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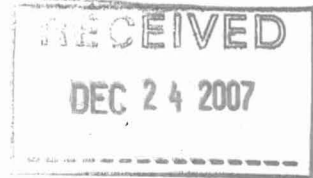


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**NOTICE OF INTENTION  
TO DESIGNATE A BUILDING OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV, Section 29. A brief statement of reasons is included.

Wells Street Public School  
64 Wells Street  
Plan 68, Pt. Lots 3 and 8-13  
Town of Aurora  
The Regional Municipality of York

**Description of Property**

Located at 64 Wells Street, this two storey building with raised foundation is noted for its impressive main entrance, flat roof with parapets, and large banks of multi-paned wood windows. Set in a historic neighbourhood of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residences, the Wells Street Public School faces the Town Park, which has been used by several generations of schoolchildren for social and physical activities.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

***Historical or Associative Value***

Wells Street Public School was built in 1923 as the Second Aurora High School to a design by D.R. Franklin of Toronto. The building replaced a smaller 4-classroom Romanesque Revival styled building that had been built on the site in 1891. It became a Public School in 1952, when the new Aurora High School opened on Dunning Avenue.

Historically, 64 Wells Street is an important link in the chain of history of public education in the Town of Aurora, representing the expansion period of the village in the early decades of the twentieth-century brought about by the arrival of the radial railway and the introduction of the shoe manufacturing industry. The Wells Street Public School is one of the most prominent heritage buildings in Aurora, and its association with the youth of Aurora and surrounding communities over an 85 year period has made this building a significant part of community life.

One of the leading figures in the history of the Wells Street building is J.H. Knowles, who served as principal at the second Aurora High School at 64 Wells Street from 1923 when the building opened until it found new use as a Public School in 1952.

***Architectural Value***

The Wells Street Public School building has outstanding architectural value as the best example of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Neo-Classical architecture in Aurora and possibly the entire Region of York. It is one of 2 surviving examples of early school architecture in Aurora.

***Contextual Value***

Contextually, the Wells Street Public School has a dominant presence overlooking Aurora's most well used public space, the Town Park, and is a landmark of the Old Aurora community.

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

The Description of Heritage Attributes include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all facades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, plaster parging, metal and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features:

### Exterior Elements:

- All exterior faces of the original 1923 Aurora High School Building;
- Red/brown brick exterior;
- All cut stone exterior work;
- All decorative wood exterior work
- Front doors and transom;
- Front door surround with wood pilasters and decorative metal railing;
- Decorative Venetian windows;
- Wood frieze and Cornice with dentil moldings running around the front and sides of the building;
- Cut stone band at the first floor level of the building;
- Brick parapet with partial wood balustrade;
- Symmetrical banks of wood, multi-paned windows in their original 1923 configuration;
- Wooden panel between the upper and lower levels of the front façade windows;
- Cut stone pilasters at either end of the front façade;
- Classical wood pediment and pilasters flanking a cut stone blank inert at the ends of the main façade;
- Decorative urns on the roof of the main façade;
- All wood, multi-paned windows on all exterior facades;
- The cut stone band at the first floor level on the north and south facades;

### Interior Elements

The Wells Street Public School contains a number of significant interior elements which contribute to the character of the school building. These include:

- 1923 Auditorium with stage and wood floor;
- Glazed wood doors with tilting wood transoms;

DETAILED REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE UNDERSIGNED.

ANY PERSON MAY, BEFORE 4:30 P.M. ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2008 SEND BY REGISTERED MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE TOWN CLERK, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and a report.

Further information respecting the proposed designation(s) is available from the Clerks Department upon request.

DATED at Aurora this 22<sup>ND</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2007.

Bob Panizza, Town Clerk and Director of Corporate Services, The Town of Aurora, 1 Municipal Drive, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1

