

Authority: North York Community Council Report No. 2, Clause No. 15,  
as adopted by Council on March 4, 5 and 6, 1998  
Enacted by Council: October 30, 1998

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 811-1998**

**To designate the land and buildings at 3885 Yonge Street  
as being of architectural and historical value or interest.**

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the former City of North York has, in November 1997, caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipality as the Jolly Miller Tavern, 3885 Yonge Street, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate the property and has caused the notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the former City of North York;

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

- 1.** The real property more particularly described in Schedule "A" to this by-law and municipally known as 3885 Yonge Street (the Jolly Miller Tavern), is designated as being of architectural and historical 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 "A" to this by-law in the proper land registry office.
- 3.** The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of 3885 Yonge Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Toronto.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 30th day of October, A.D. 1998.

CASE OOTES,  
Deputy Mayor

NOVINA WONG,  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

**SCHEDULE “A”**

THE YORK MILLS HOTEL - JOLLY MILLER TAVERN  
3885 YONGE STREET

Part of PIN: 10537-0029 (LT)

All of Lots 11 and 12, Plan 246 North York, in the City of Toronto (formerly in the City of North York).

**SCHEDULE “B”**

The York Mills Hotel, known today as the Jolly Miller Tavern, is recommended for *designation* on architectural and historic grounds.

The former hotel was built circa 1857 to replace an earlier establishment which was destroyed by fire. The new hotel was constructed by John and William Hogg, who developed the Hogg’s Hollow subdivision on their York Mills property in 1856.

The York Mills Hotel was a focal point for the mill village, and a prominent feature of the commercial core of the community. It was a stopping place for the mail stage and omnibus between Toronto and Richmond Hill.

Like other 19<sup>th</sup> century inns and taverns, the hotel went through a succession of proprietors and periods of changing fortunes. During Prohibition in this century, the building housed a gambling den that was eventually closed down following several police raids. In 1930, the old hotel was remodelled with the intent of creating a prestigious dining establishment. It was re-named “The Jolly Miller”, a name that remains in use to the present day. The sign board depicting a “Jolly Miller” was painted by noted Canadian artist C.W. Jefferys.

In more recent times, “The Miller” continued to function as a hotel and tavern, offering accommodation until about 1964. A skating rink was built on the flats behind the building, with a change room provided in the neighbouring Hogg General Store, destroyed by fire in 1978.

Architecturally, the Jolly Miller Tavern evokes the Georgian Survival style of the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Ontario. Constructed of red brick, layed in a common bond pattern, it measures 2½ storeys high and is based on a rectangular plan. It features a high-pitched gabled roof with boxed eaves. Generous amounts of wall space in relation to the size of the windows can be noted on most elevations. Elements such as the plinth, belt courses, quoins, jack arches, and ornate pendant frieze (east elevation) are highlighted in buff-coloured brick. The south wall is intact as are the north, east and west walls above the ground floor level. The historic portion of the building has a rubblestone foundation that provides a basement under the west half of the building.

The symmetrical, 5-ranked front facade has a steep, centred cross-gable, containing a 6-over-6 sash. The four, corbelled chimneys at the gable-ends are restored versions of the originals. At one time, a hip-roofed verandah supported by several posts spanned across the entire front elevation.

The much-altered interior originally had a centre hall plan. Vestiges of two fireplaces are thought to remain within broad projections on the south wall. Original interior elements of the building that also remain intact include mouldings, trims and doors located in the attic storey.

The Jolly Miller assumes great significance as the only 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial structure remaining on its original site in the locale. Moreover, the long history associated with the Tavern and its connection to the historic community of York Mills and neighbouring valley, reinforces its special importance as a Yonge Street landmark in North York.