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PETER J. LEACK, A.M.C.T.
City Clerk



Corporation of the City of St. Thomas

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MAR 21 1990

HERITAGE BRANCH

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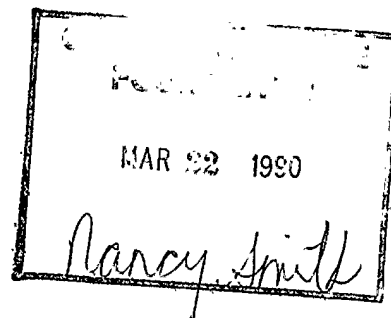
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ARCHITECTURE AND
PLANNING
HERITAGE BRANCH

March 15th, 1990

The Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West
TORONTO, Ontario
M7A 2R9



**Re: Heritage Designation - Elgin County Court House and
Elgin County Registry Office**

Dear Sir:

Enclosed, please find original signed by-laws along with a copy of the document general registering the same designating the Elgin County Court House and the Elgin County Registry Office of historic and architectural value for your files.

If you have any questions regarding the by-laws, please advise.

Sincerely,

P. J. Leack
City Clerk
PJL/mlv
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Shmuel Farhi, The Court House Block Inc.

CITY OF ST. THOMAS

BY-LAW NO. 61- 89

A by-law to designate the Elgin County Court House at 4-8 Wellington Street, in the City of St. Thomas of historic and architectural value.

WHEREAS pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic or architectural value or interest.

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as the Elgin County Court House, 4-8 Wellington Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, having been duly published and served, no notice of objection was received to such designation;


BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of historic and architectural value or interest the real property, more particularly described as Plan 23 Block Court House, known as the Elgin County Court House at 4-8 Wellington Street, in the City of St. Thomas, for the reasons set out in Schedule "A" hereto.
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described above hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in The St. Thomas Times Journal, and to enter the description of the aforesaid property, the name and address of its registered owner, and short reasons for its designation in the Register of all properties designated under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1980.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is finally passed.

READ a First and Second time this 5th day of June, 1989.

READ a Third time and Finally passed this 5th day of June, 1989.


City Clerk


Mayor

Elgin County Court House

The Elgin County Court House is located in a park setting, fronting on Wellington Street and bounded on the east by Metcalfe Street, on the south by Gladstone Avenue and on the west by Stanley Street. The original court house was built in 1853 to the design of architect John Turner. After a fire in 1898, the original building was repaired and enlarged by architect N. R. Darrach, resulting in the present Palladian style, expressed by its symmetry, by its rectangular and round-arched openings, by porticoes and by the use of classic detailing such as quoins, keystones, cornices, pediments, the whole culminating in a look of serene dignity.

Exterior (The exterior elevations, excluding the south elevation, are designated)

Centre Section

The centre section is constructed of cut sandstone blocks and the arched porch of cut rough-faced stone arches has painted radiating voussoirs resting on 4 sets of columns. Above the porch two sets of double columns and two sets of pilasters support a steeply pitched gable which features the Royal Arms carved in sandstone. The pilasters are of the corinthian order and the interior columns are doric.

Two outside windows are pediment segmental and the centre window is semi-circular surrounded by ornate sandstone trim with the keystone of carved oak leaf bearing the date 1853.

The building is topped by an octagonal copper dome of Byzantine provenance, featuring arcaded windows on all sides. The roof is covered in grey slate and the sandstone links between the centre section and the wings feature Greek-fret mouldings.

Wings

Three storey wings were added to the Turner centre piece in 1898 by architect Neil R. Darrach.

The first storey is of rough-faced cut stone, with the second and third stories being of buff-coloured brick. This division between the first and second stories is further emphasized by a string course of smooth cut stone. Brick pilasters at each corner of the wings frame the second and third stories.

The windows on the main storey are round headed, and the second storey are paired and rectangular, enhanced with a stone moulding; the third storey are in threes and framed with brick pilasters.

The gables feature a porthole window with brick keystones. The gables are decorated with dentils. The flank gables feature the carved likeness of a county official and the be-wigged head of a visiting counsel salvaged from the original Turner parapets.

It should also be noted that rough-faced stone porches, similar in design to that on the centre block, adorn both the east and west facades of the 1898 wings.

SCHEDULE "A" CONTINUED

Interior (The stained glass windows including those in the dome are designated.)

Two stained glass windows depict the history of the building and record the municipal officials at the time of the 1898 renovation.

The ceiling in the courtroom contains a large stained glass dome which projects into the cupola.