

## **BYLAW 117, 2003**

### **OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CORNWALL**

#### **BEING A BYLAW TO DESIGNATE SPECIFIED ELEMENTS AT A PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 115 SECOND STREET EAST AND COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL AS OF ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORICAL AND CONTEXTUAL VALUE OR INTEREST.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a Municipality to enact Bylaws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest;

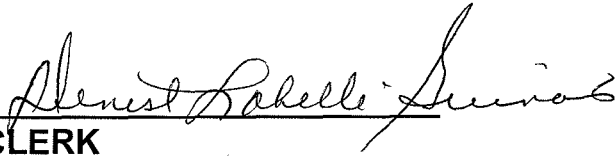
**AND, WHEREAS**, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cornwall has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises located at 115 Second Street East being east of Sydney Street, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality;

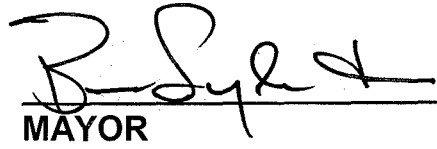
**AND, WHEREAS**, no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

**THEREFORE**, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cornwall enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural, historical, or contextual value or interest to the community specified elements of the property known Municipally as 115 Second Street East, being the Central Public School, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto; and
2. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this Bylaw to be served on the owner and registered against the deed of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Also to cause notice of the passing of this Bylaw to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality.


**READ** a First and Second Time in Open Council this 14th day of July, 2003.

  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

**READ** a Third Time, **PASSED, SIGNED,** and **SEALED** in Open Council this 8th day of Sept, 2003.

  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**TO BYLAW 117, 2003**

Lot 10 and Lot 11 North Side of Second Street  
Lot 10 and Lot 11 South Side of Third Street  
City of Cornwall, County of Stormont  
in the Province of Ontario

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 (AS AMENDED), CHAPTER 337**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN AS THE  
CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, 115 SECOND STREET EAST, IN THE CITY  
OF CORNWALL, ONTARIO.**

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL/HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The recognition is for the surviving structural elements from the 1931 addition to the front facade of the building which complement aspects of the 1883 design.

- The central projecting bay on the south facade with its chromatic masonry treatment around the narrow, longitudinal windows with lead muntins and the sandstone crest and public school logo above the central entrance;
- The flanking walls of the central bay are capped with decorative limestone creating the impression of matching brick columns;
- The front doorway with its double wooden leaf, modest pointed masonry entrance arch and matching narrow rectangular windows graced with a restrained trefoil masonry arch (Note: originally, the three rectangular windows were finished with small, square panes of glass divided by lead muntins.); and
- The straight ground floor entrance stairs with decorative closed railing(s);

The above elements reflect the stylistic aspirations of the 1931 design, and as the oldest surviving features of the original building, are worthy of designation.

While other features of Central Public have architectural interest and reflect the evolving styles and materials used in institutional design and construction in the latter half of the twentieth century, they are of more modern origin. The owners, while encouraged to treat these elements sympathetically in any future renovations or additions to the school building, will place emphasis on respectful and appropriate treatment for the specific designated elements outlined in this Bylaw.

## HISTORICAL / NARRATIVE

Central Public School has played a key role in the education of generations of Cornwall residents. The first building was constructed on the north west corner of Second and Amelia Streets in 1817, a year after legislation provided for the establishment of Common Schools. The building was replaced by a four storey brick structure in 1853.

By the 1880's, due to rapid industrialization, the school population could no longer be accommodated in the building. In 1883 trustees acquired the adjacent lot and contracted with W. Atchison to build a new brick school. This elegant two and half storey building also contained classroom space for the Model School where student teachers learned the requirements of their profession. In 1921, an addition on the north end of the building added extra classroom space and an assembly hall.

Although the Model School closed in 1924, space in the school remained at a premium for students, staff, the public health nurse, trustees who met in the school board room and the caretaker who also had a brick house beside the west side of the building. In 1931, trustees agreed to further expansion of the facility. Atchison and Company were hired to construct the addition designed by architect W.C. Beattie.

The new wing on the south face of Central Public resulted in the demolition of the original 1883 front facade. However, the bell from the tower was preserved and is now a cherished artifact.

In September 1944, residents of Cornwall were shaken by an earthquake which did much damage to area buildings including Central Public School. Structural repairs to the walls were completed while students utilized secure sections of the school. In keeping with efforts to provide modern, high quality educational facilities for its students, in 1962 the trustees of the Public School Board recommended substantial renovations to Central Public. Drawing on the extensive talent within the community, the Board hired Entwistle Construction Company to fabricate the design prepared by local architect William Mack. The official opening of the new additions in October 1965 was a grand occasion for reflecting on the history of the school and its reputation for achieving excellence in education. Two wings, one to the north end and another to the west end of the building added a thoroughly modern appearance to the school. A blend of glass and steel in the International style was wedded to the 1931 brick addition. The remaining sections from the original building and 1920's additions were demolished.

Today, Central Public School is an eclectic blend of historic and modern elements. A school, however, is more than brick and mortar. It is the staff and students who through their dedication and achievements who have kept alive the tradition of excellence in education that has been so much a part of Cornwall's history.

As Lucien Lamoureux, MP told the audience at the dedication ceremony in 1965, education is the foundation of citizenship. Cornwall and its citizens have been well served by the staff and facilities at Central Public School.