

# The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

## By-Law 27-24

A By-Law to Authorize the Designation of 42 Richmond Street  
(Clara Harrison Rental House)  
Under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Whereas Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill has caused to be served on the owners of the property known as 42 Richmond Street, Richmond Hill, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such a Notice of Intention to Designate to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

And Whereas the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, the Description of Heritage Attributes, and a scale drawing identifying the location of the property's cultural heritage value or interest are set out in Schedule "A" and attached to By-Law 27-24;

And Whereas no objection to the proposed designation was served on the City Clerk within the period prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

### **Now Therefore The Council Of The Corporation Of The City Of Richmond Hill Enacts As Follows:**

1. That the real property located at 42 Richmond Street, being Lot 15, Registrar's Complied Plan 12003; Richmond Hill; Regional Municipality of York [PIN 03166-0256 (LT)], is hereby designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and publish a Notice of the Passing of the By-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.
3. That the City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" in the Land Registry Office.
4. That Schedule "A" attached to By-law 27-24 is declared to form a part of this By-law.

Passed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

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David West  
Mayor

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Stephen M.A. Huycke  
City Clerk

## SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 27-24

### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

42 Richmond Street  
Clara Harrison Rental House

#### Description of Property

The Clara Harrison Rental House is a 1 ½-storey side-gabled cottage located at the southeast corner of Richmond Street and Elizabeth Street North. The property is located within the historic village of Richmond Hill.

#### Area of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest



#### Statement of Significance

##### Design and Physical Value

Dating to c. 1875, the Clara Harrison Rental House at 42 Richmond Street is a representative example of modest late-19th-century vernacular cottage architecture in Richmond Hill showing Georgian stylistic influences. Architectural features expressing Georgian influences include the rectangular plan, side-gabled roof form, flat-headed

window and door openings, and the symmetrical three-bay composition of the principal (north) elevation featuring a classical doorcase.

#### Historical and Associative Value

The Clara Harrison Rental House at 42 Richmond Street has historical value for its direct associations with both William and Clara Harrison. William Harrison bought a large parcel of land at the southeast corner of Richmond Street and Elizabeth Street North in 1879, and granted the property at 42 Richmond Street to his eldest daughter Clara in 1905. In 1909, William Harrison purchased a mill worker's cottage in the Mill Pond area, and moved it from Trench Street to its present location at 42 Richmond Street, to serve as an income property for Clara. The subject property remained under the ownership of the Harrison family until 1919. William Harrison was Richmond Hill's second Reeve, owner and operator of a significant saddle- and harness-making business, and one of the village's first local historians. Clara, who remained unmarried until her death in 1942, operated a successful dressmaking business in the village from the 1880s to the 1910s. As local business leaders, property owners and speculators, and active citizens, William and Clara Harrison were significant members of the community who contributed to the development of Richmond Hill in the 19th century.

#### Contextual Value

The Clara Harrison Rental House at 42 Richmond Street has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the cohesive late-19th and early-20th century residential character of Richmond Street and Elizabeth Street North, and the historical character of Richmond Hill's village core more broadly.

The Clara Harrison Rental House also has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings within "Harrison's Corner", a cluster of buildings at the southeast corner of Richmond and Elizabeth Streets that were owned by the Harrison family in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other surviving buildings that form part of "Harrison's Corner" include the adjacent William Harrison Rental House at 32 Richmond Street (1881), as well as the William Harrison Speculative House at 17 Elizabeth Street North (1885).

#### **Heritage Attributes**

##### Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as a representative example of modest late-19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular cottage architecture in Richmond Hill showing Georgian stylistic influences are:

- The scale, form and massing of the 1 ½-storey building with a rectangular plan and side-gabled roof;
- The flat-headed windows with wood surrounds on the north, east and west elevations;
- The symmetrical three-bay organization of the building's front (north) elevation; and
- The central classical doorcase on the building's front (north) elevation.

##### Historical and Associative Value

Heritage attributes contributing to the historical value of the property for its associations with William and Clara Harrison include:

- The property's scale, siting, and orientation on the south side of Richmond Street, east of Elizabeth Street North, within an area formerly known as "Harrison's Corner;" and

- The house's front (north) porch, with the hipped roof, tapered square columns, and square newel posts and balusters.

#### Contextual Value

Heritage attributes contributing to the contextual value of the property being functionally, historically, and physically linked to its surroundings as part of "Harrison's Corner" in the historic village of Richmond Hill include:

- The property's scale, siting, and orientation at the southeast corner of Richmond Street and Elizabeth Street North; and
- The property's modest late-19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular cottage architecture with Georgian influence, which contributes to the historical residential character of Richmond Street and Elizabeth Street North, as well as the historical character of Richmond Hill's Village Core more broadly.

Note: the house's later cross-gabled rear (south) addition is not considered to possess heritage attributes.