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331
Wellington

20-12-2009

**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 DOMINION PUBLIC BUILDING"
138 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 138 Wyndham Street North as a 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:

- It was the only significant public building constructed in Guelph during the Depression era
- The building is the only example of "Modern Classicism" in Guelph

The Post Office on Wyndham Street opened for service on July 1st, 1936. It was then known as the "Dominion Public Building" for it housed several federal government functions in addition to that of the post office, including offices for the Department of Agriculture and the R.C.M.P. on the second floor. The name can still be read on the facade even though the letters have long since been removed.

The location of the new government building in 1936 on Wyndham Street finally filled in a long time gap in that street which had been created when the Stewart Lumber Company buildings burned in 1921. Regrettably, moving the post office functions from the old Post Office/Customs House on St. Georges Square was one of the factors that lead to that iconic building's eventual demolition in the 1960s.

The design of the Dominion Public Building is an excellent example of what can best be described as "Modern Classicism", a style known as a 20thC variant of Beaux Arts principles which sought to give a fresh interpretation to traditional monumental classicism. The "Dominion Public Building" may well be the only example of this type of building in Guelph, and can be distinguished in the building's symmetrical design and by its decorative details. The original central entrance bay is flanked by matching end bays rendered in a subtle hierarchy of detail. Tall fluted pilasters connect these major bays and reinforce the classical ordering of the composition. The pilasters provide a series of six two storey window configurations, within which each of the upper and lower windows are divided by a dramatic metal sculptural panel that highlights the experimentation of the style. The sculptural decoration on the facade is very impressive and rare in Guelph.

The plans were drawn in 1934 by Vaux Chadwick, an architect in Toronto, for the Department of Public Works in Ottawa, where Thomas Fuller and Charles Sutherland were the Chief Architects. The only practising architect in Guelph at the time, William A. Mahoney, was the supervising architect. The building was constructed by Tope Construction of Hamilton.

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ELEMENTS TO BE PROTECTED BY DESIGNATION:

On the Exterior:

- The street façade including all masonry work, window openings and architectural metalwork;
- The side and rear stone facades;
- The stained glass window on the north side yard facade;
- The north and south side yard open spaces including the wrought-iron security fencing;
- The appearance of the two storey façade from Wyndham Street.

On the Interior:

- The ground floor public room running parallel to Wyndham, including all remaining original plaster, metal and stone finishes;
- The two-storey stair hall and vestibule at the northeast corner, including the original handrail, original metal door detailing and architectural finishes;

It is intended that any non-original features may be returned to their documented original 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