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**Department of Corporate Services** 

File A-1300

February 9, 1999



Nancy Smith
Senior Administrative Clerk
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Re: City of Oshawa By-law 5-99

Pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, enclosed for your records is a copy of By-law 5-99, designating Thornton-Dundee Community Centre as being of architectural and historical interest, which was passed by City Council on January 18, 1999.

If you need further information, please contact me at the address below, or by phone at (905) 436-5639.

Brian Suter City Clerk

BCS/jw

Enclosure

c. Ontario Heritage Foundation, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1J3 VT.W. Goodchild, Commissioner, Department of Development and Planning Services

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## By-Law 5-99 of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa

being a by-law to designate the property known as the Thornton-Dundee Community Centre, located at 210 Thornton Road North, as being of architectural and historical interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

## Recitals:

- 1. Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures on it, to be of architectural or historic value or interest.
- 2. The Corporation of the City of Oshawa is the owner of the property which contains the building known as the Thornton-Dundee Community Centre, located at 210 Thornton Road North, in the City of Oshawa.
- 3. The Corporation of the City of Oshawa provided notice to the Ontario Heritage Foundation that it intends to designate this property under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- 4. Notice of intention to designate this property has also been published in the *Oshawa This Week* newspaper (which has general circulation in the City of Oshawa) on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1998.
- 5. The last day for serving a notice of objection to the advertised notice was the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1999. No continuing notice of objection to the proposed designation was served on the City Clerk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED AND IT IS HEREBY ENACTED as a by-law of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa, by its Council, as follows:

- 1. The property, including the structure on it known as the Thornton-Dundee Community Centre, located at 210 Thornton Road North, more particularly described as Part of Lots 15 and 16, Sheet 17C, Plan 370, now designated as Part 4 on Plan 40R-3460 and Block 36, Plan 40M-1381, is hereby designated as being of architectural and historical interest.
- 2. The reasons for designation of this property under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, are set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law.
- 3. A copy of this by-law shall be registered against the property described above in the Land Registry and Land Titles Offices for the Land Registry Division of Whitby (No. 40).
- 4. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to serve a copy of this by-law on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to publish notice of the passing of this by-law in the *Oshawa This Week* newspaper.

By-law read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 18th day of January, 1999.

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Henry L. Denim

Schedule "A" to City of Oshawa By-law \_\_5-99

Statement of Reasons For Designation Of Thornton-Dundee Community Centre Under the *Ontario Heritage Act* 

The Thornton-Dundee Community Centre (formerly Union School #5) is being designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* because of its historical and architectural significance.

## **Historical Reasons**

- > Chain of Land Ownership
  - 1. The Crown Patent for the lands which now house the Thornton-Dundee Community Centre was awarded to Anthony DeNiverville on December 31, 1798.
  - 2. Pierre Lukin acquired title in 1824 and began selling parcels of land.
  - 3. The trustees of School Section No. 5 purchased the property on December 20, 1880.
- ➤ The trustees of School Section No. 5 built the building now known as Thornton-Dundee Community Centre on the lands. The school and surrounding community were named "Thornton's Corners", for Doctor Robert Thornton. Dr. Thornton's history and significant achievements include:
  - He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1806 and died in 1875. He is buried in Union Cemetery, not far from the Thornton-Dundee Community Centre. He and his wife Margaret had three children: Margaret, Joseph and Ebenezer.
  - Dr. Thornton was an ordained minister and came to Canada to preach in 1833. He was well known as a missionary from Toronto to Cobourg. He agreed to serve as minister to the Scottish settlers in East Whitby, becoming the first Presbyterian minister in the area.
  - 3. Dr. Thornton's work was not limited to the ministry; his work in education was significant.
- As a school, Union School #5 was a focal point for many community activities, including plays, euchre parties, box socials, hay and sleigh rides, square dances and strawberry socials. Annual reports from the school are filled with praise for the teacher and her pupils. Use of the building as a school ceased in 1954.
- ➣ In 1956, the building was named the "Thornton Community Centre". This name changed somewhat later to the "Thornton-Dundee Community Centre".

## **Architectural Reasons**

- ➤ The building was constructed in 1880 and is an example of the Second Empire style with the following distinctive architectural features:
  - 1. Yellow brick with red brick detailing;
  - 2. A three-part façade;
  - 3. Rounded arched windows and doors;
  - 4. Bracketed eaves; and
  - 5. A decorative belt course.

(Second Empire style buildings have mansard roofs. The original mansard roof of this building, together with its hooded rounded arch dormer and bell tower, have been replaced with a low hipped roof.)

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- > The former school is rectangular in plan, with a projecting front entranceway and a "T" extending to the rear. It has a low, hipped roof and is symmetrical in appearance.
- ➤ A prominent central frontispiece with flanking double bay end pavilions dominates the façade (east elevation). Two 4/4 rounded arch windows have alternating red and buff brick voussoirs, which become incorporated into a three row stretcher course that encircles the frontispiece, the north, east and south elevations of the main building, and the west wall of the rear "galley". A second three-row stretcher course of alternating red and buff brick encircles the frontispiece at the level of the eave line of the main building. Wooden brackets support the hipped roof. Two rounded arch, 6/6 sash windows located on the main structure flank the frontispiece.
- ➤ The north and south elevations are identical to each other. Both feature 6/6 rounded arch sash windows aside a centrally-located chimney on the main structure. The entrance doors, located on both side walls of the frontispiece, are paired and panelled under a rounded arch six-light transom. The two paired and corbelled chimneys located at either end of the main building feature a red and buff brick oculus design. Two wooden brackets support each of the four corners of the main structure.
- ➤ The rear elevation has one 6/6 rounded arch window with red and buff brick voussoirs located at the north end of the main building. Three sash windows grouped together under a flat header with red brick "keystone" are located at the south end of the main building's west elevation. The windows have a configuration of 6/6, 10/10 and 6/6.
- ➤ The rear wing features a red and buff brick segmentally arched window opening and alternating brick horizontal door opening along the north elevation. The reverse occurs on the south elevation (the window opening is horizontal and the door opening segmental).
- ➤ Earliest recorded renovations involved canvas screens for windows (1928) and the installation of gasoline lamps in the school (1936). In 1988, windows, doors and damaged bricks were restored. The kitchen floor was replaced and the building painted. Renovations made the structure fully accessible. Outdoor work at the time included new play equipment for the surrounding community park, landscaping, and a paved parking lot.