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The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 79-218

To Designate:

CUSTOM HOUSE, LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 51 STUART STREET

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Hamilton did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 in accordance with subsection 3 of section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. 1974, Chapter 122;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection was served on the Clerk of the City of Hamilton;

AND WHEREAS it is desired to designate the property mentioned in section 1 in accordance with clause (a) of subsection 6 of section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. The property known as Custom House, located at Municipal No. 51 Stuart Street, and more particularly described in schedule "A" hereto annexed is hereby designated as property of historic and architectural value and interest.
2. ~~The City Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to~~ cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in Schedule "B" to be registered against the property affected in the proper registry office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed,
 - (i) to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation to be served on the owners and The Ontario Heritage Foundation by personal service or by registered mail;
 - (ii) to publish a notice of this by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality of the City of Hamilton, for three consecutive weeks.

PASSED this 31st day of July A.D., 1979.

"E. A. SIMPSON"

City Clerk.

"JOHN A. MacDONALD"

Mayor.

SCHEDULE "A"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 79-218

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the City of Hamilton, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and being composed of Lots Nos. Nineteen and Twenty (19 & 20) lying on the south side of Stuart Street in Block Number 20 of Sir Alan N. MacNab's Survey in the Block bounded by Bay, Stuart, MacNab and Murray Streets and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the north-east angle of the said Lot No. 20 which point is also in the southern limit of Stuart Street, distant one hundred and twenty feet, one and one-half inches (120' 1 1/2") measured westerly thereto from the intersection of the west limit of MacNab Street with the said southern limit of Stuart Street according to the said Survey;

THENCE westerly along the said southern limit of Stuart Street, one hundred and twenty feet, one and one-half inches (120' 1 1/2") to the northwestern angle of the said Lot No. 19;

THENCE southerly along the westerly limit of said Lot No. 19, one hundred and forty-five feet, two and one-half inches to the southwest angle of the said Lot 19;

THENCE easterly along the southwestern limit of the said Lots Nos. 19 and 20, one hundred and twenty feet, one and one-half inches to the southeast angle of the said Lot No. 20;

THENCE northerly along the eastern limit of said Lot No. 20, one hundred and forty-five feet, two and one-half inches (145' 2 1/2") to the place of beginning.

SCHEDULE "B"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 79-218

The Custom House ranks as a heritage building of prime importance to the City and the Province. Commissioned by the United Province of Canada Legislative Assembly, it was built in 1850-60 as a custom house, a relatively uncommon building type in nineteenth century Ontario. It is the oldest and now the only major public building in the City of Hamilton that has survived relatively unaltered from the past century. It reflects the City's role as a major Great Lakes port and an important station on the Great Western Railway. It stands as a monument to Hamilton's prominent role in the development of trade and commerce during the formative years of this country.

This beautifully proportioned and composed building stands as one of the finest examples from the City's brief but highly productive period of stone architecture dating from the 1840's to the 1860's. It was designed in the Renaissance revival style of architecture popular at the time, with the unity and regularity of a "palazzo" block, the horizontal emphasis of uninterrupted string course and cornice, and the pedimented windows with side pilasters. The rhythmic progression of arched and pedimented windows, the elaborate treatment of the central bay and the finesse of the classical decoration contribute to the artistic success of the building. The high quality of workmanship is still clearly evident in the ashlar masonry on all four facades."