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TOWN OF DUNDAS

IN THE MATTER of the Ontario Heritage Act,  
S.O., Chapter 122,

- AND -

IN THE MATTER of the lands and premises  
known municipally as Town of Dundas, Municipal Building,  
60 Main Street, in the Town of Dundas, in the Province of  
Ontario,

NOTICE OF INTENTION

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the  
Corporation of the Town of Dundas on the Seventh day  
of March, 1977, decided to designate the lands and building  
known as 60 Main Street as a property of architectural  
value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974,  
S.O., Chapter 122.

Reasons for the Recommended Designation

Of the few remaining early public buildings  
in Ontario, the Dundas Town Hall, built in 1848-49, is  
architecturally perhaps the most appealing of the modest-  
sized public structures. On its island site and exposed  
to view on all sides, the Town Hall occupies a significant  
location in the historic downtown core.

Modelled after the Roman Temple prototype,  
the Town Hall is a fine example of the Classical Revival  
Style, in fashion in the 1840's. It is the simple but  
effective treatment of the symmetrical masonry facades  
that is distinguished. The fenestration is strongly  
emphasized by bold pilasters and a horizontal belt course  
which subtly divide the wall surface into compartments  
proportionate to the whole, thereby achieving a unity of  
design without which the design would possess less merit.

The cupola, which traditionally marked  
buildings of public significance, is in keeping with the  
building's classicism and is original.

It is a further credit to the municipality  
that the Town Hall was planned and constructed by two local  
residents, Francis Robert Hawkins, the designer, and James  
Scott, the builder.

Historically, the Town Hall has the unrivalled  
distinction of being Dundas's first and only municipal hall,  
in continuous service for over 125 years. Not only has it  
been the focus of municipal affairs but also it has provided  
an elegant hall where major events important to the Town's  
social, cultural and political life have taken place. Known  
as Market House in 1849, the building originally housed  
such other diverse functions as market stalls, a jail and  
a saloon.

Architecturally and historically, the Dundas  
Town Hall ranks as the Town's most distinguished and notable  
landmark.