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December 17, 2013

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3



Dear Sir/Madame,

**SUBJECT: DINGMAN HOUSE
91 METCALFE STREET - ST. THOMAS
INTENT TO DESIGNATE - ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that, as a result of information provided by the City's Municipal Heritage Committee, City Council has initiated the "Intent to Designate" process for 91 Metcalfe Street, Dingman House, as found within the Ontario Heritage Act. Please find enclosed a document outlining the reasons for the proposed designation.

A notice of Intent to Designate will be published in the local newspaper on Saturday, December 21, 2013. After a 30 day period, should no objection be received about this matter, Council will consider a by-law to designate the property.

As required under the Ontario Heritage Act, this letter is being forwarded to you.

I would ask that should you have any comments regarding this proposed designation and or any objections please advise the municipality accordingly within the 30 day period.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Yours truly,

Wendell Graves,
CAO/Clerk

c/c St. Thomas Municipal Heritage Committee

DATE:

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS
INTENT TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS A HERITAGE PROPERTY**

PROPERTY: DINGMAN HOUSE
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 91 METCALFE STREET

Analysis for reasons for designation as provided by the Municipal Heritage Committee:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under The *Ontario Heritage Act* as it relates to the Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value of Interest. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets one or more of three criteria.

In applying these criteria to the facts relating to the property it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- 1) The property has design value or physical value because it,
 - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
 - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
 - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement

91 METCALFE STREET is a prominent property located within the Courthouse District of the city. It is described as a two storey painted brick neo-classic Greek Revival house with a three-bay front. The double-hung central door has a shallow curved fan light. The windows are shuttered. The large brackets at the eaves are Italianate and support a hip-roof. The two-storey Greek-revival porch facing West is supported by Ionic columns which also support a balcony over the door. The porch juts out over the central bay. A second, north-facing, single-storey semi-circular porch is accessed from the main floor via double-hung doors.

2.

The property has historical value or associative value because it,

- i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
- ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
- iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

Built in 1871 it was owned initially by Ann Elizabeth Arkell and then transferred through a succession of members of the Griffin and Dingman families, all of them prominent to the development of the City of St. Thomas. In particular, L.H. Dingman, who in 1902 became owner and publisher of the St. Thomas Times. With the amalgamation of the two dailies in 1918, Mr. Dingman became president and treasurer of The Times-Journal of St. Thomas, Limited. For many years George Dingman was also the managing editor of the Times-Journal. His daughter Margaret Margetts took up residence in 1981 and lived there until her passing in 2013. The house remains under the ownership of the descendants of the Dingman family to this day (2013).

3. The property has contextual value because it,

- i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
- ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
- iii. is a landmark.

91 METCALFE STREET is a substantial house, built on a large lot bounded on the East side by a tributary of Mill Creek. It forms part of a collection of other well built, substantial houses in the Courthouse District of the city, most of which were built or inhabited by prominent families involved in the early development of St. Thomas. There are currently seven other municipally designated properties in the district, including the Elgin County Courthouse and its Registry Office.