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Town of Aurora

100 John West Way
Box No. 1000
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
Tel: (416) 727-1375

RM of York

27 Aug 93

File: R01 PO

Ministry of Culture and Communications
Heritage Branch
Heritage Program Section
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Attention: Ms. Tamara Anson Cartwright

Dear Ms. Anson Cartwright,

**RE: Designation
15213 Yonge Street
Aurora, Ontario**

Further to our letter dated 30 Jul 93 wherein we forwarded a copy of Town of Aurora By-law No. 3481-93 which designated the above noted property as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest, we advise that the said By-law has now been sent for registration.

We trust this meets your requirements.

Yours truly,

Lawrence Allison, A.M.C.T.
Municipal Clerk
LA:md

Enclosure (1)

p.c. - Mr. John Dol

BY-LAW NUMBER 3481-93

OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AURORA

BEING A BY-LAW to designate the former Post Office being Part Lots 2 and 3, Plan 68 and known municipally as 15213 Yonge Street and in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York as being of architectural and/or historic value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18 (as amended), authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and/or historic value or interest;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Town of Aurora has been notified by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee that the lands and premises known as The Old Post Office situated at 15213 Yonge Street, being Part Lots 2 and 3 on Plan 68, in the Town of Aurora, in the Regional Municipality of York, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto; and as The Corporation of the Town of Aurora has caused notice to be served of the intention to designate the aforesaid structure on the Ontario Heritage Foundation; and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Aurora enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and/or historic value or interest the building known as the Old Post Office, 15213 Yonge Street, Aurora being Part Lots 2 and 3, Plan 68, in the Town of Aurora, in the Regional Municipality of York, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
3. The Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, in the proper land registry office.
4. The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the Owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in the same newspaper in which notice of intention to designate was published once for each of three consecutive weeks.
5. This By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the day of final passage thereof.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , 1993.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS DAY OF , 1993.

J. WEST, MAYOR

L. ALLISON, MUNICIPAL CLERK

TOWN OF AURORA

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

LOCATION: PART OF LOTS 2 AND 3
PLAN 68

THIS IS SCHEDULE "A"

TO BY-LAW NO. _____

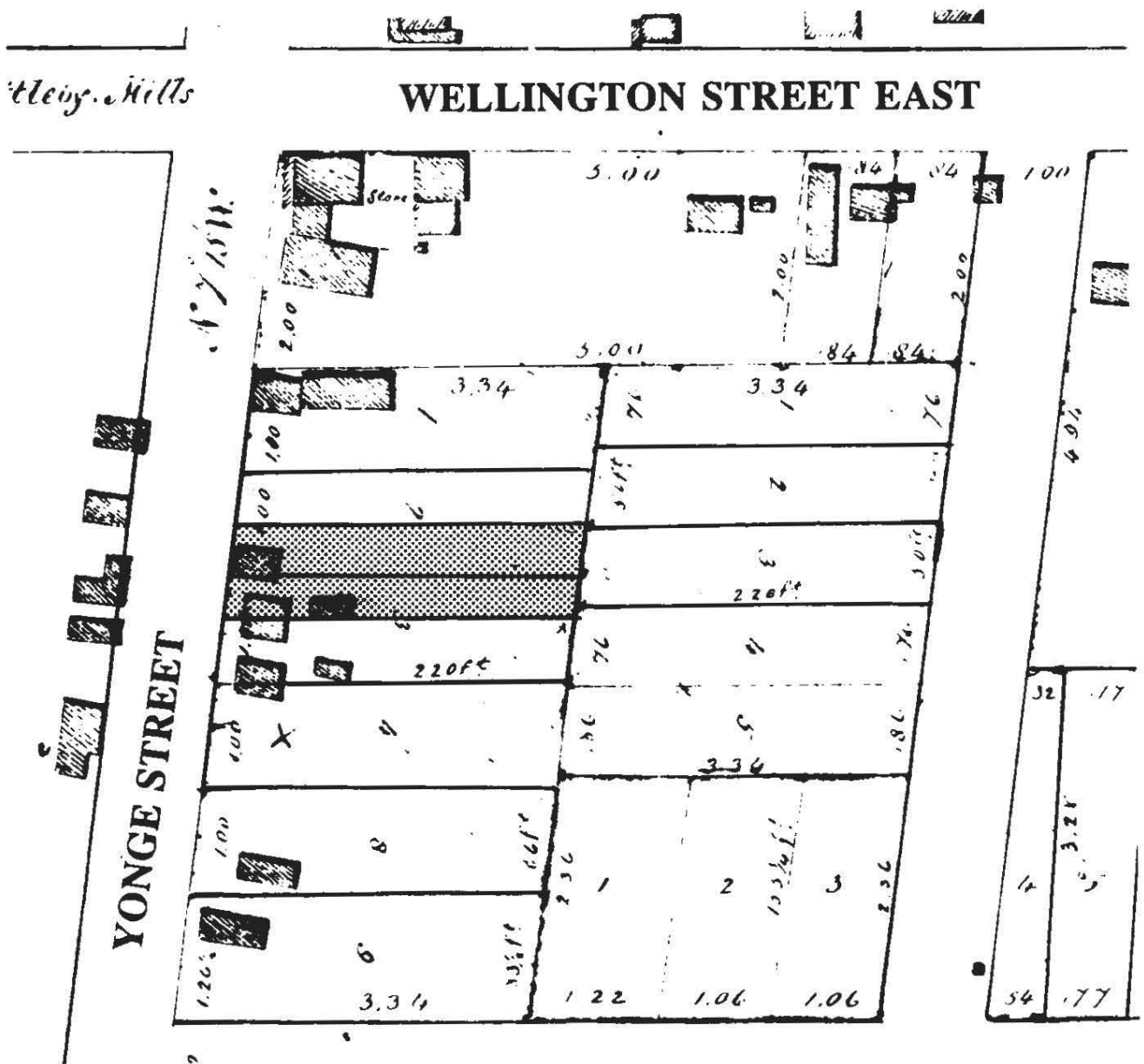
PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF

_____ 19 _____

CLERK _____

MAYOR _____

 SUBJECT LANDS



SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. _____

SCHEDULE "B" to BY-LAW 3481-93

The Old Post Office (15213 Yonge Street)

Reasons for Designation

The Old Post Office (15213 Yonge Street) is recommended for designation for historical, contextual, and architectural reasons. It is a focal point of downtown Aurora and a good example of the Italianate style of architecture which was popular during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth.

Historical:

Since its opening on 24 November 1915, the Old Post Office has played an important part in the life of Aurora. Its clock, manufactured by J. B. Joyce and Company of Whitchurch, England, and installed in 1916, has chimed the hours and told the time for three generations of Aurora's citizens. The steps and broad sidewalk in front of the building were the scene of important local events, including the welcoming addresses for soldiers returning home from the First and Second World Wars. Before the days of home mail delivery, the Old Post Office was a focal point for meeting and socializing with neighbours and colleagues.

Contextual:

The old Aurora Post Office and its prominent clock tower are focal points for the historic core of Aurora. They form the centrepiece of the downtown business block which runs from Wellington Street south to Mosley Street

Architectural:

The Old Post Office was designed by architects in the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, under the supervision of Chief Architect David Ewart. It is a good example of the Italianate style, featuring round-arched window and door openings on the first floor and a Tuscan campanile-like clock tower with round-arched louvered openings below its clock face and corbelled brick arches above. The tower is capped by a low hipped roof clad in metal and ornamented by exposed rafter ends below the eaves.

The building is faced in red brick and is set on a rusticated white stone foundation. Stone panels above its two front entrances announce the building's original functions as a customs office and post office. A date stone, centred on the façade, commemorates the beginning of construction, 1914. Keystones are surrounded by radiating brick voussoirs above each of the two front entrance doors. Voussoirs are found over the building's windows as well.

The building has a flat roof surrounded by a brick parapet capped with white stone. A wooden flag pole rises from the roof. Below the parapet at the front and sides are a bold entablature. A triangular pediment stands above the entablature over the north front entrance bay. This bay projects from the façade, complementing the projecting clock tower to the south.

A brick addition, bearing little resemblance to the original part of the building, was constructed to the rear in 1963. Several years later, the building closed as a post office. Much of the building's original interior detail was then lost or obscured, with the exception of a fine staircase which leads upstairs from the front entry. Exterior alterations have included replacement of the building's original front doors, entry steps and window sash, and the removal of stone steps which once led to a mail chute centred on the ground floor façade. Also missing is the finial which once surmounted the roof of the clock tower.

Despite these changes, however, the building is largely intact and continues to be recognized as a highly significant Yonge Street landmark.

References: Aurora Banner, 26 November 1915.
 Departmental annual reports, 1914, 1915, Public Works Canada.
 Research files, Aurora Museum.

W. John McIntyre, Chair,
 Town of Aurora LACAC,
 7 June 1993.