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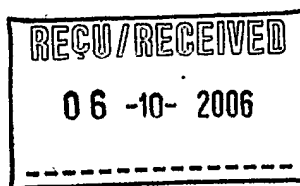


London  
CANADA

REGISTERED

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

264



October 5, 2006


Middlesex Condominium Corporation #173 (London Towers)  
c/o Marianne Donovan  
379-389 Dundas Street  
London ON N6B 3L5

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

**RE: DESIGNATION OF 379-389 DUNDAS STREET  
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18**

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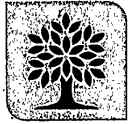
Enclosed for your information is notice of the Council of The Corporation of the City of London's intention to designate the property identified above pursuant to Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

  
Kevin Bain  
City Clerk

/rv

cc: Chris Nelson, Heritage Planner  
Don Menard, Heritage Planner

The Corporation of the City of London  
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300 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

**London**  
CANADA

October 3, 2006

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

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on October 2, 2006 resolved:

19. That notice of the Municipal Council's intention to designate the property located at 379-389 Dundas 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*; it being pointed out that the owner of the subject property, Middlesex Condominium Corporation #173, has concurred in the above recommendation on the understanding that the land to be included in the designation will be as shown on the assessment roll. (19/24/PC)

Kevin Bain  
City Clerk  
/hw

cc: Middlesex Condominium Corporation #173 (London Towers), c/o Marianne Donovan, 379-389 Dundas Street, London, ON N6B 3L5  
R. Panzer, General Manager of Planning and Development  
D. Menard, Heritage Planner  
R. Verhoeven, Documentation Services Representative  
Chair and Members, London Advisory Committee on Heritage

### **Proposed Reasons for Designation: 379 Dundas Street (London Towers)**

The church tower at 379 Dundas is worthy of preservation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a structure of cultural heritage value. It stands as a visible link to the history of the Congregational church in London, to William Clarke one of its important founders and to Gordon Jeffrey, a London lawyer noted for his interest in music.

Architecturally, it is a remnant of a major work by one of London's noted architects, Thomas Tracey, of the firm of Robinson and Tracey.

### **Historical Reasons**

In 1837 the London (England) Missionary Society sent the Reverend William Clarke to Establish a Congregational church in London. Clarke also assisted in establishing Congregational churches in other parts of southern Ontario including Warick, Frome and, after leaving London in 1843, Simcoe. Before his retirement the Reverend Clarke was also connected to the Indian Mission. He died in April 1878.

While serving in London Clarke lived and farmed forty acres on the south side of the river. He was instrumental in canvassing for funds for the building of Clarke's bridge, on Wellington Road (London's third bridge.) Clarke Street ran for one block east of Wellington Road, south of Front Street. It was later renamed Grand Avenue.

Initially, Clarke's congregation met in June, 1837, in the O'Dell school in Westminster Township on the south side of Commissioners Road west of Wellington Road. Later, services were held in the old grammar school on the southwest corner of the court house block. The church was relocated three more times before acquiring the quarter lot on the south side of Dundas between Colborne and Waterloo. In 1875 the site of the tower was purchased from Thomas Scatterd with the intent to build a new Congregational church in London.

Thomas Tracey of Robinson and Tracy was the architect for the building which opened in August, 1876. Its sanctuary had semicircular seating for 500 people, with a gallery housing another 300. Colonel Robert Lewis, London stained glass craftsman, supplied the church with eighteen stained glass windows. By 1890 First congregational Church was the largest Congregational church in Western Ontario. It was the site of the annual meeting of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec in 1878, 1883, 1893 and the first annual meeting of the Congregational Union of Canada in 1906.

In March, 1914, the church interior was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt and reopened in October.

In 1925 first congregational was involved in the national discussion over church union when it voted to join the United Church of Canada. It became Beecher United Church, named after Henry Ward Beecher, a popular American Congregational evangelist and brother to Harriet Beecher Stowe. Subsequently, further mergers were contemplated with Pilgrim United Church and Dundas-Centre United but neither was completed. In 1947 Beecher United closed. Shortly afterwards the church property was sold to lawyer Gordon Jeffrey and Ernest White, director of the Music Teachers' College. The building was renamed the Aeolian Hall and its first concert was an organ recital on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948. Twenty years later, on Victoria Day, the Aeolian Hall was destroyed by fire caused by arson. It was not economically feasible to restore the building so, while the tower was preserved, the Aeolian Hall relocated to the former London East Town Hall at