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The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 87- 250

To Designate:

THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 55 MAIN STREET WEST

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

✓
correct
11/6/02

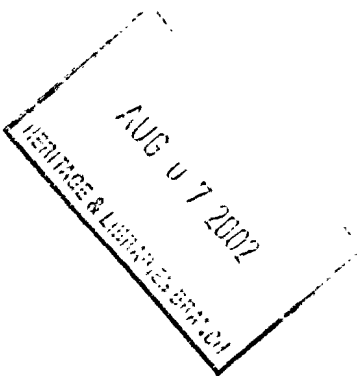
WHEREAS the Council of the City of Hamilton did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection was served on the City Clerk as required by subsection 29(5) of the said Act;

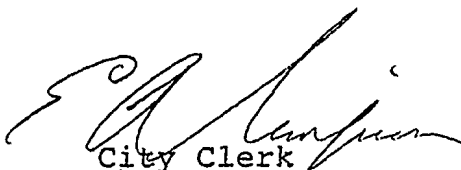
AND WHEREAS it is desired to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with clause 29(1)(a) of the said Act.

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

1. The property located at Municipal No. 55 Main Street West 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 owner 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 1st day of September, A.D. 1987.


City Clerk


Mayor

SCHEDULE "A"

To

By-law No. 87- 250
55 Main Street West,
Hamilton, Ontario

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 all of Lot 69 and part of Lots 50, 51, 52, 67 and 68, P.H. Hamilton Survey, Unregistered Plan, in the block bounded by Main Street, MacNab Street, Jackson Street, and Charles Street, (now closed by City of Hamilton By-law No. 9246, registered as Instrument No. 152827 H.L.), shown as Parts 1, 2 and 3 on Plan 62R-5764.

SCHEDULE "B"

To

By-law No. 87- 250

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

55 Main Street West,
Hamilton, Ontario

The Carnegie Building at 55 Main Street West was built in 1913 as Hamilton's main public library and is currently, in 1986, in the process of being converted into the province's Unified Family Courts.

Located directly east of City Hall, the Carnegie Building is a significant component in Hamilton's redeveloped Civic Square block, providing an imposing architectural presence as well as a valued historic dimension to the complex.

As one of more than a hundred libraries built in Ontario by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie during the early 20th Century, the Hamilton building is considered to be one of the finest in the province. Having served as the main public library for 67 years, the building is an important landmark of the city's cultural heritage; it is particularly significant as one of the few historic civic buildings still standing in Hamilton.

Local architect A. W. Peene won the international competition for the new library which is considered to be his best work in the city.

Limestone ashlar was used in the construction, following local building tradition, and the structure was given a prominent site, set back from the street and raised on a grassy bank, with a formal central stairway providing the approach.

Designed in the neo-classical style of architecture, 55 Main Street West displays a forceful composition of classical features, an imposing monumentality and a formal symmetry that are hallmarks of major public buildings of the period. The design displays a stripped or stylized version of classical detailing.

Important to the preservation of the three stone facades are the building's original features, including but not limited to the two-story pilasters, massive corner piers, the entablature with dentilated cornice, the projecting front entranceway, the large recessed multiple windows, the decorative stone mouldings and panels, the exterior stairways and doors, the two flanking free-standing stone walls and the parapet wall.

The Carnegie Corporation's stipulation that the space inside the building be kept unobstructed was successfully followed in the Hamilton library. The open, well-lit interior is articulated by rows of free-standing columns

that support a gridwork of dentilated ceiling beams. A central two-story atrium with marble balustrade, double staircase and skylight unifies the interior and provides a spacious and elegant entrance lobby that is a valuable architectural resource of the city.

Important to the preservation of the interior are the original architectural features, including but not limited to the open atrium, the marble double staircase, dado and balustrade, the skylight, the composite columns, wall pilasters and piers, the multiple windows with transoms of lavender-coloured glass, and the dentilated ceiling beams.