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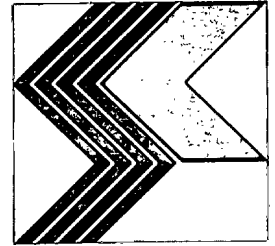
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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BOX 3012
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 7C2
PHONE (416) 688-5600

T. R. HOLLICK
CITY CLERK



February 23rd 1984

Ministry of Citizenship
and Culture
Heritage Branch
7th Floor, 77 Bloor Street W
TORONTO, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Sirs:

Re: Request from the Lincoln County Board of
Education for Removal of Designation from
Robertson School (83 Church Street), Designated
Pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act October 10th
1978. By-law No. 78-359.

Please be advised that City Council at its regular meeting of February 20th, 1984 denied the request of the Lincoln County Board of Education for removal of the designation from Robertson School.

Council enacted this resolution following consideration of a report from this department which included the submission from the Board as well as the submission from the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee on this matter.

For your complete information I am sending you an excerpt from the General Committee Minutes of February 13th 1984, which contains the report from this department as well as the full text of the resolution enacted by Council.

Should you require any further information please contact the writer directly.

D. Tobin /ab

Delores Tobin
Assistant Clerk (Legislation)
/ab



Report from the City Clerk's Department
Re: Request from the Lincoln County Board
of Education for Removal of Designation from
Robertson School (83 Church Street), Designated
Pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act October 10th
1978, By-law No. 78-359 (FILE: 10.64.101)

84. By memorandum dated February 3rd 1984, the City Clerk's Department submitted the following information on the subject matter for the consideration of the General Committee:-

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) has, in accordance with established procedures, reviewed the subject request of the Lincoln County Board of Education, and has advised that they must recommend against the removal of the designation on Robertson School. The position of LACAC in this regard is that the historical/architectural merits of the site are as significant today as they were when the building was designated. LACAC believes that to recommend other than the retention of designation would "negate their mandate".

Before submitting their recommendation, members of LACAC and members of the Planning Committee of the Board of Education met to review the Board's request. However, both parties have since reported that their respective positions are unchanged.

[REDACTED], on behalf of the Board, has advised, by letter dated January 10th 1984, that with the present severe restrictions on provincial funds, the proceeds from the sale of surplus properties are now the only means by which capital projects can be carried out at other schools. He has explained that the Robertson site, because of its location, is a very valuable asset; however, an appraisal of the site has indicated a considerable financial loss due to the heritage designation.

Since the time the school was closed in 1977, the Board has attempted to make the property available to non-profit, civic and charitable groups - and latterly, under lease, to the Lincoln Arts Centre. However, the building is quickly deteriorating through lack of annual preventive maintenance, and [REDACTED] has stated that it is now imperative to dispose of the property. He has also stated that it would not be inconceivable for the Board, once the designation is lifted and the property is offered for sale, to indicate in the offer/tender that preference would be given to a proposal that would retain the building - provided of course, that such proposal would not result in a financial loss to the Board.

The Ontario Heritage Act provides that Council may take either one of the following courses of action:

- (a) refuse the application and give notice of its decision to the applicant, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation; or
- (b) consent to the application and pass a by-law repealing the designating by-law, causing notice to be published in accordance with the requirements of that Act.

MOVED BY [REDACTED]:

That the application from the Lincoln County Board of Education for removal of the heritage designation from Robertson School, municipally located at 83 Church Street, be denied;

and that [REDACTED], Lincoln County Board of Education, 112 Oakdale Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2P 3J9, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor Street West, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2R9, be so advised. (FILE: 10.64.101)

CARRIED.