

Authority: Toronto and East York Community Council
Item TE7.25, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on
July 16, 17 and 18, 2019

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 820-2021

To designate the properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue 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 properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue 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 lands and premises known as 40-44 Mitchell Avenue 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 website for a period of 30 days prior to July 1, 2021 in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. and the notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.O.18 as of June 30, 2021 pursuant to Ontario Regulation 385/21; and

Whereas a notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality and such objection was referred to the Ontario Land Tribunal (formerly the Conservation Review Board) for a hearing; and

Whereas the notice of objection was subsequently withdrawn; and

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

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

- 1.** The properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue, more particularly described in Schedule B 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 properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1 and the notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as of June 30, 2021 pursuant to Ontario Regulation 385/21.

Enacted and passed on October 4, 2021.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

SCHEDULE A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

40-44 MITCHELL AVENUE

The properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register and designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value, and meet Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation, under all three categories of design, associative and contextual value.

Description

Located on the north side of the street, the properties contain a pair of single-storey semi-detached house form buildings that were among the 16 pairs of workers' cottages completed in 1858 on the subdivision developed by solicitor and realtor James Lukin Robinson on the former Military Reserve lands east of Garrison Creek that were also known as the Garrison Common. Today, six pairs of the original cottages remain on Mitchell Avenue and Richmond Street West, including those at 703-705 and 719-719 Richmond that were listed on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register in 2005, and the subject properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue.

Statement of Significance

The properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue have design value as a pair of single-storey semi-detached workers' cottages that are rare early surviving examples of this typology in Toronto. They are part of the extant collection of six of the original 16 pairs that were completed in 1858 when Boulton illustrated them on the first fire insurance atlas covering the city. The semi-detached houses feature the near-square plans, low hipped roofs and symmetrical placement of the door and window openings inspired by the bungalow that originated in India, which influenced the early-19th century Regency Cottage and, on a more modest scale, the vernacular workers' cottage.

The Robinson Cottages, also known as the Garrison Common Cottages, at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue contribute to the historical development and evolution of the Niagara Street neighbourhood that occupies part of the acreage set aside for military purposes after the founding of York (Toronto) in the late 18th century. In 1834, with the westward expansion of the newly incorporated City of Toronto and the desire to fund additional military installations in defence of the community, land in the Military Reserve east of Garrison Creek was identified for development. On Garrison Common, the tract southeast of present-day Queen and Niagara streets where the subject properties are found was granted in the mid-1840s to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, an Anglican missionary organization, which did not develop the land. A decade later, James Lukin Robinson, a prolific local developer and realtor, who was also a solicitor and member of a famous Toronto family, registered a residential subdivision where he commissioned 16 pairs of brick cottages that were in place when Boulton's Atlas was published in 1858. The original occupants included tradespeople, as well as workers for the inaugural steam railways that transformed Toronto in the mid-19th century. The properties at 71-75 Mitchell Avenue are important reminders of the origins of the Niagara Street neighbourhood.

Contextually, the properties at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue are part of the collection of surviving workers' cottages on Mitchell Avenue and Richmond Street West that were among the first residential buildings constructed in the area where they define, support and maintain the historical character of the Niagara Street neighbourhood south of Queen Street West. The Robinson Cottages at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue are also historically, visually and physically linked to their original settings where they were laid out in relation to the other pairs of semi-detached cottages on Mitchell Avenue and Richmond and Adelaide streets, of which six pairs (including the subject properties) remain today.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Robinson Cottages (also known as the Garrison Common Cottages) at 40-44 Mitchell Avenue are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the pair of semi-detached buildings on the north side of the street between Tecumseth and Niagara streets
- The scale, form and massing of the single-storey rectangular-shaped plans
- The hipped roofs covering the buildings (the central chimney has been removed)
- The materials (the brick on 40 Mitchell has been covered)
- On the principal (south) elevation of each building, the symmetrical organization with the central entrance in the flat-headed surround with the transom flanked by single window openings (the window openings on 44 Mitchell have been changed)

SCHEDULE B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN 21243-0148 (LT)
PART OF LOTS 20 AND 21, REGISTERED PLAN 148, AS IN WF52679

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario
Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)