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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 AS GARTSHORE-
THOMSON BUILDING, PIER 4 PARK**

Nancy Smith

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

APR 13 1994

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: Gartshore-Thomson Building, Pier 4 Park.

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

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE is being published in The Spectator once a week for each of three consecutive weeks, commencing 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 the City of Hamilton this *12th* day of *April* 1994.

Mr. J. J. Schatz,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
71 Main Street West,
Hamilton, Ontario.
L8N 3T4

Schedule "A"

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Gartshore-Thomson Building

Pier 4 Park, Hamilton

Context

Donated to the City by the Fracassi family and moved to its present location in 1992, the Gartshore-Thomson building is now a focal point of the new Pier 4 Park at the foot of Bay Street North, just west of the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. This one-storey late Victorian brick building presently serves as a multi-purpose waterfront park facility. Occupying a prominent hillside site, it commands a panoramic view of Hamilton Harbour; and fitting comfortably into its new park setting, the Gartshore-Thomson building also relates well to the 19th century residential streetscape above to the south, dominated by the 1869 Sail Loft.

Built around the turn-of-the-century as offices for the *Gartshore-Thomson Pipe and Foundry Co. Ltd.*, the building originally stood at the south-west corner of the company property, diagonally facing the intersection of Stuart and Caroline Street.

History

In the early part of this century, the Gartshore-Thomson Pipe and Foundry Co. was not only one of Hamilton's leading industries; it was also the largest pipe manufacturer in the country, recognized nationwide for its high-quality cast-iron water and gas pipes. Established in 1870 by Alexander Gartshore (whose father established the Gartshore Foundry in Dundas, which manufactured the machinery for the 1860 Pumphouse) and Thomas Cowie as the *Canada Iron Foundry and Pipe Works*, the firm first manufactured cast-iron pipes and general iron castings. Incorporated in 1896 as the *Gartshore-Thomson Pipe and Foundry Company Ltd.*, the firm was by then specializing in the manufacture of pipe for water mains and gas distribution, and was soon supplying the country's major waterworks systems with water mains and other castings. In 1933, it was claimed to be the only manufacturer of "Sand-Spun" cast-iron pipe, a technically superior pipe formed centrifugally in sand-lined moulds.

Bought out in the 1940s by *Canada Iron Foundries Ltd.* (later *Cannon Ltd.*) and operated as a foundry until the mid-1980s, the property was last owned by *Philip Environmental Inc.*, which used the small corner building as an engineering office.

Architecture

This modest brick structure is representative of a building type associated with late 19th century industry -- the small, separate office building modelled on a house form -- and is one of few surviving examples of its type in Hamilton. The residential scale and character of the Gartshore-Thomson building derives from its prototype: the one-storey hip-roofed Ontario cottage; while the detailing is predominantly Classical Revival (e.g. the simulated corner quoins, pedimented gable, bracketed eaves underscored by a continuous dentil course, and the carved keystone and egg-and-dart pilaster mouldings). The tall, round-arched doorway features a semi-circular brick and stone arch sprung from brick pilasters, a solid panelled wood door with sidelights and a segmental transom; above is a distinctive arched wood panel carved with a maple leaf pattern. The new set of wide curved stairs rising from the pedestrian walkway to a generous landing in front of the main entrance complements the symmetry and detailing of the facade.

The original character of the interior has been well preserved in the central space and adjacent offices on the west side of the building. The central room displays a decorative beamed wood ceiling, with panels of diagonal tongue-and-groove boards, moulded beams and cove, and a dentil course below the frieze.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Gartshore-Thomson building are

- the original features of all four facades, including the brick masonry, brick arches, stone lintels, decorative wood and stone elements, panelled wood doors and large single-pane sash windows, but excluding the new doorway on the east facade and the painted steel roofing;
- and the original interior features of the central room and two offices, including the doorways (with moulded wood frames, panelled and glazed wood doors, and transom lights), wood wainscoting and beamed ceiling, as well as all original window mouldings.