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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 2024-095



A By-law to designate the property at 190 Church Street to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if the property meets the criteria prescribed by regulation, namely Ontario Regulation 9/06;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the Council of The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines has consulted with the St. Catharines Heritage Committee regarding the designation of the property at 190 Church Street (the B'nai Israel Synagogue).

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines considers that the property known as the B'nai Israel Synagogue located at 190 Church Street ("the property") is of cultural heritage value or interest by reason of the property consisting of an art deco style synagogue constructed in 1925 and designed by prominent local architects Nicholson and Macbeth. The property is an important site for the Jewish community of St. Catharines and acts a physical reminder of the role of the Jewish community throughout the City's history.

AND WHEREAS the property meets the criteria set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06.

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines has caused to be served upon the owners of the property upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of St. Catharines;

AND WHEREAS further reasons for the designation of the property, including a description of the heritage attributes of the property, are set forth in Schedule "A" hereto;

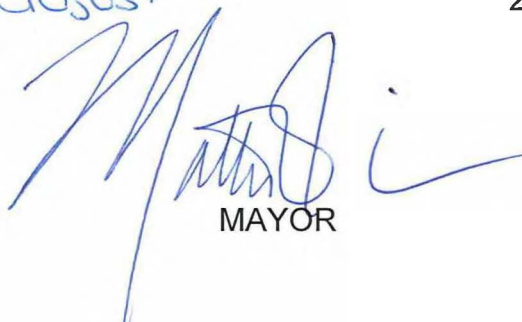
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the City of St. Catharines;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES enacts as follows:

1. The property at 190 Church Street, known as the B'Nai Israel Synagogue, located on the south side of Church Street in the City of St. Catharines, and more particularly described as LT 3678-3680 CP PL 2 GRANTHAM; PT LT 3660 CP PL 2 GRANTHAM AS IN RO679045; ST. CATHARINES, is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest. The description of the Heritage Attributes of the subject property are outlined in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property and, more particularly, described in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. 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 and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of St. Catharines.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on August 13, 2024.

Read and passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

D. Dolueachis  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

## SCHEDULE "A"

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

#### 190 CHURCH STREET – B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

The property at 190 Church Street, better known as the B'nai Israel Synagogue is located on the south side of Church Street in the City of St. Catharines. The property contains an art deco style synagogue constructed in 1925 and designed by prominent local architects Nicholson and Macbeth. The property is an important site for the Jewish community of St. Catharines and acts a physical reminder of the role of the Jewish community throughout the City's history.

The Synagogue has design value as a unique example of an art deco style Synagogue. Both the interior and exterior contain a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit through a number of its architectural features. The overall composition of the exterior is symmetrical and detailed with cut stone and brick working together to form an aesthetically pleasing façade. Originally the Synagogue had a pair of copper domes, which contributed to the composition. Within the Synagogue, the Ark is a one-of-a-kind wooden religious structure that reflects a high quality of craftsmanship. The Star of David comprised of stained glass and wood in the centre of the sanctuary ceiling also displays a high degree of both craftsmanship and artistic merit.

The property has historical and associative value for its direct relationship to the Jewish community in St. Catharines. As a spiritual, social and recreational hub for the Jewish community, the building is a physical representation of the community's presence in the City. Though not always accepted as part of the wider community, the Jewish community has played a significant part in the City's history, and members of the congregation played an important role in the political and commercial fabric of the City. The property is also associated with the theme of religion in St. Catharines. St. Catharines has a large number of important religious buildings that have served various communities throughout the City's history. These buildings have been important places for community building and have played an active role in the lives of many of the city's citizens. Many of the City's religious buildings are among the best examples of the work of some of the City's most prominent architects. The Synagogue is no exception, being an important example of the work of Nicholson and Macbeth, the city's most prominent architecture firm. The building's design is reflective of their attention to detail and craftsmanship. Furthermore, the property is reflective of the work of Newman Bros. who have been a prominent construction company in the City for over 140 years and have been involved in countless significant building projects throughout the City's history. Overall, the Synagogue is an important contributor to religious and spiritual life in St Catharines and represents the best of the City's architecture.

Contextually, the property helps to maintain the character of Church Street, which is well-known for its religious buildings. Though the Synagogue is on a part of Church Street that is outside of the downtown, where many of its companion religious sites are located, the property still contributes to the street's contextual association with the religious community. While this association is with the wider religious community in St. Catharines, there is no doubt that the property is an important landmark for the Jewish community in St. Catharines.

#### **Cultural Heritage Attributes**

##### **Exterior**

The following exterior attributes are reflective of the design by Nicholson and Macbeth and/or representative of the art deco style or representative of religious institutional buildings and/or reflective of a high quality of craftsmanship or artistic merit:

- The height, form and massing of the original Synagogue building
- The symmetrical front façade
- The use of brick and cut stone materials

- The leaded glass windows arranged in tall and thin fenestration patterns and grouped together in a symmetrical manner.
- The rounded arched windows on the east and west bays of the front facade and grouped in pairs or trios.
- The entrance with its poured concrete steps and parapets, wooden doors, cut stone columns and brick and stone portico.
- The cut stone banding that is located on all elevations
- The arched brick and stone motif above the banding on the front elevation

#### Interior

The following interior attributes are reflective of the design by Nicholson and Macbeth and/or representative of the art deco style or representative of religious institutional buildings and/or reflective of a high quality of craftsmanship or artistic merit:

- The sanctuary space including:
  - o The square shape of the sanctuary
  - o The second floor mezzanine with brass rails
  - o The wooden floor and wooden doors that provide access to the sanctuary
  - o The Ark and Dias
  - o The ceiling with its recessed portion with a wooden and stained-glass Star of David
  - o The four columns with decorative plaster caps
  - o The rounded light fixtures with metal caps
  - o The ornate metal chandeliers
  - o The wooden benches with a carved Star of David at each end.
    - Note: at least one set of the benches should be retained if the congregation were to leave the Synagogue.
- The wooden staircases that provide access to the mezzanine and lower level, including their configuration and railings and balustrades
- The wooden doors in the basement level that were previously the entrances to the men's and women's washrooms identified by Yiddish text.

Note: Interior attributes such as the Ark, Dias, benches, and chandeliers that are at ground level and not affixed to the ceiling are permitted to leave the Sanctuary should the congregation move to a new site and wish to take these attributes with them.