

A Heritage Conservation District for Kensington Market

A Heritage Conservation District (or HCD) is a geographically defined area that has cultural heritage value. An HCD is legally protected by a municipal by-law passed by City Council under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act (or OHA). Every property within the HCD boundary is subject to the by-law. This by-law is also referred to as a Part V designation.

Kensington Market is a unique and important historic neighbourhood with a distinctive identity and sense of place.

- The neighbourhood is a **microcosm of Canada's diverse immigrant population**, where many different ethnocultural communities have each added to the market's layers of heritage and contributed to a vibrant street life.
- It is a **distinctive urban district**, created by a network of narrow streets and laneways, closely built rows of small buildings, and cultural institutions such as the Kiever and Anshei Minsk synagogues.
- The built environment is a staging ground for the activities and uses that contribute to the neighbourhood's character and **intangible heritage**, including its sense of anarchy, inclusivity, and a history of experimentation.



Augusta Avenue and Baldwin Street |1932 (City of Toronto Archives).



Augusta Avenue and Nassau Street |1950s (City of Toronto Archives).

Did you know?

Kensington Market was designated as a **National Historic Site** in 2006. However, this is strictly commemorative in nature and does not afford real protection or guidance on managing change in the area.



Kensington Avenue and St. Andrew Street |1950s (City of Toronto Archives).