

Authority: Item CC38.15, as adopted by City of Toronto
Council on December 15, 16 and 17, 2021

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 316-2022

To designate the property at 147 Church Street (including entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) 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 147 Church Street (including entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) 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 147 Church Street (including entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) 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 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 within the prescribed time under the Ontario Heritage Act; 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 property at 147 Church Street (including entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) 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 property at 147 Church Street (including entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) 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. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Enacted and passed on April 7, 2022.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

SCHEDULE A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Reasons for Designation

The property at 147 Church Street 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 the categories of design/physical value, associative value, and contextual value.

Description

The property at 147 Church Street (including the entrance addresses at 149 Church Street, 18 Dalhousie Street, and 20 Dalhousie Street) spans the shallow block between Church and Dalhousie streets, north of Queen Street East. The property contains a 3- storey mixed use/commercial building located on the east side of Church Street, which was constructed circa 1910 in the Edwardian Classicism style under the ownership of Joseph Wright.

Surrounding properties recognized on the Heritage Register include the Athenaeum Club (1891; now incorporated into the base of a residential condominium) at 167 Church Street to the north, along with a grouping of commercial and residential properties from the 19th and early-20th centuries at 129, 131, 133 and 135 Church Street to the south. The Metropolitan United Church (1872; partially rebuilt in 1929) and its parklike grounds at 56 Queen Street East are also located directly west of the subject property, while St. Michael's Cathedral (1848) is located nearby at the northwest corner of Church and Shuter streets.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Dating to circa 1910, the property 147 Church Street has design and physical value as a representative example of the Edwardian Classicism architectural style that was popular for commercial buildings in Toronto in the early 20th century. The property retains its original scale, form, and massing as a 3-storey building, and its design value as a representative example of the Edwardian Classicism style is reflected in many of its extant original features, including its simple, balanced design featuring a rectangular plan and massing, flat roof, brick construction, and symmetrical primary (west) elevation. The building's restrained classical detailing includes its organization into two bays of three windows, separated by brick piers, with rectangular second-storey windows featuring stone sills and lintels linking the pilasters, and arched third-storey windows featuring brick voussoirs with keystones and stone sills linking the pilasters. Above the third storey, the building also features corbelled brick banding with brackets connecting into the keystones of third-storey windows, a dentilated pressed-metal cornice, and two semi-circular parapets.

Originally constructed with two commercial units on the ground floor and a rooming house above, the property at 147 Church Street also has cultural heritage value as an early surviving example of the fine-grained mixed-use/commercial building typology that emerged along Church Street, north of Queen Street East, during the early 20th century.

The property is valued for its association with significant Toronto contractor and businessman Joseph Wright, who owned the property between 1899 and 1948. Wright built the existing building at 147 Church Street circa 1910, which he operated as an income property, renting out the ground floor commercial units, along with upper-storey apartments, known as the Excelsior Apartments. Born in England in 1849, Wright immigrated to Toronto with his parents in 1857, and later founded the Bennett & Wright Co. Ltd., a Toronto contracting firm that rose to prominence in the late 19th century. As contractors providing plumbing, heating, lighting, and electrical fixtures, Wright and his firm played a significant role in constructing many landmark buildings in Toronto, and throughout Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their notable commissions include the New City Hall building (Toronto), the King Edward Hotel (Toronto), Union Station (Toronto), the Temple Building (Toronto), the Mount Allison University buildings (New Brunswick), the Grand Trunk Railway building (Montreal), the Parliament buildings (Victoria, B. C.), the Guelph Agricultural College buildings, and the Ridley College buildings (St. Catharines).

Located on the west side of Church Street and reflecting an early-20th-century scale, setback, and Edwardian Classicism style, the commercial/mixed-use building at 147 Church Street has contextual value for its contribution to the character of Church Street, north of Queen Street East, which is typified by surviving commercial, residential and institutional built form and landscapes from the mid-19th to early-20th centuries. Surrounding properties recognized on the Heritage Register include the Athenaeum Club (189) at 167 Church Street; now incorporated into the base of a residential condominium) to the north, along with a grouping of commercial and residential properties from the 19th and early-20th centuries at 129, 131, 133 and 135 Church Street to the south. The Metropolitan United Church (1872; partially rebuilt in 1929) and its parklike grounds at 56 Queen Street East are also located directly west of the subject property, while St. Michael's Cathedral (1848) is located nearby at the northwest corner of Church and Shuter streets. Together, these historic buildings and landscapes along Church Street represent some of the earliest development in this part of the Garden District, and define the historic character of the streetscape.

The contextual value of the mixed-use/commercial building at 147 Church Street is also related to its historical and visual links to its surroundings on the east side of Church Street, between Queen Street East and Shuter Street, as well as the larger Garden District neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to the value of the property at 147 Church Street as representative of the Edwardian Classicism style and early-20th-century mixed-use/commercial type include:

- The property's scale, form and massing as a 3-storey flat-roofed building

- The property's brick construction featuring a common bond pattern, with brick, stone and metal exterior details
- The property's principal (west) Church Street elevation, which features:
 - A symmetrical organization into two bays of three windows each, separated by brick pilasters
 - Commercial storefronts at ground-floor level (which have been altered)
 - Window openings, which include rectangular openings at the second storey featuring stone sills and lintels linking the pilasters, and arched openings at the third storey featuring brick voussoirs with keystones and stone sills linking the pilasters
 - Stone banding, running between third-storey windows
 - Above the third storey, corbelled brick banding with brackets connecting into the keystones of third-storey windows, a dentilated pressed-metal cornice, and two semi-circular brick parapets

Contextual Value

The following heritage attribute contributes to the cultural heritage value of the property at 147 Church Street as part of a 19th- and early 20th-century streetscape:

- The scale, placement, setback and orientation of the building on the east side of Church Street

SCHEDULE B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PART OF PIN 21098-0297 (LT)

PART OF LOTS 4 & 5, EAST SIDE OF CHURCH STREET
REGISTERED PLAN 22A
DESIGNATED AS PART 1, PLAN 66R-32558

PART OF PIN 21098-0087 (LT)

PART OF DALHOUSIE STREET
REGISTERED PLAN 22A
DESIGNATED AS PART 2, PLAN 66R-32558

PART OF PIN 21098-0014 (LT)

PART OF LOTS 5 & 6, EAST SIDE OF CHURCH STREET
REGISTERED PLAN 22A
DESIGNATED AS PART 3, PLAN 66R-32558

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

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