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City Clerk's Office

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

**AMENDMENT OF DESIGNATING BY-LAW**

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

**ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST****MAY 31 2017****RECEIVED**

Take notice that City Council intends to amend former City of Toronto By-law 362-2000 designating the property at 81 St. Nicholas Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, to update and revise the Reasons for Designation and the legal description to include the property at 85 St. Nicholas Street.

**Reasons for Designation**

City of Toronto By-law 362-2006 designating the property at 81 St. Nicholas Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act is amended to include the adjoining property at 85 St. Nicholas Street. The properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street are worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value, and meet Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under all three categories of design, associative and contextual values.

**Description**

The properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street contain two attached buildings, comprising the north stable (1895) at 85 St. Nicholas and the south stable (1911) at 81 St. Nicholas, which were constructed for Robert Barron, the proprietor of a grocery business on the neighbouring property at 720 Yonge Street. Barron commissioned Toronto architect G. W. Gouinlock to design his Yonge Street store and, with a building permit naming him as the architect for the stable at 81 St. Nicholas Street, it is assumed that Gouinlock had previously designed the complementary building at 85 St. Nicholas. Robert Barron's company retained the stables on St. Nicholas Street until the 1940s. The properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street were listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties (now known as the Heritage Register) in 1985, and the Robert Barron Stable (1911) at 81 St. Nicholas Street was designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in 2006 by By-law 362-2006.

**Statement of Significance:**

The properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street have cultural heritage value for the design of the Robert Barron Stables as utilitarian buildings that are distinguished by their complementary and well-crafted Romanesque Revival features. As one of the most popular of the decorative architectural styles marking the late Victorian era, the north stable (1895) displays the rugged stone base and the oversized round-arched motifs that are characteristic of the Romanesque Revival. The neighbouring south stable (1911) was styled to complement the earlier building and, with the distinctive opening that accessed the hayloft, reflects the original purpose of the site.

The Robert Barron Stables (1895 and 1911) are historically associated with Toronto architect, G. W. (George Wallace) Gouinlock, who designed the businessman's grocery store at 720 Yonge Street (1889) as one of his first projects as a solo architect. While Gouinlock is best remembered as the winner of an international competition to design the tallest building in the British Empire (Temple Building, 1895) and as the official architect for the Canadian National Exhibition, he accepted commissions for all types of buildings, including the stables on Barron's St. Nicholas Street properties.

The associative value of the properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street is also through their connections to innovations in contemporary Canadian art. In the 1970s, the north stable at 85 St. Nicholas Street housed A Space, the artist-run centre for experimental art that included early advances in video work in Toronto. The neighbouring south stable at 81 St. Nicholas Street was the location from 2004-2008 of Gallery Neubacher, a leading exhibition space in the city for established and emerging Canadian artists.

Contextually, the properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street contribute to the historic character of Yonge Street and the adjoining lands south of Bloor Street West, which developed and evolved in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as the location of commercial buildings on the main street, supported by utilitarian buildings that included stables and coach houses behind. The Robert Barron Stables are also historically, visually, physically and functionally related to their setting on St. Nicholas Street where, with the neighbouring row houses (currently in commercial use) at 5-13 Charles Street West and the Robert Barron Store at 720 Yonge Street recall the historic character of their surroundings.

**Heritage Attributes:**

The heritage attributes of the Robert Barron Stables on the properties at 81 and 85 St. Nicholas Street are:

**North Stable, 1895:**

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the east side of St. Nicholas Street between St. Mary Street (south) and Charles Street West (north)
- The scale, form and massing of the two-storey rectangular-shaped plan with the canted northeast corner

- Above the stone base, the red brick cladding with the red and yellow brick, stone, metal and wood detailing
- At the west end of the flat roofline, the parapet with the metal cornice with the modillions, the brick cornice with the dentils, the narrow band course with the Greek key pattern, and the wide band course with the lozenges and crosses pattern in the contrasting yellow brick
- On the principal (west) elevation, in the first (ground) floor, the main entrance that is placed in a round-arched surround (the doors are not original), the single round-arched window openings flanking the entrance (the sills have been lowered), and the voussoirs, keystones and mouldings decorating the openings
- At the north end of the west elevation, the secondary entrance
- In the second storey, the three pairs of round-arched window openings that share a continuous corbelled sill and have brick detailing complementing the first-floor openings

Note: the window openings on the north elevation, which is viewed from St. Nicholas Street, have been altered and are **not** identified as heritage attributes. The south elevation adjoins the neighbouring building at 81 St. Nicholas Street. No heritage attributes are identified on the rear (east) wall.

### **South Stable, 1911**

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the east side of St. Nicholas Street between St. Mary Street (south) and Charles Street West (north)
- The scale, form and massing of the two-storey rectangular-shaped plan
- Above the stone base, the red brick cladding with the red and buff brick, stone, metal and wood detailing
- At the west end of the flat roofline, the parapet with the metal cornice with the modillions, the brick cornice with the dentils, the narrow band course with the Greek key pattern, and the wide band course with the lozenges and crosses pattern in the contrasting yellow brick
- On the principal (west) elevation, in the first (ground) floor, the central entrance that is placed in a round-arched surround (the doors are not original), the single round-arched window openings that flank the entrance (the sills have been lowered), and the voussoirs, keystone and mouldings that decorate the openings
- In the second storey, the pairs of round-arched window openings in the outer bays (north and south) with the brick detailing and the stone sills
- In the centre bay of the upper storey, the opening that originally accessed the hayloft with the extended sill and, in the wall above, the remnant of the pulley system

Note: The visible window openings on the south elevation, which is viewed from St. Nicholas Street, are **not** identified as heritage attributes. The north elevation adjoins the neighbouring building at 85 St. Nicholas Street. No heritage attributes are identified on the rear (east) wall.

Notice of an objection to the amendment of the designating by-law may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Ellen Devlin, Administrator, Toronto and East York Community Council, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of May 30, 2017, which is June 29, 2017. The notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.



by Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk