

My Top Twenty Five Picks for Designation

by J. O'Neil

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Dear Members of LACH:

Here is my list of 25 top buildings and sites for the City of London. A few comments beforehand however.

First, this list is not definitive; it is meant to spark discussion and gets the debate rolling.

Second, it is larger than 25, so this begs the question, do we stick to only 25, or do we make the number higher?

Third, the order of my list is completely random. Does LACH wish to organize the list by priority, or leave it as all equal? You may also notice that my list is personally influenced by what I live near, what I see in my day to day life, so some areas of the city may suffer neglect on this list. Another factor may be that some buildings fall into existing or proposed heritage zones and thus the listing may be redundant?

- 1) Any building older than Confederation - pre 1867, due to the fact that these buildings are extremely rare in this city.
- 2) Woodholme
- 3) Locust Mount on Talbot Street.
- 4) Old London Normal School in Old South
- 5) Lilley's Corners - SE corner of Dundas & Adelaide
- 6) Mechanic's Institute - Dundas Street, beside the new Galleria Library
- 7) Duffield Block - SW corner of Dundas and Clarence
- 8) Canada Trust - NE Corner of Dundas and Clarence
- 9) 275 Thames Street - the original African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 10) 754 Dundas St at Rectory
- 11) Roman Catholic Churches - **St. Peter's Basilica**, Dufferin & Richmond; **St. Mary's**, Lyle & York and **St. Patrick's**, Dundas and Oakland
- 12) United Churches - **Robinson Memorial** on Richmond St. and **All Saints** on Hamilton Road are just two of several I would propose.
- 13) Elementary Schools - Lord Robert's on Princess Ave is one that springs to mind, but there are a few others too.
- 14) 1152 Dundas Street - the old truck factory.
- 15) McCormick's Factory - 1156 Dundas St. I should point out the old Arrow Shirt Factory in Kitchener-Waterloo was converted to Condos/apartments, and I think still designated.
- 16) The small art shop / museum on the Fair Grounds at 925 Dundas St., just behind the old locomotive.
- 17) Great West Beef Co. - the front part, the old railroad roundhouse.
- 18) Pilgrim Reformed Church - 465 Horton near Maitland St. - old connections to the Underground Railroad.
- 19) Thames Street stone railroad bridge, dated 1886.
- 20) 15 York St., at Thames St., speculation is this might have been London's first hospital.
- 21) 90 Central Ave., the RC Bishop's Palace, overlooking Blackfriars Bridge.
- 22) 430 Adelaide St., near Banting House, now apartments, former O-Pee-Chee bubble gum & candy factory.
- 23) 360 King St., near the overpass, Ambassador Baptist Church.

- 24) Infotech, at the NW corner of Adelaide and Queens, former Baptist Church and other historical connections.
- 25) 224 Phillip St - this is one of our last remaining old factories, now used as a warehouse for a produce company. It is beside the train tracks on the old London-Port Stanley line, at the bridge crossing the south branch of the Thames River.
- 26) Various secondary schools - the front section of HB Beal is a fine example, but what about Central Secondary School? Not only the building itself, but how many high schools can lay claim to two Ontario Premiers?
- 27) The Old Victoria Hospital site - various buildings. The main building, the old Art Deco one may or may not be preservable, but the site itself goes back to the early 1870s, and there are several white brick buildings worth preserving.
- 28) Along these same lines, buildings on the site of the old Sanatorium, Sanatorium Road in the west end, that are not yet designated.
- 29) Ditto again for the old London Asylum site, Highbury ave.
- 30) The Kilbourne Pioneer Cemetery, near the new Oxford St. Bridge, which is possibly the oldest European burial site inside city limits. Add to that the Aboriginal sites of interest in this area; we might have a few areas to designate.
- 31) The Coves.
- 32) The Royal Canadian Regiment building at Wolseley Barracks, and also on the site of DND London, other buildings, such as the current Military Police building.
- 33) Industrial buildings on Cabell Street, near Rectory just south of the railroad tracks. 820 and 825 Cabell are two examples of long lost history of London's industrial past.
- 34) The areas around Hall's Mills Road in Byron and the area around Hamilton Road near Pottersburg Creek and Meadowlily. Both of these areas are much older than settlement at the Forks of the Thames in downtown London, both date back to at least the War of 1812, and both present areas that, in my opinion, still have more to be discovered. For example, what about the old stone ruins on the Thames River, north side, in the Meadowlily area? Or the footbridge itself?

I am cutting off my list, but there are more that come to mind. Also, these are just sites that came to me off the top of my head, and I am sure I missed several more good ones.

One last question is, should LACH come up with a rough list of up to 50 sites, and then go to organizations such as the ACO, London Historical Society, etc and ask for their input and / or review before we submit them to City Council?

Yours,

Joe