

Heritage Designation Brief



City Hall

500 George Street North

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

February 2009

HERITAGE DESIGNATION STATUS SHEET

Street Address:	500 George Street North
Roll Number:	040100089000000
PIN Number:	281060087
Short Legal Description: Please check!	LT 1 E OF GEORGE ST. & N. OF MURRAY ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 2 E OF GEORGE ST & N OF MURRAY ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 1 E OF GEORGE ST & S OF MCDONNEL ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 2 E OF GEORGE ST & S OF MCDONNEL ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH.
Names of Owners:	City of Peterborough
Owners' Mailing Address:	500 George Street North Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9
Owners' Concurrence:	Yes
PACAC Application Review Date:	
On Site Evaluation Date:	
Evaluation Category:	A
Evaluators:	Sue Schappert
Heritage Type:	Built Structure
Designation Type:	Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV
Designation Brief Completion Date:	April 2009
PACAC Application Approval Date:	
Designation Brief Completed by:	Susan Schappert, Jennifer Patterson
Submission Date:	
Objections Noted:	N/A
Comments:	Recommended by PACAC's DSC

"The short statement of the reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Report constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Report is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Heritage Evaluation Criteria Note:

Category A: The properties in this category are individually outstanding and have the broadest heritage significance in the City by virtue of architectural, historical, and environmental criteria along with overall integrity of design and construction. "Category A" properties generally hold provincial and/or national significance.



Built in 1951, City Hall was designed by the architectural firm of Marani and Morris of Toronto. It was constructed with help from a bequest from the estate of W.G Morrow, a former mayor of Peterborough, who instructed that money be set aside to build an official City building. Premier Leslie Frost laid the cornerstone December 1, 1950 and City Hall was opened in October of 1951 by Ottawa

mayor Charlotte Whitton and the mayor of Peterborough, England.

The building has been in use by the Corporation of the City of Peterborough since 1951 and has been the centre for many important community events and is an integral part of the civic centre of the City. City Hall has housed courts, Justice of the Peace and even had jail cells at one time. City Hall is a late interpretation of the principles of the City Beautiful movement, which grew out of the European Beaux Arts style and borrowed from it a sense of order, harmony and dignity of design. The movement became popular after the Chicago World Exposition of 1892 and was explicitly linked to the beautification of a city in hope of inspiring the community to a moral and civic virtue. The building also offers a link between Confederation Square and Victoria Park.

The central portico of the City Hall building contains three door openings and simple concrete door surrounds, transoms and pediments. Above the main entranceway is a clock tower and octagonal belvedere tower topped by a gold dome and weathervane. The ground floor foyer at City Hall is adorned with a terrazzo mosaic floor map of Peterborough County, believed to be the only one of its kind in Canada.



CURRENT OWNER: Corporation of the City of Peterborough

ORIGINAL OWNER: Corporation of the City of Peterborough

ARCHITECT: Marani and Morris of Toronto

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1950-1951

BUILDER: Eastwood Construction

CONTEXT- SITE AND SETTING:

City Hall is included in and is an integral part of downtown Peterborough's Civic Square. To the north is George Street United Church, and to the west is Confederation Square. Attached to the Carnegie Wing to the north, which was the former Carnegie Library built in 1910-11. Parking is at the east side of the building and east across Water Street are the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Services, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Victoria Park and the Peterborough County Courthouse.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

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 construction materials of wood, brick, stone, plaster parging, metal and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features:

Exterior Elements:

- 2 ½ storey concrete construction with second storey flat roof and E chimney
- Symmetrical design
- Central 3 ½ storey portico with clock tower and belvedere tower flanked on either side by two storey wings
- Windows spaced at even intervals across the span of each of the two wings, separated by pilasters



- Main entrance to the building including:
 - Original portico with three sets of doors, flanked by concrete pilasters,
 - Simply designed door surrounds, concrete pediments, transoms
 - Second storey fenestration in portico
 - Third storey mansard roof with clock tower and belvedere tower with dome and weathervane

Interior Elements

- Original marble terrazzo tiled floor depicting a map of Peterborough County, including brass inlay
- Original cornerstone of building, dated December 1, 1950 located in City Hall foyer
- Marble interior pilasters and entrance staircase, and staircases leading to basement and second floor
- Original ceiling moulding in entrance foyer
- Brass details on banisters in entrance foyer up to second floor of City Hall and leading from first level foyer to basement level.
- Oak doors of Council Chambers, including wooden coffer-style details and pediments facing into the Chambers.

