THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS

BY-LAW NO. 2930-77

A BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS, BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE TOWN HALL AT 60 MAIN STREET IN THE TOWN OF DUNDAS, AS LAND AND BUILDING OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE.

WHEREAS this Council is empowered under subsection 6 of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act to enact by-laws to designate real property, including exteriors of buildings, as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS this Council has caused to be served upon the owner of the lands and premises known municipally as 60 Main Street in the Town of Dundas and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the described property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in this Municipality, once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation of the described property has been served on the Clerk of this municipality within the time prescribed by the said statute;

AND WHEREAS this Council's reasons for the proposed designation are as set forth in Schedule "B" attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is hereby designated as being of architectural value or interest, the exterior of the property known municipally as 60 Main Street, in the Town of Dundas, and more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

2. The Town Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth.

3. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause a notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Dundas.

READ a First, Second and Third time and finally PASSED this Second day of May, A.D. 1977.

MAYOR

CLERK

SCHEDULE "A"

In the Town of Dundas, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, and being composed of Lot Number Eight (8), according to Registrar's Compiled Plan Number 1404.

SCHEDULE "B"

REASONS FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE TOWN HALL, 60 MAIN STREET, DUNDAS.

Of the few remaining early town halls and public buildings in Ontario, the Dundas Town Hall is perhaps the most appealing architecturally of the modest-sized buildings.

On an island site and exposed to view from all sides, the design suggests a symmetrical treatment of the pseudo-classic fashion of the time, in the 1840's. Nothing more fitting than the Roman Temple prototype could fulfill the aesthetic requirements and plan. In this case denuded of the orthodox portico ends, to no detriment, more practical porches were incorporated that no longer exist. Their replacement is one of the few changes made to the exterior of the original building.

The simple and effective treatment of the facades is what is distinguished. Fenestration is strongly emphasized by the bold pilasters and horizontal belt course that subtly divides the wall surface into compartments proportionate to the whole, this achieving unity without which the design would possess little merit.

In most cases when towns flourished and expansion was needed, the early town halls were demolished and replaced. The Dundas Town Hall, however, has been spared this fate and indeed has not suffered from the recent addition. Rather than disturb the existing completely finished composition, a wing has been attached in an inconspicuous contemporary manner with matching masonry that in no way conflicts with the old building, a remarkably successful solution, moreso because of the very restricted space upon which to build.

The entrance to the southerly end of the Dundas Town Hall is of course an alteration of recent years. It is not incompatible with the building but then it is not quite attuned to the simplicity of detail of the building. The stone appears to be Indiana instead of the local limestone and the feeling is one of Baroque Italian extraction without deference to the old building and displaying a broken pediment, rusticated pilasters and urn embellishments more

associated with the Edwardian period. Also there is a refinement in scale that does not conform to the boldness of the masonry of the building.

The interior comprises a second floor hall of majestic proportions in the grand manner of the British Classic Revival Style. The dignity and splendour of such rooms are dependent on the lofty ceilings, with the appropriate appurtenances, chandeliers, orders of architecture, regardless what form the decoration favours. Such grandeur can never be attained with the low ceilings of modern practice, nor in dimly lighted conditions. This room recently restored is impressive, and only in a few of some of the larger examples in Canada have they been preserved.

It must be of considerable satisfaction to the Dundas municipality to have accomplished the restoration and to have made good the continued use of this distinguished building.