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Hamilton

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Planning and Economic Development Department  
Planning Division  
71 Main Street West, 5th Floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5  
Phone: 905-546-2424, Ext. 1258

November 14, 2023

Ontario Heritage Trust  
Attn: Provincial Heritage Registrar  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Provincial Heritage Registrar:

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*  
7 Ravenscliffe Avenue, Hamilton**

The City of Hamilton intends to designate 7 Ravenscliffe Avenue, Hamilton under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as being property of cultural heritage value. **Attached** please find the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes for the subject property.

A Notice of Intention to Designate the property was also published in the Hamilton Spectator on November 14, 2023.

Any person who objects to the proposed designation shall, within thirty days after the date of publication of the notice of intention, serve on the clerk of the municipality a notice of objection setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Intention to Designate, please contact: Meg Oldfield, Cultural Heritage Planner, Phone: (905) 546-2424 ext. 7163, Email: [Meg.Oldfield@hamilton.ca](mailto:Meg.Oldfield@hamilton.ca).

Sincerely,

Anita Fabac, MCIP RPP  
Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner

MO  
Attach.

cc: Councillor Kroetsch, Ward 2  
Susan Nicholson, Solicitor

Received

NOV 16 2023

Ontario Heritage Trust



Hamilton

Alan Shaw, Director, Building Division  
Aleah Whalen, Legislative Coordinator  
Meg Oldfield, Cultural Heritage Planner

CITY OF HAMILTON

**Notice of Intention to Designate**

7 Ravenscliffe Avenue, Hamilton

**STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST AND  
DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES**

**Description of Property**

The 0.17-hectare property at 7 Ravenscliffe Avenue is comprised of a two-and-one-half-storey stucco-clad brick residence constructed circa 1911, located in the Durand neighbourhood of the City of Hamilton.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The cultural heritage value of the property lies in its design value as a representative example of residential Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style in Hamilton, as demonstrated by its low hipped roof with red clay tiles, stucco façade, paired bracketed eaves, balconets, belt course, pilasters, and Tuscan columns. The property displays a high degree of craftsmanship as demonstrated by the interior wood and plaster features in the front foyer, library, and first and second storey staircase, and the exterior features including the moulded entablature, double bracketed eaves, and Tuscan columns.

The historical value of the property lies in its direct association with Harry Blois Witton (1865-1927), the original owner of the building. Witton worked as a lawyer in Hamilton for 11 years before he was named the vice-president of Tuckett Tobacco Company Ltd. In 1896, and president in 1915. Witton also served on the Hamilton City Council from 1911-1927, and the Board of Education's appointment to the Library Board. Additionally, the historical value of the property also lies in its direct association with the prominent Hamilton architectural firm of Stewart & Witton, which was operated by Walter Stewart (1871-1917) and William Witton (1871-1947), Harry Blois Witton's brother, from 1904-1917. The pair designed a number of recognizable residential and institutional buildings in Hamilton, including 6 Ravenscliffe Avenue, Herkimer Apartments, King George Public School, and St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

The contextual value of the property lies in its role in defining the historic character of Ravenscliffe Avenue and the Durand neighbourhood. The building is visually and historically linked to its surroundings as part of the surviving late-nineteenth to early-



Hamilton

twentieth century residential streetscape that makes up one of Hamilton's most prominent and distinguished neighbourhoods.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The key attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the property as a representative example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture, with a high degree of craftsmanship, and its historical association with previous owner Harry Blois Witton and architectural firm of Stewart & Witton include:

- All four elevations and roofline of the two-and-one-half storey stucco-clad brick structure including its:
  - Front hipped roof with flanking projecting bays with its:
    - Flanking stucco-clad decorative chimneys;
    - Red clay tiles;
    - Two hipped-roof front dormers;
    - Entablature with modillioned eaves cornice, carved soffit, moulded frieze and architrave, with paired carved brackets;
  - Smooth stucco façades;
  - Flat-headed window openings with one-over-one hung wood windows and storms and plain lug sills;
  - Belt course between the first and second storeys;
  - Five-bay front (west) elevation with its:
    - Flanking balconets in the outer second-storey projecting bays with wrought-iron railings, corbels beneath and decorative keystones in the window below;
    - Central entrance with enclosed portico, plain architrave and pilasters, balcony with balustrades, and arched entryway with French doors;



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- Covered porch in the side (south) elevation with entablature, pilasters, and Tuscan columns;
- Decorative copper downspouts; and,
- Coal chutes in the side (north) elevation.
- The interior and original first and second storey features, including the:
  - Front foyer with its segmentally arched front entry way with double doors with wood carved leaf and acorn design, wood paneled walls with carved wood pilasters and double brackets, and cross vaulted ceiling;
  - First-floor library with its ornately decorated plaster ceiling with plaster rosettes, wood carved crown moulding and dentils, wood paneled walls with built in shelves, fluted square wood columns with Ionic capitals, and fireplace with moulded wood and marble detailing;
  - Oval shaped dining room with its ornately decorated plaster ceiling with wood carved crown moulding and dentils, curved wood paneling and curved wood doors; and,
  - First and second storey main staircase with carved wood handrail and newel post, carved wood paneling, and alcove with carved wood keystone, fluted pilasters, and fluted Tuscan columns.

The key attributes that embody the contextual value of the property as a defining feature of the historical character of Ravenscliffe Avenue and the Durand neighbourhood include its:

- Moderate setback from Ravenscliffe Avenue with grassed lawn and central walkway to the front entrance.

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