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

# London canada <u>registered</u>

August 7, 2007

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

Christ Church c/o The Rector 138 Wellington Street London, ON N6B 2K9

## Re: Designation of 138 Wellington Street 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.-3392-164 entitled "A bylaw to designate 138 Wellington Street to be of historical and contextual value", passed by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of The City of London on July 16, 2007 and registered as Instrument No.ER517305 on July 27, 2007.

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 contextual value.

Kevin Bain City Clerk

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Encl.

cc : R. Cerminara, Building Division, Room 710 D. Menard, Planning Division, Room 603 L. Fisher, Committee Secretary, Room 308

The Corporation of the City of London Office: 519-661-2500 ext. 0916 Fax: 519-661-4892 jnetherc@london.ca www.london.ca ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST



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## NOTICE OF HERITAGE DESIGNATION BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of London has enacted the following heritage designation by-law pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S. O. 1990:

Property Descriptions 138 Wellington Street By-law Enactment Date July 16, 2007 <u>By-law Number</u> L.S.P.-3392-164

A copy of this heritage designation by-law may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk, Room 308, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, or by telephoning 661-2500 ext 0916.

DATED at London, Ontario on August 9, 2007.

Kevin Bain City Clerk

CITY OF LONDON BY-LAW CERTIFICATION RECORD Bill No. 272 I. James C. Purser, Manager of Records and Information Services, of The Corporation of the City of London, hereby certify that the document hereunder is a true copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-3392-164 passed by Municipal Council on July 16, 2007. 2007 By-law No. L.S.P.-3392-164 Ontario, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007. Dated at L A by-law to designate 138 Wellington Street to be Jame Marager of Records and Information Services of historical and contextual value or interest. 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 and contextual value or interest; AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as 138 Wellington Street 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 contextual value or interest, the real property at 138 Wellington Street, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" hereto. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon 2. the title to the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the З.

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 July 16, 2007.

AM Actices Bed

Anne Marie DeCicco-Best Mayor

Linda Rowe Deputy Clerk

First Reading – July 16, 2007 Second Reading – July 16, 2007 Third Reading – July 16, 2007

#### SCHEULE "A" To By-law No. L.S.P.-3392-164

Part of Lot 1, North of East Hill Street, in the City of London and County of Middlesex as in Instrument EC2074.

#### SCHEDULE "B" To By-law No. L.S.P.-3392-164

### Reasons for Designation

Christ's Church (Anglican) 138 Wellington Road

Christ's Church is a building of significant cultural heritage value, and is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The church was built close to the City's then southern outskirts in 1862-63 and is, therefore, the second oldest Anglican Church in London. It was designed by the important London architect William Robinson. With its pointed arches, slim wooden columns, exposed wooden brackets and beams, and buttresses, it stands out as a fine example of High Victorian Gothic church architecture, a tribute to the way Robinson handled the combined constraints of a limited budget and the changing requirements of Anglican ritual and design.

### Historical Reasons

Christ's Church is the second oldest Anglican Church in London. It was built in 1862-63 at the juncture of Hill and Wellington Streets. At that time this was just within the City's southern boundaries. The church was designed by William Robinson, on of London's prominent nineteenth century architects. Robinson began his work only after the planned overall \$4000 construction cost had already been raised through the endeavours of the Church's first rector, Rev. G.M. Innes, and the Women's Committee at St Paul's Cathedral. The church was consecrated, debt free, as Christ's Church in 1863.

Rev. G.M. Innes was succeeded in 1865 by Rev. James Smythe and in 1875 by Rev. J.W.P. Smith. The latter rector is remembered for his involvement in the birth of the University of Western Ontario. Christ's Church had well established ties with North Huron College. In addition to his parochial duties, Rector J.W.P. Smith also taught at the College. In February 1877 he organized a meeting at Christ's Church with other professors and alumni from Huron College to consider the feasibility of a university in London. The meeting resolved that Bishop Hellmuth should petition for a charter for a university. The charter received royal assent on March 7, 1878 and the University came into being. A plaque presented to Christ's Church in 1953, commemoration the University's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is located on the north wall of the nave.

Christ's Church was built at a time of significant change in the Church of England ritual and church design. Church adornments, such as the front, chancel and altar, had been reintroduced, and parish church design stipulated to be Decorative Gothic. Christ's Church exhibits some such features, but Robinson was apparently selective. For example, the front façade is not Gothic while the lancet windows are Early English Gothic, rather than the stipulated decorative variety. Nevertheless Christ's Church apparently continued to be Robinson's favorite church. When he died in 1894 his funeral service was held at Christ's Church as he had previously requested. He also bequeathed a sum of money that paid off the church mortgage and the interest from another to finance specific church operations.

### Architectural Reasons

A prime architectural reason for Christ's Church designation is its design by prominent London architect William Robinson. Although Robinson had designed other churches, they had primarily been Presbyterian. His challenge was to adapt this know-how to recently modified Anglican design and ritual requirements within a \$4000 budget constraint. As described by Nancy Tausky, his triumph was the way he turned this financially-enforced simplicity into the elegant orderliness of Christ's Church.

The Church is hip-roofed and built from London white brick. Its main axis lies from east to west with the main entrance on the west façade, facing Wellington Street and a subsidiary, somewhat larger entrance, on the south wall. Lancet windows are used throughout. The lancet windows, gable and buttresses on the front façade dominated the church exterior. Their subtle positioning divides the façade into three distinct sections, which echo the division between nave and side aisles in the church interior. The echoing effect is used advantageously elsewhere in the church. Thus, the three windows that dominated the façade mirror a similar set of three (albeit in stained glass) on the chancel's east wall. Similarly, the alignment of the buttresses on the north and south walls corresponds structurally with the columns inside the church. The interior lay-out was subsequently changed to central aisle.

Both entrances are fitted with double wooden doors, arched gothic transoms and wooden hood moulds. The decorative door surround comprise three courses of raised brick. All lancet windows are fitted with matching wooden hood moulds and sills. The central sill on the front façade is extended below all three windows. The gables on the front façade and the Hill Street entrance are topped with white stone caps, themselves atop an underlying parallel raised brick frieze.

The dominant features in the church interior comprise the wide pointed arches, the elegant octagonal shaped slim wooden columns and the associated exposed and slightly ornamented wooden brackets and roof beams. They also include the chancel with its magnificent pointed arch, the stained glass windows and the gallery with its staircase. The chancel is shallow with three stained glass windows portraying religiously significant geometric and floral patterns. These windows are believed to date from the 1863 construction. Otherwise, the windows throughout the nave generally were originally plain leaded windows, some with stained edging. Over the years, seven have been replaced by more conventional religious figure-based stained glass windows, most of them contributed as memorials by parish members. They range from one that memorializes Colonel Knatchbull Ferguson, who served at Sebastopol during the Crimean War, to the Centennial Window which commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ's Church in 1963. The ceiling throughout the church is white plaster.

The Parish Hall was constructed in 1879, using the same Gothic design and materials as in the Church proper. It was originally used to house a 300 member Sunday School, but now functions as a Parish Arts Centre. The small entrance door acknowledges the services of Rev. Roland Palmer of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, who steered the Parish through troubling times in the late 1960's

#### **Contextual Reasons**

The history of Christ's Church is closely linked to early industrialization of London. The 1850's saw the arrival of the railways which were followed soon afterwards by the discovery of oil at Petrolia and the consequent building of oil refineries and supporting industries in London in the early 1860's, most of them south of York Street. Workers flocked to, and built houses in, the area to take advantage of the new opportunities. Christ Church was primarily built to serve the spiritual needs of the area's new workers and their families. The simple, elegant design of the church reflects the simple designs of the surrounding houses and the simple life of the working class residents.