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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, S. 29 and S. 67

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY
AS 100 WEST FIFTH STREET

RECEIVED
IN THE OFFICE
JUL 31 1997
MUSEUM SECTION
HERITAGE BRANCH

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

JUL 28 1997

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton intends to designate the following property, including land and buildings, as a property of historic or architectural value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: 100 West Fifth Street.

THE REASONS for the proposed designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE is being published once in The Spectator on the date set out below.

ANY PERSON may, within thirty days of the date set out below, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the City of Hamilton will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated at Hamilton, this 23rd day of July

1997.

J. J. Schatz
City Clerk
Hamilton, Ontario

SCHEDULE "A"

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

CENTURY MANOR (originally East House)

Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital
100 West 5th Street, Hamilton, Ontario

Context

-- The large High Victorian building, located on the grounds of the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital and now known as Century Manor, was erected in 1884 as the second major building built for the Hamilton Asylum for the Insane, a rapidly expanding complex of provincially-owned buildings devoted to the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

Century Manor is the focal point of a cluster of auxiliary buildings situated on the western half of the hospital property, where the main complex of asylum buildings was located until the early 20th century. Of the 19th century buildings located on the present hospital grounds, Century Manor is by far the largest and architecturally most distinguished (vacant since 1995).

History

Officially opened in March 1876 for the treatment of individuals suffering from mental illness, the Hamilton Asylum for the Insane was the sixth "insane asylum" in Ontario, following those opened in Toronto (1841), Kingston (1850), Amherstburg (1859), Orillia (1861), and London (1870). The emergence of these institutions reflected the 19th century trend for government to provide special care facilities for the mentally ill. Typically, the Hamilton asylum was planned and developed as a largely self-sufficient community. Much of the labour for maintaining the grounds, growing and harvesting crops, and new construction was provided by the patients.

By 1878, further expansion was based on the "cottage system", whereby patients were housed in separate smaller buildings providing a more home-like atmosphere. The first so-called "cottage", East House (since renamed Century Manor), was designed to house 60 patients; the second and much larger Orchard House (built 1887, since demolished) could hold up to 300.

The function of East House evolved to meet the hospital's changing needs. Initially intended for the reception and treatment of acute cases of mental illness, the building was subsequently adapted for the care and safekeeping of "criminally insane" patients, a use which it served until 1921. From that time on, East House/ Century Manor accommodated regular patients and/or various treatment facilities, including the Mental Health Clinic (1929-1960), a therapeutic centre for adolescents (1968-74), a Forensic Unit (1972-78), and most recently, a day program for chronic psychiatric patients (1981-95).

Architecture

Century Manor is a rare surviving example of a special-purpose building designed to house mentally ill patients, originally referred to as a "cottage". Its design was based on the Kirkbride Linear Plan, the 19th century American prototype for new purpose-built asylum facilities, which was adopted as the standard for Ontario asylums. Century Manor is the only surviving building of its kind in Hamilton and one of few still standing in the province.

Century Manor also ranks among the finest High Victorian institutional buildings remaining in Hamilton. This large, imposing brick building, with a symmetrical facade, comprises four visually distinct yet stylistically unified components: a three-storey square centre block with flanking two-storey wings and a rear kitchen wing added in 1895. The elaborate centre block features a low-pitched hip roof with a pedimented gable over the projecting frontispiece, eaves embellished with modillions and paired brackets (terminating the corner piers), and paired windows above the entrance with round or segmental arches and prominent keystones. Punctuating the long facade of each wing is an octagonal bay with single eave brackets marking the four corners; the end of each wing is terminated by a square gabled bay echoing the design of the frontispiece. The architectural detailing of the centre block and wings is very similar, with sills and string courses made of stone and contrasting yellow brick used to accentuate the segmentally-arched window lintels, corner piers and quoins (lintels now painted white). The existing raised portico, though not original, still enhances the front entrance, with its coupled wood columns rising from cut stone plinths. The once impressive doorway with ornate glazed double doors, narrow sidelights and transom light has been replaced.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of Century Manor are the original features of all four facades, including the window openings, sills and lintels; the decorative brickwork; the stone sills and string courses; the brick chimneys; the decorative wood eave brackets and modillions; and the entrance portico. Excluded on the front facade is the existing central doorway and two fire exit doorways in the gabled bays terminating each wing.