

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Report 5, Clause 17a,  
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 25, 26 and 27, 2006  
Enacted by Council: September 27, 2006

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 867-2006**

**To designate the property at 55 John Street (Metro Hall Council Chambers) as being of cultural heritage value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 55 John Street (Metro Hall Council Chambers) as being of cultural heritage 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 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 55 John Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, 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 was served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

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

1. The property at 55 John Street, more particularly described in Schedule "B" and shown on Schedule "C" 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 55 John Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust 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 27th day of September, A.D. 2006.

DAVID R. MILLER,  
Mayor

ULLI S. WATKISS  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

**SCHEDULE “A”****REASONS FOR DESIGNATION****Metro Hall Council Chambers: 55 John Street**Description:

The property at 55 John Street is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value or interest, and meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design or physical value and historical value. Completed in 1992, the Metro Hall Council Chambers were designed as part of the three-building office complex located on the southeast corner of King Street West and John Street. The Toronto architectural firm of Brisbin Brook Beynon designed Metro Hall, where the Council Chambers are accessed from the second and third floors of the building. The exterior of Metro Hall and the interiors apart from the Council Chambers are not included in the Reasons for Designation.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:

The cultural heritage value of the Metro Hall Council Chambers is related to its design or physical value as a rare example of a building type. One of a select number of city halls in the City of Toronto, the Council Chambers are located on the second floor of Metro Hall and extend to a mezzanine at the third-floor level. Access to the Council Chambers is provided by an exterior staircase, designed as a ceremonial entrance and placed outside the main (east) entrance to Metro hall, as well as from stairs, elevators and escalators inside the building. The Council Chambers are positioned to overlook the public park between Metro Hall and Roy Thomson Hall to the east, and the Toronto skyline.

The cultural heritage value of the Metro Hall Council Chambers is also connected to its historical value and its direct association with an institution that is significant to the City of Toronto. The Metro Hall Council Chambers were the first purpose-built Council Chambers for the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. The upper-tier municipality was created in 1953 when 13 cities, towns, townships and villages were brought together to provide more effective delivery of government services. In 1967, amalgamations reduced the 13 municipalities to six, composed of the five Cities of Toronto, North York, Etobicoke, Scarborough and York and the Borough of East York. The municipality initially provided water treatment and supply services and sewage treatment facilities, and constructed and maintained expressways and major arterial roads. Metro assumed additional responsibilities over time, including the administration of social services. With the creation of the current City of Toronto on January 1, 1998, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto was dissolved.

Heritage Attributes:

The heritage attributes of the Metro Hall Council Chambers related to its cultural heritage value as a rare example of a building type (city hall) are found on the interior of the Council Chambers, consisting of:

- The application of materials, with stainless steel, wood and painted metal, brass and aluminum;
- The circular plan with a central dome and the division of the interior into quadrants by full-height metal columns;
- The definition of the circular centre space by a ring of four clusters of eight columns; the four pairs of decorative triangular trusses that spring from the clustered columns and converge in the smaller ring inside the dome; and, the single trusses that extend from the central ring of columns to the outer ring of single columns that define the back of the gallery seating and the mezzanine on the upper level; and
- The upper mezzanine level, which extends around the north, east and south sides of the chambers and admits natural light from the exterior windows on the east wall; and, the stainless steel railings with perforated stainless steel panels that enclose the mezzanines.

**SCHEDULE "B"**

PIN 21411-0183 (LT)

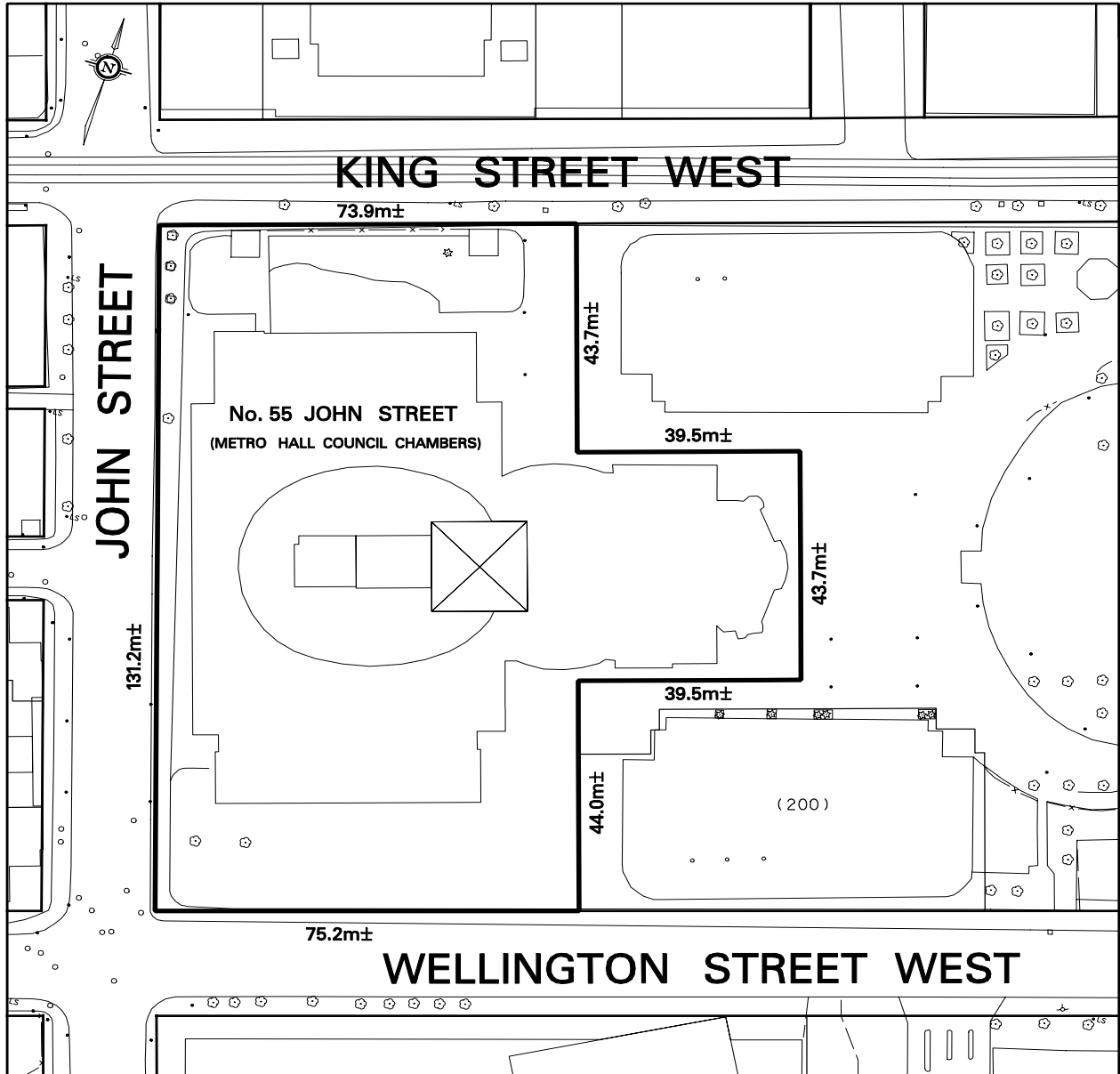
Lots 1-7, 29-33, parts of Lots 8, 14 and 15, Dorset Street (closed by ES178258), and the Lane abutting Lots 1-7, all on Plan 151; parts of Lots B, C, D, E, F, G and part of 1 Foot Reserve all on Plan 378 City East; Blocks A, B and parts of Blocks D and E all on Plan 525E; part of Town Lot 10 on the north side of Simcoe Place, Lots 12 and 13 on the north side of Simcoe Place, Lots 18, 19, 20 and 21 on the south side of Russell Square, all on the Town of York Plan; all designated as PART 1 on Plan 63R-4544, PARTS 3 and 4 on Plan 63R-4597, PART 1 on Plan 63R-4837 and PART 1 on Plan 63R-4887.

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

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

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Sketch No. PS-2006-126 dated September 18, 2006, as set out in Schedule "C".

SCHEDULE "C"



PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

No. 55 JOHN STREET  
 (METRO HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS)  
 LAND DESIGNATED AS BEING OF  
 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE AND INTEREST  
 (NOT TO SCALE)

**Toronto**

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
SURVEY & MAPPING SERVICES

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

WARD 21 - ST. PAUL'S  
 DATE: SEPT. 18, 2006

SKETCH No. PS-2006-126