The Corporation of the City of Peterborough

By-Law Number 14-109

Being a By-law to Designate a Certain Property in the City Of Peterborough Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

The Corporation of the City of Peterborough by the Council thereof hereby enacts as follows:

That the hereinafter described property be and is hereby designated to be of historical and architectural value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, for the reasons hereafter stated:

201 McDonnel Street - the Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational Institute (PCVS)

LOT 3 WEST OF GEORGE STREET & SOUTH OF MCDONELL STREET PLAN 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH;
LOT 4 WEST OF GEORGE STREET & SOUTH OF MCDONELL STREET PLAN 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH;
LOT 5 WEST OF GEORGE STREET & SOUTH OF MCDONELL STREET PLAN 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH;
LOT 6 WEST OF GEORGE STREET & SOUTH OF MCDONELL STREET PLAN 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; PETERBOROUGH CITY

Reason For Designation

Located on the south side of McDonnel Street mid-block between George and Aylmer Streets, the school is a prominent and integral part of an assembly of monumental late 19th and early 20th century civic buildings which frame Confederation Square.

PCVS is architecturally significant as an expression of collegiate architecture rendered at a time of rapid growth and economic optimism for the City of Peterborough. The building's design represents a transition from the formidable presence of the Romanesque Revival style in the late Victorian era to a lighter, more refined expression of progress presented by the Beaux Arts or Classical Revival style which came to characterize Edwardian design in Canada.

The current building complex is the oldest secondary school in Peterborough and traces its roots to the Peterborough Government School opened by Reverend Samuel Armour in 1826. The cornerstone for the Peterborough Collegiate Institute (PCI) was laid on July 31, 1907 and the school, built to the design of John Belcher, was completed in time for classes to begin in September of 1908. In 1927 a vocational school wing was added and PCI became Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational Institute (PCVS). In 1966 a gymnasium by Craig, Zeidler and Strong was added to the south side of the original 1907 school. In the course of its history the school has graduated nationally and internationally renowned artists, business leaders and politicians including Serena Ryder, Evelyn Hart, Sean Cullen, Jim Balsillie and Lester B. Pearson.
Heritage Attributes

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all facades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with all construction materials, their related building techniques and landscape features.

Exterior Elements:

1907 School:
a) Eastern orientation of building towards Confederation Square
b) Rectangular form of three storey structure
c) Raised foundation of rusticated limestone
d) Roof system
e) Romanesque main entry
f) Arched entry of dressed limestone with a semicircular transom
g) Crenellated pilasters flanking main entrance
h) Window openings
i) Large Palladian window above main entry with rusticated limestone voussoirs
j) Shallow roof dormer above main entry
k) Recessed central section of north and south elevations
l) Four massive chimneys
m) Large gable-roofed dormers centred in the north and south elevations.

1927 Addition:
a) Limestone entry including entry doors
b) Limestone detailing including, but not limited to window sills and coping stones
c) Three storey projecting entry bay with stepped parapet
d) Window openings and existing windows and frames
e) Crenellated parapet roof line
f) Arched entries and projecting entry bays on west elevation

Interior Elements:
a) Original wooden passage doors with glazing including transoms
b) Decorative woodwork including door and window jambs, casings, cornice mouldings, plinth blocks and applied features
c) Original cabinetry in classrooms halls and offices
d) Wainscoting in halls, stairwells, classrooms and offices
e) Wooden stair rails including handrails, newels and balusters
f) Wood capped steel stair railings including newel posts with polished brass finials
g) Glass and wood partitions in hallways and classrooms
h) Stained glass in door transoms
i) Interior window units in hallways
j) Skylight in third floor classroom
k) Wood partition in small gymnasium including track system
l) Carved marble panel over the auditorium entrance
m) “Our Un-returning Brave” 1914-1918 plaque in main hall
n) 1939-1945 memorial carving
o) Run in place plaster cornice moldings
p) Hardwood and terrazzo flooring
q) Scoring pattern on walls in hallways simulating cut stone walls
r) Marble clad entrance arches at 1927 main entrance including inlaid tiles framing archways
s) Marble wall cladding and stairs at 1927 main entrance
t) Tin ceilings in hallways, offices and classrooms
u) All fixtures in the auditorium and projection room  
v) School bells  
w) Freight elevator in basement  

By-law read a first, second and third time this 8th day of September, 2014.  

(Sgd.) Daryl Bennett, Mayor  

(Sgd.) John Kennedy, City Clerk