Bill No. C-34

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 94-126

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 22 VEEVERS DRIVE

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. 22 Veevers Drive 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 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 26th day of July A.D. 1994

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 94- 126

22 Veevers Drive, Hamilton, Ontario

Parcel 72-1, Section M-3

City of Hamilton

Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth

Land Titles Division at Hamilton

Being Lot 72, Plan M-3

Schedule "B"

to

By-law No. 94- *126*

The Veevers Home

22 Veevers Drive, Hamilton

Context

The former home of Ronald and Bertram Veevers, generously donated by the two brothers to the City of Hamilton in 1985, comprises an enlarged 1850s stone farmhouse and attractive 1.5 acre garden situated near the base of the escarpment just east of the Red Hill Creek Valley. The subdivision of the original 200-acre farm in the 1960s and early 1970s reduced the Veevers property to a total of 12 acres, including a separate 10.5 acre parcel of undeveloped escarpment land.

Up until the 1950s, the farmhouse stood in its original form atop a hill surrounded by rolling pastures, woodland and orchards. Landscaping around the house, largely completed in the 1950s and 1960s, created a parklike setting of special horticultural interest featuring lawns with alleys of trees, rose and tulip beds, and a rockery. Now enclosed by a high iron fence, this garden oasis effectively buffers the house from the engulfing 20th century suburban development, dominated by single-family homes to the north and east and high-rise apartments to the west.

History

Today the Veevers Home stands as a vestige from the pioneer farming era, dating back to the early settlement of Saltfleet Township, when it was closely associated with two important pioneer families: the Deans and the Gages. The original 200-acre crown grant to John Thatcher was purchased in 1834 by James Dean, who erected the present stone farmhouse between 1851 and 1861. Sold in 1871 to John Gage, the house and farm remained in his possession until 1912. The property then changed hands three more times before it was purchased in 1934 by Ronald, Bertram, Cyril and Raymond Veevers and occupied by all eight members of the Veevers family.

The Veevers brothers ran a large and successful fruit and dairy farm, raising a sizable herd of Holstein cattle, and up to the 1940s operated their own dairy. Farming activities were subsequently scaled down and only the two elder brothers, Ronald and Bertram, remained on the farm. The surplus land was sold for development and the last 12 acres, including the farmhouse and 1.5 acre garden, was deeded to the City of Hamilton for public use. The two brothers retained the use of the house and garden until the death of the last surviving brother in 1993.

Architecture

This 1 1/2 storey house, built of rough-hewn stone quarried from the escarpment, is a relatively rare example of a pre-Confederation stone farmhouse in the Hamilton area and, in its original form, a very good example of its type. It has the fine masonrywork, wide horizontal proportions and restrained ornamentation characteristic of early settlers' houses dating from the 1820s through the 1850s. The well-proportioned, symmetrical five-bay facade originally featured a wide doorway with a panelled wood door and sidelights, and a somewhat unusual row of low square, upper storey windows. As a result of extensive renovations undertaken in 1968, these square windows were replaced by higher and taller dormers and the doorway

was modified. Despite these alterations and two modern additions, the house is in excellent condition and retains much of its original character, at least on the exterior.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of 22 Veevers Drive are the original features of all four facades of the 1850s farmhouse, including the stone masonry walls, end chimneys, flat-arched lintels and solid stone sills, the denticulated returned eaves, and the original door and window openings. Excluded are the two-storey wing and garage added to the rear (south-east corner), the glass conservatory (rear), and the modern front door and dormer windows.