

City of Hamilton - Heritage Permit Application Note Sheet

Address: 610 York Boulevard, Hamilton (Dundurn Castle, Part IV)

Permit Number: HP2024-040

Owner: City of Hamilton

Applicant/Agent: Jarrett Zacharko, Heritage Project Specialist

Description of proposed alterations:

- Installation of a card reader and electric strike on an exterior courtyard wooden door and jamb.

Reasons for proposed alterations:

- The existing door includes a heritage rim-lock (knobs only, no latch) and a modern cylinder lock, so this hardware will be an upgrade to the existing system.
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Documentation submitted with application:

- Heritage Permit application form
 - Description of new and existing hardware
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Draft Conditions for Consideration:

- That any minor changes to the plans and elevations following approval shall be submitted, to the satisfaction and approval of the Director of Planning and Chief Planner, prior to submission as part of any application for a Building Permit and / or the commencement of any alterations; and
- That implementation / installation of the alteration(s), in accordance with this approval, shall be completed no later than December 31, 2026. If the alteration(s) are not completed by December 31, 2026, then this approval expires as of that date and no alterations shall be undertaken without a new approval issued by the City of Hamilton.

Excerpt from Reasons for Designation (By-law No. 77-239)

The interior and exterior of this property are recommended for conservation as property having historic and architectural value or interest by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of the City of Hamilton, in Victorian Architecture in Hamilton published by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and written by Professor A.G. McKay, and in The Ancestral Roof: Domestic Architecture of Upper Canada, written by Marion MacRae and Anthony Adamson.

The building is of architectural significance as it is the largest and finest house in Ontario left standing from the days of Upper Canada and Canada West. Dundurn Castle was built in 1832 and is constructed of stuccoed brick in the Regency style. The architect, Robert Charles Wetherell, added many Italian embellishments such as the twin watch towers, balustrades, glazed doors, ornamental brackets, Greek mouldings, a Doric porch and elaborate chimneys to the design. These features transformed the building into one of the first and largest Italianate Tuscan villas in North America. The treatment of the interior is of a more classical style. Included in the Castle complex are a dovecote and cockpit, with stables being added at a later date.

Sir Allan Napier MacNab, the first Prime Minister of the United Province of Canada, had the mansion constructed as his home and resided there from 1834 until his death in 1862. He purchased the land on which the castle stands from Colonel Richard Beasley, and incorporated Beasley's brick home into his own. MacNab was named Upper Canada's first Queen's Counsel, served as the Tory representative for Wentworth County in the House of the Assembly for 26 years, was knighted for his service to the Crown in helping crush the rebellion of William Lyon MacKenzie, and brought the Great Western Railway to Hamilton in 1854.

The present owner of Dundurn Castle, the City of Hamilton, had it restored in 1967 as a Centennial project.

Photographs



Figure 1: Dundurn Castle



Figure 2: Interior (left) and exterior (right) images of heritage door proposed to have electronic card reader installed