Authority: Item 8, Planning and Development Committee Report 15-00 (PDC00158) CM: May 1, 2001

Bill No. 076

City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 01-076

To Designate:
LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 17 AUGUSTA 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 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18;

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(6)(a) of the said Act.

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

1. The property located at Municipal No. 17 Augusta Street, Hamilton, Ontario and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, is hereby designated as property of historic and architectural value and interest.

2. The Corporate Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in Schedule "B" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, 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 Ontario Heritage Foundation by personal service or by registered mail;
   (ii) to publish a notice of this by-law once in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hamilton.

PASSED and enacted this 1st day of May, 2001.

Mayor

City Clerk

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 01-076

17 Augusta Street, Hamilton, Ontario

Part Lots 130 and 131, George Hamilton Survey, Plan 1431

Part Lot 121, George Hamilton Survey, Plan 1431

as in CD312055

City of Hamilton

being all of PIN 17170-0016 (R)

Schedule "B"

To

By-law No. 01-076

17 Augusta Street, Hamilton, Ontario

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Context

The 2 1/2 storey late Victorian brick house at 17 Augusta Street was built in the area of Hamilton known as Corktown (named after the city of Cork in Ireland). As early as the 1840s, many of Hamilton's Irish immigrants settled south of Main Street in the area between James and Catharine Streets. By the 1890s, Corktown had evolved into a densely populated residential area. Augusta Street between James and John was continuously lined with 1 to 2 1/2 storey houses. One block to the north was the new Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Railway line, with its Victorian railway station at the north-east corner of Hunter and James. In the block north of Augusta and east of Hughson was an open air market square known as the Hay Market.

Since the 1950s, the tightly-knit urban fabric of the northern part of Corktown has been steadily eroded by the demolition of 19th century buildings, with some sites left vacant (now parking areas) and others redeveloped for high-rise apartment and office buildings. Today the house at 17 Augusta Street forms part of a small enclave of historic buildings extending along Augusta east of James to Hughson and south on Hughson to Haymarket Street. These buildings largely comprise detached or semi-detached houses dating from the mid to the late 19th century and converted in recent years to restaurants and other commercial uses. This building cluster is now surrounded by parking lots and post-war construction. Notable landmarks in the immediate vicinity include the T.H. &B Station, completed in 1933 and renovated in the 1990s to serve as the Hamilton GO Centre, and the St. Charles Garnier Roman Catholic Church erected in 1966 at the south-east corner of Augusta and Hughson.

History

The house at 17 Augusta Street appears to have been erected in 1895 for Thomas J. Leatherdale, a photographer, who sold it to William Crowther Jr., a chiropodist, in 1897. The property was owned and occupied by the Crowther family until 1911, when it was sold to Frances Stephenson. It then underwent several more changes of ownership before being purchased by the current owner in 1986. In 1989, the house was renovated and substantially enlarged by a one-storey rear addition for use as a restaurant.

Architecture

17 Augusta Street is typical of the late Victorian brick houses and terraces erected in the Corktown neighbourhood. The configuration of the doorway and windows of the front facade, similar to the house next door at 19 Augusta Street, consists of a side entrance with a single door surmounted by a stained glass transom light, a projecting hexagonal bay window with stained glass panels above the three windows, and single and paired upper storey windows with segmentally-arched brick lintels and contrasting keystones (now painted the same colour as the brick masonry). The bay window is embellished with four colonnettes and a decorative moulding below the roof soffit. Typical of Hamilton's terrace housing are the parapet end walls with stone corbels and built-in chimneys, a less common feature of detached housing but not unusual in Corktown. The gabled dormer over the paired windows appears to be an early 20th century addition. More recent changes include the removal of the four chimneys built into the parapet walls, the replacement of the original wood sash windows on the second storey with fixed pane thermopane units, and the installation of a new front door in 1989.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of 17 Augusta Street are the original architectural features of the front (south), east and west facades, including the four stained glass transom windows, but excluding the front door and any added or replacement windows.