



April 9, 2026

RE: Request by Trustees of the London Congregation of the British Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada to Repeal the Heritage Designating By-law for the Property at 430 Grey Street (Beth Emmanuel British Methodist Episcopal Church)

TAKE NOTICE THAT the City of London has received a request at the initiation of the representative of the property owner to repeal By-law No. L.S.P.-2657-240 which designates 430 Grey Street under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*:

The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O.1990, c. O.18 as amended, provides that an owner of property designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* may apply to Municipal Council to repeal the by-law or part thereof designating the property.

Description of Property:

430 Grey Street, London, ON, N6B 1H3, legally described as PT LT 12 , N/E GREY STREET , BEING THE E 1/2 ; LONDON (PIN: 08316-0112)

Historical Reasons for Designation in By-law No. L.S.P.-2657-240

The congregation of the British Methodist Episcopal Church, then known as the African Methodist Church, was organized at some time prior to September, 1856, at which time it was holding service in a building on Thames Street. Sometime between 1868 and 1871, the present Beth Emmanuel B.M.E. Church, a white brick Gothic Revival structure, was erected at 430 Grey Street. In later years, the building was raised for the construction of a basement.

Beth-Emmanuel is the oldest surviving black church in London. At the time the congregation was founded, the City had a large and prosperous black community, many of whom had escaped from slavery in the United States via the Underground Railroad. Some had lived in the area since the Wilberforce settlement was established in Lucan in 1832. Some of the names associated with the Beth-Emmanuel congregation are noteworthy: John Brown, the abolitionist, preached at the Thames Street Church in 1858, before his ill-fated raid on Harper's Ferry the following year. Richard B. Harrison, who played the leading role in Marc Connelly's "Green Pastures" (1930), attended this church as did his brother, The Reverend William Harrison. In more recent times, the late Paul Lewis, one of London's best-loved citizens, was an official of the congregation.

Additional information is available by contacting a City of London Heritage Planner, 519-930-3500, heritage@london.ca.

Any person who objects to the application may, within 30 days after the date of this Notice, serve on the Clerk's office, a Notice of Objection in writing, setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. Objections can be mailed to the Office of the City Clerk, or via e-mail at cityclerk@london.ca. A Notice of Objection is then considered by Municipal Council in its deliberation on this matter following consultation with the Community Advisory Committee on Planning (the City's municipal heritage committee) and a public participation meeting held at Planning and Environment Committee (PEC). A decision of Municipal Council may be appealed by submitting a Notice of Appeal with the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and the Municipal Clerk. More details on the appeal process can be found at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/appeals-process/>.

Notice of Objections must be filed in writing with the Clerk's office by May 11, 2026.

The Office of the City Clerk, 3rd floor, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, ON, N6B 1Z2; or cityclerk@london.ca.

Dated at the City of London, April 9, 2026.

Notice of Collection of Personal Information – personal information is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, the *Planning Act, 1990 R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, and the *Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18*, and will be used by Members of Council and City of London staff in consideration of these matters.

Written submissions, including names and contact information and the associated reports arising from the public participation process, will be made available to the public, including publishing on the City's website. Video recordings of the Public Participation Meeting may also be posted to the City of London's website. Questions about this collection should be referred to Manager, Records and Information Services, 519-661-CITY (2489) ext. 5590

Sincerely,



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