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Hamilton

October 26, 2007

REGISTERED

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CONSERVATION REVIEW BOARD

✓ The Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

McMaster University
Karen Belair, V-P Administration
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

Dear Sirs:

**RE: Heritage Designation
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton (McMaster University)**

Attached please find Notice of Intention to Designate and Reasons for Designation.
The Intention to Designate will be published on the At Your Service page of the
Hamilton Spectator on November 9, 2007.

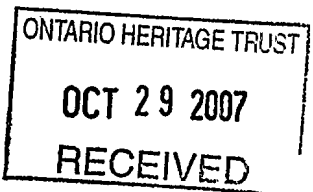
Yours truly,

K. C. Christenson
City Clerk

KCC/sr
Att.

c.c. Don Fisher, Assistant Corporate Counsel, Legal Services
Sharon Vattay, Cultural Heritage Planner, Planning and Development
Alexandra Rawlings, Co-ordinator, Economic Development & Planning
Committee
Ida Bedioui, Legislative Assistant, LACAC

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
OCT 29 2007
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CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

1280 Main Street West

McMaster University: Historic Core (University Hall, Hamilton Hall, Wallingford Hall, Edwards Hall, the Refectory and the Alumni Memorial Building)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT and the property in the City of Hamilton known municipally as 1280 Main Street West

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Hamilton intends to designate this property as being a property of cultural heritage value.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

CONTEXT

The historic core of the main campus of the present-day McMaster University comprises a cluster of five Collegiate Gothic brick and stone buildings opened in 1930 (University Hall, Hamilton Hall, the Refectory, Wallingford Hall, Edwards Hall and the Alumni Memorial Building, built 20 years later in a similar style). Placed informally in partially enclosed quadrangle configurations, these stylistically unified buildings loosely follow the irregular edge of the heavily wooded ravine area forming the northern boundary of the campus. Though not part of the original complex, the modestly scaled Alumni Memorial Building (1951) fits unobtrusively into its setting, standing on a triangular pocket of sloping land bounded by the ravine to the west, University Hall and Hamilton Hall to the south, and Edwards Hall to the east. With the exception of the greenhouse added in the late 1960's, the historic core has essentially retained its original character, notably, the harmonious relationship between the buildings and landscape.

The planners for the original Hamilton campus of McMaster University envisaged a seat of higher learning set in parklike surroundings, a concept developed as part of a larger beautification scheme encompassing Cootes Paradise, the Royal Botanical Gardens and a grand north-western entrance to Hamilton. The original landscaping plan for the McMaster campus by Dunnington-Grubb, one of Ontario's foremost landscape gardening and design firms, carefully sited the buildings to take full advantage of the natural setting, described at the time as "one of the most beautiful natural ravines in Canada".

HISTORY

McMaster was founded in 1887 in Toronto as a small Baptist university devoted to arts and theology, named after its founder and first benefactor, Senator William McMaster. A campaign to bring McMaster University to Hamilton concluded successfully in 1927, when McMaster accepted the City's donation of a magnificent site just west of the emerging suburb of Westdale, to be landscaped by its Parks

Board, together with a gift of \$500,000 from the citizens of Hamilton to build a science building.

The transplanted McMaster University re-opened in 1930 with Howard P. Whidden as its first chancellor and a combined faculty and student population of about 650. It soon ranked as one of the principal institutions of higher learning in the province, becoming a non-denominational institution in 1957.

The original cluster of five buildings, all erected in 1929-1930, comprised University Hall (arts and administration building), which included a library and auditorium (Convocation Hall), Hamilton Hall (science building), Edwards Hall (men's residence), Wallingford Hall (women's residence), the Refectory (dining hall and central heating plant). Erected in 1949-1951, the Alumni Memorial Building was built largely with funds pledged by alumni and undergraduates to honour the 54 students and graduates who lost their lives in the first and second world wars. It originally housed a cafeteria (the Buttery), men's and women's lounges, a common room (Memorial Hall) and offices for the Alumni Association.

ARCHITECTURE

Designed by the noted architect, William Lyon Somerville, in association with J. Francis Brown & Son (original complex) and Bruce Brown and Brisley in collaboration with W.L. Somerville (Alumni Memorial Building), all six buildings rank as very good examples of the Collegiate Gothic style. The architects followed a stylistic precedent established for new buildings on other Canadian university campuses, which took their inspiration both from the medieval colleges of Oxford and Cambridge and the late 19th early 20th century American campus buildings influenced by this tradition. The McMaster buildings are cited in a recent national survey of Collegiate Gothic architecture, along with several other important examples. The two main buildings, University Hall and Hamilton Hall, were described by the art historian and McMaster graduate, Robert Hubbard, as "probably the best Gothic group in Canada", after parts of Victoria College and Hart House. They are distinguished by their stone exteriors: rock-faced ashlar with dressed stone trim and carved ornamentation. The other four buildings are brick masonry with stone trim.

DESIGNATED FEATURES

The boundaries of the designated property extend from the west side of Wallingford Hall to the east side of University Hall and Edwards Hall and from Scholar's Road to the ravine edge and the north side of Edwards Hall; it also includes Hamilton Hall, the Refectory and the Alumni Memorial Building.

Important to the preservation of this cluster of six buildings are:

- the original architectural materials and features of the façades and roofs of all six buildings, including the stone ashlar and brick masonry walls; cut stone door/ window surrounds, mullions and tracery; stone entrance steps, carved stone ornamentation, wrought-ironwork (notably the entrance doors of University Hall and Hamilton Hall).

- the landscaped open space within the boundaries defined above, including the low stone wall with the Tudor archway linking University Hall and Edwards Hall.

Also important to the preservation of University Hall, the Refectory and the Alumni Memorial Building are the interior spaces identified respectively as Convocation Hall, the Refectory Dining Hall and Memorial Hall and all of their original architectural finishes and features.

Dated at Hamilton this 9th day of November, 2007
K. Christenson, City Clerk
Hamilton, Ontario