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TOWN OF



ANCASTER

300 WILSON STREET EAST, ANCASTER, ONTARIO - L9G 2B9
MAIN OFFICE 648-4401 RECREATION DEPT. 648-4571
FAX NO. 648-3557

August 1, 1990.

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IN THE OFFICE

AUG 10 1990

ARCHITECTURE AND
PLANNING
HERITAGE BRANCH

REGISTERED MAIL

ONTARIO HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

AUG 10 1990

Nancy Smith

Ontario Heritage Foundation,
6th Floor,
77 Grenville Street,
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: Designation of "Heritage Ruins and Gatehouse" and the
"Griffin House" (H.R.C.A. Lands) under the Ontario Heritage
Act, R.S.O. 1980

Pursuant to Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980,
please find enclosed herewith, a copy of By-laws Nos. 90-91 and 90-
92 designating the above-noted Hamilton Region Conservation
Authority properties under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980 as
lands and buildings of historic value, architectural value and
interest under the said Act.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. A. Folland'.

(Mrs.) G. A. Folland, A.M.C.T.,
Deputy Clerk.

gf

Encl.

✓

1 CORPORATION OF THE TOWN ANCASTER

BY-LAW NO. 90-91

To designate the "Hermitage Ruins and Gatehouse" on lands municipally known as 621 Sulphur Springs Road, in the Town of Ancaster, as Lands and Buildings of Historic Value, Architectural Value and Interest

WHEREAS this Council is empowered under subsection (6) of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, to enact By-laws to designate real property, including buildings and structures thereon, as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto to be of historic or architectural value or interest, and

WHEREAS this Council has caused to be served upon the owner of the lands and premises municipally known as 621 Sulphur Springs Road, in the Town of Ancaster, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in this municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks, and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation of the described property has been served on the Clerk of this municipality within the time prescribed by the said Statute, and

WHEREAS this Council's reasons for the proposed designation are as set forth in Schedule "B" attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ANCASTER ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

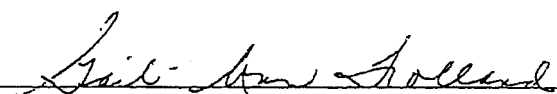
1. In this By-law the word "property" means real property and includes all buildings and structures thereon.
2. There is hereby designated as being of historic value, architectural value and interest the property municipally known as 621 Sulphur Springs Road, in the Town of Ancaster, and more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
3. Town Solicitor Lee A. Pinelli, of the legal firm of Evans, Philp is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth.
4. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Ancaster.


ENACTED AND PASSED THIS 30th DAY OF JULY 1990.

DEPUTY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Gail-Ann Folland, Deputy Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Ancaster, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of By-law No. 90-91 passed in Council the 30th day of July, 1990.


Mayor


Deputy Clerk


Deputy Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

Description

Hermitage Ruins

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Ancaster, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth (formerly the Township of Ancaster, in the County of Wentworth), being parts of Lots 41, 42 and 43 in the 1st Concession, and part of the unopened road allowance between said Lots 42 and 43 in the said 1st Concession, and being described in Plan 62R-276 deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth on the 9th day of March, 1971 as Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4, which said Part 4 is subject to the right in favour of the Grantors their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns to maintain and keep in repair telephone lines together with all necessary poles, guy wires, anchors and braces in or over the said Part 4; Part 5, which said Part 5 is subject to the right in favour of the Grantors their heirs, executors, administrators successors and assigns to maintain and keep in repair telephone lines for telephone communication together with all necessary poles, guy wires, anchors and braces in or over the said Part 4, and which said Part 5 is also subject to a right-of-way for pedestrians, automobiles, horses and other animals, carts, carriages and other vehicles in favour of the Grantors and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns and their servants, agents and visitors and all other persons authorized by the Grantors for ingress, egress and regress over the said Part 5 to and from Sulphur Springs Road to Part 6 shown on said Plan 62R-276; Part 7, which said Part 7 is subject to the right in favour of the Grantors their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns to maintain and keep in repair hydro lines for transmission of electric power, together with all necessary poles, guy wires, anchors and braces in and over the said Part 7; and Part 8, which said Part 8 is subject to a life interest in favour of Alfred Walter Hutchison and Mary Penelope Hutchison, his wife, including the cottage erected thereon, so long as the said [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or the survivor of them shall reside on the said lands and premises and pay realty taxes and other charges assessed there against.

Gatehouse

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Ancaster, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth (formerly the Township of Ancaster, in the County of Wentworth) and being part of Lot 41 in the First Concession, and described as part eight on Plan 62R-276 deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth on the 9th day of March, 1971.

SCHEDULE "B"

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION OF THE HERMITAGE RUINS AND
GATEHOUSE, 621 SULPHUR SPRINGS ROAD, IN THE TOWN OF
ANCASTER

The reasons for the proposed designation are that the ruins of the mansion and outbuildings of the estate known as the "Hermitage" are of considerable historical and architectural value and interest. Situated on Mineral Springs Road in the Town of Ancaster, the buildings were constructed circa 1855 for George Gordon Brown Leith, who came to Ancaster from Scotland. Members of the Leith family lived in the mansion until 1934, when it caught fire, and was reduced to a state of ruin.

Originally set in a beautifully-landscaped park, the Hermitage was an imposing sight. The front facade and side walls of the main house were constructed of hammered limestone; the remainder of the house and the outbuildings, which included a carriage-house, hen-house, laundry-room, and gatehouse, were constructed of random coursed rubble. The mansion was marked by many different architectural features. When it was first constructed in 1855, the mansion was very Georgian in its squareness and symmetry. Its interior was likewise Georgian insofar as it was oriented to a central hall. Originally the roof was flat and railed, but within ten years this was replaced with a hipped gabled roof showing the influence of the early Victorian Gothic style. A veranda was also added at this time, typical of the Regency cottage, as were the treillage and the French windows giving access to the veranda. On the second floor there were Italianate windows above the French windows below. The front facade had four large corbels, one on each side of the French and Italianate windows, and parts of the east and west walls display these corbels too.

Today, the ruins retain many of the most notable architectural features, and are situated within the splendor of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. The estate's gatehouse is the sole structure which remains intact, and is an interpretive museum for the estate's rich history.