

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Item 35.10,  
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 6, 7 and 8, 2010  
Enacted by Council: July 13, 2012

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 949-2012**

**To designate the property at 315 Bloor Street West (Dominion Meteorological Building and Transit House) as being of cultural heritage value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 315 Bloor Street West (Dominion Meteorological Building and Transit House) 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 buildings and structures located 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 315 Bloor Street West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a 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, Notice requirements under 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 315 Bloor Street West 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 315 Bloor Street West 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, Notice requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 13th day of July, A.D. 2012.

FRANCES NUNZIATA,  
Speaker

ULLI S. WATKISS,  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

**SCHEDULE "A"****REASONS FOR DESIGNATION  
(Statement of Significance)**Description

The property at 315 Bloor Street West is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. Located on the southwest corner of Bloor Street West and Devonshire Place, the Dominion Meteorological Building (1909) is a 2½-storey administration building with a tower. The site includes the Transit House, a single-storey outbuilding that originally contained meteorological instruments. The property was listed on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in June 1973.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Dominion Meteorological Building has associative value for its direct links to significant institutions. From 1909 to 1971, it housed the Meteorological Service Canada, the federal government agency responsible for meteorological observations and weather forecasting. The University of Toronto's Admissions and Awards Office occupied the premises for nearly 40 years.

Historically, the Dominion Meteorological Building is also associated with the notable Toronto architectural firm of Burke, Horwood and White, which executed the plans prepared by its predecessor, Burke and Horwood. The partnership was headed by Edmund Burke, who had worked with his uncle, architect Henry Langley, before assuming the practice of another distinguished architect, William Storm. Teaming with J.C.B. Horwood in 1895, the pair designed such iconic Toronto buildings as Castle Memorial Hall (part of McMaster Hall and later the Royal Conservancy of Music). Murray White joined the practice in 1908, and the firm continued to receive commissions for a variety of residential, commercial, institutional and public buildings and structures, including the Prince Edward (Bloor Street) Viaduct.

From a design perspective, the Dominion Meteorological Building is a rare and unique example of a building type in Toronto, which was originally designed to house the observatory, meteorological equipment and administrative functions of the Meteorological Service of Canada. Its well-crafted design employed the popular Romanesque Revival style, identified by the rugged stone masonry, castle-like appearance and application of the round arch for the principal (south) entrance. The building displays a high degree of craftsmanship, including the treatment of the main entry with its decorative stone carvings, and the iconic tower, which was specifically designed to house the observatory's telescope.

Contextually, with its distinctive tower and location on the south side of Bloor Street West, the Dominion Meteorological Building is a local landmark at the north end of the University of Toronto campus. The building anchors the southwest corner of Devonshire Place, where it is setback from the intersection and adjoins the diminutive Transit House.

## Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 315 Bloor Street West are:

### **Dominion Meteorological Building:**

- The scale, form and massing of the rectangular-shaped plan, which rises 2½-stories above a raised base with window openings
- The roughly-textured sandstone cladding with smooth dressed stone trim on the window openings and cornice
- The truncated hipped roof with clay tile cladding, stone chimneys and stone-clad dormers
- On the principal (north) façade, the centrally-placed frontispiece with a stepped parapet and round-arched openings in the second storey and attic half-storey
- The main (north) entrance, which is elevated at the base of the frontispiece and accessed via stone steps
- The detailing of the north entrance, where the round-arched surround incorporates sandstone columns, brackets, carved mouldings with gargoyles, and a sculpted tympanum with the Royal coat-of-arms
- Flanking the north entry, the fenestration where flat-headed window openings are grouped in stone surrounds, contain wood sash windows, and have transoms in the first-floor openings and decorative upper light divided sashes in the second-storey openings
- At the north end, the round tower, which rises above the ridge of the adjoining roof and features narrow lancet window openings
- On the side elevations (east and west) that are viewed from Devonshire Place and Bloor Street West, respectively, the pattern and placement of the window openings
- The interior, with the cross corridors with arch detailing, the grand south staircase, the pressed brick cladding on the walls, and the original geometric tile flooring
- The setback of the building from Bloor Street West and Devonshire Place where a stone and ironwork fence outlines the perimeter of the property

### **Transit House:**

- The scale, form and massing of the single-storey structure
- The clinker brick cladding with the smooth grey brick trim
- The gable roof that is covered with clay tile and incorporates a skylight
- The round-arched window openings
- The placement of the building to the northwest of the Dominion Meteorological Building, where it is angled according to the exact astronomical north-south orientation

**SCHEDULE "B"**

Part of PIN 21414-0044 (LT)

Part of Lots 25, 26 and 27 on Plan 101E designated as PART 1 on Plan 66R-25886

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-2012-061 dated May 10, 2012, as set out in Schedule "C".

