

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Item TE23.19, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on April 26, 27 and 28, 2017

CITY OF TORONTO

Bill 1363

BY-LAW -2017

To designate the property at 1433 Bathurst Street (Wychwood Library) as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

Whereas the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 1433 Bathurst Street (Wychwood Library) as being of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as 1433 Bathurst Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to designate the property, and has caused the Notice of Intention to be posted on the City's web site for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

Whereas no notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality; and

Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule A to this by-law;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. The property at 1433 Bathurst Street more particularly described in Schedule B attached to this by-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule B to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property at 1433 Bathurst Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be posted on the City's web site for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Enacted and passed on December , 2017.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

Ulli S. Watkiss,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

SCHEDULE A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION 1433 BATHURST STREET

The property at 1433 Bathurst Street (including the entrance address at 1431 Bathurst Street) is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value.

Description

Located on the northeast corner of Bathurst Street and Melgund Road, one block south of St. Clair Avenue West, the property at 1433 Bathurst Street contains the Wychwood Branch of the Toronto Public Library, which was completed in 1916 according to the designs of Toronto architect Eden Smith. The property at 1433 Bathurst Street was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties (now known as the Heritage Register) in 1976.

Statement of Significance

The Wychwood Library has cultural heritage value as an excellent example of a custom-designed library with features of the early-20th century Neo-Gothic style influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement with its features drawn from English medieval architecture and traditional craftsmanship. Its design is distinguished by the steeply-pitched gable roof, the stepped buttresses, and the Tudor-styled windows with the stone embellishments, as well as the first-floor interior reading room that resembles a medieval Great Hall with its high timber-frame ceiling, minstrel's gallery and large stone fireplace that is repeated in the basement level. The Wychwood Library set the precedent for the near-identical High Park and Beaches libraries.

The Wychwood Library is valued for its historical association with the Toronto Public Library Board, which was organized in the late 19th century to plan and build publicly-funded libraries in the city. With the rapid growth of Toronto in the early 1900s, and under the leadership of Chief Librarian George H. Locke, the Toronto Public Library Board accessed funding from the famed Carnegie Foundation of New York (which financed over 100 libraries in Ontario) to expand its library system, including in 1916 the collection of three branch libraries whose opening coincided with the tercentenary of the death of William Shakespeare. Wychwood was the first of the trio to be completed, and reflected the ideals of Locke with its design inspired by 17th-century English grammar schools that incorporated the innovative programming of the period with separate areas devoted to adults and children. In continuous operation for over a century, the Wychwood Library celebrated its centennial in 2016.

The associative value of the Wychwood Library is also through its connection to Toronto architect, Eden Smith, who designed the building. Eden Smith was considered Toronto's foremost Arts and Crafts practitioner who was best known for his design of St. Thomas Anglican Church on Huron Street, as well as residential projects on Indian Road and in neighbouring Wychwood Park, the community that developed as a unique artists' colony and was the first

residential Heritage Conservation District in the city. With his commissions for the Wychwood Library and the near-identical branches for High Park and the Beaches, Eden Smith was the first architect engaged by the Toronto Public Library Board to design a collection of buildings.

Contextually, the Wychwood Library is historically, visually and physically linked to its setting on the northeast corner of Bathurst Street and Melgund Road, south of St. Clair Avenue West, where it stands as a local landmark in the Casa Loma neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Wychwood Library on the property at 1433 Bathurst Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the northeast corner of Bathurst Street and Melgund Road
- The scale, form and massing of the single-storey building with the raised stone base and the rectangular-shaped plan
- The materials with the mottled red and brown brick cladding and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The steeply-pitched gable roof with the slate cladding, the stone coping on the gable ends, and the brick chimneys on the north and east
- On all of the elevations, the flat-headed window openings with the stone hood moulds, sills, quoins and mullions, which contain multi-paned windows (the original lead-paned windows were replaced)
- The principal (west) elevation with the centrally-placed compound-arched entrance surround (the original doors were removed) that is flanked and surmounted by the flat-headed window openings with the stone quoins and band courses, and the name band reading "Public Library, Wychwood Branch"
- The side elevations (north and south) where the window openings are separated by stepped brick buttresses with stone coping (on the south elevation, the entrance and the wing are not original and are not identified as heritage attributes)
- The rear (east) elevation where the chimney divides the window openings in the base and first storey
- On the interior, the first-floor reading room with the wood hammer-beam ceiling with brackets, the stone fireplace at the east end and the minstrel's gallery at the west end (which has been altered), and the stone fireplace on the east wall in the basement

SCHEDULE B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN 21224-0005(LT)

LT 1-2 PL D1380 TORONTO; PT LT 3 PL D1380 TORONTO AS IN OJ82694

City of Toronto Province of Ontario
Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)