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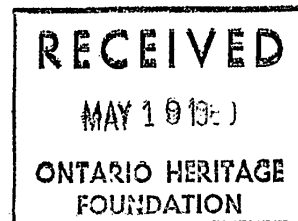
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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON



DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK
K.W. SADLER, CITY CLERK

May 16, 1989



██████████
486 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6B 1Z9

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on May 15, 1989, resolved:

1. That notice of Council's intention to designate the property at 486 Dufferin Avenue (north-west corner of Dufferin Avenue and Prospect Street) to be of architectural value or interest be given for the attached reasons under the provisions of Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 337. The provisions of Section 29(2) requiring Council's consultation with its local advisory committee have been complied with in that this action is being taken on the recommendation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. The owners attended the LACAC meeting on April 20, 1989 and 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. (35.1.1)(1/5/LACAC)(10/14/PC)

K.W. Sadler for TC

K. W. Sadler
City Clerk
/jk

cc: Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Communications, 77 Bloor Street
West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9 ✓
R. A. Blackwell
R. Cerminara
L. E. Draho
K. L. Perry
C. B. Chapman
H. A. Pulver
L.A.C.A.C.
Clerk - Processing *

486 Dufferin Avenue(north-west corner of Dufferin Avenue and Prospect Street)

Architectural Reasons:

Exterior

486 Dufferin Avenue was built in 1902 for George A. Mathewson, an executive with the London Free Press and later the London Advertiser. It is one of the city's finer examples of Queen Anne style architecture and, as such, is a prominent landmark in its neighbourhood. Two-and-one-half storeys in height and constructed of London white brick, the house is dominated by a commanding three-and-one-half storey corner turret, topped by an unusually ornate skirted finial. The building is crowned by a moderate-pitched gable roof, covered in patterned slate. At the peak of the roof is a gablet encasing a bull's-eye window set in a scroll-like moulding. The gable set atop the shallow projection of the front elevation repeats this same detailing. The cornice of the front elevation is decorated with single brackets and the side elevations with brackets in pairs. Many of the double hung sash windows have cut stone sills and brick voussoirs highlighted with red-stained mortar. Original shutters flank many of the windows (several shutters are missing, however).

The verandah extends across the front elevation, curving around the turret and extending part way along the east side elevation. The columns are supported by panelled base supports to which are anchored the spindled balustrades. In a rare instance of preservation, the stained wooden ceiling of the verandah remains extant. Entrance to the front of the house is gained through a double leaf panelled door with a single etched glass panel set in each door; an etched glass transom above encases the street number 486.

A two storey bay is an attractive element in the design of the east side elevation and a large gable dormer adorns the west side. The west side, which has undergone minor alterations, features an original gable dormer.

Interior

The interior decorative elements are of particular interest, retaining a uniform pattern throughout the house. Oddly, the style appears to be of an earlier era than the 1902 construction date of the house.

The living room features deeply encised door, window and high baseboard mouldings (more in keeping with High Victorian interior design). The tall windows of the corner turret admit abundant light into this formal living space. Multi-panelled sliding doors divide the living room from the front hallway and from the dining room. The principal focus of the room is a particularly handsome fireplace, the mantel of which is "supported" by two modified Ionic columns; the metal grate is set in a surround of patterned tile, which is repeated in the hearth.

The dining room mouldings duplicate the mouldings of the living room. A multi-panelled door, inset with coloured glass panels and similar transom above, leads to the verandah.

The entrance hallway is typically the most elaborate in terms of its decorative detail. The multi-panelled double-leaf door, which divides the hallway from the vestibule, contains a central art nouveau floral pattern surrounded by a frame of bevelled and stained glass which in their floral pattern illustrate an art nouveau design. Similar glass panels decorate the transom above and a window in the closet behind the staircase (the closet divides what was formerly a hallway-extending to the rear portion of the house). Both the vestibule and hallway feature the same door, window and high baseboard mouldings common throughout the house. A spindled balustrade leads up from a heavily moulded newel post to a similar newel post and balustrade upstairs. A highly unusual feature is the stairway's panelled ceiling.

Upstairs, the door, window and high baseboard mouldings repeat the designs common to the rest of the interior. Likewise, all the doors are of the same multi-panelled design. Etched glass transoms are set above most of the doors. Single multi-panelled doors, inset with coloured glass panels and transom above, provide access to a verandah balcony both from the southeast front bedroom and the central east bedroom. The southeast front bedroom with the turret contains a fireplace with a relatively simple wooden mantel and a metal insert with tiles surround and hearth.