

Bill No. 11
2014

By-law No. L.S.P.-_____

A by-law to designate 275 Thames Street to be of historical and contextual value or interest.

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 and contextual value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as 275 Thames Street has been duly published and served and no notice of objection to such designation has been received;

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

1. There is designated as being of historical and contextual value or interest, the real property at 275 Thames Street, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto attached, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached 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" attached 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 a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality, 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 comes into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on December 3, 2013.

Joe Fontana
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading – December 3, 2013
Second Reading – December 3, 2013
Third Reading – December 3, 2013

SCHEDULE "A"
To By-law No. L.S.P.-3394-202

Part of Lot 26, S/W Bathurst Street, in the City of London and County of Middlesex as in Instrument W36699.

SCHEDULE "B"
To By-law No. L.S.P.-3394-202

Reasons for Designation

Description of Property

The principal structure at 275 Thames Street is a one storey wood frame residential dwelling built c. 1848 in the vernacular style. It is located on the west side of Thames Street, Plan Nil, Part Lot 26 S/S Bathurst Street, in the City of London, County of Middlesex.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

The cultural heritage interest of the property and building at 275 Thames Street is based on its associations with the formative history of London. More specifically, the building is associated with the early development of the Black community in London, its later connections to the Underground Railway and to the emergence in London of a branch of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, later renamed the British Methodist Episcopal Church. From the information available, the building represents the former "Fugitive Slave Chapel", probably constructed around 1848. The building and the adjacent area became a terminus of the Underground Railway with probable links to the activities of John Brown, the American anti-slavery advocate of the pre-Civil war period. There are specific references in early sources that suggest John Brown visited London on more than one occasion and it is possible the chapel was associated with these visits. In 1869, the building at 275 Thames was sold to James Seale, a cooper. The British Methodist Episcopal Church branch relocated to its current location at 430 Grey Street. Subsequently, the building at 275 Thames Street was used for residential purposes. From 1944 to 2000 it was owned and occupied by members of the Mancari Family.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes that embody the heritage value of the building at 275 Thames Street include:

- its age dating to c. 1848
- its plain expression of a vernacular cottage style in a wood framed structure
- its central entrance balanced by two window openings on its front facade
- its use as a chapel as a branch of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which, in 1856, became the British Methodist Episcopal Church.
- its association with the later construction of Beth Emanuel British Methodist Church at 430 Grey Street (designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.)
- its association with the Black community which took shape in the formative years of the town and city's early growth in this area of the City adjacent to the south branch of the Thames River.