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Office of the City Clerk

REGISTERED MAIL

601 2 7 102

October 25, 2016

Erin Semande
A/Provincial Heritage Registrar, Ontario Heritage Act
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto ON M5C 1J3

Dear Ms. Semande:

Re: Notice of Intention – 48 Ontario St. N.

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kitchener at its regular meeting held Monday, October 24, 2016 passed the following resolution, namely:

“That pursuant to Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Clerk be directed to publish a Notice of Intention to designate the property municipally addressed as 48 Ontario Street North as being of cultural heritage value and interest, as outlined in Community Services Department report CSD-16-064.”

Attached is a copy of Community Services Department report CSD-16-064, dated August 31, 2016, as well as a revised Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for 48 Ontario St. N. and a description of the heritage attributes related to the property to be protected. Also attached is a copy of the Notice of Intention to designate.

Yours truly,

Dianna Saunderson
Committee Administrator

Att.

cc: L. Bensason, Coordinator, Cultural Heritage Planning
S. Parks, Heritage Planner

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18, AS AMENDED, AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS(ES) IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kitchener intends to designate the following municipal address as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended.

48 ONTARIO STREET NORTH

The former Legion building is a representative example of Classical Revival style in Kitchener, displaying a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. Typical Classical Revival features include brick rustication, brownstone doorcase, and window openings with brownstone lintels and sills. Set between horizontal brownstone belt courses, brick pilasters with brownstone capitals and bases give the impression of Roman Doric columns. Built by the Bell Telephone Company in 1909-1910, the building was purchased by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 50, in 1944. Both are significant to, and yield information that contributes to an understanding of, our culture today. These organizations have made significant contributions to the City's economic development and have influenced the course of local and regional history. The property is located within the Downtown Cultural Heritage Landscape. It is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the historic commercial character of the downtown area and its status as the real and symbolic heart of the City.

The full Statement of Significance, containing a list of the heritage attributes, is available in the Office of the City Clerk, 2nd Floor, Kitchener City Hall during normal business hours.

Any person may send by Registered Mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Kitchener, notice of his or her objections to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, to be received by the Clerk not later than the 28th day of November, 2016. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kitchener will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board (www.crb.gov.on.ca) for a hearing and report.

Dated at Kitchener the 28th day of October, 2016.

Christine Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk
City Hall, P.O. Box 1118

200 King Street West
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4G7

The Record Insert:

October 28, 2016

2-Column Display Ad in:

1st choice - Local Section,

2nd choice - 2nd page of First Section,

Last choice - 2nd page of LIFE Section

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Description of the Property

The subject property known as the former Legion building is municipally addressed as 48 Ontario Street North. The 0.10-hectare (¼-acre) lot is located on the west side of Ontario Street North between King Street West and Duke Street West in Downtown Kitchener. It contains a two-storey Classical Revival style commercial office building with a full raised basement.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The former Legion building is recognized for its design, physical, historical, associative, and contextual values.

The former Legion building has design or physical value as a representative example of the Classical Revival style in Kitchener which displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. Typical Classical Revival features found on the front elevation of this 1910 structure include brick rustication on the raised basement level, a brownstone doorcase and frontispiece with carved scroll brackets supporting an entablature, tall rectangular window openings with brownstone lintels and sills, and a flat roofline adorned with a simple cornice. Set between two horizontal brownstone belt courses, four brick pilasters with brownstone capitals and bases give the impression of Roman Doric columns. The attractive decorative features executed in brownstone are a relatively rare building material in Berlin/Kitchener. Windows on other elevations generally contain segmentally-arched openings with triple brick-header voussoirs and stone sills. Notable interior features include the front entrance terrazzo floor, front staircase with slate treads and metal risers, and wood handrails with paired metal balusters and metal newel-posts.

The historic or associative values of the former Legion building relate to its direct associations with both the Bell Telephone Company, who purchased the land and constructed this building in 1909-1910, and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 50, who bought the property from Bell in 1944. Both are significant to, and yield information that contributes to an understanding of, our culture today. These organizations have made significant contributions to the City's economic development and have influenced the course of local and regional history.

Bell Telephone began service in the Town of Berlin in 1879, with a local druggist as agent. There were 48 subscribers in 1883. This new office building was "equipped with every modern device known to telephony." Telephone use grew exponentially after this move. In 1914, switchboards served 500 lines; in 1915, 1,750; in 1920, 3,239; in 1925 the 5,000th telephone was installed in Kitchener.

Following World War Two, the building became home to a local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Branch 50 was founded by veterans in 1926, just one year after the Legion itself was formed, and is considered the Mother Branch in Waterloo Region. More than 500 armed forces members from Kitchener-Waterloo died during the two World Wars. In 1996, the Branch was renamed after decorated First World War soldier Fred Gies. The Legion was well known for live entertainment, inspiring a vibrant local music scene and influencing the development of the Blues in Kitchener. The Legion moved to new premises in 2001.

The contextual value of the former Legion building relates to its location within the Downtown Cultural Heritage Landscape. It is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the historic

commercial character of the downtown area and its status as the real and symbolic heart of the City.

Description of the Heritage Attributes

Key exterior heritage attributes that embody the design or physical values of the former Legion building as a representative example of a Classical Revival style commercial office building in Kitchener include:

All building elevations and exterior features including:

- red brick walls including basement level brick rustication and pilasters,
- all window openings, sills, lintels and brick voussoirs,
- all exterior door openings,
- roof and roofline, and
- decorative Brownstone features including:
 - banding and belt courses,
 - sills and lintels,
 - pilaster capitals and bases, and
 - entrance doorcase and frontispiece with scroll brackets and entablature.

Key interior heritage attributes that embody the design or physical values of the former Legion building include:

- front entrance terrazzo floor,
- front staircase including:
 - slate treads and metal risers, and
 - wood handrails with paired metal balusters and metal newel-posts.

Key heritage attributes that embody the contextual value of the former Legion building include the:

- location on Ontario Street North.