

Authority: Midtown Community Council Report No. 3, Clause No. 36,
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on April 14, 15 and 16, 2003
Enacted by Council: May 23, 2003

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 437-2003

To designate the property at 525 Avenue Road (Amsterdam Square Fountain) as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the property at 525 Avenue Road (Amsterdam Square Fountain) and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate the property and has caused the notice to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality, as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the City Clerk; and

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

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

1. The property at 525 Avenue Road, 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 under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
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 525 Avenue Road 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 23rd day of May, A.D. 2003.

MEL LASTMAN,
Mayor

ULLI S. WATKISS
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

SCHEDULE “A”

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is the “Long Statement of Reasons for Designation” for the designation of the property at 525 Avenue Road (Amsterdam Square Fountain) 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 property. The introduction, below, forms the “Short Statement of Reasons for Designation”, intended for publication.

The property at 525 Avenue Road is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The Amsterdam Square Fountain was donated to the City of Toronto by philanthropist Herbert Hale Williams and is a replica of the Van Karnebeck Fountain in the grounds of the Peace Palace, The Hague. Designed and executed in The Hague by Willem C. Brouwer, who sculpted the original, the fountain was installed in Toronto in 1929. In 1974, the fountain and park were renamed in recognition of the twinning of the Cities of Amsterdam and Toronto.

Composed of terra cotta, the Amsterdam Square Fountain features a symmetrical design where, above a raised platform, a semi-circular basin is flanked by curved benches and surmounted by a tripartite plinth composed of half-circles and incorporating planters. The structure is ornamented with Classical band courses and maple leaves. The plinth is inscribed “a replica of the fountain at the Peace Palace, The Hague presented by H. H. Williams, Esquire as a mark of his love for his native city”.

The property at 525 Avenue Road is located on the northeast corner of Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue West. Placed in a landscaped setting, the Amsterdam Park Fountain is architecturally significant as a notable example of public art in the City of Toronto. The property has historical importance for its associations with the Dutch community in Toronto and, contextually, is a visual landmark in the Deer Park neighbourhood.

1.1 HERITAGE PROPERTY PROFILE

AMSTERDAM PARK FOUNTAIN

ADDRESS:	525 Avenue Road (northeast corner of Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue West)
WARD:	32
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY:	Deer Park
HISTORICAL NAME:	Amsterdam Square Fountain
CONSTRUCTION DATE:	1929 (installed)
ORIGINAL OWNER:	City of Toronto
ORIGINAL USE:	Public art
CURRENT USE: *	Public art (* <i>this does not refer to permitted use(s) defined by the Zoning By-law</i>)
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/CRAFTSMAN:	Willem C. Brouwer, sculptor; George Moorehouse and King, supervising architects (consultants for installation); Harries, Hall and Kruse Limited, landscape architects
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:	Not applicable
DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION:	Terra cotta structure
ALTERATIONS:	1970s, sandblasting and mortar repair
HERITAGE CATEGORY:	Category B (Notable Heritage Property)
RECORDER:	Kathryn Anderson, Heritage Preservation Services
REPORT DATE:	September 2002

2.0 HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY:

2.1 DEER PARK

Following the establishment of the Town of York, the surrounding lands were surveyed into 100-acre park lots extending from present-day Queen to Bloor Streets, with 200-acre farm lots beyond. In the mid-19th century, members of the Heath family acquired a portion of Lot 21, the farm lot on the northwest corner of Yonge Street and the Third Concession (later St. Clair Avenue). The Heath property was known locally as Deer Park Farm, a name that was extended to the surrounding neighbourhood.

To the west, the adjoining farm lots 22 and 23 were part of the extensive land holdings of Peter Russell, Receiver General of the Province of Upper Canada. William Augustus Baldwin inherited the property where he developed a country estate named “Mashquoteh” (meaning “meadow where the deer come to feed”). In the 1880s, the Baldwin Estate was subdivided for residential development, with the extension of Avenue Road north of St. Clair Avenue West and the opening of the new campus of Upper Canada College. The City of Toronto annexed Deer Park in 1908.

By the World War I era, a nine-lot subdivision on the north side of St. Clair Avenue West, between Oriole Parkway and Avenue Road, was registered as Plan 391E. The City of Toronto acquired three vacant lots from the Dovercourt Land, Building and Savings Company in 1920 and opened the Avenue Road Parkette on the site in 1927.

2.2 AMSTERDAM SQUARE FOUNTAIN

Herbert Hale Williams (1862-1954) donated the fountain to the City of Toronto in 1928 for installation the following year. Williams was the founder of a real estate firm that specialized in acquiring commercial properties in the city core, including the assembly of land for Eaton's College Street Store. By the 1920s, H. H. Williams and Company was described as "the most successful real estate firm in Canada" (Star, 26 November 1977). Williams turned his attention to philanthropic interests, serving as honorary chairman of the Hospital for Sick Children and, during World War I, raising \$1 million for the Canadian Red Cross.

In 1928, Toronto City Council accepted Williams' donation of a fountain to be installed in the new public park at Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue West. During a European excursion to find "a small historical fountain with an important association", Williams chose the Van Karnabeek Fountain near the Peace Palace at The Hague in the Netherlands as the prototype for his gift (Star, 26 November 1977). The Peace Palace (Vredespaleis) opened in 1913 as the seat of the "Permanent Court of Arbitration", the oldest global institution for the settlement of international disputes. A. P. C. Van Karnabeek, a political leader from the Netherlands and one of the founders of the Peace Palace, donated the fountain that bears his name.

In 1929, the replica of the Van Karnabeek Fountain was installed in the Avenue Road Parkette, directly south of Williams' residence at 565 Avenue Road. After Toronto became a "World City" in 1969, Toronto and Amsterdam were twinned in 1972. Two years later, encouraged by the efforts of the Toronto/Amsterdam Twin Cities Association, the park and fountain at 525 Avenue Road were renamed. The site is now associated with the Dutch community in Toronto, a group that grew rapidly through immigration after World War II. The property at 525 Avenue Road was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1975.

3.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

3.1 ARCHITECT, BUILDER OR CRAFTSMAN

Willem C. Brouwer, the designer and sculptor of the Van Karnebeck Fountain, sculpted the Amsterdam Park Fountain.

In Toronto, the architectural firm of George Moorehouse and King supervised the installation of the fountain. Allan George and Walter M. Moorehouse formed a partnership in 1913. Joined by architect Cecil C. King in the 1920s, the firm's commissions of note included the Maclean House at 2225 Bayview Avenue (1929, in association with Eric Arthur) and the Toronto Stock Exchange at 222 Bay Street (1937, with S. H. Maw). The latter properties are recognized on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

The firm of Harries, Hall and Kruse, landscape architects, designed the park. William Edward Harries and Alfred V. Hall created a partnership in 1914 after working with the notable firm of Howard B. and Lorrie A. Dunnington-Grubb. With offices in Toronto and Buffalo, the pair received commissions for the grounds of the Toronto General Hospital's College Street Wing, the original Tea Garden at the Old Mill Pavilion, and the planting schemes for six new branches of the Toronto Public Library. Arthur M. Kruse joined the firm in 1919, which officially changed its name to Harries, Hall and Kruse in 1925.

3.2 ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Composed of terra cotta, the Amsterdam Square Fountain features a symmetrical design where, above a raised platform, a semi-circular fountain with a lion's head spout is flanked by curved benches and surmounted by a tripartite plinth, composed of half-circles and incorporating planters along the top. Carved Classical band courses extend across the edges of the corner boxes, seats and plinth, and maple leaves decorate the plinth. Inscriptions near the top of the plinth read "a replica of the fountain at the Peace Palace, The Hague" (west) and "presented by H. H. Williams, Esquire as a mark of his love for his native city" (east).

4.0 CONTEXT

The Amsterdam Park Fountain is located in the small park at the northeast corner of Avenue Road and St. Clair Avenue West. On the opposite (northwest) side of the intersection, a similar tract now known as Glenn Gould Park contains a replica of the "Peter Pan" statue at Kensington Gardens, London, England. Created by the original sculptor, Sir George Frampton, the statue was installed by the College Heights Association of Ratepayers in 1929 at the instigation of H. H. Williams. The latter property is included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

5.0 SUMMARY: SIGNIFICANCE

The property at 525 Avenue Road is architecturally significant as the location of the Amsterdam Park Fountain, an important example of public art in the City of Toronto. The property has historical importance for its associations with the Dutch community and, contextually, is a notable feature in the Deer Park neighbourhood.

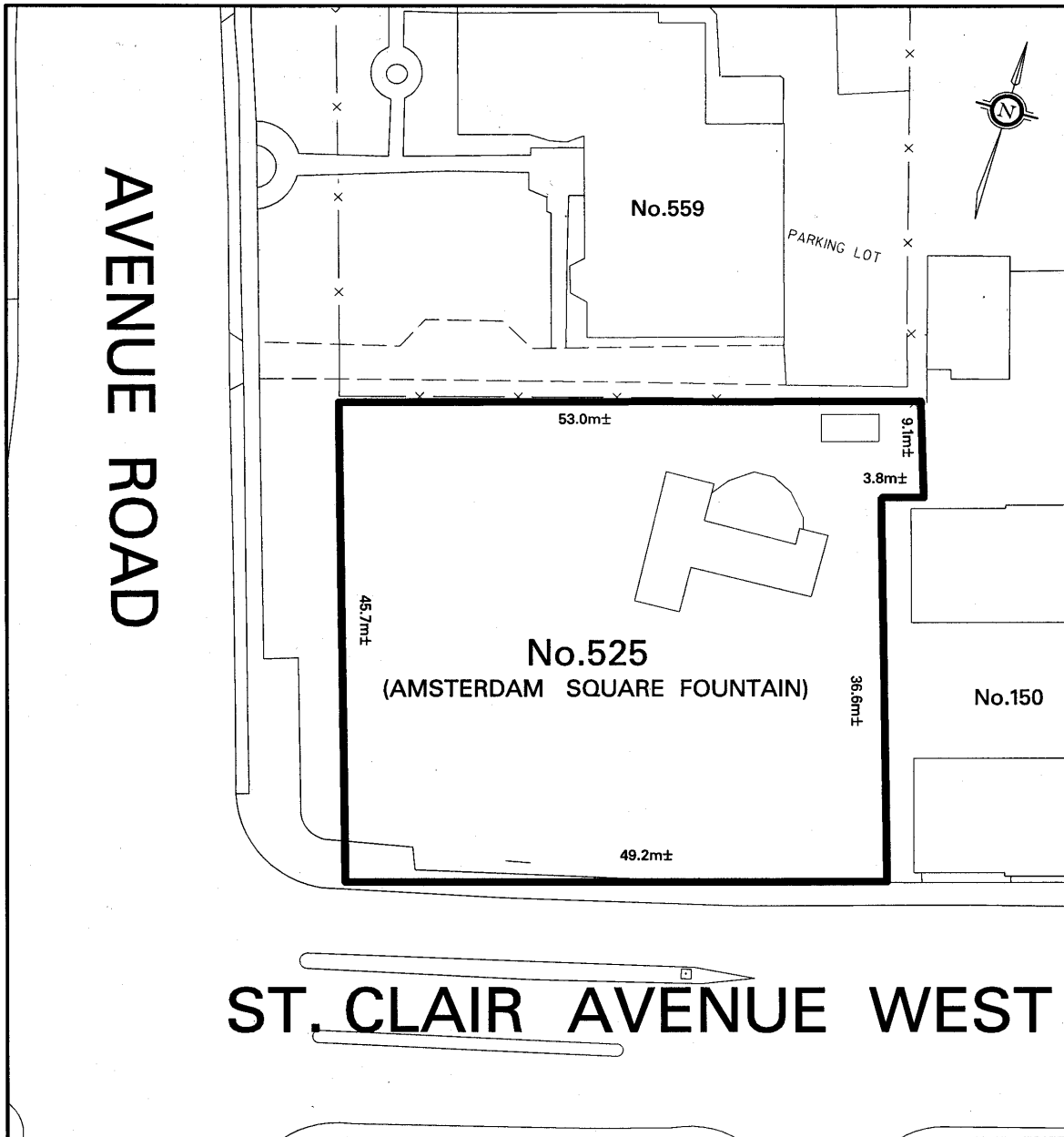
SCHEDULE “B”

PIN 21189-0184 (LT).

Parts of Lots 2, 3, 4 and 5 on Plan 391-E as in EM11576 and ON21581N in the Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66) in the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario.

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Sketch No. PS-2003-040 dated March 24, 2003, 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

No. 525 AVENUE ROAD
(AMSTERDAM SQUARE FOUNTAIN)
LAND DESIGNATED AS BEING OF
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
VALUE OR INTEREST
(NOT TO SCALE)

WARD 22 - ST. PAUL'S
DATE: MARCH 24, 2003

SKETCH No. PS-2003-040