Bill No. C-3

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 93-*011*

To Designate:

**LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 10 JOHN 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. 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 Corporation of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. The property located at Municipal No. 10 John 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 *12th* day of *January* A.D. 1993.

City Clerk

Mayor

(1992) 19 R.P.D.C. 2, November 10

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 93-*011*

10 John Street South, Hamilton, Ontario

Lots 9 and 24 and part of Lots 10, 21, 22 and 23 and part of the Alley-way stopped up and closed by By-law No. 4646, registered as By-law No. 1083, Plan 1431 George Hamilton Survey in the block bounded by John Street South, Main Street East, Hughson Street South and King Street East, designated as Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, Plan 62R-10520, City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

**Schedule "B"**

**to**

**By-law No. 93-*011***

# REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

## FORMER DOMINION PUBLIC BUILDING, 10 John Street South (HAMILTON COURTHOUSE)

Context

The Dominion Public Building was erected in 1935-6 on John Street South between King and Main Streets to serve as Hamilton's main Post Office and federal office building. Located on a major site in the downtown core, the front facade of this monumental six-storey edifice faces John Street; its north facade is an integral part of the Gore Park streetscape and its south facade faces the grounds of the present Courthouse. As such, 10 John Street is recognized as an important city landmark.

Historical Significance

Erected on the site of the earlier 1886 Post Office, the new Dominion Public Building was built to accommodate not only the post office but also customs and excise, national health, immigration and various other federal departments, all brought together for the first time in Hamilton under one roof.

The main Post Office was located in this building for over fifty years, closing in 1991, when the Province of Ontario purchased the building for conversion to a new court facility, consolidating the Provincial and General Division courts.

The John Street building belongs to the group of large office blocks built by the Federal Government across the country during the 1920s and '30s; the Hamilton structure was erected as part of a Depression works program introduced by the government in 1934 under the Public Works Construction Act.

Architectural Significance

Hamilton's Dominion Public Building has been ranked as one of the three best examples of the large federal public buildings which were erected across Canada between 1934 and 1939.

In accordance with the government's current policy, a local architect rather than the Public Works Architect was commissioned to design the building. The Hamilton firm of Hutton and Souter, well known for other major works such as the Cathedral of Christ the King, provided the plans.

In terms of the architectural style, Hutton and Souter's design can be described as "modern classical", used also in the five other federal buildings erected at this time. Classical inspiration is visible in the use of pilasters, engaged columns, symmetry, the rectangular block form, and the general horizontal divisions of base, shaft and cornice.

These traditional elements, however, are given contemporary expression, typified in the use of smooth, crisp planes; bold, simple masses; and contrasting linear-patterned ornamentation which accentuates the main architectural features of the building.

This richness of decorative detailing is found throughout the building; on the exterior in the stone ornamentation at the cornice and belt-course, the crowning narrative relief of the frontispiece, in the coat-of-arms over the front door, as well as the bronzework of the window and door panels; and on the interior by the use of marble wainscotting and flooring, as well as bronze grillwork, mosaics and painted ceiling.

The Hamilton building is considered to have the finest interior of any federal post office building erected from the mid-to-late 1930s. The main entrance, postal and elevator lobby areas and the main stairwell demonstrate the extensive use of costly materials and quality craftsmanship.

## Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Dominion Public Building are the original features of the east (main), north, and south facades, including the masonry work, windows, doorways and all ornamental decoration; and the interior spaces of the entrance, postal and elevator lobby areas and main stairwell, including all original decorative elements such as the marble cladding and flooring, bronze decorative work on doors and windows, painted ceiling, light fixtures and mosaic.

**DOMINION OF CANADA )**
)
Province of Ontario )
)
Judicial District )
)
of )
)
Hamilton-Wentworth )
)
)

**IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario Heritage Act.**

AND IN THE MATTER OF Lands and Premises in the City of Hamilton, Known Municipally as 10 John Street South.

I, Joseph J. Schatz

of the City of Hamilton in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

**DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:**

1. That I am the City Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton and, as such have knowledge of the matters herein deposed to.

2. That on January 26, February 2 and February 9, 1993, I found that the Notice of Passing of By-law Number 93-011, a copy of which is annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "A", was duly published in The Hamilton Spectator, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Hamilton.

3. That By-law Number 93-011, a copy of which is annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "B", was sent by registered mail on 21st day, January, 1993 to each of the following:

   (i) The Ontario Heritage Foundation,
   77 Bloor Street West, 7th Floor,
   TORONTO, Ontario M7A 2R9

   (ii) Ministry of Government Services
   Project Management Branch
   720 Bay Street, 4th floor
   Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1
   Attention.: Mr. Gerald M. Doyle, Project Manager

AND I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act."

DECLARED before me at the City )
)
of Hamilton )
)
in the Regional Municipality )
)
of Hamilton-Wentworth )
)
this 11th day of February )
)
A.D. 1993. )
)
A Commissioner, etc. )

STANLEY GEORGE HOLLOWELL, a Commissioner etc., Judicial District of Hamilton-Wentworth, for the Corporation of the City of Hamilton.
Expires April 1st, 1994.