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MAY 15 2000



The Forest City

REGISTERED

JEFF MALPASS
Deputy City Manager

May 11, 2000

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto ON M5C 1J3

**RE: DESIGNATION OF 55 CENTRE STREET & 353 RICHMOND STREET
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18**

Enclosed for your information is notice of the Council of The Corporation of the City of London's intention to designate the properties identified above pursuant to Subsection 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

for R. J. Tolmie
Deputy City Clerk
/skd

Encl.

Corporate Services Dept.
300 Dufferin Avenue
Room 308
PO Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9

Office: (519) 661-6400
Fax: (519) 661-4892

www.city.london.on.ca

(Tree
Logo)

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE PLACE
OF ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORICAL VALUE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of The Corporation of the City of London intends to designate as a place of architectural, historic and/or contextual value or interest the following property in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990*:

<u>Property Description</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Last Date For Objection</u>
353 Richmond Street	May 13, 2000	June 12, 2000

The detailed reasons for designation of this property can be seen in or obtained from the Office of the City Clerk, Room 308, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 4L9 during normal office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday). Any person who objects to this intended designation must, **within thirty days** after the date of the first publication, serve on the Commissioner of Corporate Services and City Clerk a notice of objection in writing, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The *Ontario Heritage Act* provides that where a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

DATED at London, Ontario on May 13, 2000.

R. J. Tolmie
Deputy City Clerk

LONDON FREE PRESS LEGAL SECTION - May 13, 2000

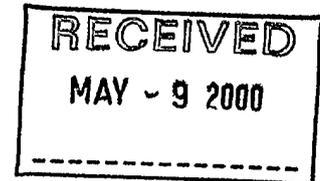
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The Corporation of the City of London
Corporate Services Department



JEFF MALPASS
Deputy City Manager

May 2, 2000



Management Board Secretariat
Director - Subsidies Branch
777 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2C8

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on May 1, 2000 resolved:

7. That, on the recommendation of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, notice of the Municipal Council's intentions to designate the property located at 353 Richmond Street to be of historical and architectural value or interest **BE GIVEN** for the attached reasons under the provisions of subsection 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*; on the understanding that the land to be included in the designation will be as shown on the assessment roll.
(7/10/PC)

Handwritten signature of R. J. Tolmie.
R. J. Tolmie
Deputy City Clerk
/hal

attach.

cc: Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor, Toronto, M7A 2R9
V. A. Coté, Commissioner of Planning and Development, Room 703
R. Cerminara, Director of Building Controls, Room 706
M. Gladysz, Heritage Planner, Room 609
S. Dart, Documentation Clerk*
Chair and Members, London Advisory Committee on Heritage

**Reasons for Designation
353 Richmond Street (The Province of Ontario Savings Office)**

Historical Reasons

One of the finest buildings on Richmond Street today, 353 Richmond Street was built for London's first trust company, the London and Western Trusts organized by George Gibbons and others in 1896. It was the formation of the London and Western Trusts that caused George Somerville at the Huron and Erie (H&E) to become interested in bringing the H&E into the trust business. Somerville convinced several members of the board to jointly purchase the nearly dormant General Trust Corporation of Canada. Renamed Canada Trust, the company was then sold at cost to the Huron and Erie. The new firm opened for business in 1901, staffed by H&E people, with Somerville as the Manager and Verschoyle Cronyn as the President.

In 1921, the London and Western Trusts moved down the street from rented quarters into 353 Richmond Street. The Company's new building with its four great fluted columns supporting a frieze with London and Western Trusts chiseled into it. Is the type of classically inspired architecture that is usually associated with banks. In the 1930's, after decades of local control, the London and Western expanded and new directors, including former Prime Minister Arthur Meighen, joined the Board. During these years the company opened offices in Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary. By the 1940's, as Philip Smith relates in his history of Canada Trust, Manager J. Allyn Taylor began to cast a covetous eye towards the high-calibre personnel on the London and Western Trust Board and subsequently brought the company into the Huron and Erie fold.

Shortly after the merger with Huron and Erie, the building was purchased by the Provincial Government and, since 1952, has been occupied by a branch of the Ontario Savings Office. With the exception of a few years as a Department of Highways office, 353 Richmond Street has offered financial services of some kind for most of its existence and is now the oldest banking building still functioning as such in the core.

Architectural Reasons

Exterior:

Built c.1920 for the London and Western Trusts, the style of 353 Richmond Street is Neoclassical Revival, and its most prominent features are typical of the style. The facing is smooth ashlar stone with barely discernable joints. The portico in antis (ie. recessed) is flanked by pilasters reflecting but not imitating the features of the columns. The four heavy columns are fluted Roman Doric in style. Rich mouldings surround the doorway and form its architrave and lintel. The window embrasures are unadorned, and the roofline is relatively plain. The frieze is unusual: it is somewhat shallow and, while the dentils are characteristic of a Doric frieze, the modillions properly belong to the Ionic and Corinthian orders.

Interior:

The Province of Ontario has maintained the building with almost no alterations from the time they moved in. An ornately plastered ceiling is one of the many intact elements of the banking hall, while the foyer retains wood paneling and marble trim probably from the time of the building's construction.