



REGISTER OF DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

Ontario Heritage Act, R. S. O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 27

THE SIR SAM STEELE MEMORIAL BUILDING

By-law No. 1996-24 - passed March 4, 1996

Legal Description

The Sir Sam Steele Building
30 Peter Street South
Orillia ON

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land premises situate, lying and being in the City of Orillia, in the County of Simcoe and being composed of Part Lot 6, north side of Colborne Street, Registered Plan 12, City of Orillia, County of Simcoe, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of said Lot 6;
Thence southerly along the easterly limit of Peter Street 75 feet to a point;
Thence easterly on a course parallel to the north limit of said Lot 6 to the east limit thereof;
Thence northerly along the said easterly limit of said lot, 75 feet to the north limit of said lot;
Thence westerly along the northerly limit of the said lot to the place of beginning.
As in Instrument No. 68481.

Name and Address of Owner

Corporation of the City of Orillia
50 Andrew Street South
Orillia, ON L3V 7T5

Reasons for Designation

The Sir Sam Steele Memorial Building is one of only two examples of the architectural style known as Richardson Romanesque located in Orillia. This style became very suitable for civic buildings and symbolic of urban aspirations through its monumental scale and bold, massive appearance.

Features of the style pertaining to this building are: extensive use of rounded arches, heavy stone string courses, white stone work accentuating the openings, heavy transom bars dividing windows, and arched entries. Although the façade was redesigned in 1914, the Romanesque features were enhanced by the addition of a clock tower, keystones on the arched windows and other elements.

The Orillia Post Office and Customs House was erected by the Federal Government at a cost of \$14,000, and opened to the public in 1894. It was designed by Thomas Fuller, the Dominion Architect from 1881 to 1896, and built by Mr. J. R. Eaton, contractor between 1892 and 1894. The building was named in memory of Major General Sir Sam Steele (1849-1919).