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NOTICE OF AMENDING BY-LAW NO. 2014-104

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, SECTION 30.1,

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS

Former Carnegie Library 5017 Victoria Avenue

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls passed a bylaw amending Designating By-law 99-72 on the 12th day of August, 2014.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT

The amendment to the designating by-law has updated the legal description contained in Schedule A and the Reasons for Designation contained in Schedule B.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENT

The 1999 by-law described the heritage attributes of the property in general terms. Schedule B, Reasons for Designation has been revised to describe the associative and architectural value of the property including the setting and also updated to reflect a more detailed description of the property and the heritage attributes contained within.

Dated at the City of Niagara Falls this 11th day of November, 2014.

Alex Herlow the

Alex Herlovitch
Director of Planning, Building & Development
City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1023
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X5

i, the undersigned, Deputy Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of high and and the seal of the s

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS

By-law No. 2014- 104

A by-law to amend By-law No. 99-72, being a by-law to designate 5017 Victoria Avenue, known as the former Carnegie Library, to be of cultural heritage value and significance.

WHEREAS By-law No. 99-72 designated the former Carnegie Library located at 5017 Victoria Avenue to be of cultural heritage value and interest;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 30.1 (2) (a), the council of a municipality may by by-law amend a by-law designating property under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act to clarify or correct the statement explaining the property's cultural heritage value or interest or the description of the property's heritage attributes;

AND WHEREAS the requirement for Council to consult with its Municipal Heritage Committee pursuant to Section 30.1 (5) has been fulfilled:

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls has caused to be served on the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of the proposed Amendment;

AND WHEREAS no objections have been filed with the Clerk of the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- That By-law 99-72 be amended by deleting Schedule "A" thereto and substituting Schedule "A" attached hereto.
- That By-law 99-72 be amended by deleting Schedule "B" thereto and substituting Schedule "B" attached hereto.
- The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
- The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust.

JAMES M. DIODATI, MAYOR

Passed this twelfth day of August, 2014.

DEAN IORFIDA, CITY CLERK

First Reading:

August 12, 2014

Second Reading: August 12, 2014

Third Reading: August 12, 2014

SCHEDULE "A" to BY-LAW NO. 2014-104

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City (formerly in the Town) of Niagara Falls, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara and being composed of Part of Block (six) 6, according to Plan No. 35, now known as Plan No. 1002 described as follows:

COMMENCING at a point in the Westerly limit of Victoria Avenue distant sixty feet Northerly from South East angle of said Block No. 6; thence Northerly along the said Westerly limit of Victoria Avenue eighty-five feet to a point, thence Westerly and parallel with the Southern limit of said Block No. 6 one hundred and fifty feet to a point, thence Southerly and parallel with Victoria Avenue eighty-five feet to a point in the Northerly limit of a reservation for a Public Road; thence Easterly and parallel with the Southerly limit of said Block 6 one hundred and fifty feet more or less to the place of beginning together with a right of way for Public Road over the most Southerly sixty feet of said Block No. 6 adjacent to the lands herein described. As previously described in Instrument No. 3840 (1909).

SCHEDULE "B" to BY-LAW NO. 2014-104

Description of Property - Carnegie Library, 5017 Victoria Avenue

The Carnegie library is a two storey civic building located at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Armoury Street. Serving the Niagara Falls community for over 100 years, the structure features elements of the Neo-classical style and several Beaux Arts elements.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

In 1909, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation provided a grant of \$15,000 for the erection of a Free Public Library Building in the City of Niagara Falls. The building's location on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Armoury Street was chosen specifically for its ease of access for residents. After the purchase of the lot, building plans were drafted and produced by the firm of *Robertson and Nichols*. William Nichols was described as "one of the best known, artistic, architects in Niagara Falls", and he designed and supervised the erection of many of the finest buildings in the area.

The Carnegie library first opened its doors in February 1910, and was used as the city's main library for the next 64 years. The library contributed to the growth of its citizens by providing an inclusive forum for learning. Most notably, the structure contained a variety of books donated from the community and supplied space for seminars in lecture halls. Although the library was closed in 1974, the Carnegie library continues to contribute to the historic character of the area and has been adaptively reused for office space and remains a working part of the community.

The Carnegie library's symmetrical design, polychromatic exterior, and subdued, yet rich decorative details are signature characteristics of the Neo-classical revival style. It is a classical display of symmetry with a centrally located main entrance and balanced five bay façade, the central three of which project forward. It features a truncated hip roof with a shallow pitch, two closed pediments with detailed entablature, and a centered portico with square, yellow brick columns and pilasters. The two-storey building is composed of red brick laid in stretcher bond, and sits atop a raised limestone block basement set in an even course with a quarry face finish. Red ribbon-pointing is used for emphasis. The sides of the steps leading up to the centre portico were originally made of wood, but have since been reconstructed using the same materials as the foundation.

Along with a built-in cornice gutter, the roof's entablature features a series of wooden dentils and flat modillions, while detailed egg-and-dart decorative bands are found along the top of the portico columns and the roof's architrave. A yellow brick decorative band can also be found above the building's foundation and along its frieze. The front gable pediment contains a red brick tympanum, and features a semi-circular fanlight containing four pie-shaped panes. Alternating long and short yellow brick quoins are placed at the building's corners.

The most dominant feature of the Carnegie library is its large two-pane and Venetian-style windows. Originally designed to respond to the need for natural light, almost all of the Ontario Carnegie libraries share this feature, and the design and placement of the windows contribute to the building's overall symmetrical arrangement. The building's façades consist of 1 over 1 sash windows with either lead glass or pebble glass transoms, and centrally located Venetian-style windows. A splayed, yellow brick arch with a raised, brick keystone is used at all window openings except for the 2 over 2 sash basement windows that have a rowlock arch.

Between 1901 and 1923, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation had generously provided funds to build 2,509 libraries across North America and Great Britain. Of these, a total of 125 libraries were built in Canada. The Niagara Falls Carnegie library is believed to be the 67th to be built, and stands as one of the 95 remaining Carnegie Libraries in all of Ontario. The structure is considered a rare and special building both locally and provincially.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior features that embody the heritage value and are important to the preservation of 5017 Victoria Avenue include the following heritage attributes:

- polychromatic exterior of red brick laid in stretcher bond and yellow brick
- raised limestone foundation with quarry face finish, and red ribbon mortar
- symmetrical five bay façade with the central three bays projecting forward
- truncated hip roof, including a central gable with a closed pediment
- centred portico and square, yellow-brick columns and pilasters
- egg-and-dart decorative band above portico columns
- detailed entablature with wooden dentils and wooden block modillions
- large 2-pane and Venetian-styled windows
- splayed, yellow brick arch with raised keystone above 1st and 2nd floor windows; a rowlock arch can be found on the basement windows
- lead glass transom found above front entrance
- built in cornice gutter
- alternating long and short, yellow brick quoins
- connection to philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and other Carnegie libraries in North America and elsewhere
- designed and supervised by noted local architect William Nichols
- the 67th to be built and one of the 95 remaining Carnegie libraries in all of Ontario