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Bill No. C-74

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 91-185

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NOS. 69 PEARL STREET NORTH
and 210-214 NAPIER STREET

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(6)(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. 69 Pearl Street North and 210-214 Napier Street 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 8th day of October A.D. 1991.

[Signature]
City Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor

(1991) 11 R.P.D.C. 9, July 30

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

[Signature]
City Clerk

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 91- 185

ZION UNITED CHURCH, 69 Pearl Street North

and

210-214 Napier Street, 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 and being composed of all of Lots 1, 2 and 5 according to William Davey Survey registered in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth as Plan No. 57.

Schedule "B"

to

By-law No. 91 -185

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

ZION UNITED CHURCH69 PEARL ST. NORTH AND 210-214 NAPIER STREET, HAMILTONLocation:

Situated at the northwest corner of Pearl and Napier Streets, the Zion Tabernacle Methodist Church was erected in 1874-75 on what was thought to be the highest point of land north of the escarpment. The design, by architect Joseph Savage, chose to emphasize this hilltop site with a corner tower rising to a height of 125'. Zion's graceful spire became the most visible feature of the city's West End and traditionally served as an orientation point for ships in the harbour. The church was and still is a dominant structure in the surrounding low-rise residential neighbourhood, dating primarily from the 19th century.

Architecture:

The church is designed in the Victorian Gothic style, a later stage of the Gothic Revival which put greater emphasis on picturesque and decorative qualities. Typical of this style is the asymmetrical design with corner towers of contrasting height, as well as the colourful, alternating red and yellow banded brickwork found over the pointed-arched windows and under the front gable.

Upon completion, Zion Church was described as "the first of the kind ... erected in the Dominion" (Canadian Methodist Magazine, April 1875). This distinction refers to the interior plan of the church, a 80' x 90' amphitheatre, featuring a floor that sloped from all three sides down to the central pulpit on the west side. Reputedly inspired by the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, this innovation afforded each of the 900 seats a clear view to the speaker.

Zion Tabernacle represents the one significant local work by Joseph Savage who was at the time in partnership with the Toronto architect Windeyer. In 1875, within a month after the church was dedicated, architect Savage died at the young age of 37 years.

Due to increasing attendance, two Sunday Schools were added to the Napier Street frontage, the first (directly adjacent) designed by Charles Mills in 1892 and the second by G. T. Evans in 1930. Together they form a well-integrated church complex, despite the shift in architectural style to the rounded arches, popular at these later dates.

History:

Major events within the national Methodist church, including its 100th anniversary in 1868 and important consolidations in 1874 and 1883, had a profound effect at the local level. Combined with other favourable conditions, Hamilton experienced a proliferation of substantial Methodist church edifices. Six were constructed within fifteen years, four of which still remain: the Primitive Methodist (now St. Johannes Lutheran) (1867); Centenary (1868), Zion (1875) and Hannah St. (now First Christian Reformed) (1882). The name of Zion Tabernacle Methodist Church was changed to Zion United Church following the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925.

Zion church grew out of the need for a Methodist representation in the West End, where the Great Western Railway had located--then the largest employer in the City. The present structure is Zion's third, following "the little Main St. church" established in 1855, and a small brick structure known as Mt. Zion built in 1867 at Pearl and Napier Streets.

The high value placed on education by the church is evidenced in the substantial Sunday Schools, the later one having provided one of the earliest gymnasiums in the City. At present, these buildings are used as the Kirkendall-Strathcona Neighbourhood House.

Important for the preservation of this building is the retention of the original architectural features of the east front facade and south side facade (Church and Sunday Schools), including the brickwork of walls, towers and buttresses; the spires, the arched doorways and windows; and the window mouldings, decorative brickwork and stone trim.