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CONSERVATION REVIEWS

LONDON CANADA

December 11, 2000

The Forest City

Deputy City Manager

JEFF MALPASS

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

Re: Designation of Various Properties
The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

Please find enclosed a certified copy of the following by-laws:

1. By-law No. L.S.P.-3315-157, entitled "A by-law to designate 353 Richmond Street to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on September 5, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER75623 on September 13, 2000;

By-law No. L.S.P.-3316-158, entitled "A by-law to designate 55 Centre Street to be of historical and architectural and value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on September 5, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER75624 on September 13, 2000;

By-law No. L.S.P.-3318-193, entitled "A by-law to designate 513 Talbot Street to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on October 16, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER82341 on November 1, 2000;

By-law No. L.S.P.-3320-207, entitled "A by-law to designate 1 Dundas Street to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on November 6, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER85803 on November 27, 2000;

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By-law No. L.S.P.-3321-208 entitled "A by-law to designate 850 Highbury Avenue to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on November 6, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER85796 on November 27, 2000;

6.

By-law No. L.S.P.-3322-209, entitled "A by-law to designate 398 Piccadilly Street to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on November 6, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER85799 on November 27, 2000;

7.

By-law No. L.S.P.-3319-198, entitled "A by-law to designate 1040 Waterloo Street to be of historical and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on October 16, 2000 and registered as Instrument No. ER83376 on November 8, 2000.

Cathie L. Best Deputy City Clerk /sm Encl.

Bill No. 344 2000

By-law No. L.S.P.-3318-193

A by-law to designate 513 Talbot Street to be of historical and architectural value.

WHEREAS pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as 513 Talbot Street has been duly published and served and no notice of objection to such designation has been received;

The Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

- 1. There is designated as being of historical and architectural value or interest, the real property at 513 Talbot Street, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" hereto.
- 2. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
- 3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the London Free Press, and to enter the description of the aforesaid property, the name and address of its registered owner, and short reasons for its designation in the Register of all properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- 4. This by-law connes into force on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on October 16, 2000.



CITY OF LONDON BY-LAW CERTIFICATION RECORD

I, <u>C. L. Best</u>, <u>Deputy City Clerk</u>, of The Corporation of the City of London, hereby certify that the By-law hereunder is a true copy of By-law No. <u>L.S.P.-3318-193</u> of the City of London, passed on <u>October 16</u>, 2000.

Dianne Haskett Mayor

Dated at London, Ontario, this 11th day of December, 2000.

Signatu

Cathie L. Best Deputy City Clerk

Form No. 0926

First reading - October 16, 2000 Second reading - October 16, 2000 Third reading - October 16, 2000

SCHEDULE "A"

To By--law No. L.S.P.-3318-193

Plan 199 1/2 Lot 3 Pt Lot 4 ()..32 AC

SCHEDULE "B"

To By-law No. L.S.P.- 3318-193

Reasons for Designation
First Christian Reformed Church
(Originally, Talbot Street Baptist Church)
513 Talbot Street

Historical Reasons

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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 horseshow-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 channel 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.