

Authority: Toronto East York Community Council Report No. 6, Clause No. 48,
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 24, 25 and 26, 2001
Enacted by Council: July 26, 2001

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 677-2001

To designate the property at 395-397 Markham Street (T. R. Earl Houses) as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 395-397 Markham Street (T. R. Earl Houses) as being of architectural and historical value or interest; and

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historical or architectural 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 395-397 Markham Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

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

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the municipality.

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property at 395-397 Markham Street, more particularly described in Schedule "B" and shown on Schedule "C" attached to this by-law, is designated as being of architectural and historical 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 395-397 Markham Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Toronto as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 26th day of July, A.D. 2001.

CASE OOTES,
Deputy Mayor

JEFFREY A. ABRAMS,
Acting City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

SCHEDULE “A”
HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is the “Long Statement of Reasons for Designation” for the designation of the properties at 395 and 397 Markham Street (T. R. Earl Houses/Shaaarei Tzedec Synagogue) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It contains the Heritage Property Profile, as well as sections on the Historical Occupancy, Architectural Description and Significance of the properties. The introduction, below, forms the “Short Statement of Reasons for Designation”, intended for publication.

The properties at 395 and 397 Markham Street are recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. T. R. Earl commissioned the semi-detached houses in 1890. Since 1937, the Shaarei Tzedec Synagogue has occupied the properties.

The T. R. Earl Houses (Shaarei Tzedec Synagogue) are designed in the Queen Anne Revival style. Rising from a stone foundation with windows, the houses are clad with brick and trimmed with brick, stone and wood. The asymmetrical plan features a three-storey corner tower, 2½-storey main body and a 2½-storey rear (east) wing. A cross-gable roof with shingled wall dormers, gabled dormers and brick chimneys covers the houses. The principal (west) façade of the houses is organized into three bays. At the north end, the entrance to 397 Markham is placed at the base of the tower where a round-arched door opening contains double wood doors and a stained-glass fanlight. The entrance to 395 Markham is located on the south wall beneath an open shed-roofed verandah. The main body, tower and east wing display flat-headed, segmental-headed, round-arched, lancet and Palladian-styled windows. Many of the window openings have stained glass and brick voussoirs, imposts and sills.

The properties at 395 and 397 Markham Street are located on the southeast corner of Markham and Ulster Streets. The T. R. Earl Houses are historically important as the location of the Shaarei Tzedec Synagogue, one of the oldest Orthodox congregations in the former City of Toronto. Architecturally, the semi-detached houses are good examples of Queen Anne Revival design and important features in the College Street neighbourhood.

1.1 HERITAGE PROPERTY PROFILE

T. R. EARL HOUSES (SHAAREI TZEDEC SYNAGOGUE)

ADDRESS:	395 and 397 Markham Street (southeast corner of Markham and Ulster Streets)
WARD:	19 (Trinity-Spadina)
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY:	College Street Neighbourhood
HISTORICAL NAME:	T. R. Earl Houses/Shaaarei Tzedec Synagogue
CONSTRUCTION DATE:	1890
ORIGINAL OWNER:	T. R. Earl
ORIGINAL USE:	Residential (semi-detached houses)
CURRENT USE: *	Religious (synagogue) (* <i>this does not refer to permitted use(s) defined by the Zoning By-law</i>)
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/CRAFTSMAN:	Unknown
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:	Queen Anne Revival
DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION:	Brick construction with brick, stone and wood detailing
ALTERATIONS:	Post-1937, No. 397: interior altered for synagogue
HERITAGE CATEGORY:	Category C
RECORDER:	Kathryn Anderson, Heritage Preservation Services:
REPORT DATE:	February 2001

2.0 HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

2.1 COLLEGE STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD

Following the founding of the Town of York in 1793, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe authorized the division of the land between present-day Bloor and Queen Streets, east of the Don River, into over 30 park lots. The allotments were awarded to government and military officials as the location of country estates. While Captain David Shank initially received park lot 19, it was subsequently acquired by George Crookshank (1773-1859). Crookshank was an important member of the Upper Canadian political elite, serving as Assistant Commissary General, Receiver General, Legislative Councillor and Director of the Bank of Upper Canada. He assembled park lots 19 and 20, half of park lot 18 and the farm lots to the north, building Crookshank's Lane – present-day Bathurst Street – as the road to his country house. The residence, located midway between Lot (Queen) and Bloor Streets, was seized as the headquarters of the American invaders during the War of 1812.

With the encroachment of the City of Toronto, Crookshank began selling portions of his estate in 1851. Three years later, James M. Strachan and W. J. Fitzgerald established a subdivision named Seaton Square in the area bounded by Lippincott Street, College Street, Manning Avenue and Bloor Street West. Over 300 building lots were surveyed along streets that included Markham and Ulster (originally Buller). Development was sporadic until the 1880s when College Street was paved and the street railway was extended along Spadina and College to Bathurst Street.

2.2 T. R. EARL HOUSES

In April 1890, Theophilus R. Earl received a building permit for the construction of a pair of semi-detached houses on Markham Street, south of Ulster Street. The houses stood vacant until 1893 when 395 was rented to Henry Staines, owner of a blacksmith business on Sheppard Street. The portion at 397 remained unoccupied until 1896 when, following Earl's death, his estate rented it to Edward F. Clarke, president of the Excelsior Life Insurance Company on Adelaide Street East. Staines occupied 395 until 1922. At 397, the tenancy changed in 1902 when Charles Rogers, head of a family-owned furniture and interior woodwork company, moved into the house.

City Directories indicate that in the post-World War I period, the area southwest of Bloor and Bathurst Streets changed in ethnicity from a British to a Jewish neighbourhood. Louis Gurofsky began a long-term occupancy of 397 Markham in 1922. Five years later, Rabbi Wolfe S. Gringorten assumed the tenancy of 395 Markham Street.

2.3 SHAAREI TZEDEC SYNAGOGUE

The first Jewish immigrants arrived in Toronto from Central Europe in the late 1830s. In the 1880s, large numbers of East European Jews, fleeing persecution in Russia and Poland, settled in the area of Toronto bounded by Queen Street, Yonge Street, Gerrard Street and University Avenue and known as "the Ward". Most of the latter immigrants were tradesmen and artisans who found employment in the burgeoning clothing factories near the downtown core. Because East European Jews "tended to divide by country of origin their synagogues and business partnerships", numerous congregations were formed (Speisman, 87). One Russian congregation, Shaarei Tzedec, was created in 1901 and built a synagogue on Centre Avenue (formerly Centre Street), east of University Avenue, in 1910.

After 1900, Jewish families of East European origin began gravitating west from the Ward. As reported in the *Jewish News* in 1912, Jewish neighbourhoods extended past Bathurst Street to include Markham Street, Palmerston Boulevard, and Euclid Avenue (Speisman, 90). In 1937, the Shaarei Tzedec (Orthodox) congregation moved to Markham Street. The semi-detached house at 397 Markham was used for worship, while a Hebrew school was opened at 395 Markham.

In the former City of Toronto, the synagogues at 115 Bond Street (Holy Blossom Temple, 1895), 189 Brunswick Avenue (Narayever Synagogue, built as Foresters' Hall circa 1890), 28 Denison Square (First Russian Synagogue, 1926), 23 Henry Street (Beth Jacob Synagogue, 1922), 109 Kenilworth Avenue (Beach Hebrew Institute, built as a Baptist church in 1895), and 56 Maria Street (Knesseth Synagogue, 1911) are recognized on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

2.4 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The T. R. Earl Houses are historically significant as the location for over 60 years of the Shaarei Tzedec Synagogue, one of the oldest Orthodox congregations in the former City of Toronto.

3.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE:

3.1 ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The T. R. Earl Houses were designed in the Queen Anne Revival style, popular at the close of the 19th century. Inspired by 16th and 17th century prototypes, the style was devised in Britain by architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912) and his contemporaries. Medieval features, especially asymmetrical plans, corner towers, projecting wings, varied window types and complicated rooflines, were mixed with Classical motifs employing a number of cladding materials.

3.2 ARCHITECT/BUILDER/CRAFTSMAN

No information has been found naming the architect or builder for the properties. The building permit issued for the houses does not list the designer.

3.3 ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The T. R. Earl Houses feature an asymmetrical plan with a 2½-storey main body, a three-storey corner tower, and a 2½-storey rear (east) wing. Rising from a stone base with window openings, the houses are constructed of brick and trimmed with brick, stone and wood. A cross-gable roof has gables on the north, west and south slopes, gabled dormers on the west slope and on the wing, and brick chimneys in the centre of the main roof and on the wing. The principal (west) façade is organized into three bays, anchored by a three-storey flat-roofed tower at the left (north) end. The entrance to 397 Markham is elevated at the base of the tower. A round-arched doorcase contains double wood doors and a fanlight with stained glass that incorporates a Star of David. The entry is surmounted by brick voussoirs with imposts and flanked by pairs of lancet windows. On its west and north faces, the tower displays flat-headed window openings with stained glass windows and floating transoms in the second storey, and round-arched window openings with fanlights, hood moulds and extended sills in the third floor. The tower has corner buttresses and string courses. The remainder of the west façade of 397 Markham displays segmental-arched window openings, with the second storey set back. The first floor contains a tripartite window with stained glass. The west façade of 395 Markham features a projecting gable with a flared second floor and shingled cladding on the second and attic stories. In the first floor, the round-arched window opening displays a fanlight, voussoirs and imposts. A pair of flat-headed windows is placed in the second storey beneath a Palladian-style attic window.

The south facade of 395 Markham contains the entrance, sheltered by a shed-roof verandah. The wall displays a variety of window openings, with a half-round window in the second floor. The east wall on 397 Markham features a group of three round-arched window openings lighting the stairhall, corbelled brickwork, a shingled gable, and single and double segmental-headed window openings with brick detailing. The first-floor windows contain stained glass, with Star of David motifs in those marking the interior sanctuary. The east wing displays a similar pattern of window openings and detailing.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The T. R. Earl Houses contain significant interior features. On the interior of 397 Markham, areas identified in the Reasons for Designation are the entrance hall and staircase, first-floor sanctuary, and second-floor meeting room and hallway.

Inside the entrance to 397 Markham, a hall provides access to the staircase that rises along the east wall of the house. From the hall, double wood doors lead east into the sanctuary. Walls were removed to create one large room. The seating plan is arranged around the central bimah (cantor's desk). At the east end of the room, the ark was relocated from the congregation's Centre Avenue synagogue. Housing the books of the Torah or holy scrolls, the ark is surmounted by a pair of Lions of Judah holding twin Tablets of the Law (Old Testament). Light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling and placed on posts flanking the ark and the bimah.

On the second floor, the meeting room and the hall with wood doors and wood door and window surrounds are identified in the Reasons for Designation.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The T. R. Earl Houses are architecturally significant as good examples of Queen Anne styling, highlighted by a prominent corner tower. The interior of 397 Markham incorporates the Shaarei Tzedec synagogue, where the bimah, arc and lighting fixtures on the first floor, and the meeting room and hall on the second level are identified as important features.

4.0 CONTEXT

4.1 CONTEXT AND SETTING

The T. R. Earl Houses anchor the southeast corner of Markham and Ulster Streets in a predominantly residential streetscape. In the College Street neighbourhood, the former College Street Presbyterian Church (1884-1885) at 452 College Street, the former Freemason Hall (1910) at 454 College Street, Harbord Collegiate Institute (1890) at 286 Harbord Street, and the Palmerston Gates (circa 1910) at the entrances to Palmerston Boulevard from College and Bloor Streets are recognized on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

4.2 CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

With their location on a corner lot marked by a prominent tower, the T. R. Earl Houses are important features in the neighbourhood north of College Street.

5.0 SUMMARY

The properties at 395 and 397 Markham Street are historically significant as the location of the Shaarei Tzedec synagogue, one of the oldest surviving Orthodox congregations in the former City of Toronto. Architecturally, the T. R. Earl Houses are good examples of Queen Anne Revival styling and important features in the College Street neighbourhood.

6.0 SOURCES

Assessment Rolls, St. Stephens Ward, 1890-1892.

Assessment Rolls, Ward 5, Division 2, 1893-1903.

Blumenson, John. Ontario Architecture. Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1990.

Building Permit No. 82, 25 April 1890.

City of Toronto Directories, 1885-1960.

“High Holidays Handbook”. Toronto Life (October 1986) 52-70.

Interviews with Mr. Lawrence A. Brenzel and Dr. Joseph Greenberg, Shaarei Tzedel Congregation, 29 January 2001.

“The Jews”. Entry in The Torontonians. Toronto: Toronto Historical Board, 1982.

Lundell, Liz. The Estates of Old Toronto. Erin, Ont.: Boston Mills Press, 1997.

Myrvold, Barbara. Historical Walking Tour of Kensington Market and College Street. Toronto: Toronto Public Library, 1993.

Speisman, Stephen A. The Jews of Toronto. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1979.

Telephone conversation with Howard Marcus, archivist, Ontario Jewish Archives, 12 February 2001.

Subject: By-law: Designation of premises 395 and 397 Markham Street
(T.R. Earl Houses) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
(Ward 19 –Trinity-Spadina)
File: M21-H1

SCHEDULE “B”

In the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario, being composed of:

FIRSTLY:

Part of Lot 285 in Block A on Plan 574 registered in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64), the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

Commencing in the easterly limit of Markham Street distant 20.61 metres measured southerly from the north-westerly angle of said Lot 285;

Thence northerly along the easterly limit of Markham Street 13.14 metres more or less to a point opposite the centre line of the party wall between the house on the herein described land and the house immediately adjoining to the north;

Thence easterly along the said centre line of wall and its production 39.32 metres more or less the easterly limit of the said Lot;

Thence southerly along the easterly limit of the said Lot a distance of 12.42 metres more or less to a point distant 19.89 metres south of the north easterly angle of the said Lot;

Thence westerly 39.32 metres more or less in a straight line to the point of commencement.

The easterly limit of Markham Street as confirmed under the Boundaries Act by Plan BA-1762 (CT418592).

The hereinbefore FIRSTLY described land being most recently described in Instrument 204545WB (FIRSTLY).

SECONDLY:

Part of Lot 285 in Block A on Plan 574 registered in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64), the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

Commencing at the north-westerly angle of the said Lot 285;

Thence southerly along the easterly limit of Markham Street 7.47 metres more or less to a point opposite the centre line of the wall between the house on the herein described land and the house immediately adjoining to the south;

Thence easterly along the said centre line of wall and its production 39.32 metres more or less the easterly limit of the said Lot;

Thence northerly along the easterly limit of the said Lot a distance of 7.47 metres, more or less, to the north easterly angle of said Lot;

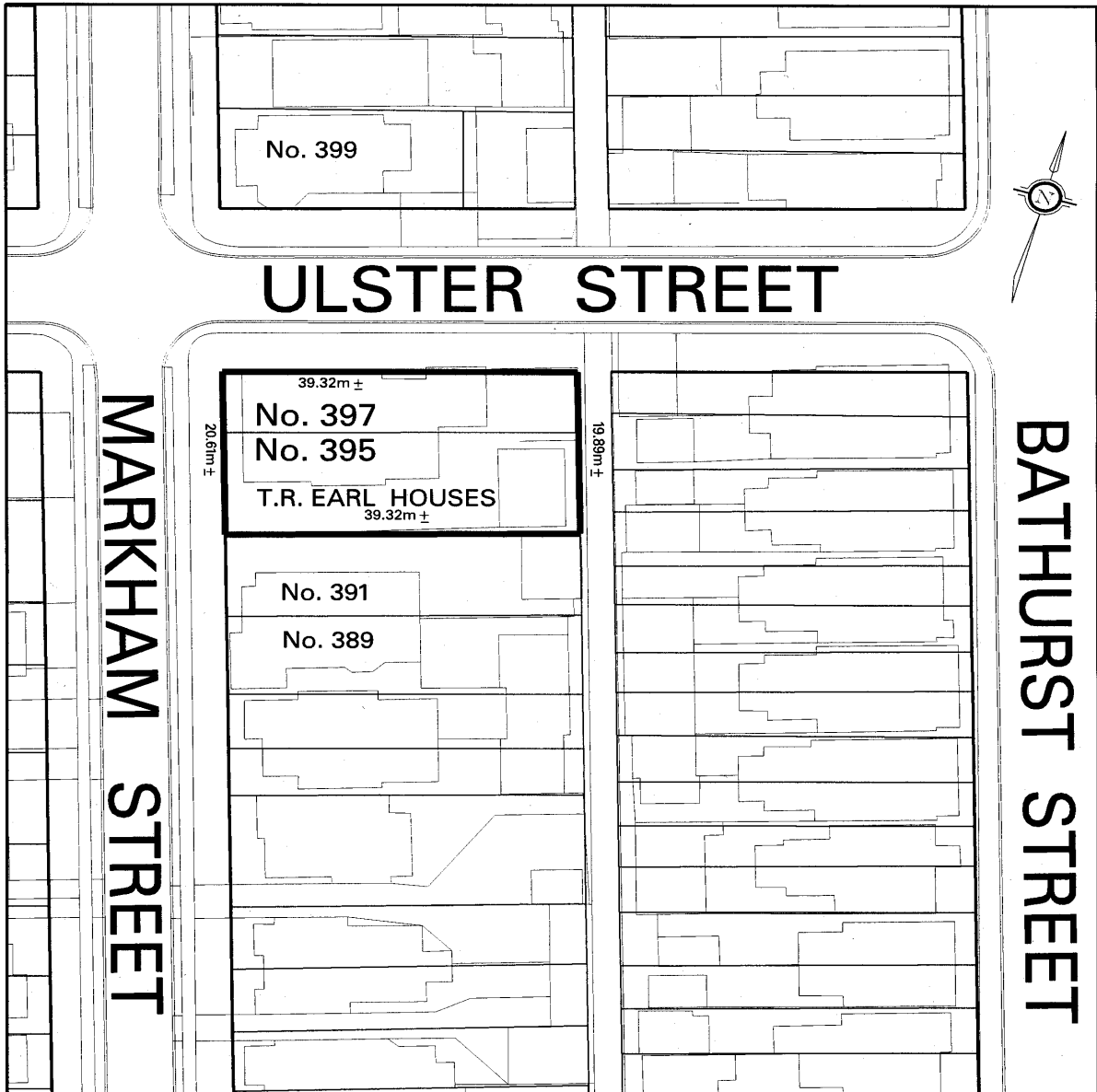
Thence westerly along the northerly limit of said Lot a distance of 39.32 metres to the point of commencement.

The easterly limit of Markham Street as confirmed under the Boundaries Act by Plan BA-1762 (CT418592).

The hereinbefore SECONDLY described land being most recently described in Instrument 204545WB (SECONDLY).

The hereinbefore FIRSTLY and SECONDLY described lands being delineated by heavy outline on Sketch No. PS-2001-045 dated July 11, 2001, as set out in Schedule "C".

SCHEDULE "C"



TORONTO

WORKS & EMERGENCY SERVICES
TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION
SURVEY & MAPPING

NOTE:
THIS SKETCH IS NOT
A PLAN OF SURVEY
AND HAS BEEN COMPILED
FROM SURVEY NOTES AND
OFFICE RECORDS. IT SHALL
NOT BE USED EXCEPT FOR
THE PURPOSE INDICATED
IN THE TITLE BLOCK

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET
Nos. 395 AND 397 MARKHAM STREET
(T.R. EARL HOUSES),
LAND DESIGNATED AS BEING OF
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
VALUE AND INTEREST
(NOT TO SCALE)

WARD 19 TRINITY-SPADINA
DATE: JULY 11, 2001

SKETCH No. PS-2001-045