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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, S. 29 and S. 67**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY
AS 777 YORK BOULEVARD**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton intends to designate the following property, including land and buildings, as a property of historic or architectural value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: 777 York Boulevard.

THE REASONS for the proposed designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE is being published once in The Hamilton Spectator on the date set out below.

ANY PERSON may, within thirty days of the date set out below, send by registered mail or deliver to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the City of Hamilton will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated at Hamilton, this *8th* day of *October* 1999.

J. J. Schatz
Municipal Clerk
Hamilton, Ontario

Schedule "A"

Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse 777 York Boulevard

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Context

Marking the main entrance to the Hamilton Cemetery, this mid-19th century stone gatehouse is located on the west side of York Boulevard opposite Harvey Park, which abuts the grounds of Dundurn Castle. Situated on the high strip of land between Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise known as Burlington Heights, the Hamilton Cemetery occupies a long irregularly-shaped 100-acre piece of land bounded by York Boulevard, the bluff overlooking Princess Point, and the Strathcona residential neighbourhood to the south. Its extensive landscaped grounds containing a multiplicity of tombstones and monuments as well as an exceptional variety of trees and shrubs create a picturesque parklike setting for the gatehouse. The Hamilton Cemetery is an excellent example of the "garden cemetery", popular throughout North America from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, and characterized by its informal layout, naturally contoured terrain, winding roadways and attractive landscaping of grass, trees and shrubs.

History

The Hamilton Cemetery was the first public cemetery in Hamilton and is claimed to be the first municipally owned and controlled cemetery in Canada. It opened in 1848 on a tract of land acquired from Christ's Church (part of a larger parcel purchased from Sir Allan MacNab in 1847) and was initially named the Burlington Cemetery. The cemetery was progressively enlarged by the acquisition of additional parcels of land, including 24 surveyed lots originally owned by MacNab on the west side of York Street and property owned by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Hamilton known as the "Bishop's Field". In 1892 the City assumed control of two burial grounds to the south owned respectively by Christ's Church and Church of the Ascension; with this amalgamation its name was changed to the Hamilton Cemetery.

The gatehouse was erected on a parcel of land in front of the cemetery: lots 10 and 11 purchased by the City from W.H. Dickson in 1854. Identified on the original architectural drawings as the Gate Lodge, this modestly-scaled building was designed to house a "public waiting room" (later referred to as a mortuary chapel) and caretaker's residence. After the last resident superintendent resigned in 1900, the building functioned as an office and chapel. In recent years, it has served as the administrative headquarters for the Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries.

Architecture

The Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse constitutes one of only two architecturally distinctive 19th century cemetery buildings in the Hamilton area, the other being the 1889 stone mortuary chapel at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington (excluding churches with attached burial grounds). It also represents an early example in Ontario (and possibly also Canada) of a building intended to serve one or more functions associated with the operation of a cemetery. Its design is attributed to William Hodgins, an architect/ civil engineer who appears to have prepared the plans in 1854 while employed as the City Engineer. The building was completed some time between 1855 and 1862. Hodgins achieved a masterful adaptation of the Gothic Revival style to a dual-purpose building combining the functions of chapel/waiting room and dwelling. This combination of uses appears to be quite unusual, at least within a Canadian context: cemetery buildings in this country were more often designed to serve a single purpose, such as a mortuary chapel or caretaker's house.

Architecturally, the Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse is notable for its rock-faced ashlar construction with dressed stone trim, its picturesque silhouette, and its fine Gothic Revival detailing. The dominant buttressed corner tower is now crowned by an intricately carved open stone structure with finials. Designed by architect Gordon Hutton and erected in 1920 to replace the wood spire (as rebuilt in 1904), it was intended to have a copper spire, which was never built. The 1894 bell from the original tower is presently displayed on a stone platform beside the entrance driveway. Also noteworthy are the two original chapel and dwelling entrances with arched wood doors, the windows with Tudor-arched openings and hood mouldings sprung from carved figure heads, the two large chapel windows with stone tracery, and the three circular openings with quatrefoil windows.

A later one-storey stone wing on the north facade, designed by the local architectural firm of Stewart & Witton and added in 1913, is in keeping with the Gothic Revival design of the original building.

The small but imposing chapel interior is distinguished by an arched beamed ceiling supported by wood trusses sprung from wood columns resting on widely projecting plaster brackets, two large traceried leaded glass windows, wood-panelled wainscoting and Tudor-arched wood-panelled doors.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse are the original architectural features of:

- 1) all facades of the original building and 1913 addition, except for the new stuccoed frame wall with a doorway and window on the west facade. Included are the stone masonry walls and chimneys, stone belfry, carved stone details, the slate roofing with round-cut ornamental slates, and the doorways and windows.
- 2) the former chapel/ waiting room interior with its wood trusses, beams, wainscoting, and doorways (including the one originally located at the north end of the west wall but recently moved to create a new doorway linking the chapel and office).

This designation by-law is restricted to the gatehouse building; it does not include any other built or landscape features on the Hamilton Cemetery grounds: i.e. the fencing, roadways, trees, outbuildings, tombstones, monuments, vaults, etc.