Bill No. C- 71

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 99- 167

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NO. 777 YORK BOULEVARD

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 0.18;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection was served on the Municipal 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. 777 York Boulevard, Hamilton, Ontario 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.

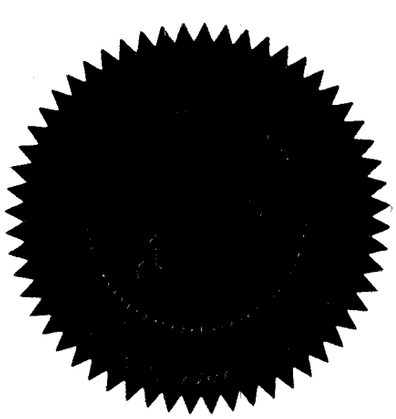
2. The Corporate Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in Schedule "B" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, to be registered against the property affected in the proper registry office.

3. The Municipal 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 once in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality of the City of Hamilton.

PASSED this 30th day of November A.D. 1999



MUNICIPAL CLERK MAYOR

(1999) 8 R.P.D.C. 10, March 30

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 99-167

777 York Boulevard, Hamilton, Ontario

PIN 17592-0001(R)

All of Lots 1 to 6, 13 to 17, C, Part of Lots 7, 10 to 12, 18 to 20, B and D

Registered Plan 77

Part of Ordnance Street Registered Plan 77 as closed by City of Hamilton

By-law No. 8409 and registered as HL68014

All of Lot 52, Registered Plan 75

Part of Lot 386, Registered Plan 115

Part of Lot 19, Concessions 1 and 2, in the geographic Township of Barton

Part of the unopened Road Allowance between Concessions 1 and 2,

in the geographic Township of Barton

Being all of the PIN

City of Hamilton

Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth

Schedule "B"
to By-law No. 99-167

Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse
777 York Boulevard

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Context

Marking the main entrance to the Hamilton Cemetery, this mid-19th century stone gatehouse is located on the west side of York Boulevard opposite Harvey Park, which abuts the grounds of Dundurn Castle. Situated on the high strip of land between Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise known as Burlington Heights, the Hamilton Cemetery occupies a long irregularly-shaped 100-acre piece of land bounded by York Boulevard, the bluff overlooking Princess Point, and the Strathcona residential neighbourhood to the south. Its extensive landscaped grounds containing a multiplicity of tombstones and monuments as well as an exceptional variety of trees and shrubs create a picturesque parklike setting for the gatehouse. The Hamilton Cemetery is an excellent example of the "garden cemetery", popular throughout North America from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, and characterized by its informal layout, naturally contoured terrain, winding roadways and attractive landscaping of grass, trees and shrubs.

History

The Hamilton Cemetery was the first public cemetery in Hamilton and is claimed to be the first municipally owned and controlled cemetery in Canada. It opened in 1848 on a tract of land acquired from Christ's Church (part of a larger parcel purchased from Sir Allan MacNab in 1847) and was initially named the Burlington Cemetery. The cemetery was progressively enlarged by the acquisition of additional parcels of land, including 24 surveyed lots originally owned by MacNab on the west side of York Street and property owned by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Hamilton known as the "Bishop's Field". In 1892 the City assumed control of two burial grounds to the south owned respectively by Christ's Church and Church of the Ascension; with this amalgamation its name was changed to the Hamilton Cemetery.

The gatehouse was erected on a parcel of land in front of the cemetery: lots 10 and 11 purchased by the City from W.H. Dickson in 1854. Identified on the original architectural drawings as the Gate Lodge, this modestly-scaled building was designed to house a "public waiting room" (later referred to as a mortuary chapel) and caretaker's residence. After the last resident superintendent resigned in 1900, the building functioned as an office and chapel. In recent years, it has served as the administrative headquarters for the Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries.

Architecture

The Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse constitutes one of only two architecturally distinctive 19th century cemetery buildings in the Hamilton area, the other being the 1889 stone mortuary chapel at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington (excluding churches with attached burial grounds). It also represents an early example in Ontario (and possibly also Canada) of a building intended to serve one or more functions associated with the operation of a cemetery. Its design is attributed to William Hodgins, an architect/ civil engineer who appears to have prepared the plans in 1854 while employed as the City Engineer. The building was completed some time between 1855 and 1862. Hodgins achieved a masterful adaptation of the Gothic Revival style to a dual-purpose building combining the functions of chapel/waiting room and dwelling.

This combination of uses appears to be quite unusual, at least within a Canadian context: cemetery buildings in this country were more often designed to serve a single purpose, such as a mortuary chapel or caretaker's house.

Architecturally, the Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse is notable for its rock-faced ashlar construction with dressed stone trim, its picturesque silhouette, and its fine Gothic Revival detailing. The dominant buttressed corner tower is now crowned by an intricately carved open stone structure with finials. Designed by architect Gordon Hutton and erected in 1920 to replace the wood spire (as rebuilt in 1904), it was intended to have a copper spire, which was never built. The 1894 bell from the original tower is presently displayed on a stone platform beside the entrance driveway. Also noteworthy are the two original chapel and dwelling entrances with arched wood doors, the windows with Tudor-arched openings and hood mouldings sprung from carved figure heads, the two large chapel windows with stone tracery, and the three circular openings with quatrefoil windows.

A later one-storey stone wing on the north facade, designed by the local architectural firm of Stewart & Witton and added in 1913, is in keeping with the Gothic Revival design of the original building.

The small but imposing chapel interior is distinguished by an arched beamed ceiling supported by wood trusses sprung from wood columns resting on widely projecting plaster brackets, two large traceried leaded glass windows, wood-panelled wainscoting and Tudor-arched wood-panelled doors.

Desianated Features

Important to the preservation of the Hamilton Cemetery Gatehouse are the original architectural features of:

1) all facades of the original building and 1913 addition, except for the new stuccoed frame wall with a doorway and window on the west facade. Included are the stone masonry walls and chimneys, stone belfry, carved stone details, the slate roofing with round-cut ornamental slates, and the doorways and windows.

2) the former chapel/ waiting room interior with its wood trusses, beams, wainscoting, and doorways (including the one originally located at the north end of the west wall but recently moved to create a new doorway linking the chapel and office).

This designation by-law is restricted to the gatehouse building; it does not include any other built or landscape features on the Hamilton Cemetery grounds: i.e. the fencing, roadways, trees, outbuildings, tombstones, monuments, vaults, etc.