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THE CITY OF WINDSOR

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VALERIE CRITCHLEY
CITY CLERK

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO.

MBA/2008

REGISTERED MAIL



April 29, 2008

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide St. E., 3rd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Dear Sirs:



Re: Designation of 2021 Ontario Street

Council, for the Corporation of the City of Windsor, at its meeting held April 14, 2008 passed By-law Number 58-2008 to designate **2021 Ontario Street** as a property of architectural and/or historic significance under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- * A copy of the by-law outlining the reasons for designation is **attached**. Notice of the designating By-law will be published in the Windsor Star on Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Yours very truly,

Steve Vlachodimos
Manager of Council & Committee Services / Deputy Clerk

KK/ml
attachments

BY - LAW NUMBER 58-2008

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE LANDS AND PREMISES SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF WINDSOR, MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS *2021 Ontario Street*, TO BE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18, AS AMENDED

Passed the 14th day of April, 2008.

WHEREAS by virtue of the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, the Council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

AND WHEREAS upon consideration of the recommendation of the Windsor Heritage Committee, The Corporation of the City of Windsor deems it desirable and expedient to designate the lands municipally known as *2021 Ontario Street*, more particularly described in Schedule "A" annexed hereto and forming part of this by-law (the subject lands), to be of cultural heritage value or interest, for the reasons stated in Schedule "B" annexed hereto and forming part of this by-law.

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the subject lands, was served on the owner(s) of the said subject lands and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and such notice was published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality, on *Saturday, November 17, 2007*.

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intention in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Windsor enacts as follows:

1. That the lands municipally known as *2021 Ontario Street*, more particularly described in said Schedule "A" annexed hereto, be and the same is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest, for the reasons stated in said Schedule "B" annexed hereto.
2. This by-law shall come into force and take effect after the final passing thereof on the day upon which it is electronically registered in the Land Registry Office for the County of Essex (No. 12).


EDDIE FRANCIS, MAYOR


CLERK

First Reading - April 14, 2008
Second Reading - April 14, 2008
Third Reading - April 14, 2008

SCHEDULE "A"

Lot 103 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE; Lot 104 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE; Lot 105 Plan
684 WALKERVILLE; PT Lot 102 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE AS IN R1299075

P.I.N. 01131-0512 LT

City of Windsor, County of Essex

SCHEDULE "B"

Reasons for Designation:

Description of Historic Place

The Low-Martin house at 2021 Ontario Street, situated diagonally on the southeast corner of Devonshire Road in the heart of the former Town of Walkerville, is a famous landmark in Windsor. It was built in 1928 for Harry Low, a tool-maker who became a well-known rumrunner during Prohibition. It later became the home of renowned Canadian politician Paul Martin Sr. Both the main house and the rear garage/servant's quarters are in the Cotswold-style, built of rusticated stone with an unusual, undulating roof with contours similar to thatch.

Heritage Value

Historic Value

The Low-Martin house was built in 1928 for Harry Low, a toolmaker who became one of the giants of the rum-running trade during Prohibition. The house was originally called "Devonshire Lodge" and these words are embedded in the front walkway. It cost Harry Low nearly \$130,000 to build in 1928. Ultimately, the Depression and legal problems lost Low his house on Ontario Street in the early 1930s, and Low died in relative obscurity in Windsor in 1955.

In 1961 renowned Canadian politician Paul Martin Sr. and his wife Nell bought the house. Paul Martin has been referred to as "Windsor's most famous son" and has made his mark in local and Canadian history -- representing Windsor from 1935 to 1968, serving as High Commissioner to Great Britain in the 1970s, and helping establish many of Canada's social programs. Paul Martin Jr. followed his father's footsteps into politics, serving as Canada's Finance Minister before becoming Prime Minister on December 8, 2003.

Architectural Value

It is likely that builder George Lawton designed and built the 4,000 square-foot main house and a 1,700 square foot servant's quarters/garage to the rear in consultation with the original owner, Harry Low. The Low-Martin house is a 2-½ storey rusticated stone English Cottage or "Cotswold" style house -- the only one of this style in the city and perhaps in all of Essex County. It is sited diagonally on the lot facing the corner of Ontario and Devonshire Rd. Its convex façade is composed of numerous bays with elements such as jerkin-headed gables, a conical roof over the rounded bay, a recessed balconette over the arched recessed entrance, leaded glass, and oriel windows.

The roof is characterized by shingles that "roll" over the eaves. The undulating roof originally consisted of four layers of wafer thin wooden shingles imported from England laid over a complex wooden framework. In the 1960s John Braithwaite, roofer, used asphalt shingles in layers to emulate the rolled appearance.

A garage/servant's apartment in the same style, with access from Argyle Road, is located east of the house. A garden wall and winding stone path leading to the main entrance complement the main structures.

The interior boasts a magnificent spiral oak staircase between the first and second floors, "drip" plaster ceilings, oak parquet floors, walnut wall panels, and a cloister with 20 foot ceilings and 16 feet of windows of beveled leaded glass.

Contextual Value

The Low-Martin house is one of Windsor's most important, beautiful and recognized homes -- a heritage landmark in the former Town of Walkerville -- one of the last remaining nineteenth century garden/company towns left in the world. Walkerville (amalgamated with Windsor in 1935) was founded by Detroit distiller Hiram Walker in 1858 and the Walker family supported and guided the town's development for seven decades. The town developed from north (Detroit River) to south (largely Ottawa

Street), and the Low-Martin house (constructed in 1928) is one of the finest estate homes built during Walkerville's later stages of development.

Character Defining Elements

Items that contribute to the historical value of the Low-Martin house include:

- Its association with toolmaker turned infamous "rumrunner" Harry Low who had the estate, known as Devonshire Lodge, built in 1928.
- Its association with renowned politician, the Right Honorable Paul Martin and his wife Nell (parents of former Prime Minister Paul Martin Jr.) who owned the house for some 34 years (1961-1995).
- Its association with well know Liberal party politicians who were guests to the house - including Prime Ministers Lester B. Pearson and Pierre Trudeau.

Exterior features that contribute to the architectural value of the Low-Martin house (main house and rear garage/servant's quarters) include:

- Its association with well-known local builder, George Lawton, who built the house and likely designed it in consultation with Low.
- Its rare English "Cotswold" Cottage style – the only know house of this style in Windsor.
- Its estate status with crescent-shaped main house and garage/servant's quarters behind.
- Its original landscape elements - the rear garden wall and winding stone path.
- Its overall quality construction of rusticated stone with limestone trim, decorative wooden elements, and copper eaves/downspouts.
- Its undulating roof that emulates thatch (originally clad in wafer-thin wooden shingles) featuring the conical roof over the rounded bay and jerkin-headed gables.
- Its architectural embellishments such as asymmetrical bays, recessed balconette over the arched recessed entranceway, and oriel windows with leaded beveled glass.
- Its recessed arched stone main entrance with ornate arched wooden door.
- Its leaded beveled glass windows of varied sizes/uses with the prominent non-figurative design being an upper triangle, central tri-pane design over a bottom bi-pane motif.
- Its small paned wooden windows, primarily in 4/4 design where leaded glass is not used.

Characteristics that contribute to the contextual value of the Low-Martin house include:

- Its status as a landmark home in the former Town of Walkerville – one of the last remaining nineteenth century garden/company towns left in the world.
- Its status as one of the last remaining estate properties in Walkerville - consisting of a main house and garage/servant's quarters.
- Its site configuration that results in unobstructed views of the prominent main house spanning the SE corner of Devonshire Road and Ontario Street, with garage/servant's quarters behind.

The applicant(s) hereby applies to the Land Registrar.

yyyy mm dd Page 1 of 5

Properties

PIN 01131 - 0512 LT
Description Lot 103 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE; Lot 104 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE; Lot 105 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE; PT Lot 102 Plan 684 WALKERVILLE AS IN R1299075 ; WINDSOR
Address 02021 ONTARIO ST
 WINDSOR

Applicant(s)

This Order/By-law affects the selected PINs.

Name THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
Address for Service Clerk's Department
 P.O. Box 1607
 350 City Hall Square West
 Windsor, Ontario
 N9A 6S1

This document is being authorized by a municipal corporation by EDDIE FRANCIS, Mayor and VALERIE CRITCHLEY, Clerk pursuant to CR M316-2007..

This document is not authorized under Power of Attorney by this party.

Statements

This application is based on the Municipality By-Law No. 58-2008 dated 2008/04/15.

Schedule: See Schedules

Signed By

Catherine Anne Scott 400 City Hall Square East, Suite 201 acting for Applicant(s) Signed 2008 04 21
 Windsor
 N9A 7K6
 Tel 5192556548
 Fax 5192556933

Submitted By

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR 400 City Hall Square East, Suite 201 2008 04 21
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Fees/Taxes/Payment

Statutory Registration Fee \$60.00
Total Paid \$60.00

File Number

Applicant Client File Number: HER 3800 CRM316-2007 2021 ONTARIO ST