



An agency of the Government of Ontario



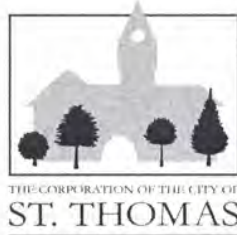
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Wendell Graves

Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk



P.O. Box 520, City Hall
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3V7
Telephone: (519) 631-1680
Ext. 4120
Fax: (519) 633-9019
wgraves@stthomas.ca

February 14, 2014

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

**NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE PLACES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
VALUE OR INTEREST**

Notice Is Hereby Given that the Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Thomas has passed a by-law to designate as a place of cultural heritage value or interest the property known as Alma Street Presbyterian Church, 40 Alma Street, St. Thomas, Ontario.

A copy of the By-law along with the detailed reasons for designation of this property are attached for your information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Yours truly,


Wendell Graves,
CAO/Clerk

CITY OF ST. THOMAS

BY-LAW NO. 29 - 2014

A by-law to designate Alma Street Presbyterian Church, 40 Alma Street, in the City of St. Thomas, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

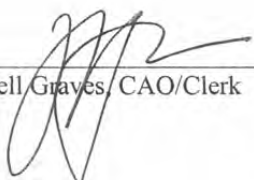
AND WHEREAS notice of intention to designate the property known as the Alma Street Presbyterian Church, 40 Alma Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, has been duly published and served, and no notice of objection has been received to such designation;

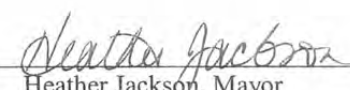
NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest the property known as 40 Alma Street in the City of St. Thomas, all of which is described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. The CAO/Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in the aforementioned Schedule "A" in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The CAO/Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the St. Thomas Times-Journal.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is finally passed.

READ a First and Second time this 10th day of February, 2014.

READ a Third time and Finally passed this 10th day of February, 2014.


Wendell Graves, CAO/Clerk


Heather Jackson, Mayor

Schedule "A"

Part Lot 8, West side of Alma Street, Part Lot 9, West side of Alma Street, Plan 43, as in E412834, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin being the whole of the PIN.

February 3, 2014

HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF 40 ALMA STREET, ST. THOMAS

PROPERTY: ALMA STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 40 ALMA ST.

Analysis for reasons for designation as provided by the Municipal Heritage Committee:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under The *Ontario Heritage Act* as it relates to the Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value of Interest. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets one or more of three criteria.

In applying these criteria to the facts relating to the property it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- 1) The property has design value or physical value because it,
 - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
 - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
 - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement

ALMA STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH can be described as Gothic Revival architecture with echoes of Queen Anne in the twin towers. Originally built of red brick, the building was resurfaced in PermaStone in 1951 giving it a faux cut stone façade. In the resurfacing, all of the original architectural features were retained including buttresses, pointed arch openings on windows and doorways, and trefoil details on its centre and towers (characteristic of the Gothic Revival style). The stone finish adds a Romanesque flavor to the design.

All interior church fittings have been removed, including a 900 pipe Casavant organ. The interior space retains its original ceiling and mezzanine levels.

- 2) The property has historical value or associative value because it,
 - i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
 - ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
 - iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

Originally known as St. Thomas East Presbyterian Church and after c.1895 as Alma Street Presbyterian Church, the building was built and occupied in 1891. Land at the corner of Alma Street and Kains Street was donated by Mr. Norman McDonald, a barrister. The building was provided to the congregation, debt free, by Mr. A.M. Hutchinson. Architect and builder on the project was J.Z. Long, also the architect of Balaclava Street Public School among other prominent local projects.

As noted in the 50th Anniversary history of the church, "permission was sought and granted for the establishment of a Presbyterian Mission in the eastern section of the City of St. Thomas, the object being to better serve the people, particularly the railwaymen, in that rapidly-growing part of the city". Thus, there is an inextricable link between the establishment of the church and the boom in railway development which took place in the early history of the city.

Records show the church was expanded just two years after completion because it had already outgrown its original capacity of 300. By 1922 the church was expanded again with the addition of the upper galleries.

The congregation was dissolved on May 23rd, 2000. For the past 10 years the property has been privately owned and operated as Dance Expressions, a dance studio.

- 3) The property has contextual value because it,
- i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
 - ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
 - iii. is a landmark.

Despite the 1951 resurfacing, the building retains all of its key architectural attributes. The church retains its unique built form, the only example of its type in St. Thomas. It remains important because of its noted architect and as a symbol of the early development of the east side of St. Thomas during the railway boom. It also demonstrates the ability to successfully repurpose heritage buildings with willing owners.