

# HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



To: Toronto East York Community Council

Re: Designation of 281-89 College St.

Item: TE28.94

Nov. 13, 2017.

Harbord Village Residents' Association is delighted to see the recommendation from Heritage Preservation Services to designate the Alexandrina Block, an anchor set of five buildings just west of Spadina on the south side of College. They are distinctive, handsome, and one is under threat of demolition.

We urge Council to designate.

This research shows patterns of development adjacent to the heritage conservation districts of Harbord Village. Our houses on Willcocks and the south end of Brunswick were actually completed two years before the adjacent business district on College Street itself, as was the 10 Editions Bookstore/Funston Grocery building at 698 Spadina, now under threat of demolition by the University of Toronto.

This work also provides unexpected insights into social history. In the late nineteenth century, Toronto was dotted with neighbourhood dairies. At 110 Robert St., two, then three, existing houses were stables and the main house for John H. Lock's Grimsby Dairy, now the name of the laneway west of Robert.

In 1900, a challenger to Lock arrived on Spadina. Walter E.H. Massey's City Dairy headquarters remains as a listed building on the northeast side of Spadina circle above Russell, part of the University of Toronto. City Dairy brought scientific rigour to ensuring the safety of Toronto's milk supply, became the largest dairy in the Commonwealth and eventually merged with others to become Borden's.

The success of the City Dairy ties into an anomalous lot pattern on College, immediately west of the Alexandrina set. There is a narrow alley leading off College which opens to a broad mid-block space behind College now used as a parking lot. From this current work, we know in 1924, the expanding City Dairy tore down the westernmost sister building at 291 to provide an entrance to its stable and open up the properties to the south.

Heritage links neighbourhoods and changes the way we see our city.

We look forward to more designations arising from the good work of the City staff on the College Street Study.

With thanks to Councillor Joe Cressy,

Respectfully,

Sue Dexter

Harbord Village Residents' Association.