

September 21, 2004

R. Panzer
General Manager of Planning and Development

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its session held on September 20, 2004 resolved:

8. That on the recommendation of the General Manger of Planning and Development, in response to the delegation by F. Petley, Old South Community Organization with respect to the Monsignor Feeney Centre and the "Village Green", the following actions be taken:

- (a) Council **BE REQUESTED** to acknowledge the significance of the "Village Green" within the urban fabric of Old South and support the request from the Old South Community Organization to secure the existing green space as public parkland; noting that Old South is currently deficient in parkland; and
- (b) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to enter into discussions with the Ontario Realty Corporation with respect to the severance and transfer to the City of the southerly half of the existing Monsignor Feeney Centre block, known and used as the "Village Green"; (58.1.1.04) (8/21/PC)

Kevin Bain
City Clerk
/hw

cc: F. Petley, Old South Community Organization, 167 Wortley Road, London, ON N6C 3P6
Ontario Realty Corporation, 77 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, ON M7A 1N3
R. Sanderson, Manager III, Realty Services
A. Macpherson, Manager III, Parks Planning and Design

The Corporation of the City of London
Office: 519-661-6400
Fax: 519-661-4892
Committees, Council@london.ca
www.london.ca

CITY OF LONDON

HERITAGE DESIGNATION

BY-LAW NO. L.S.P.-2854-377
PASSED ON: September 3, 1985
REGISTERED ON: September 20, 1985
AS NUMBER: 711213

DESIGNATION OF:

The property at 165 Elmwood Avenue East.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate lying and being in the City of London, County of Middlesex and Province of Ontario and being composed of all of Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 East of Wortley Road, all of Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 West of Hamilton Street (now Marley Place), part of Lot 11, East of Wortley Road, part of Lot 11 West of Hamilton Street (now Marley Place) all according to Registered Plan No. 1 for the Township of Westminster, now in the City of London and all of Block "A", Registered Plan No. 438 (4th) in the City of London, said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Northwest corner of said Lot 7 east of Wortley Road according to Registered Plan No. 1.

THENCE Easterly, along the north limits of Lot 7 east of Wortley Road and Lot 7 west of Hamilton Street (now Marley Place) 420.42 feet to the northeast corner of Lot 7 west of Hamilton Street (now Marley Place).

THENCE Southerly, along the east limits of said Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 west of Hamilton Street (now Marley Place) and along the east limit of Block "A", Registered Plan No. 438 (4th), 532.0 feet to the southeast corner of said Block "A".

THENCE Westerly, along the southerly limit of said Block "A", 400.5 feet to the southwest corner of said Block "A".

THENCE Northerly, along the west limit of said Block "A" and the west limit of said Lots 11, 10, 9, 8 and 7 east of Wortley Road a distance of 532.0 feet to the point of commencement being the lands and premises referred to in Instrument No. 696151.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER(S):

London & Middlesex County Roman
Catholic Separate School Board
P.O. Box 517
London, Ontario
N6A 4X5

ARCHITECTURAL REASONS:

Sited magnificiently on an entire City block, 165 Elmwood Avenue East, "The Monsignor Feeney Centre for Catholic Education", can best be described architecturally as late High Victorian, combining elements of the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles. Erected between 1898 and 1900, the building was designed by Francis R. Heakes, an architect of provincial importance, employed with the Ontario Department of Public Works. The imposing main façade is 150 feet wide with a massive central tower - 18 feet square and rising 132 feet above the ground - housing the main entrance porch. A wing extends from the rear giving the building a T-shape plan. The structure has four storeys, including attic and basement floors. The stonework at the basement level is of Credit Valley brownstone; the walls and the two decorative chimneys are of salmon coloured pressed bricks made in Milton, Ontario; the roof is slate; the entire building is rimmed with Ohio greystone.

In this impressive building, elements derived from the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles have been blended harmoniously together. Romanesque Revival features include the rusticated stonework of the plinth (basement level) and the window trim, the heavy stone arch of the main entrance porch, and the lighter arches, in brick, in the tower and at the side entrances. The main entrance has elaborate stonework - decorated capitals of paired pilasters on either side of the porch lead into a band of carving in the foliate design; the design is echoed in panels above the entrance, in the date stone and in the drip mouldings above some of the windows. Dutch step gables, trimmed with carved corner blocks on the three principal elevations and plainer at the back, are a prominent feature. Most windows are square headed with regular mullions. Round-headed windows occur in the back wing, rosette windows and square-headed windows with Gothic tracery in the tower, and rose windows in the gables of the side elevations. The plumed pinnacles which decorate the tower, the gables, the gable dormers on the centre block and the octagonal, cupola-topped ventilators on the roof are picked up in the drip mouldings of the front elevation.

The interior space of the building is organized around a wide (22 feet) entrance hall. A grand staircase, with two intricately carved newel posts, rises to a landing where it divides into two parts, leading east and west. The entrance hall is finished with beaded tongue and groove wainscoting, panelling, plain plastered walls, and a pressed metal ceiling.

HISTORICAL REASONS:

Built between 1898 and 1900, 165 Elmwood Avenue East, "The Monsignor Feeney Centre for Catholic Education", was erected as the London Normal School (teacher's college) the third in Ontario after Toronto and Ottawa. Normal schools were established in the province in accordance with The Schools Act of 1846 and 1847 to meet the demand for trained teachers. The decision to locate the third Normal School in London, already the home of Huron College and the University of Western Ontario, led to the City being accepted as the educational centre of Southwestern Ontario.

The school's first vice-principal and second principal was John Dearness, an important educator and naturalist. Under his auspices, the extensive grounds were planted with numerous flower beds, shrubs, hedges and trees, including many species unique in the City. After the new London Teacher's College affiliated with the University in 1958, the structure was occupied by a junior high school until 1963 and by the "Education Centre" offices of the London Board of Education, until 1984. In 1985 it was acquired by the London and Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board for administrative offices.

It is not only an important building associated with Ontario's educational system, it is also a familiar South London landmark, its tower visible above the trees from many miles away.