

Bill No. 242
2016

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

A by-law to designate 335 Thames Street to be of cultural heritage value or interest. (King Street Bridge)

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 cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as 335 Thames Street has been duly published and served and no notice of objection to such designation has been received;

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

1. The real property at 335 Thames Street (King Street Bridge), more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest 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 Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the *Londoner*, 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 June 23, 2016.

Paul Hubert
Deputy Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading – June 23, 2016
Second Reading – June 23, 2016
Third Reading – June 23, 2016

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

CON BF PLAN NIL LOT 26 S/S KING PT LOT 26 N/S YORK

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

Description of Property

The King Street Bridge is a nine-panel, pin-connected, steel Pratt through truss bridge that spans the south branch of the Thames River between King Street and Becher Street. It was designed by the Central Bridge & Engineering Company of Peterborough, Ontario and built by famed London bridge builder, Isaac Crouse, in 1897.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The King Street Bridge is of cultural heritage value because of its physical or design values, its historical or associative values, and its contextual values.

Physical/Design Values

The King Street Bridge is the second oldest bridge structure remaining in the City of London. Only surpassed in age by Blackfriars Bridge (built in 1875), the King Street Bridge is a rare example of a pin-connected, Pratt through truss steel bridge. While the pin-connected technology that was used to assemble the King Street Bridge was common in the late nineteenth century, few examples remain as field riveting became more common in the twentieth century and was eventually eclipsed by bolted steel and concrete bridge construction methods. It is the only remaining bridge of its type in London.

In particular, the King Street Bridge demonstrates technical or scientific achievement in its dual function. From its conception, the King Street Bridge served both as a transportation route across the Thames River as well as carrying a sewer pipe. Its functional purpose of carrying a 36" sewer pipe ensured its retention during the mid-twentieth century when removal of the King Street Bridge was considered. The King Street Bridge had an original overall span length of 623 feet, including multiple trestles extending to the east and west of the bridge; however the King Street Bridge currently retains one main span and three approach spans for an overall span length of 213 feet.

Historical/Associative Values

As a river-city, London has many historical water crossings. The King Street Bridge is the first and only bridge structure at the King Street-Becher Street crossing of the south branch of the Thames River. Unlike other river crossing structures, it has never been replaced. The King Street Bridge carried vehicular traffic from its construction in 1897 until 1947 when it was closed due to failure of the deck. Following rehabilitation work in 1982, the King Street Bridge was reopened to pedestrians and cyclists with a divided bridge deck showing the sanitary sewer line below. The cantilevered sidewalk was removed during this rehabilitation. The original approach trestles and an old brick sewer have been buried. In 2010, a major restoration project was undertaken to rehabilitate the structural steel, including recoating, replacement of the railings, and returned the bridge to a single full width deck form. This work was undertaken in a sympathetic manner to its cultural heritage values, ensuring the long-term conservation of the King Street Bridge.

The King Street Bridge is the only known example of the Central Bridge & Engineering Company of Peterborough, Ontario in London. Municipal Council awarded the contract to design and fabricate the King Street Bridge to the Central Bridge & Engineering Company on June 14, 1897 at a cost of \$6,020. The Central Bridge & Engineering Company was incorporated in 1892. Eight of its bridges are known to remain standing across the province; all are metal truss or girder structures constructed circa 1896-1898.

Isaac Crouse (1825-1915) is associated with the construction of the trunk sewerage system of the King Street Bridge. The descendant of United Empire Loyalists from New Brunswick, Isaac Crouse was born in a log farmhouse on Concession II (now Southdale Road), in the former Westminster Township. In addition to being a farmer, millwright, and land proprietor, Isaac Crouse learned the bridge building trade while working for the Central Pacific Railroad in Nevada in the 1860s. Isaac Crouse is credited with the construction of Blackfriars Bridge (1875), the first dam at Springbank (1878), the sewerage construction for the King Street Bridge (1897), and Meadowlily Bridge (1910, with son Levi Crouse), among other structures. Isaac Crouse is

significant to London through his contributions to early bridge construction and the King Street Bridge is considered as part of his representative work.

Contextual Values

The King Street Bridge is located in close proximity to the Forks of the Thames. A concentration of bridges is located near the Forks of the Thames, including Blackfriars Bridge (built in 1875), the Thames Street Overpass (1889), Kensington Bridge (1930), Wharnccliffe Road Bridge (1958), Westminster Bridge (1977), and Canadian National Bridge over the south branch of the Thames River. Although these structures do not represent a family of bridges, they contribute to the character and significance of the Forks of the Thames to the understanding of the history and evolution of the City of London. The King Street Bridge is an important link between the Downtown Heritage Conservation District and the west side of the Thames River and is an integral part of the City's pathway and trail system. Locally, the King Street Bridge is a landmark.

Heritage Attributes

Heritage attributes which support and contribute to the cultural heritage value or interest of the King Street Bridge include:

- Nine-panel, pin-connected, steel Pratt through truss bridge;
- Latticework detailing seen on structural members and replicated in the hand railing (replaced in 2010);
- Full timber deck;
- Suspended sanitary sewer;
- Inscription on west abutment ("London Sewerage System A.D. 1897 J. W. Little Mayor, Ald. E. Parnell Ch. Board of Works, A. O. Graydon City Engineer");
- Historical plaques on the approach pillars: one dedicated to Isaac Crouse (west approach), and one dedicated to the King Street Bridge (east approach);
- Historical associations with the Central Bridge & Engineering Company of Peterborough, Ontario and Isaac Crouse, famed London bridge builder;
- Views of the King Street Bridge from various locations around the Forks of the Thames, contributing to its landmark recognition and contextual values.