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WILSON, JACK & GRANT

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.

J. D. WILSON, Q.C. (1937-1973)

D. H. JACK, Q.C.

R. D. GRANT, B.A., LL.B.

G. W. CORBY, B.A., LL.M.

C. B. ACHESON, B.A., LL.B.

TELEPHONE 843-1960

P.O. Box 128

OUR FILE:

FERGUS, ONTARIO

NIM 1N6

October 5, 1979

REGISTERED MAIL

The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Ministry of Culture & Recreation  
7th Floor  
77 Bloor Street West  
TORONTO, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate the "Old  
Town Hall" or "Drill Hall" being 330 St.  
Andrew Street West, in the Town of Fergus,  
in the County of Wellington and Province  
of Ontario

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We are solicitors for the Corporation of the Town of  
Fergus.

We are enclosing with this letter a Notice of  
Intention to designate the above-referred to building. We  
are required to serve this Notice on the Foundation pursuant to  
the provisions of Section 29(3)(a) of the Ontario Heritage Act,  
1974.

The owner of the building, The Trustees of Melville  
United Church, have been similarly served with this Notice of  
Intention.

The Notice of Intention is to be published in the  
Fergus-Elora News Express for the next three weeks commencing  
Wednesday, October 10th, 1979.

We trust you will find the same to be in order.

Yours very truly,

WILSON, JACK & GRANT

Per:

C. B. Acheson

CBA:bs  
Encl.

In The Matter Of The Ontario Heritage Act

1974, S.O. Chapter 122 as Amended

And in the matter of the premises known as the "Old Town Hall" and municipally known as 330 St. Andrew Street West, in the Town of Fergus, in the Province of Ontario, being the former Drill Hall, now owned by the Trustees of Melville United Church.

NOTICE OF INTENTION

TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fergus intends to designate the exterior stone walls of the former Drill Hall, known as the "Old Town Hall" and also known municipally as 330 St. Andrew Street West, as features of historical and architectural value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122 as amended.

The building which is to be designated is located on Lot 1 on the southerly corner of Tower Street and the South side of St. Andrew Street in Ferguson's Survey, Plan 77 of the Town of Fergus.

Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation:

The Fergus Drill Hall was erected in 1868 to provide a place to train the local militia to withstand the military advances of the Fenians. The building, located close to the southwest corner of St. Andrew and Tower Streets, was the largest drill hall built in the area.

Known as the Opera House, the building lent itself to a wide range of public events and activities. Banquets and balls which marked important and significant community occasions

were held at the premises, as were political rallies, Lodge dinners, public dances, Sunday School concerts and other Church events, high school exams and graduations, minstrel shows, euchre parties as well as amateur and professional theatrical performances.

Although more popularly known as the "Old Town Hall" no Town offices were located in the building. However, the Town "Lock-Up" was housed in the southeast corner for many years. In the 1950's the Town sold the property and it was purchased by the Trustees of Melville United Church in 1957.

The building has several notable features. Hammer-dressed limestone was used for the walls. Dressed-smooth limestone was used for such accent trim as the quoins which frame the central doorway and lunette window in the gable of the facade. More decorative masonry was used in the entry porch built later. A carved stone cornice was used and a series of tapered keystones and voussoirs in dressed-smooth limestone create a fan formation framing the semi-circular windows and entry door.

While the architectural design and stone masonry of the building are very much part of the visual quality of the Town, it must be noted that more than any other single property or building, this structure has served for almost a century as a focus for major social activities in the life of the Town of Fergus.

It is recommended that the exterior facade of the building be designated, permitting a possible rebuilding of the interior.

Any person may, within thirty days of the first publication of this Notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Fergus, notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Town of Fergus shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a public hearing.

DATED at Fergus, Ontario, this 5th day of October, 1979.

Sgd. "Clifford Darroch"  
Mayor

Sgd. "George Woods"  
Clerk