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300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA
REGISTERED

Catherine

March 2, 2001



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

Re: Designation of 305 Queens Avenue
The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18

Please find enclosed, for your information, a certified copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-3324-44, entitled "A by-law to designate 305 Queens Avenue to be of historical and architectural value", passed by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of London on February 5, 2001 and registered as Instrument No. ER95627 on February 27, 2001.

The London Advisory Committee on Heritage will be contacting you at a later date to determine whether or not you wish to have a plaque mounted on this building to designate it as a site of historical and architectural value.

for
Chayward
Cathie L. Best
Deputy City Clerk

/ch

Encl.

c: R. Cerminara, Building Division, Room 710
M. Gladysz, Planning Division, Room 603
M. Casavecchia

The Corporation of the City of London
Office: 519-661-4939
Fax: 519-661-4892
chayward@city.london.on.ca
www.city.london.on.ca

April 12/01
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Bill No. 69
2001

By-law No. L.S.P.-3324-44

A by-law to designate 305 Queens Avenue to be of historical and architectural value.

WHEREAS pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18*, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as 305 Queens Avenue has been duly published and served and no notice of objection to such designation has been received;

THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of historical and architectural value or interest, the real property at 305 Queens Avenue, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" hereto.
2. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the London Free Press, and to enter the description of the aforesaid property, the name and address of its registered owner, and short reasons for its designation in the Register of all properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on February 5, 2001.

Anne Marie DeCicco
Mayor

Cathie L. Best
Deputy City Clerk



**CITY OF LONDON BY-LAW
CERTIFICATION RECORD**

I, Cathie L. Best, Deputy City Clerk, of The Corporation of the City of London, hereby certify that the By-law hereunder is a true copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-3324-44 of the City of London, passed on February 5, 2001.

First reading - February 5, 2001
Second reading - February 5, 2001
Third reading - February 5, 2001

Dated at London, Ontario, this 2nd day of March, 2001.

Signature

SCHEDULE "A"
To By-law No. L.S.P.-3324-44

Plan NIL, Part Lots 3,4,5, Elsie Perrin Williams

SCHEDULE "B"
To By-law No. L.S.P.-3324-44

Reasons for Designation

The Elsie Perrin Williams Memorial Library - 305 Queens Avenue

Historical Reasons

Built using funds willed to the City by Mrs Elsie Perrin Williams, London's Central Library building was named as a memorial to this generous citizen of London. The building was opened on 4 October 1940 by the Ontario Minister of Education at the time, Duncan McArthur. It was the fourth library building for the City, replacing the previous Main Library at the corner of Wellington Street and Queens Avenue.

In 1942 the American Library Association Bulletin hailed this new library building, writing, "...this clean-cut, inviting building, ..., is one of the finest examples of what a modern public library should look like." They went on to feature "The ingenious ground floor plan ... includes a spacious, well-lighted children's room with entrance across a large sunken garden and lawn. ... The main floor plan ... is a definite and successful contribution to library architecture."

The library was designed to meet an extensive list of educational needs. It incorporated an auditorium, an art gallery and featured a Children's library with a children's Club Room and an outdoor reading garden where "children may read in the fine weather while at the same time getting fresh air and sunshine. As the demands on the library changed, so has the building been adapted to suit those demands, but some of the original furniture is still in use in the London Room and the Central Hall retains the openness of the atrium even though the skylight was covered with a second floor addition.

The original library building was designed by London architects Thornton McBride and L. Gordon Bridgman in consultation with Richard Crouch, the Chief Librarian. The design reflects and symbolizes the Greek ideal of freedom gained through rational thought. This ideal countered the threats of war that were rampant in the world at the time that the design was struck. Also reflecting the themes of the time, the building's form is austere classical in which beauty, dignity and simplicity are combined.

Architectural Reasons

Several of the original architectural features are still present and deserve preservation. The front and side walls are faced with Queenston limestone. Engraved across the front face are the words, "London Public Library ELSIE PERRIN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL Art Gallery and Museum" in between decorative horizontal bands above and below. The front door is surrounded by a tall projecting frame decorated with carved Greek key designs and a mask of Socrates over the door. The double doors are surmounted by a large, 3 by 5 light transom doubling the height of the doors. In front of this projecting frame is a large terrace, flanked by stone parapets decorated on the front faces with carved allegorical designs. The exterior window spandrels are made from black Virginia serpentine marble, separated by fluted stone pilasters. In the interior, the finish of the walls in the Foyer was described (in 1940) as "jaune ambre French marble" and most of it remains in place. The floor in the Foyer is the original patterned terrazzo. The original stairway leading up and down from the Foyer is still in use. Two of the original light fixtures still hang in the Foyer and Vestibule. The original wooden doors remain between the Foyer and the Central Hall, originally a central atrium covered by a huge rectangular skylight. Openings off the Central Hall are flanked by ribbed pilasters that reflect those of the facades outside. The clock over the front door remains today.

Contextual Reasons

The architectural styling of this building and the use of Queenston limestone is quite uncommon in the City, but is reflected in the Dominion Public Building at 457 Richmond Street. The limestone also ties the building with the Bell Canada building at Clarence Street and Dufferin Avenue.