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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

MBA/7082

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

REGISTERED MAIL

To: Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
TORONTO, Ontario
M5C 1J3



TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings at the following municipal address, as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act:

2021 Ontario Street
(Plan 684, Lots 103, 104, & 105 and Westerly 14' 8" of Lot 102)

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

Owner: Sharon Romanycia and Wayne Pike

Property: 2021 Ontario Street

Reasons for Designation:

Historical:

The Low-Martin house was built in 1928 for Harry Low, a toolmaker who became one of the giants of the rum-running trade during Prohibition. The house was originally called "Devonshire Lodge" and these words are embedded in the front walkway. It cost Harry Low nearly \$130,000 to build in 1928. Ultimately, the Depression and legal problems lost Low his house on Ontario Street in the early 1930s, and Low died in relative obscurity in Windsor in 1955.

In 1961 renowned Canadian politician Paul Martin Sr. and his wife Nell bought the house. Paul Martin has been referred to as "Windsor's most famous son" and has made his mark in local and Canadian history – representing Windsor from 1935 to 1968, serving as High Commissioner to Great Britain in the 1970s, and helping establish many of Canada's social programs. Paul Martin Jr. followed his father's footsteps into politics, serving as Canada's Finance Minister before becoming Prime Minister on December 8, 2003.

Architectural:

It is likely that builder George Lawton designed and built the 4,000 square-foot main house and a 1,700 square foot servant's quarters/garage to the rear in consultation with the original owner, Harry Low. The Low-Martin house is a 2-½ storey rusticated stone English Cottage or "Cotswold" style house – the only one of this style in the city and perhaps in all of Essex County. It is sited diagonally on the lot facing the corner of Ontario and Devonshire Rd. Its convex façade is composed of numerous bays with elements such as jerkin-headed gables, a conical roof over the rounded bay, a recessed balconette over the arched recessed entrance, leaded glass, and oriel windows.

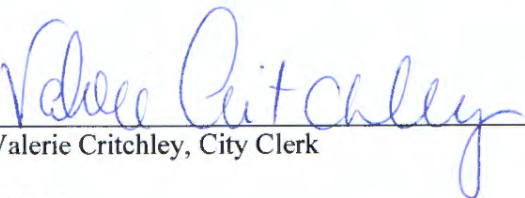
The roof is characterized by shingles that “roll” over the eaves. The undulating roof originally consisted of four layers of wafer thin wooden shingles imported from England laid over a complex wooden framework. In the 1960s John Braithwaite, roofer, used asphalt shingles in layers to emulate the rolled appearance.

A garage/servant’s apartment in the same style, with access from Argyle Road, is located east of the house. A garden wall and winding stone path leading to the main entrance complement the main structures.

The interior boasts a magnificent spiral oak staircase between the first and second floors, “drip” plaster ceilings, oak parquet floors, walnut wall panels, and a cloister with 20 foot ceilings and 16 feet of windows of beveled leaded glass.

Any person may, within thirty days of the publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Windsor notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Windsor shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

DATED at Windsor, Ontario this 16th day of November 2007
Valerie Critchley, City Clerk



Valerie Critchley, City Clerk

KK/ml

