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J.J. SCHATZ
CITY CLERK

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
71 MAIN STREET WEST
HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8N 3T4

TEL: 546-2700
FAX: 546-2095

REGISTERED

1993 January 21

The Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Notification of Passing of By-law

Attached for your information is a copy of By-law No. 93-011 respecting 10 John Street South, Hamilton, adopted by City Council at its meeting held 1993 January 12.

Yours truly,

S. G. Hollowell
Acting City Clerk

att.

c.c.: Mr. V. J. Abraham, Director of Local Planning
Attention: Ms. Nina Chapple, Architectural Historian

Mr. A. Zuidema, Law Department

Ms. C. Coutts, Secretary, L.A.C.A.C.

Nancy S
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
JAN 26 1993
HERITAGE POLICY BRANCH

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 93-011

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 10 JOHN STREET SOUTH

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. 1990, Chapter O.18;

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 No. 10 John Street South 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 12th day of January

A.D. 1993.


City Clerk




Mayor

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY


ACTING CITY CLERK

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 93-011

10 John Street South, Hamilton, Ontario

Lots 9 and 24 and part of Lots 10, 21, 22 and 23 and part of the Alley-way stopped up and closed by By-law No. 4646, registered as By-law No. 1083, Plan 1431 George Hamilton Survey in the block bounded by John Street South, Main Street East, Hughson Street South and King Street East, designated as Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, Plan 62R-10520, City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

Schedule "B"

to

By-law No. 93-011

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

FORMER DOMINION PUBLIC BUILDING, 10 John Street South (HAMILTON COURTHOUSE)

Context

The Dominion Public Building was erected in 1935-6 on John Street South between King and Main Streets to serve as Hamilton's main Post Office and federal office building. Located on a major site in the downtown core, the front facade of this monumental six-storey edifice faces John Street; its north facade is an integral part of the Gore Park streetscape and its south facade faces the grounds of the present Courthouse. As such, 10 John Street is recognized as an important city landmark.

Historical Significance

Erected on the site of the earlier 1886 Post Office, the new Dominion Public Building was built to accommodate not only the post office but also customs and excise, national health, immigration and various other federal departments, all brought together for the first time in Hamilton under one roof.

The main Post Office was located in this building for over fifty years, closing in 1991, when the Province of Ontario purchased the building for conversion to a new court facility, consolidating the Provincial and General Division courts.

The John Street building belongs to the group of large office blocks built by the Federal Government across the country during the 1920s and '30s; the Hamilton structure was erected as part of a Depression works program introduced by the government in 1934 under the Public Works Construction Act.

Architectural Significance

Hamilton's Dominion Public Building has been ranked as one of the three best examples of the large federal public buildings which were erected across Canada between 1934 and 1939.

In accordance with the government's current policy, a local architect rather than the Public Works Architect was commissioned to design the building. The Hamilton firm of Hutton and Souter, well known for other major works such as the Cathedral of Christ the King, provided the plans.

In terms of the architectural style, Hutton and Souter's design can be described as "modern classical", used also in the five other federal buildings erected at this time. Classical inspiration is visible in the use of pilasters, engaged columns, symmetry, the rectangular block form, and the general horizontal divisions of base, shaft and cornice.

These traditional elements, however, are given contemporary expression, typified in the use of smooth, crisp planes; bold, simple masses; and contrasting linear-patterned ornamentation which accentuates the main architectural features of the building.

This richness of decorative detailing is found throughout the building; on the exterior in the stone ornamentation at the cornice and belt-course, the crowning narrative relief of the frontispiece, in the coat-of-arms over the front door, as well as the bronzework of the window and door panels; and on the interior by the use of marble wainscoting and flooring, as well as bronze grillwork, mosaics and painted ceiling.

The Hamilton building is considered to have the finest interior of any federal post office building erected from the mid-to-late 1930s. The main entrance, postal and elevator lobby areas and the main stairwell demonstrate the extensive use of costly materials and quality craftsmanship.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Dominion Public Building are the original features of the east (main), north, and south facades, including the masonry work, windows, doorways and all ornamental decoration; and the interior spaces of the entrance, postal and elevator lobby areas and main stairwell, including all original decorative elements such as the marble cladding and flooring, bronze decorative work on doors and windows, painted ceiling, light fixtures and mosaic.