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CITY OF



LONDON
CANADA

The Forest City

REGISTERED

September 15, 2000

JEFF MALPASS

Deputy City Manager

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

RE: DESIGNATION OF 513 TALBOT STREET
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

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 Subsection 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

Smard

Cathie L. Best
Cathie L. Best
Deputy City Clerk
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Encl.

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(Tree
Logo)

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE PLACE
OF ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORICAL VALUE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of The Corporation of the City of London intends to designate as a place of architectural, historic and/or contextual value or interest the following properties in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990*:

<u>Property Descriptions</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Last Date For Objection</u>
850 Highbury Avenue	September 16, 2000	October 16, 2000
398 Piccadilly Street	September 16, 2000	October 16, 2000
305 Queens Avenue	September 16, 2000	October 16, 2000
513 Talbot Street	September 16, 2000	October 16, 2000

The detailed reasons for designation of these properties can be seen in or obtained from the Office of the City Clerk, Room 308, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 4L9 during normal office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday). Any person who objects to any intended designation must, **within thirty days** after the date of the first publication, serve on the City Clerk a notice of objection in writing, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The *Ontario Heritage Act* provides that where a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

DATED at London, Ontario on September 16, 2000.

Cathie L. Best
Deputy City Clerk

LONDON FREE PRESS LEGAL SECTION - September 16, 2000

The Corporation of the City of London
Corporate Services Department



Jeff Malpass
JEFF MALPASS
Deputy City Manager

September 6, 2000



First Christian Reformed Church
513 Talbot Street
London ON N6A 2S5

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on September 5, 2000 resolved:

10. That, on the recommendation of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, notice of the Municipal Council's intentions to designate the property located at 513 Talbot 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 have concurred in this recommendation on the understanding that the land to be included in the designation will be as shown on the assessment roll. (10/18/PC)

Cathie L. Best
Cathie L. Best
Deputy City Clerk
/hal

attach.

cc:

Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor, Toronto, M7A 2R9
V. A. Coté, Commissioner of Planning and Development, Room 708
J. Fleming, Planning Administrator - Policy, Room 609
S. Manders, Documentation Clerk*
Chair and Members, London Advisory Committee on Heritage

Reasons for Designation

First Christian Reformed Church

(Originally, Talbot Street Baptist Church)

513 Talbot Street, London

Historical Reasons

The Talbot Street Baptist Church was constructed in 1881-82 for the city's first Baptist congregation, founded in 1845, which by the 1880s was in need of more expansive quarters than their initial chapel, at the corner of York and Talbot Streets, could provide. The new church building was designed by the architectural firm of Tracy and Durand, then headed by George Durand, who was arguably the best and most widely recognized architect to work in London during the nineteenth century. The church is one of the very few remaining urban churches designed by Durand for the London area. In 1953 the building was purchased by the First Christian Reformed Church, which has worshipped there since the dedication service held on March 27, 1954.

Architectural Reasons

The plan for the Talbot Street Church showed the innovative and imaginative approach to design for which Durand was acclaimed. Broad polygonal stair towers anchor each side of the facade and create a visual tension between their heavy solidity and the lighter, more strongly vertical centre section, which once terminated in a parapet wall with a bell-cote above the peak of the roof and conical spires at the tops of the octagonal pinnacles. Though the bellcote and tops of the pinnacles have been removed in the course of necessary repairs to the roof of the church, the exterior of the building still shows the fine detailing characteristic of Durand's work. In the several pointed-arch windows that adorn the facade (a three-light window over the main door, flanked by lancet windows on each side, with paired lancet windows on each side of the door below, an elaborate transom over the door, and high basement windows at the street level), the stair towers, and the sides of the building, elaborate window tracery explores variations on the quatrefoil and trefoil motifs, which are also echoed in the stone window panels. The main window of the facade contains a Star of David, a Judeo-Christian icon popularly used in nineteenth-century churches. Several of the windows, such as those above the front door, contain their original stained glass; the coloured glass borders of the sanctuary windows are also original. A freely-interpreted composite column separates the two double-leaf main doors, all with panelling of diagonal boarding. The drip moulds culminate in finely sculptured stops. Along the sides of the building, unusually large foundation windows

that echo the double lights and tracery of the sanctuary windows above give generous light to the Sunday School room in the basement. An oversized oculus outlined in brick decorates the west gable.

The building is constructed of local buff-coloured brick, with decorative dichromatic brickwork used to emphasize various sill and lintel courses and to outline the oculi above the paired first-storey windows of the facade; the sides of the building are still covered with a red wash that has been removed from the facade. Grey stone is also used for one string course, for the hoodmoulds over the main windows of the facade, for decorative panels at the bottoms of some windows, and for topping the stepped portions of the buttresses. Red sandstone decorates sections of the pinnacles; the foundation is of fieldstone.

Several interior elements are also worthy of special recognition. The circular stair towers feature impressive newel posts and spindles in an Eastlake-inspired design. The horseshoe-shaped balcony in the sanctuary is supported by composite columns that echo the column of the facade, and it is protected by ornate metal railings. The folding plywood seats of the balcony, with their cast iron sides, have metal hatracks under the seats; these chairs were manufactured in Preston, Ontario. At the chancel end of the sanctuary are pointed-arched wooden doors, with simple mouldings and panels that conform to the shape of the doors. The elaborate plaster ceiling of the original church has been replaced by a series of tie-beams for structural reasons.

At the west end of the church are wings added to create additional classroom and meeting space; these additions are not essential to the character of the building.

Contextual Reasons

The church is within in the boundaries of the proposed "Talbot North" Heritage Conservation District.