

BY-LAW NUMBER 1978-294 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE OPERA HOUSE AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Orillia has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as the Opera House and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT The Opera House, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, be and it is hereby designated as being of architectural and historic value or interest.
2. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Registry Office for the division of Simcoe.
3. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 11th day of September A.D. 1978.


MAYOR


DEPUTY CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 1978-294 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Orillia, in the County of Simcoe, and being composed of part of Market Block as shown on a Plan registered in the Registry Division for the County of Simcoe as Plan No. 180, described as follows:

COMMENCING at the intersection of the Northerly limit of Mississaga Street and the Westerly limit of West Street (Northwest corner of Mississaga Street and West Street);

THENCE Northerly 125 feet along the Westerly limit of West Street to a point;

THENCE Westerly along a line parallel to Mississaga Street a distance of 182.75 feet to a point;

THENCE Southerly in a line parallel to West Street 125 feet to a point;

THENCE Easterly along the North limit of Mississaga Street a distance of 182.75 feet to the POINT OF COMMENCEMENT.

IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario
Heritage Act, 1974

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF By-law Number
1978- , a by-law to designate
certain property pursuant to the
Act.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

THE ORILLIA OPERA HOUSE

HISTORY

November 26th, 1895 was the date of the opening ceremonies of the newly built Opera House with the presentation of Henrich Ibsen's play "The Doll's House" starring Miss Julia Stewart. The new Opera House was to bring about a cultural change to the town of Orillia, and it's castle-like appearance gave the small town an air of grandeur. The City fathers in their optimism called the building "City Hall" and it was not until 70 years later that Orillia became a City.

For the next 20 years, the Opera House served as a Town Hall, theatre, market, municipal offices, and a police station with a jail cell. It housed touring shows, political rallies, and silent movies. In 1915 the Opera House was gutted by fire and reopened two years later. Until the mid-twenties the Opera House continued to be a centre of local culture then live entertainment gave way to films. Local groups would still gather at the Opera House but the building became primarily a cinema for the latest Hollywood films until the Geneva Theatre in Orillia opened its doors in the early 1940's. During the Second World War a platoon of the 177th Battalion was billeted in the basement of the Opera House.

With the forming of the Mariposa Arts Theatre in 1971, the Opera House provided a stage for three or four amateur plays and musicals per year. The Opera House received another boost when the Festival of Humour Corporation was started in 1974 - producing annually, a week long celebration of variety stage shows performed by Canadian comedians. This new surge of interest precipitated the plans for complete restoration under the guidance of the Opera House Restoration Foundation.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Exterior

1. twin turrets with slate roofs and "climbing" windows.
2. carved turret finials (peak of roof).
3. carved cornice detailing at turret eaves and above each of the three upper windows in each turret.
4. date stones and building name plate at parapet of main foyer.
5. market canopy on north and west walls.
6. brick detailing - corbelling at top of piers, arches over windows, patternwork on wall between two turrets.
7. three birch trees on Mississaga Street.

Interior

1. two arched ticket windows in main foyer.
2. ornate wooden casements around two rear theatre exits.
3. plaster carvings around proscenium opening.
4. segmental ceiling consisting of a series of 18 recessed panels and plaster cornice at junction of ceiling and wall.
5. plaster insets on balcony face and large brass balcony rail.

DATED the 11th day of September, 1978

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

BY-LAW NUMBER 1978-294

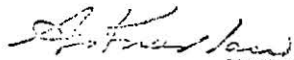
A By-law to designate the Opera House as
being of Architectural and Historical value
or interest

650875

No.
Registry Division of Simcoe (No. 51)
I CERTIFY that this instrument is registered as of

SEP 27 1978 In the

and
Registry Office
of Barrie,
Ontario.


REGISTRAR

MARSHALL, RUSSELL, WAITE & CHRISTIE
Barristers and Solicitors
76 Coldwater Street East
Box 158
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 6J3

10.00