ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

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FIDUCIE DU PATRIMOINE ONTARIEN

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Middlesex Proces

Feb 18/02

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

London
CANADA

January 22, 2002

K. Walsh
Vice President
Engineering & Operations
London Hydro

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on January 21, 2002 resolved:

10. That, on the recommendation of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, notice of Municipal Council's intention to designate the property located at 119 Carling Street (London Hydro Substation No. 4) to be of a 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 role. (10/3/PC)

Guy H. Hallman
City Clerk
/hal

attach.

cc: Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor, Toronto, M7A 2R9
C. Nelson, Heritage Planner
Chair and Members, London Advisory Committee on Heritage
C. Hayward, Documentation Clerk*

The Corporation of the City of London
Office: 519-661-6400
Fax: 519-661-4892
council&committees@city.london.on.ca
www.city.london.on.ca

(10)

Reasons for Designation - 119 Carling Street

London Hydro Substation No. 4

(revised 12 December 2001)

Historical Reasons

The rapid spread of hydro electricity throughout London following its introduction in November 1910 created the necessity of installing transformers in various substations throughout the city. The Carling Street substation, built in 1924, was the fourth to be built at a cost of approximately $115,000.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in its attempt to create buildings that fit in with their environment, gave the building a formal façade to match the downtown streetscape it fronted upon. "From the beginning care was taken to see that these stations did not conflict with the amenities of the neighbourhood," wrote former PUC General Manager E. V. Buchanan in 1966. "No. 4 substation in the core of the City on Carling Street has a pleasing Georgian front designed by a local architect."

Significantly, the design of the Carling Street substation pointed towards the trend to residential-type substations. These stations, designed to look like ordinary houses, had their genesis in the care and consideration that went into the construction of the substation number four.

The structure is also historically important as it is one of the last Hydro buildings constructed during the lifetime of Sir Adam Beck, the principal founder of Ontario Hydro, MPP and former mayor of London. Beck, who favoured elaborate designs for the province's hydro buildings, would have approved of the Carling Street substation. Moreover, it is almost certainly the last London building related to Beck that stands intact from the man's lifetime. As such, it is a fitting monument to one of the most important and powerful Londoners of the past century.

Architectural Reasons

Author Nancy Tausky, in her book "Historical Sketches of London" writes that, "The building makes striking and distinctive use of the Neo-classical vocabulary, using two freely interpreted Doric pilasters and their architrave to frame the doors of the building, and accenting the corners with two large urns". To clarify this description it may be noted that the building actually has two sets of doors, with a set of french doors above the main doorway. It would be more accurate to say that the building façade is framed by the columns and architrave. The architrave supports a balustrade in relief surmounted by the two decorated urns at the corners and is repeated above the main doorway. There are two medallions flanking the upper part of the french doors.

The façade is constructed of red brick which returns on the sides of the building. Further back on the sides white brick is used.

Tausky further writes "The main doors were made of paneled copper, though, regrettably, these have now been stored inside the building because of the weak door frame." The doorway has been bricked up, with a small door installed. Nevertheless, Tausky's comment is still valid that, "Altogether the façade creates a most imposing entrance into a building that contains [concrete] floors and electrical machinery."