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SEP 20

ARCHITECTURE AND
PLANNING
HERITAGE BRANCH

Bill No. C-129

ONTARIO HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

SEP 19 1990

Nancy Smith

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 90- 255

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NOS. 108-112 JAMES STREET NORTH

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation 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 Nos. 108-112 James Street North and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, 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" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, 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 28th day of August

A.D. 1990.



Deputy City Clerk

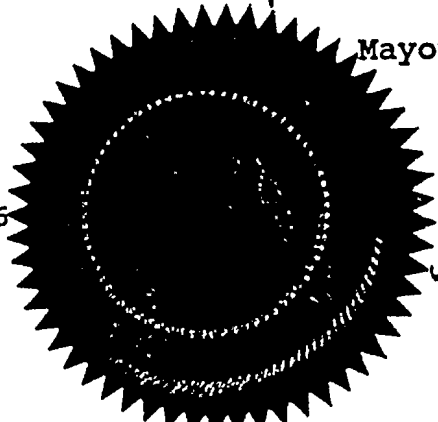


Mayor

(1990) 12 R.P.D.C. 11, June 26

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY


DEPUTY CITY CLERK



Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 90-255

Tivoli Theatre

108-112 James Street North, Hamilton, Ontario

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Hamilton, in The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, in the Province of Ontario, being composed of:

PART OF Lot Number 2 fronting on James Street, and Part of Lot Number 3 fronting on Hughson Street according to James Hughson Survey and being in the block bounded by James, Wilson, Hughson and Cannon Streets and which parcel of land is designated Parts 1, 2 and 3 according to a plan of record deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth as Number 62R-10419.

TOGETHER WITH the right to pass over, along, upon and to use as a right of way Part of Lot Number 2 fronting on Hughson Street and which right of way is designated Part 6 according to the said Plan 62R-10419 and,

TOGETHER WITH a right of way over Part of Lot Number 3 fronting on James Street and which right of way is designated Part 7 according to the said Plan 62R-10419,

SUBJECT TO the right of all others entitled thereto to pass over, along, upon and to use as a right of way Part of Lot Number 3 fronting on Hughson Street and which right of way is designated Part 3 according to the said Plan 62R-10419.

Schedule "B"

to

By-law No. 90- 355

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Tivoli Theatre, 108 -112 James Street North

Built in 1875 as a carriage factory for J.P. Pronguey, the building at 108-112 James Street North has served primarily as a theatre since 1908. In 1924, the building was substantially enlarged by an auditorium added to the rear to accomodate the Tivoli Theatre, the name by which the building has since been known.

Context

With its architecturally impressive facade, dominant corner tower, and high visibility, the Tivoli Theatre is a major contributing component of the James North heritage streetscape. It also provides a dramatic visual terminus to the block extending from Cannon to Wilson Street. The adjacent site at the north-east corner of James and Wilson was, for many years, occupied by the Grand Opera House and Hotel, erected in 1880 and demolished respectively in 1960 and 1986.

Historical Significance

In the course of its history, the building at 108-112 James Street North has served many different uses: a carriage works (until 1901), a bowling alley on the second floor (1908-64), various restaurants and retail businesses at street level; and of particular significance, a succession of theatres: the Wonderland (1908), the Colonial (1909-12), and the Princess (1913-23), all located in the space which became the lobby of the Tivoli Theatre, and finally, the Tivoli itself.

The Tivoli has an important place in Hamilton's theatre history. The Wonderland was reputedly the City's first film theatre while the Tivoli, a vaudeville theatre and motion picture house, was the first theatre to introduce sound movies in the late 1920s. Of the numerous theatres built in Hamilton during the early 20th century, the Tivoli counted among the seven largest and grandest, the most resplendent of which were the Capitol and the Palace. All but the Lyric (now the Century) and the Tivoli have been demolished; and of these two only the Tivoli Theatre has retained any part of its original interior decor.

Architectural Significance

Exterior

Clearly intended to make a bold statement of Pronguey's entrepreneurial ambitions, the original carriage factory was designed by Hamilton architect Albert H. Hills in the popular Second Empire style. Characteristic of this style are the steeply-pitched mansard roof with dormers, the bracketted cornices, and rich classical detailing. Noteworthy features of the Tivoli facade include the round-arched windows with two-over-two sash windows and ornate moulded surrounds, the gabled dormer windows, and the tall mansard-roofed tower. This convex-shaped tower displays narrow, paired arched dormers surmounted by circular windows and a bracketted cornice, originally crowned by ornamental iron cresting.

The later Tivoli Theatre entrance originally featured an octagonal ticket office and an ornamental sign marquee, above which was a vertical "Tivoli" sign projecting at right angles to the street. Only the basic structure of the marquee, however, survived the major alterations made to the entrance in 1954.

Interior

The Tivoli Theatre was greatly admired for its sumptuously decorated "Italian Renaissance" interior, designed by Toronto architect B. Kingston Hall. While a significant proportion of the original decor was removed or covered in the course of renovations undertaken in 1943, 1947 and 1954 (when the most extensive remodelling occurred), the main architectural features of the auditorium are still largely intact. These include the proscenium, the ceiling with its elliptical design, the decorative cornice and frieze below, and along each side wall: a colonnade comprising five round arches sprung from coupled pilasters. The two arches on either side of the stage still contain the original bronze statues of Caesar Augustus and the goddess Minerva. At the base of each of the other eight arches are medallions depicting the four seasons.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Tivoli Theatre are:

1. the original architectural features of the front (west) and side (south) facades, including the upper-storey arched windows, moulded surrounds, bracketted cornice, and slate-covered mansard roof with its dormers and corner tower.
2. the original architectural features of the lobby and auditorium, including the ceilings, proscenium, colonnades, statuary, and other decorative wall elements. Excluded from designation are the more recent additions, such as the floor covering, seating and stage curtain.