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Hamilton

City of Hamilton  
City Centre, 77 James Street North  
Hamilton, Ontario,  
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City Clerk's Office, Corporate Services  
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July 11, 2008

**BY REGISTERED MAIL AND FAX**

✓The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir and Madam:

**Re: Heritage Designation  
46-52 James Street North, Hamilton**

Attached please find the Notice of Intention to Designate and Reasons for Designation respecting the above-mentioned building. The Notice of Intention to Designate will be published in the Hamilton Spectator on July 12, 2008.

Yours truly,

Alexandra Rawlings  
Co-ordinator, Economic Development & Planning Committee

AR/kc

Attach.

cc: Don Fisher, Assistant Corporate Counsel, Legal Services  
Sharon Vattay, Cultural Heritage Planner, Planning and Development  
Ida Bedioui, Legislative Assistant, LACAC

**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

**46-52 James Street North, Hamilton**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT** and the property in the City of Hamilton known municipally as 46-52 James Street North, Hamilton

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Hamilton intends to designate this property as being a property of cultural heritage value.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The four-storey building, built 1855-56, located at 46-52 James Street North possesses cultural heritage value due not only to its association with the growth and commercial prosperity of the City of Hamilton in the nineteenth century, but also due to its association with an important nineteenth-century architect, William Thomas. Thomas was considered a key figure in Canadian architecture, designing important buildings throughout Ontario as well as in other Provinces. Thomas designed a commercial building befitting the prosperity of Hamilton in the 1850s. In its original composition, design and materials, the building was a representative example of Renaissance Revival architecture dating to the pre-Confederation period.

While the building retains only a portion of its original architectural features, confined specifically to the three bays on the southern most section of the property, including the decorative stone window surrounds, its similarities to other extant Thomas buildings, such as Kerr's Block on King Street East, is a testament to the work of this architect and his contribution to the pre-Confederation architectural legacy of stone construction in the City.

The building is an important element in the James Street North streetscape, which is both architecturally and historically significant for downtown Hamilton. Lined with three to four storey commercial row buildings, the buildings on James Street North exemplify early architectural styles and often exhibit high levels of craftsmanship in both design and construction including such architectural details as cornices, decorative window trim and ornate masonry work. While at one time quite plentiful in Hamilton, this surviving example of a stone, commercial block building type at 46-52 James Street North is nowadays rare in the downtown core.

