Bill No. 224

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 79 - 222

To Designate:

THE BANK OF MONTREAL BUILDING,
LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 5 MAIN STREET WEST

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 The Bank of Montreal Building, located at Municipal No. 5 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 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.

City Clerk

Mayor

(1979) 23 R.B.C. 23, April 24

SCHEDULE "A"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 79- 222

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, in the Province of Ontario and being composed of all of Lot 45 in the block bounded by Main, James, Jackson and MacNab Streets according to P. H. Hamilton Survey (unregistered).

SCHEDULE "B"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 79 - 222

This main Hamilton building of the Bank of Montreal, in a monumental and magnificent classical mode, was designed by the Montreal architect Kenneth G. Rea, FRIBA; construction began in 1928 through the Hamilton firm of Pigott Construction. The main facade on James Street is of Queenston dolomite set on a Stansead granite base. The central motif of this facade is composed of four graceful Corinthian columns supporting a pediment incorporating the bank's coat of arms. The three flanking bays are fenestrated with soaring windows separated by Corinthian-headed pilasters. This flanking design and its materials is carried to the north and south facades. The rear elevation is unfinished.

The interior is dominated by the expansive volume of the 35 foot high banking hall. It is classically-decorated with 28 foot Ionic columns in solid red Levanto marble, pilasters against a finely-chiselled Tennessee marble wall and a ceiling spanned by coffered ornamented girders in polychrome.

The September, 1929, issue of the trade magazine Construction, in a major spread on this "magnificent new building...on this historic site", calls it "a splendid example of the best type of Bank Architecture....one of the finest bank premises in Canada...." The article particularly notes the "rich materials and some from great distances", the stone capitals of the exterior columns, the pediment and the pilaster heads, all hand executed on the job, "an example of the stone carver's art of particular interest in the present period of much cast stone detail", and notes with pleasure the choice of a Canadian contractor. The closing remarks of the article are as applicable today as in 1929:

> "Altogether this elegant and commodious building is well fitted to render efficient banking service for many years to come and is one of which the Bank of Montreal and the City of Hamilton may justly be proud."

This structure is a critical component of a set of classical buildings clustered around the Main and James intersection and should be seen, therefore, not only as a monument complete in itself, but also as an integral part of this special "financial district" of downtown Hamilton.

DATED July 31, 1979

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 79-222

To Designate:

Municipal No. 5 Main Street West

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL
VALUE AND INTEREST

133855

No.
Land Registry Division of Wentworth (No.62) C.D.
I CERTIFY that this instrument is registered as of
A .M. 11:43
AUG 8 1979 in the
Land Registry
Office at
Hamilton
Ontario.
D Cannon
LAND REGISTRAR

33

K. A. Rouff,
City Solicitor,
City Hall,
Main Street West,
Hamilton, Ontario.
L8N 3T4

Reg'n Fees 10.00
Extra Charges