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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW No. 78-359

A BY-LAW to designate the Property  
at No. 83 Church Street of historic  
interest.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third  
time and passed this 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of October 1978

  
Clerk

# CERTIFIED COPY

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 78-359

A By-law to designate the Property at No. 83 Church Street of historic interest.

WHEREAS The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines has caused to be served upon the owner of the lands and premises known as No. 83 Church Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

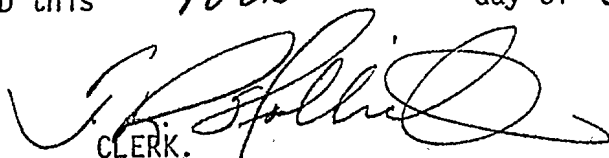
AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out as Schedule "B" hereto;

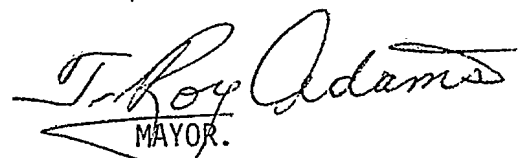
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the said proposed designation has been served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of historic interest the real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, known as No. 83 Church Street.
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of St. Catharines.

PASSED this 10th day of October 1978.

  
CLERK.

  
MAYOR.

SCHEDULE "A"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of St. Catharines, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara formerly in the County of Lincoln, and being composed of Lot No. 537 according to the Plan of the City of St. Catharines filed in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Lincoln as Corporation Plan No. 2.

I CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A  
TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENT OF WHICH IT PURPORTS TO BE A  
COPY.

Dated this *11th* day of *October* 19*78*



*Deputy*  
CLERK OF THE CORPORATION OF  
THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

SIGNIFICANCE

Robertson School was formerly the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute and before that the Grantham Academy.

The original building was built in 1829 and, although it is not known who designed or built the school, it is described in the Welland Canal Intelligencer - April, 1829 as: "a handsome edifice of brick, 30 X 60 feet and two stories high, with a neat cupola and spires, containing a bell of good size, constructed from the centre of the roof".

Except for the district Grammar Schools which were under government paternalism, Grantham Academy was the first high school established in the Niagara Peninsula and the second secondary school to be erected in the whole of Upper Canada.

The Academy was built on land purchased from William Hamilton for 100. It has been known as:

Grantham Academy	1829-1845
St. Catharines District Grammar School	1845-1872
St. Catharines Collegiate Institute	1872-1923
W.J. Robertson Public School	1923-1977

The Academy opened as a private boys' school (and remained so until 1871) and ended as a public school - in continuous use for one hundred and forty-eight years!

Robertson School has undergone many changes due to fires, expansions, and renovations. Old pictures show changes in various aspects of the building.

DESCRIPTION

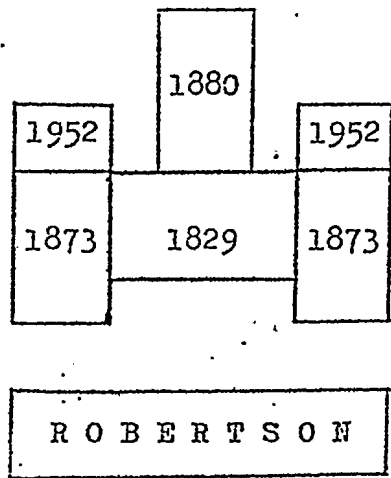
This rectangular, brick, two-storey building has a projecting portico; it has a partial basement 1½ feet thick of field stone and with rough, hand-hewn timber beams. The building is also held together by tie rods, making it structurally sound.

The roof shape is a medium hip with two additional hips at either end. It is trimmed with a boxed cornice.

The main windows are flat with moulded trim and a wooden continuous sill and lintel. The windows are two sash, double hung with six panes of glass in each section.

The door is located in the centre and has plain trim with no decorations or embrasure. It has a flush fan transom but no side panels. The building has a double door with three flush panels, partly glazed and with moulded rails. The door is protected by the front portico.

There is a bell in the front tower as well as a large date stone which reads as follows:



The bell was donated by Oliver Phelps, a contractor on the First Welland Canal, who used it to call his men to work (1824-1829). It was given to the school after the Canal was finished.