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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1980, CHAPTER 337 AND
905 QUEEN STREET WEST
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Polish National Union of Canada Mutual Benefit Society
905 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M6J 1G5

✓ Ontario Heritage Foundation

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, on the 10th, 12th and 14th days of December, 1990 decided to designate the lands and buildings known as 905 Queen Street West.

Short Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation

The property located at 905 Queen Street West is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The house was constructed in 1847 for John Farr, who established the Farr Brewery on the adjacent site in 1819. While the business was sold in 1858, the house was occupied by Farr's daughter, Mary E. Farr, until 1905. The buildings at 899 and 905 Queen Street West are operated as a community centre by the Polish National Union.

The John Farr House combines a Georgian design with features associated with the Classical Revival style. The building is constructed of solid red brick with stone detailing. The long, narrow two-storey rectangular plan is covered by a low-pitched truncated hip roof with extended and bracketed eaves and a single chimney on the west end. The wide cornice and corner quoining are applied in contrasting buff brick. On the principal facade (north), the main entrance is centered in the first storey. A single-leaf door with a rectangular transom (now blind) and three-quarter length sidelights is set in a wooden doorcase with a moulded entablature and console brackets. A brick arch is visible above the opening. The remaining bays in both stories contain tall double-hung rectangular windows with twelve-pane sash. The windows are decorated with radiating stone voussoirs with keystones, and stone lug sills.

The narrow side elevations are devoid of openings, apart from a single rectangular window on the east end. The openings in the rear wall were altered with the addition of a single-storey flatroof brick tail with segmental-headed windows. An enclosed external entrance to the basement is attached to the east end of the main structure.

The John Farr House shares its scale, setback, and landscaped grounds with the neighbouring building at 899 Queen Street West. The two residential structures are among the earliest surviving buildings on Queen Street West Toronto. The John Farr House is a well-preserved example of mid 19th century domestic design and, with the adjacent John Cornell House, represents an integrated pair of buildings.

The Toronto Historical Board's Heritage Property Report respecting the property is available for viewing at the City Clerk's Department at City Hall and the offices of the Toronto Historical Board.

Notice of the objection to the designation may be served on the Clerk within thirty days of the 15th day of January, 1991.

Dated at Toronto this 15th day of January, 1991.


Barbara G. Caplan
City Clerk