The Corporation of the City of Peterborough

By-Law Number 19-40

Being a By-law to Designate 487 Hunter Street West 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 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:

487 Hunter Street West – “The Cressman House”

LTS 1, 2, 25, 26 PL 148; PETERBOROUGH

Reason for Designation

487 Hunter Street West has cultural heritage value or interest as the only Prairie Style house in Peterborough. Constructed between 1915 and 1916, the property employs a neutral colour palette, horizontal massing, compositional asymmetry, and limited ornamentation. These features are typical of the Prairie Style which was first developed by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright in the American Midwest with the intention of creating an architectural style devoid of historical associations and unique to North America. It displays a high level of craftsmanship in its exterior and interior features, which include two sets of original stained glass windows executed in opalescent glass and a coach house designed to match the main residential building.

The property has historical significance in its connection to local businessman Alva W. Cressman and his family. Cressman operated Cressman’s Department Store in downtown Peterborough between 1898 and 1927 and became an extremely prosperous member of the Peterborough business community. Cressman’s younger son, Frederick Christie Cressman, served in the First World War and is commemorated on the Peterborough Citizens’ War Memorial. The property also has important historical significance as a rare Prairie Style design executed by Toronto architect, Stephen Burwell Coon.

487 Hunter Street West is an important feature of the cultural landscape of the Old West End neighbourhood. A landmark structure on a corner lot, it is located in an area of 2- and 3-storey brick homes and maintains the proportions, sizing and materiality of the surrounding properties. While stylistically unique, it nevertheless was designed to be sympathetic to the surrounding properties through the use of classically inspired symmetry on the front façade. It is historically and visually linked to its surroundings and is a contributing structure to the historic character of the neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all façades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, concrete, and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features.
Exterior Elements:

- Two-and-a-half storey buff brick residential building with cream stucco on the second storey
- Symmetrical front elevation
- Asymmetrical massing
- Hipped roof
- Soffits and fascia
- Brick chimneys on south, east, and west elevations
- Decorative brickwork
- Stone courses
- Rustication on doors and window surrounds
- Wide overhanging eaves with wooden mouldings
- Buff brick outbuilding, including:
  - Hipped roof
  - Original windows
  - Offset doors
  - Original hardware
- Bow windows on north elevation
- Bay windows on east elevation including cream stucco
- Front dormer with bank of five windows and overhanging roof
- Rear window with single window and overhanging roof
- Front entrance, including:
  - Buff brick knee wall with stone coping
  - Central stairs
  - Asymmetrical arrangement of doors and side window
  - Pilasters
- Overhanging roofs and north and west elevations, including:
  - Decorative wooden ceiling
  - Wooden moulding
  - Original light fixtures
  - Decorative braces
- Knee wall on west elevation
- Covered porch on east elevation, including:
  - Buff brick piers and knee walls
  - Wide overhanging roofs and associated moulding
  - Stone courses and steps
  - Flat roof
- Fenestration, including:
  - Original window openings
  - Window openings and their associated elements including sash, moulds, jambs and trim
  - Original wooden windows
- Unobstructed view of the property from Homewood Avenue, Belmont Avenue, and Hunter Street West
- View of the surrounding neighbourhood from the house and grounds
- Orientation of the house relative to the streets and gardens

Interior Features

- All original wooden elements, including:
  - Paneling and trim
  - Interior doors, including glass
  - Dining room ceiling with decorative beams and shallow pendant posts
- Original stained glass
- Main staircase and associated decorative elements, including:
  - Handrail and spindles
  - Newel posts with pendants
- Stone basement fireplace
- Patterned tile floor at main entrance
- Original hardware including door and window handles
By-law read a first, second and third time this 25th day of March, 2019.

(Sgd.) Diane Therrien, Mayor

(Sgd.) John Kennedy, City Clerk