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for

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, *Yes*
R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES
KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH 180 WELLINGTON STREET WEST CHATHAM, ONTARIO
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation
2nd Floor, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Chatham intends to designate the property including lands and buildings, known municipally as St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 180 Wellington Street West, as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980 Chapter 337.

Architectural Significance

[While mainly a revival of classical and Early Christian styles, the church exhibits some Romanesque articulation and a Gothicized inclusion - the Rose Window. While this use of classical architectural features reflects the simple Italianate fashion favoured in the 1847 church, it indicates the growing sophistication and resources of the parish, as well as the influence of the Franciscan Priests who served the parish during the building of the new church.

The design of St. Joseph's Church represents a new development in the oeuvre of Joseph Connolly, an Irish architect, who once established in Toronto, excelled in the building of Gothic style Catholic churches, such as St. Peter's Basilica, London (1880-85). Shortly after completing the design of St. Joseph's Church, Connolly started work on St. Paul's in Toronto (1887-89), where the interior derives remarkably from St. Joseph's, while the exterior is less classically oriented.

Historical Significance

In 1836, fifteen acres, known as the Catholic Church Land was allocated by the Crown to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Upper Canada. On October 17, 1886, the cornerstone of the present church was laid on the site of the sanctuary of the original church which had been built in 1847. Joseph Connolly, a renowned Toronto architect, drew up the design and on October 23, 1887, Bishop John Walsh of the Diocese of London, dedicated and opened the new church.

In 1916, the structure of the church was completed with the addition of the two towers on the facade. At this time also, statues of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Michael the Archangel were installed in the niches flanking the main entrance.

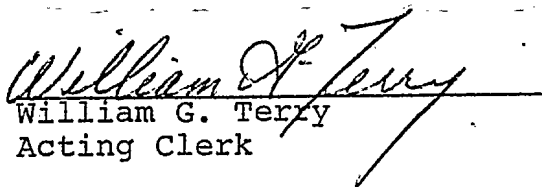
The magnificence of St. Joseph's Church demonstrates the faith and talents of the local settlers. The establishment of and maintenance of this church reflects the growth and prosperity of the community. As a Chatham landmark, St. Joseph's Church represents age, history and architecture - our heritage.]

THEREFORE because of the historical and architectural significance the Council of the City of Chatham recommends that, the exterior and interior of the entire building complex, containing church, chapel and 1968 addition, facade portico and chapel porch, be designated a heritage building to retain its original and present character.

Its designation shall not preclude any changes that may be deemed necessary for the efficient use of the building but that any or all such changes should be in keeping with the original and present character of the building and in consultation with the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

Any person may, before the 30th day of September, 1985, send by Registered Mail or deliver to the Clerk of the City of Chatham notice of his or her objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a notice of objection has been received, the Council of the City of Chatham will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated at Chatham, Ontario, this 29th day of August, 1985.


William G. Terry
Acting Clerk