south transept, with the centrally located pavilion under a gable end and a rose window
- The rear (east) wall, which displays buttresses and a central projecting bay that contains a large stained glass window flanked by smaller examples
- On the east wall, the entrance that is placed in a single-storey sacristy (1914 with a 1924 extension) with a slate-clad shed roof, a centre gable, statuary niche and trefoil windows
- The decorative brick detailing, with splayed door and window openings, octagonal turrets, cornices on the side elevations (north and south), and the raking cornices on the gable ends (east and west)
- The cut stone trim on the plinth, coping stones, door and window reveals, hood moulds and pinnacles
- The ornamental sculpture with carved stone gargoyles, crosses and faces at the west entrance
- The orientation of the building on the property, with the main entrance on the west and the sanctuary to the east
- The open space adjoining the south, west and north ends of the Cathedral
- At the west end, the iron fence with gates that dates to the 1890s

The heritage attributes on the interior of St. Michael's Cathedral are:

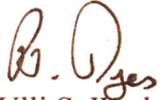
- The organization of the interior with the narthex (west), the nave with the centre aisle and north and south side aisles, the north and south transepts with the Chapels of Our Blessed Lady and the Sacred Heart and, at the east end, the sanctuary and L-shaped sacristy
- The vaulted ceiling with the hammer beam and truss roof structure above the nave and side aisles, respectively, which are separated by clustered columns with pointed arches and carved faces
- At the west end of the nave and above the narthex, the choir and organ gallery, which has been altered
- Beneath the nave and sanctuary, the crypt

The following interior elements are considered fixed "liturgical" objects that are **not** identified as heritage attributes in the Reasons for Designation:

- The tabernacle, confessional, fixed altars including the main east altar and its cross and the side Altars of the Blessed Virgin and the Sacred Heart, commemorative plaques and relics, Stations of the Cross and statuary, the baptismal font, ambo (or pulpit), reredos (or altar screen), and light fixtures
- The frescoes or decorative paintings on the walls and ceiling of the nave that date to 1937

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, 2nd 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 26th day of March, 2012


f Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk