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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW No. 78-361

A BY-LAW to designate the Court House
at 85-87 King Street of architectural
value and of historic interest.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third
time and passed this 10th
day of October 19 78

 Clerk

CERTIFIED COPY

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 28-361

A By-law to designate the Court House at 85-87 King Street of architectural value and 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. 85-87 King Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real 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 architectural and historic value or interest the real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, known as No. 85-87 King 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.

J. B. Sullivan
CLERK.

T. Roy Adams
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. 708 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 *Alfred P. Peden*
CLERK OF THE CORPORATION OF
THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

SIGNIFICANCE

For purposes of orientation assume that James Street runs in a north-south direction, the front door being on the south side of the building.

The laying of the corner stone of the original wing of the "Lincoln County Building" took place on Monday October 30, 1848. A platform was erected at the northeast corner of the building for the ceremonial laying of the stone. In the presence of Toronto architect Kivas Tully and M.L.A. Sir Allan Napier MacNab - a glass jar containing some papers was lowered into a cavity, the architect laid a plate over all, the Grand Master of the Masons spread on the mortar, and it was then topped with the foundation stone - accompanied by the tune "God Save the Queen". After the ceremony, the beautiful silver trowel used in the event was presented to Sir Allan MacNab by the Board of Police. This historic trowel is now in the St. Catharines Historical Museum after having been recently discovered in Australia and returned to St. Catharines by the Masonic Order.

The building was built in 1848-1849 as the Market House and Town Hall of St. Catharines. The upper floor was originally the Council Chamber and meeting hall. It also contained galleries and an office for the Town Clerk. The ceilings were 22' in height and the room was 54' by 40' in size. The first floor, with its 13' high ceilings, contained eight stalls for the market with 12' wide passageways between. The basement of this 1849 section originally had provisions for rooms for the housekeeper, police office, lock-up, fire engine, hook and ladder and hose, and hot air heating equipment.

The noted architect, Kivas Tully of Toronto - who also designed the Welland Court House, St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto, and Victoria Hall in Cobourg - is said to have patterned the south facade after the Hotel de Ville in Perugia, Italy. The contractor was William Baron of St. Catharines.

Both of their names are carved in stone on the facade. The architect is said to have been directed to surpass William Thomas' Town Hall in Niagara which was erected in 1847.

Some ten years after the completion of the Town Hall, St. Catharines began to agitate for the relocation of the County Seat from Niagara. Both towns appointed committees to tour the county explaining their respective viewpoints for the move and although the electors of the county at large were not in favour of the move, the large population of St. Catharines swung the vote in its favour.

An act of parliament was still necessary before the move could be effected. This was opposed by Niagara who wished reimbursement. The bill was passed with an indemnity clause ordering Lincoln to pay the Town of Niagara \$8,000 as compensation for their surplus building area. These funds were used to construct a luxurious hotel, the Royal Niagara, to attract wealthy visitors to the town. St. Catharines passed a by-law permitting the use of the Town Hall by the County and agreed to heat and light the building free of charge.

The by-law establishing the County Seat in St. Catharines reads:

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of St. Catharines have offered this council the free use of their town hall for a county hall, and have also agreed to light and heat the same free of charge be it therefore enacted by the Corporation of the County of Lincoln that from and after the passing hereof the town hall of the Town of St. Catharines shall be known as, and be the county hall of the County of Lincoln. Passed January 28, 1862.
Abishai Morse, Warden F.A.B. Church, County Clerk.

The building was enlarged to accomodate the shared use of the St. Catharines Town Hall and the Lincoln County Court House. A small addition was erected at the northwest corner of the present structure and the large east wing was commenced in 1863 and completed in 1865. This latter addition was built by Samuel G. Dolson to the plans of William Latchaw. Tully's design was not accepted in the competition. The addition permitted the St. Catharines town hall and offices to remain in the original wing and the County offices and Court to be located in the new wing.

The original section of this elegant cut-stone building was erected at a cost of \$16,000 with the aggregate cost of the addition and the main part being about \$32,000.

Although the Court House is located at the corner of King and James, there is a street in St. Catharines called "Court Street". This area was the residence of Oliver Phelps, a contractor on the First Canal, and he so named the street because he intended it to be the location of the Court House when it was removed from Niagara. The Court House wasn't located there but the name has endured to this day.

DESCRIPTION

This two storey ashlar building is in the Ontario Georgian style. It was conceived as something of a stage set, in that only the portion visible from the James-King intersection is adorned with the rock-faced, channelled, Queenston ashlar which shows in the typical photograph of the building. The west wall is a coursed rubble Kingston limestone while the north wall is common red brick. The exterior of the Court House was sandblasted in 1971.

The ashlar stone walls have a band course below the second storey windows. The corners are highlighted by large stone quoins in a smoother finish than the balance of the ashlar.

The entrance to the building, like that in Perugia, is carved in stone and features unusual upright balustrades which conform to the slope of the stairway. The supporting columns under the copings on each side are individually carved to fit its specific location.

The front is three bays in width with a projecting frontispiece containing the door. The original main south entrance door has been replaced by a glazed aluminum set of doors and frames but the adjacent wooden Doric pilasters and leaded stained glass coat-of-arms in the transom remain.

All architectural openings on the first floor have semi-circular heads trimmed with stone voussoirs. Second floor windows are a mixture of half-round and pedimented rectangular heads depending on location. In general the detailing on the original 1849 Tully wing is far more handsome and extensive than on later additions. All windows are double hung with a six-on-six pattern.

Inscriptions on the front facade bear the names of the members of the Board of Police (similar to a Town Council) as well as the names of the architect and the builder.

WILLIAM BARON, BUILDER	BOARD OF POLICE	KIVAS TULLY, ARCHITECT
ELIAS S. ADAMS, PRESIDENT		
HENRY MITTLEBERGER, GEORGE RYKERT		
JOHN F. MITTLEBERGER, THOMAS BURNS		
SAMUEL L. St. JOHN, C.M. ARNOLD, CLERK		

The date of construction appears in Roman Numerals below the clock face of the southern facade and immediately above the band course separating the first storey from the second storey. It appears as follows:

E R E C T E D A.D. M D C C C X L I X.

All roofs are hipped and feature a decorative cornice at the intersection with the wall. The slate roof was installed in 1865 over the original metal roof.

The front facade is surmounted by a bell tower with a three-faced striking clock and is topped by an octagonal cupola. Four stone urns around the base of the tower are now gone. Also, the bell in the tower

originally played an important role in the community in that it summoned the fire brigade in case of an emergency but this function has since been replaced.

The clock in the bell tower was probably installed coincident with the erection of the Town Hall in 1849. As there were no Canadian clock manufacturers in business at that time, it was probably imported from Europe as suggested by its unusual European-style movements. There is no identifying manufacturer plate on the clock. There is an 8 foot long pendulum with a bob weighing approximately fifty pounds. It rings with the assistance of the original weights which extend from the clock tower to the floor of the first floor. The strike or chime function still operates. The clock is wound once a week and still maintains a remarkable time accuracy within one minute a month.

The interior still has handsomely-detailed, glazed, panelled-wood doors and frames with the frosted glass inscriptions. Various plaster cornices are still intact as are interesting cast-iron steam radiators, including one of unusual circular design.

The Court Room on the second floor of the 1849 wing dates from the 1865 alterations and has excellent wood detailings; it was formerly the Town Hall before the 1865 addition.

The vast former Public Hall on the second floor of the 1865 wing has been subdivided both vertically and horizontally into smaller Court Rooms and offices. An inspection of the attic reveals the remains of the original barrel-vaulted ceiling and mouldings which once capped this clear-span space. When completed in 1865, this large room accommodated 800-1000 persons for a variety of events from concerts to musicals.

The basement indicates no signs of the market stalls which it once housed. A semi-deteriorated carved bull's head and a sheaf of wheat on the James Street entrance are all that remains to indicate the use of the east wing basement as a market. These remnants originally advertised that Andrew Wallace had a meat market in the building and John Titterington a feed market. In 1865 the 16 stalls were rented out by an auction, the majority of which went for an annual rent of \$65.