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RECEIVED
MAY 5 1988
ONTARIO HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 88- 66

To Designate:

THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 64 FOREST AVENUE

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Hamilton did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection was served on the City Clerk as required by subsection 29(5) of the said Act;

AND WHEREAS it is desired to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with clause 29(1)(a) of the said Act.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. The property located at Municipal No. 64 Forest Avenue and more particularly described in schedule "A" hereto annexed, is hereby designated as property of historic and architectural value and interest.

2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in schedule "B", to be registered against the property affected in the proper registry office.

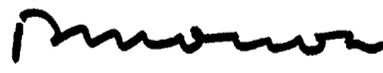
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed,

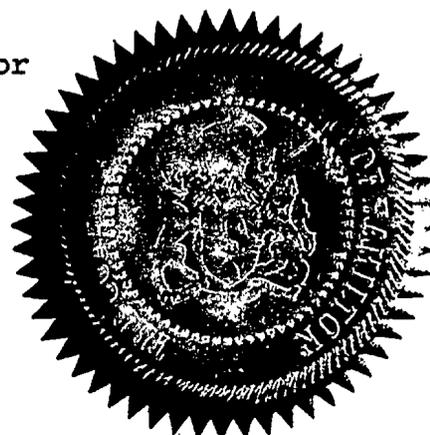
(i) to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation to be served on the owner and The Ontario Heritage Foundation by personal service or by registered mail;

(ii) to publish a notice of this by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality of the City of Hamilton, for three consecutive weeks.

PASSED this 23rd day of February A.D. 1988.


City Clerk


Mayor



SCHEDULE "A"

To

By-law No. 88- 66

64 Forest Avenue
and John Street South,
Hamilton, Ontario

All of Lots 206, 215 and 224, Registered
Plan 1431, in the City of Hamilton, Regional Muni-
cipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

SCHEDULE "B"

To

By-law No. 88- 66

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

64 Forest Avenue
and John Street South,
Hamilton, Ontario

The Church of the Ascension, located at the corner of John Street South and Forest Avenue, is one of Hamilton's outstanding nineteenth century churches. The original Gothic Revival structure was designed by the firm, Cumberland and Ridout, and built in 1850-51 of local limestone.

The Church was consecrated in 1875, shortly after the spire and gable-end pinnacles were added. Following a fire which gutted the church in 1887, the interior was rebuilt and the present chancel added. The church interior has since undergone numerous minor alterations. On the exterior, both original porches on the north and south transepts have been altered and an entrance vestibule facing Forest Avenue added on the west facade.

The present church complex incorporates a number of linked structures enclosing a secluded courtyard. Of particular interest are the two stone Sunday School buildings: the first designed by a prominent Hamilton architect, Frederick Rastrick, and built in 1872, and the second designed by local architect Charles Mills and built in 1901.

With its corner tower, soaring spire and gently sloping site, the Church of the Ascension has a commanding presence on John Street South. Since the completion of its spire, this church has been a prominent landmark in the south-central part of the City and today provides a dramatic focal point for two surviving clusters of 19th century houses to the east on John Street South and to the west between Forest and Charlton Avenues.

The Church of the Ascension is historically important as Hamilton's second Anglican Church and first permanent stone structure built to house an Anglican congregation. The first meeting was held in 1847 in the coach-house of Miles O'Reilly, Chief Judge of the Gore District Court from 1837 to 1854. The site for the present church was donated by Richard Juson, a successful Hamilton merchant who was the largest contributor to the new building.

One of the City's best examples of a mid-19th century Gothic Revival church, The Church of the Ascension is both unusual for the corner positioning of its bell tower and striking for its vigorous detail and strong vertical lines achieved by the tall spire and heavy buttresses culminating in dominant pinnacles. The church is

also architecturally significant as a major work of one of Canada's leading 19th century architects, Frederick W. Cumberland, who designed St. James Anglican Cathedral (1850-53) and University College (1856-58) in Toronto as well as the Central Public School in Hamilton (1853).

Important to the preservation of The Church of the Ascension complex are:

1. the exterior facades and roofs of the entire building complex including the stone masonry walls, buttresses, pinnacles, and carved stone decoration, the spire, the pointed-arch, trefoil and rose windows, and the doorways;
2. the interior of the original church (nave, transept and chancel) including the three wooden galleries, the wood panelling, the stained glass windows and the open timber-work ceilings;
3. the courtyard;
4. the stone wall along John Street and Charlton Avenue and the wrought iron railing.