Bill No. D-17

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 90-*33*

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 96 JAMES STREET SOUTH

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation 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. 96 James Street South 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 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" 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 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 *30th* day of *January* A.D. 1990.

City Clerk

Mayor

(1989) 24 R.P.D.C. 12 October 31

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 90-*33*

96 James Street South, Hamilton, Ontario

ALL THAT certain parcel of land situate in the City of Hamilton, in The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and Province of Ontario and being composed of parts of Lots numbers Seventy-five and Seventy-six in the block bounded by Jackson, James, Hunter and MacNab Streets described as follows:

COMMENCING at the south-west corner of Jackson and James Streets;

THENCE southerly along James Street One Hundred and Seventeen feet;

THENCE westerly parallel with Jackson Street One Hundred and Twenty-two feet, Nine inches more or less to the westerly limit of Lot number Seventy-six;

THENCE northerly along the westerly limit of the said Lot number Seventy-six, One Hundred and Seventeen feet more or less to Jackson Street;

THENCE easterly along Jackson Street One Hundred and Twenty-two feet Nine inches more or less to the place of beginning.

As described in Instrument No. 59712 Hamilton.

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SCHEDULE "B"

To

By-law No. 90-33

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

96 James Street South, Hamilton, Ontario

Context

The James Street Baptist Church, constructed in 1878-1882, is located in the Central Area of Hamilton at the south-west corner of James and Jackson Streets. Situated to the south of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church has long been recognized as an important downtown landmark in its own right as well as a major component in the James-Main historic streetscape which includes St. Paul's, the former Bank of Montreal, the Sun Life and Pigott buildings, all of which are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Architectural Significance

The church is designed in the Gothic Revival Style; its massive stone construction and complex, monumental composition are indicative of a later, High Victorian phase of the style.

Unique among Hamilton churches, the James Street church is particularly distinguished for its use of rock-faced masonry walls, dominant corner tower and heavily buttressed facades. At ground level, the building is characterized by the solidity of its raised stone basement penetrated only by the central and tower entrances and by the small openings of lancet windows and circular quatrefoil decorations (the basement windows were a later addition).

In contrast, on the second storey where the tall sanctuary is located, the pointed-arch, traceried windows are the dominant features. Of special interest is the elaborate rose window at the west end of the nave and the immense, six-partite, Decorated Gothic window at the front facade.

The exterior displays a vigourously articulated composition of projecting transepts, aisles, narthex, pinnacles, buttresses and corner tower. Likewise, the surfaces continue the richly modelled effect in the rock-faced texture of the masonry, the contrasting cut-stone decoration, ornamental mouldings and stepped profile of the buttresses.

Architect of the church, Joseph Connolly, is well known as the designer of a number of Roman Catholic churches in Ontario, including St. Patrick's in Hamilton (1877); Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Guelph (designed 1863; built 1876-1926); St. Mary's and St. Paul's (1887-89) in Toronto; and St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica (1885) in London, Ontario. James Street Baptist Church is considered to be Connolly's only protestant church design in Ontario.

Historical Significance

The James Street Church is the oldest, surviving Baptist church in Hamilton. Their first church had been erected on Park Street North in 1846 and enlarged in 1862, but the James Street structure marks the construction of the Baptist's first major, monumental church building in the City.

During its 107 year history, the James Street Baptists have founded as many as 15 missions, a number of which have developed into permanent churches including Wentworth, Stanley Avenue, Trinity, King St., Bethel, MacNeill Memorial, and Westmount.

In 1930, when McMaster, originally a Baptist university, relocated to Hamilton from Toronto, the James Street Baptist Church donated funds to the move and welcomed the faculty into their membership.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the James Street Baptist Church are the original features of the exterior facades, including the slate roof, masonry walls and detailing, all windows including the stained glass, and the door openings, but excluding the recent alterations of new doors and the new glazing of the front entrance.