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By Fax and Mail

December 20, 2011

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

**SUBJECT: BALACLAVA STREET SCHOOL
20 BALACLAVA STREET - ST. THOMAS
INTENT TO DESIGNATE - ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that, as a result of information provided by the City's Municipal Heritage Committee, City Council has initiated the "Intent to Designate" process for 20 BalACLava Street, BalACLava Street School, as found within the Ontario Heritage Act. Please find enclosed a document outlining the reasons for the proposed designation.

A notice of Intent to Designate was published in the local newspaper on Saturday, December 17, 2011. After a 30 day period, should no objection be received about this matter, Council will consider a by-law to designate the property.

As required under the Ontario Heritage Act, this letter is being forwarded to you.

I would ask that should you have any comments regarding this proposed designation and or any objections please advise the municipality accordingly within the 30 day period.

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

Yours truly,


Wendell Graves,
CAO/Clerk

*Dec 22/2011
- J.L.*

December 19, 2011

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS
INTENT TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS A HERITAGE PROPERTY**

PROPERTY: BALACLAVA STREET SCHOOL
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 20 BALACLAVA STREET

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

BalACLava Street Public School meets the criteria of design and physical value as a unique example of "Picturesque Eclecticism" considered to be Canada's first national style. The building also displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in its exterior heritage attributes exemplified by the brickwork, masonry and other features. There is also a high degree of technical expertise in the architectural and construction methods employed to build this school.

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.

The school can be associated with the tremendous 1870's housing boom as a result of the coming of the Canada Southern Railway. The institutional/ educational use for over a century also has significant historical and associative value. There are also references to the Crimean War. When the school was constructed in 1898, John Z. Long was one of the foremost city architects often competing with Neil Darrach. He came in second in the bid to design City Hall and is noted for building the Amasa Woods Hospital and other structures in our city. He utilized his expertise, knowledge and understanding of the community to create a school reminiscent of architecture at that time.

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.

The school is a landmark in its setting north of Talbot Street. Generations of students, teachers and educational staff have attended or worked at this school and recognize its importance. It provides not only an educational facility but a playground for the neighbourhood. The school continues to be congruous with adjacent and other area buildings i.e. Grace United Church, and remains a bastion of the historical Millersburg setting (annexed to St. Thomas in 1871) and the first St. David's Ward school.