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The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 89- 219

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 180 GRANT AVENUE
(STINSON STREET SCHOOL)

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. 1980, Chapter 337;

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(1)(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. 180 Grant Avenue 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 26th day of July

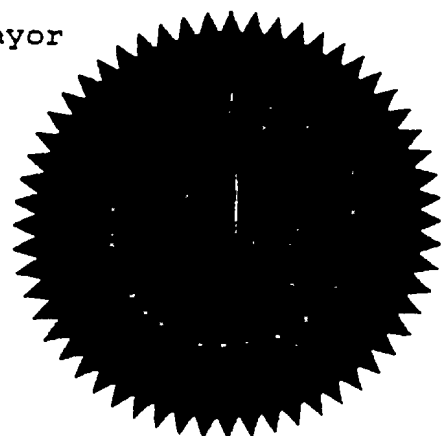
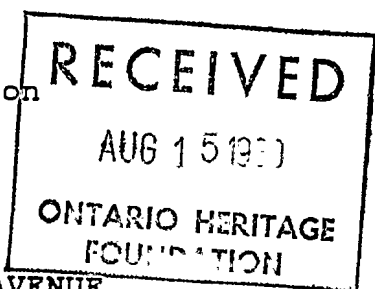
A.D. 1989.

Deputy City Clerk

Mayor

(1989) 14 R.P.D.C. 6, May 30

19



Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 89-219

180 Grant Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario

(Stinson Street School)

All of Lots 1-6 (inclusive) and All of Lots 19 to 36 (inclusive) according to Registered Plan 207, in the City of Hamilton, in The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

SCHEDULE "B"

To

By-law No. 89-219

180 Grant Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario

(Stinson Street School)

The original Stinson Street School, erected in 1894-5 on Stinson Street between Grant and Ontario Avenues, is now part of a building complex which occupies a full block bounded to the south by Alanson Street. It is the major landmark in the Stinson neighbourhood a residential community composed mainly of late 19th and early 20th century houses. The original school was built at the outer edge of the residential development east of Corktown and stood at the foot of the Escarpment close to the Wentworth Street Incline Railway, also opened in 1895.

The original 1894-5 school building and a second building erected to the rear in 1915 were both designed by local architect Alfred W. Peene, best known for his design of the former Hamilton Public Library (now the Unified Family Court). Stinson Street School was one of Peene's first major commissions and the earliest of five City public schools which he designed.

Stylistically, Stinson Street School marked a departure from the High Victorian design of the public schools built in Hamilton during the 1870s and 80s. Both the original building and later addition were designed in a Romanesque Revival style inspired by the work of the American architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, which became the favoured style for public and institutional buildings designed by Canadian architects in the 1890s. The characteristic Richardsonian Romanesque features of Stinson Street School are its bulky square proportions and rugged quality, its rusticated ashlar sandstone base and its semi-circular rusticated stone archway over the recessed main entrance. The transomed windows, massive octagonal chimney and tall parapeted gable with a triple window and flanking chimney-like elements (echoing the pinnacles of more elaborate buildings of this style) are also distinctive Romanesque features.

Stinson Street School is the last surviving Richardsonian Romanesque public building in Hamilton. The outstanding example, the old City Hall designed by James Balfour and built in 1888, as well as two other important buildings erected in the 1890s: Central Collegiate Institute and the former Y.M.C.A. building have all been demolished.

Stinson Street School is also one of only three remaining 19th Century Hamilton public schools, the other two being Central Public School (1853) and West Avenue School (1885). Of these, it is the only one fully used for educational purposes.

The architectural integrity of both the exterior and interior has been preserved to a very large extent. Aside from a relatively unobtrusive gymnasium addition (1959) linking the 1894 and 1915 buildings, no significant exterior changes have been made. The interior of each building has undergone only one major alteration of an unsympathetic nature: the enclosure of the two stairways between the ground and second floors. The wooden floors and wainscotting, the original wooden staircases of the earliest building and the wood and iron staircase of the later one, and most of the tall panelled wood doors and moulded frames are still intact and in good condition.

Important to the preservation of Stinson Street School are:

1. (exterior) The facades of both the 1895 and 1915 buildings, including, the five original entrances, the double-hung wooden sash windows, and the slate roofs with their gables, dormers and chimneys and excluding the gymnasium addition.
2. (interior) The central hall spaces of the first and second floors; original interior features of the halls and stairways, including the classroom doorways, the four main staircases, and the wood floors and wainscotting.