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392 Wellington

28-12-2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS

"THE ALMA BLOCK"
127-131 WYNDHAM STREET NORTH, GUELPH

IN THE CITY OF GUELPH,
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Trust
The Ontario Heritage Centre
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

AND: Clerks & CAO
The County of Wellington
74 Woolwich Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3T9

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph intends to designate The Alma Block, including the property at 127-131 Wyndham Street North, as property of cultural heritage value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

- A very fine example of mid-nineteenth century commercial architecture
- Age and character of the building contribute to the downtown streetscape
- Owned by prominent early Guelph businessman
- Designed by a well-known Toronto architect
- Unusually ornate stonework in a commercial structure

Built by local businessman James Massie to replace an earlier structure that was destroyed by fire, the Alma block is an exceptional example of mid-19th Century commercial architecture.

The Alma block was designed by Toronto architect James Smith, with masonry work by local contractors Kennedy & Pike. James Barkley was the carpenter, and Messrs. Hamilton & Sons of Toronto were hired for the iron work. The first three sections (127-133 Wyndham Street North) were erected in 1868 with three storeys and a large cellar. In keeping with the design of the previous building, the new structure had space for three street-level shops and a series of columns supporting segmental arches. It was divided into three sections of three bays each but was expanded to include a fourth, almost identical section within a few years, probably 1874. Once completed the two northernmost sections were occupied by James Massie's grocery business, one as a retail location, the other for wholesale.

The Alma block is an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century commercial architecture in late Italianate style. Constructed of dressed limestone, it has a number of fine details, including the delimited cornice line, the mannered window surrounds and rusticated pilasters. Also notable are the windows of the upper floors at 133 Wyndham, which are the original two-over-two design.

128 and 122 Woolwich, the rear additions to the buildings that face Wyndham Street, were built around the same 1870s period.

ELEMENTS TO BE PROTECTED BY DESIGNATION:

On the Wyndham Street Exterior:

- The original exterior stone street facades, including all decorative stonework at window and door openings;
 - The pattern and material of the original windows;
- RC

On the Woolwich Street Exterior:

- The stone masonry of the street facade at 122 Woolwich
- The stone masonry of the street façade at 128 Woolwich, including all original door and window openings, sills, surrounds and dressings.

It is intended that any non-original features may be returned to their original documented form without requiring City Council permission for an alteration to the designation.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available by contacting:

Ian Panabaker, Heritage & Urban Design Planner
City Hall, 59 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario N1H 3A1

Telephone: (519) 837-5616 x2475 Email: ian.panabaker@guelph.ca

Any person may, before the 24th day of January, 2006, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Guelph, a notice of objection to this proposed designation, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the City of Guelph shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

DATED at Guelph, Ontario, this 20th day of December, 2005.

Lois Giles
City Clerk
City Hall, 59 Carden Street
Guelph, Ontario N1H 3A1