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The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 93- 089

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 114 JOHN STREET NORTH

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

**WHEREAS** the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18;

**AND WHEREAS** no notice of objection was served on the City Clerk as required by subsection 29(5) of the said Act;

**AND WHEREAS** it is desired to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with clause 29(6)(a) of the said Act.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. The property located at Municipal No. 114 John Street North and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, is hereby designated as property of historic and architectural value and interest.

2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in Schedule "B" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, to be registered against the property affected in the proper registry office.

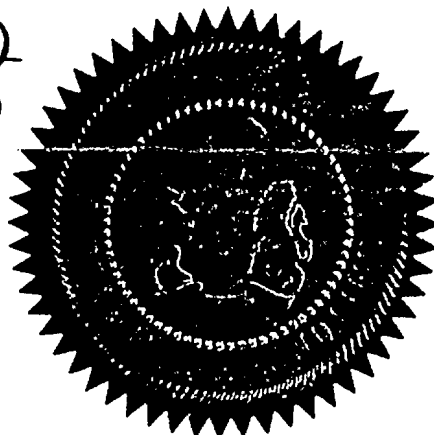
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed,  
(i) to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation, to be served on the owner and The Ontario Heritage Foundation by personal service or by registered mail;  
(ii) to publish a notice of this by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality of the City of Hamilton for three consecutive weeks.

PASSED this 13th day of April

A.D. 1993.



City Clerk



Mayor

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

  
CITY CLERK

## Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 93- 089

114 John Street North, Hamilton, Ontario

In the City of Hamilton, The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, being composed of Lot 4 on the East Side of John Street, between Gore and Cannon Streets, in Nathaniel Hughson Survey,

COMMENCING at the south-west angle of said Lot 4, at a stone monument at the East side of John Street;

THENCE North Eighteen degrees East, (N.18°E.) Sixty-five and Thirty-four One Hundredths feet (65.34') more or less to a stone monument planted at the north-west angle of said Lot 4;

THENCE South Seventy-two degrees East, (S.72°E.) One Hundred and Fifty-five and Ten One Hundredths feet (155.10') more or less to a post planted at the north-east angle of said Lot 4;

THENCE South Eighteen degrees West, (S.18°W.) Sixty-five and Thirty-four One Hundredths feet (65.34') more or less to a post at the south-east angle of said Lot 4;

THENCE North Seventy-two degrees West, (N.72°W.) One Hundred and Fifty-five and Ten One Hundredths feet (155.10') more or less to the place of beginning.

THESE LANDS are intended to be all the lands as in Number 292733 N.S.;

AND the East limit of John Street mentioned herein is the East limit as confirmed by BA Plan Application Number 774, registered as 698 C.D.

Schedule "B"

to

By-law 93 - 089

Stewart Memorial Church

114 John Street North

Historical Significance

A landmark for Hamilton's Black community, Stewart Memorial Church on John Street North has a distinguished history as the city's oldest surviving Black congregation. With the influx of fugitive slaves into Upper Canada from the 1820s onward, emerged distinctive Black communities. For these early settlers, the church became a central focus, fulfilling both religious and social needs. By the late 1830s, Hamilton's Black population was large enough to support the establishment of both a Baptist and a Methodist church (the only denominations to establish churches specifically for Blacks). The earliest is believed to be *St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church*, founded in 1835 under the authority of the (American) African Methodist Episcopal Body and situated in the north-east section of town, where the highest concentration of Blacks lived. According to the historical account passed on orally from generation to generation, the congregation was first housed on Rebecca Street in a small log structure, which was later replaced by a larger building. This location was, however, abandoned in 1879 when the structure was badly damaged by fire and the present church building, formerly occupied by the Methodist Episcopal congregation, was acquired.

Faced with financial difficulties during the Depression years, St. Paul's AME Church was saved from closure through the efforts of its congregation and Reverend J.C. Holland. The decision made in 1937 to sever ties with the Mother Body resulted in the formation of a non-denominational Black church named *Stewart Memorial Church* in honour of Reverend C.A. Stewart, whose death in 1936 ended many years of dedicated service to the congregation of St. Paul's. His successor Reverend Holland was voted Hamilton's "Citizen of the Year" in 1953, in recognition of his instrumental role in keeping the church open and long service to the church and community (1936-54).

Architectural Significance

The building now occupied by Stewart Memorial was erected in 1848 to serve as the Methodist Episcopal Church. Originally a simple frame structure with clapboard siding and a front-gabled roof, the building was substantially altered in the first decade of this century. According to available documentation, the original structure was reclad with brick masonry and the facade remodelled in the Gothic Revival style (circa 1905). Characteristic features include the pointed-arched window and door openings, the blind oculus in the gable front, and the flanking buttresses with tall pinnacles. Extensive interior renovations completed in 1908 included the installation of semi-circular pews, chandeliers (since removed) and an attractive, pressed-metal ceiling with Gothic-inspired, patterned tiles. Further renovations in the 1950s resulted in the removal of the original altar, certain elements of which have been preserved by the congregation.

### Context

Situated on the east side of John Street North in the centre of the block between Wilson and Cannon, Stewart Memorial Church is located within a mixed commercial/ residential area, where buildings are now interspersed with expanses of vacant land. Standing opposite a large parking lot, the church today has a highly visible presence on the street.

In the early twentieth century, St. Paul's AME Church formed part of a continuous streetscape comprising a mix of houses, industrial buildings and churches (including the Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1878 at the south-west corner of John and Wilson).

### Designated Features

Important to the preservation of Stewart Memorial Church are the original features of:

- the west (front), north and south facades, including the brick masonry with its decorative arches and detailing, the buttresses and pinnacles, and the door and window openings (excluding the modern doorway and windows).
- the sanctuary space, including the decorative pressed-metal ceiling and curved wood pews.