

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council Item TE16.13, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on June 7, 8 and 9, 2016

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 713-2017

To designate the property at 25 Clarence Square 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 25 Clarence Square 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 25 Clarence Square 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; and

Whereas the views identified as heritage attributes in Schedule A are shown in Schedule B to this by-law;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. The property at 25 Clarence Square more particularly described in 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 C 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 25 Clarence Square 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 July 7, 2017.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

Ulli S. Watkiss,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

SCHEDULE A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The property at Clarence Square 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 all three categories of design, associative and contextual values.

Description

Clarence Square is a City-owned park located on the east side of Spadina Avenue, north of Front Street West that dates to the 1830s when it was established as a public square in the first residential neighbourhood developed on part of the former Military Reserve. Set aside for public uses before being granted to the City, Clarence Square was laid out as a public park in the late 19th century and redesigned in the 1920s. At the west end of Clarence Square, a historical plaque commemorates the first Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross (1854), who resided near the site. The City of Toronto's Official Plan includes Clarence Square as an Area of Special Identity in the King-Spadina Secondary Plan, and the late-19th and early-20 century buildings adjoining the square are recognized on the City's Heritage Register.

Statement of Significance

Clarence Square has cultural heritage value for its design as one of the earliest public parks in Toronto. Originating as part of the Military Reserve west of the Town of York that was opened for development in the 1830s, Clarence Square was originally laid out according to British planning principles as an open space that, with Victoria Square to the west, bookended Wellington Place (Wellington Street West), an expansive treed boulevard and a focal point of the exclusive residential enclave. Granted to the City of Toronto in 1860, Clarence Square was opened as a public park with a formal symmetrically-organized design that was replaced in the 1920s by the layout with axial linear pathways. In the City of Toronto's Official Plan, Clarence Square is recognized for its "spatial pattern [that] remains intact, and is unique in Toronto."

The associative value of Clarence Square is linked to its role in contributing to an understanding of the development of the King-Spadina neighbourhood, which originated in the early 19th century as an institutional enclave where landmarks such as the Third Provincial Parliament Buildings and Upper Canada College were adjoined by upscale housing. Coinciding with the incorporation of the Town of York as the City of Toronto and purportedly named for the Duke of Clarence (King William IV), Clarence Square was laid out in the 1830s as part of the first residential subdivision in the former Military Reserve. Originally set aside for a purpose-built Government House for the Lieutenant-Governor, instead Clarence Square was reserved for public uses and, following its transfer to the City of Toronto in 1860, designed as a public park. As the surrounding area underwent a dramatic transformation after the Great Fire of 1904 when Toronto's manufacturing district relocated to the King-Spadina cross-roads, Clarence Square remained as open space and a treed oasis amidst the factories and warehouses. A century later, with the regeneration of King-Spadina as a mixed-use community, Clarence Square is a visual reminder of the historic origins of the neighbourhood and the city.

Contextually, Clarence Square maintains the historic character of the King-Spadina neighbourhood as it was first established as an institutional and residential enclave in the early 1800s, and evolved with the development of Clarence Square as part of a planned residential subdivision that represented the westward growth of the community. The square is also historically, visually and functionally linked to its setting in open space organized by the series of pathways beneath a mature tree canopy. It is overlooked on the north by the Clarence Square Row Houses (1879), the lone survivors of the residential buildings that once lined Clarence Square on three sides. Identified as an area of special identity within the King-Spadina neighbourhood in the City of Toronto's Official Plan, Clarence Square is a local landmark in the community.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of Clarence Square are:

- The placement of the park on the east side of Spadina Avenue, which forms its west boundary, with roadways named "Clarence Square" around the north, east and south perimeters
- Inside the park, the series of axial pathways across Clarence Square to Spadina Avenue (west) and Wellington Street West (east)
- Adjoining the pathways, the open space with grass
- The mature deciduous tree canopy
- Near the west entrance to the park on Spadina Avenue, the provincial plaque commemorating Alexander Dunn, the first native-born Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross for his heroism during the Crimea War, and who once resided near Clarence Square
- The view of Clarence Square from the west, as it terminates the vista looking eastward along Wellington Street West from Victoria (Memorial) Square
- The view through the tree canopy west from the centre of Clarence Square across Spadina Avenue and west along Wellington Street West toward Victoria Square
- The view through the tree canopy north from the centre of Clarence Square to the late 19th century row houses at 5-16 Clarence Square that were designed to overlook the park

The dog run is not identified as a heritage attribute.

SCHEDULE B
VIEWS MAP: CLARENCE SQUARE



View to Clarence Square: the view east from Victoria (Memorial) Square at Portland Street along Wellington Street West and across Spadina Avenue to Clarence Square.



Views from Clarence Square: the view west from the centre of Clarence Square through the tree canopy, across Spadina Avenue and along Wellington Street West to Victoria (Memorial) Square (left), and the view north from the centre of Clarence Square through the tree canopy to the surviving late 19th century row houses at 5-16 Clarence Square.

SCHEDULE C
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN 21413-0082(R)

CLARENCE SQUARE PL MILITARY RESERVE TWP OF YORK

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