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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW No. 78-360

A BY-LAW to designate the Property  
at No. 343 Merritt Street, of architectural  
value and of historic interest.

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

 Clerk

# CERTIFIED COPY

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 78-360

A By-law to designate the Property at No. 343 Merritt 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. 343 Merritt 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. 343 Merritt 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.

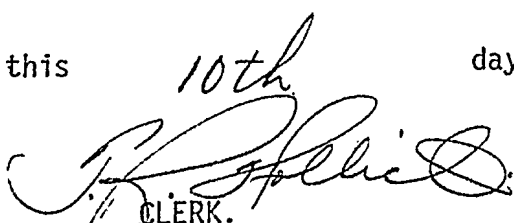
PASSED this

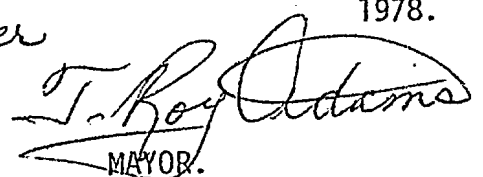
10th

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 Town of Merritton in the County of Lincoln, and being composed of Lot No. 259 according to the Plan of the said Town of Merritton filed in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Lincoln as Corporation Plan No. 6.

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which the Town Hall is built was previously received by William Parnall from James Calcott in 1873. William Parnall had a dry goods store here for many years until he sold the land to John Riordan in 1877. Two years later Riordan sold it to the Corporation of the Village of Merritton. The Town Hall was built in 1879 by James MacDonald at a contract price of \$3,000. John Walker (later of Walker Bros. Quarries) did the stonework.

The Town Hall has been through many changes and has served many different activities. At various times it has housed a community centre with a stage and a kitchen, a Mechanics Institute, and a Library. The Library was here from 1883 until 1923, at which time it received its own building across the street. In 1888, when the Fire Department was formed, the back portion of the main floor was changed into a Fire Hall. It remained here until 1950 when an addition was made to house their engines. The building still has the hose tower used in drying the fire hoses.

The Police Department was also here, having its cells in the basement. During the Boer War, the First World War, and the Second World War, this building was used by the Red Cross and the Civil Defence. Movies were shown here and the Badminton Club and the Boy Scouts used the building in the 1920's. It also housed the Water Works Commission, the Post Office, the School Board, and the Hydro Commission.

This building served as the Municipal Offices of Merritton until amalgamation in 1960, at which time the St. Catharines Assessment Department occupied the building. They used it for four years.

The Museum was given the main floor in 1965 and held its Official Opening in 1967 after the building had undergone major renovation remodelling. It expanded to the second floor in 1970.

The rear portion of the building and the entire roof were severely damaged by fire in 1927. When the building was repaired, the stairway was removed from the front and the outside entrance on the north side was added along with two fire escapes. The front tower roof was changed as well as the main roof. Steel trusses replaced the old wooden roof supports.

## DESCRIPTION

This handsome rectangular building in the centre of Merritton is made of local sandstone and is described as Victorian architecture. It has many interesting features such as contrasting quoins, a stinger belt course, and radiating arch voussoirs over the windows and doors. Another feature is the projecting tower which has a great amount of detail work - including an interesting roof shape, as altered in 1929. Originally, a bell tower projected above the roof. There is a date stone (A.D. 1879) and a Town Incorporation plaque (1918) on the front of the tower.

The hip roof is trimmed with a boxed cornice with a frieze and brackets. The windows are semi-circular with radiating arch voussoirs and a lugsill of stone. The windows are two sash and double hung with four panes of glass per section.

The double doors have a fan transom and are inset in the centre of the tower. They have two raised panels with moulded rails and are partly glazed.

A separate addition at the rear housed the Town's Fire Department.

The large cut stones on the front are laid in a broken course. This front stonework is more carefully done than that at the sides. A one-storey high stone entrance was added on the right side in 1929.

The yard contains a coach step acquired in 1972 from the former Henry Gardiner house - 177 Russell Avenue, and the Town War Monument erected in 1919.