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122



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

**London**  
CANADA



REGISTERED

May 16, 2007

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

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

**RE: DESIGNATION OF 138 WELLINGTON STREET  
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18**

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Enclosed for your information is notice of the Council of The Corporation of the City of London's intention to designate the property identified above pursuant to Section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

Kevin Bald  
City Clerk

/fm

cc: Don Menard, Planning Division, Room 603

The Corporation of the City of London  
Office: 519-661-4939  
Fax: 519-661-4892  
fmartin@london.ca  
www.london.ca



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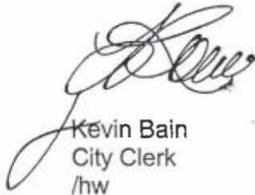
London  
CANADA

May 1, 2007

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

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on April 30, 2007 resolved:

6. That, on the recommendation of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, notice of the Municipal Council's intention to designate Christ's Anglican Church located at 138 Wellington Street to be of historical, architectural and contextual value or interest **BE GIVEN** for the attached reasons under the provisions of subsection 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*; it being pointed out that the owners of the subject property (G. Smith and B. Howe) have concurred in the above recommendation on the understanding that the land to be included in the designation will be as shown on the assessment roll. (6/12/PC)



Kevin Bain  
City Clerk  
/hw

cc: G. Smith and B. Howe c/o The Rector, 138 Wellington Street, London, ON N6B 2K8  
D. Menard, Heritage Planner  
L. Fisher, Heritage Register  
F. Martin, Documentation Services Representative\*  
Chair and Members, London Advisory Committee on Heritage

2007-013-00

## Reasons for Designation

### Christ's Church (Anglican) - 138 Wellington Street

(Revised 19 April 2006)

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, one 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, commemorating 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 Church of England ritual and church design. Church adornments, such as the font, chancel and altar, had been re-introduced, 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 facade 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 favourite 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.

CITY OF LONDON PLANNING DEPARTMENT	CITY CLERK	No. 1462
RECEIVED MAR 23 2007	Subject 138 Wellington St CHRIST'S CHURCH	Date APR 10 2007
FILE NO.	DR	Ref. LAC4
REFERENCE		
SUBJECT		
DATE		
TITLE		

### 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 facade, 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 facade dominate the church exterior. Their subtle positioning divides the facade 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 dominate the facade 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 surrounds comprise three courses of raised brick. All lancet windows are fitted with matching wooden hood moulds and sills. The central sill on the front facade is extended below all three windows. The gables on the front facade 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

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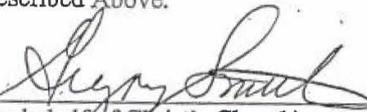
Contextual Reasons

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 1860s, most of them south of York Street. Workers flocked to, and built houses in, the area to take advantage of the new opportunities. Christ's Church was primarily built to serve the spiritual needs of this 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.

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**Declaration of Consent to Designate**

We agree to the Designation of Christ's Church (138 Wellington Street) for the Reasons Described Above.

  
(On behalf of Christ's Church)

March 20, 2007  
(date)

+   
Bishop of Huron  
March 22, 2007  
(date)