

APPENDIX "C"

CSMO 2018: CONSERVATION TREATMENT PROPOSAL #3085/2018/05/24



CONSERVATION of SCULPTURES, MONUMENTS & OBJECTS

4792 HIGHWAY 2 W, RR3, GANANOQUE, ON, K7G 2V5, CANADA / PHONE: 1-613-539-5533 / ALEXANDER GABOV

PROJECT: Simcoe School War Memorial Treatment Proposal

Applicant/Owner	
Attention to: Daryl Diegel, Supervisor	Organization: Facilities Division, Finance and Corporate Services, City of London
Address: 300 Dufferin Ave. P.O. Box 5035, London, ON	Postal Code: N6A 4L9
Phone Number: 519.661.CITY (2489) x 8464	Fax: 519.661.5845
Email: ddiegel@london.ca	
Owner (if different from applicant): City of London	
Identification of the Artwork	
Artist/Attribution: Unknown	Title or Subject: Simcoe School War Memorial
Date/Period: 1920s	Type of Object: War Memorial
Technique/Materials: Granite, limestone	Dimensions: Base > 54" x 45" x 13" Boulder > 50" x 40" x 30"
Location: 42°58'43.4"N 81°14'37.1"W	
Image:	
<p><i>Simcoe School War Memorial, November 2015</i></p>	

BACKGROUND



Simcoe School c. 1887.

*(Image Source: London Public Library Image Gallery
<http://images.ourontario.ca/london/74863/data>)*

Historical Background

The Simcoe School War Memorial was erected in the 1920s to commemorate the students of Simcoe School, London, who served in World War I (1914-1918).

Simcoe Street Public School, also referred to as Governor Simcoe School, was built in 1887 on the North side of Simcoe Street between Wellington and Clarence Streets in downtown London. Though the school was demolished in 1976, the monument commemorating the sacrifice of its brave students remains in its original location.

Underneath the symbol of Canada, the maple leaf, the banner naming their school, and the dates of the Great War, the students are listed on the memorial as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| LOUIS YEO | ELMER JAMES |
| CLARE JONES | IRA BURTCH |
| ROBERT TEMPLE | JOHN DRAKE |
| JOHN HENDERSON | LORNE ROSS |
| WILLIAM GROSHAW | GORDON STARR |
| EVERETT LANGFORD | LEROY TAYLOR |
| CLARENCE BARTLETT | FRANK BENNETT |
| ROBERT MCCORMICK | ROBERT MOWAT |
| ARTHUR TICHBOURNE | ROBERT WALLACE |
| ATWELL RUTHERFORD | JOSEPH HOLMAN |
| RONALD TANNER | OLIVER GEAR |
| JOHN EVANS | ROY CURTIS |
| LAWRENCE STEVENSON | |

In addition to the twenty-five names listed above, an additional three names were added to the monument on the limestone plaques set into the granite base. They are listed as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| JAMES REDMOND | CHARLES RUSSELL |
| DOUGLAS HAMILTON | |

Resources:

- “Unidentified class (may be Simcoe Street Public School, London, Ontario)” London Public Library Image Gallery. <http://images.ourontario.ca/london/2301584/data>
- Dale, Geoff. 2014. “Canada’s Symbols of Sacrifice” London Free Press. <http://www.lfpress.com/2014/11/07/dale-canadas-symbols-of-sacrifice>

- Sargeant, John P. "London Simcoe Street War Memorial"
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tinhutjohn/sets/72157631676237856/>

Description, Location, and Dimensions



*Simcoe School War Memorial, located at 239 Simcoe Street, London, Ontario
(Image Source: Google Maps)*

The Simcoe School War Memorial is composed of three main components: rectangular granite base, pink granite slab, and small limestone plaque.

The base is made of a salt and pepper dark grey coloured granite. The surface of the stone is unfinished and the tooling marks from manufacture are clearly visible along the stone's edge. Part of the front face of the base has been cut away to accommodate additional commemorative names on a limestone plaque.

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The main focus of the memorial is a large pink granite boulder with veins of grey, black, and white. The front face (South side) of the stone has been planed flush and polished. The remainder of the boulder remains natural and unfinished. The memorial title, list of commemorative names, and other decorative details are sandblasted into the surface of the polished granite. In addition to the names listed above, blasted in 1½" serif font, there is also a maple leaf decoration and monument title banner at the top of the boulder.



- 1: Overall dimensions of the Simcoe School War Memorial
- 2: Detail of the limestone plaque. All inscriptions on the monument are a serif font
- 3: The monument, photographed front the North East corner
- 3: The monument, photographed from the West side

CONDITION OF ARTWORK

Overall the monument is in stable condition. Upon initial inspection there are some concerns with moisture access to the monument as well as foundation issues. These and other points of condition are listed below.

Foundation

It does not appear that there is currently a proper foundation for a monument of this size, more significantly, weight. This is evident by the fact that the entire structure appears to be sinking into the soft soil below as this material alone is not sufficient to keep it level. As such, the monument is off plane by one degree running north to south. The result of this shift is the entire monument shifting backwards about 6”.

If the monument is not moved to a more secure foundation it will continue to shift. This creates concern not only for the structure itself, but also for the public as the instability poses a safety concern.

Base and Limestone Plaque

Overall the granite of the base is very stable; there is minimal cracking visible on the surface of the stone. There is concern, however, with the condition of the limestone plaque that has been added to the base. A collection of moisture at the base of the plaque suggests that water is collecting in behind the stone plaque, thus between the plaque and the base. Though some water is draining out of the base of the plaque, any collection of moisture between two stones for an extended period of time is concerning, as it may lead to the degradation of both stone surfaces.

This is especially concerning with outdoor monuments in this environment, as the freezing and thawing of any water built-up in the stone will cause cracking and even delamination or loss over time. This issue is already beginning to occur as there is a cracking running down the front of the limestone plaque. This crack has yet to fracture through the entire thickness of the stone, but will continue to grow if not stabilized.

This collection of water is also accommodating bio-growth such as moss and mould. If left untreated, these will enable the growth of higher plant life that could further compromise the stability of the stone matrix. Thin build-up of this type of bio-growth is also marring the names on the surface of plaque, decreasing their legibility.

The mortar joining the plaque to the base is hard, but stable, showing minimal cracking.



Condition Concerns with limestone plaque include:

- cracking (Black arrow; seen here in detail and at 40x magnification)
- moisture access and bio-grown (White arrow; seen here in detail and at 40x magnification)

Granite Boulder

As with the rest of the monument, the granite boulder is stable overall. The main concern for future stability is the degradation and loss of the mortar that fills the seam between the boulder and its granite base. There is a large section along the back seam of the monument that is missing, allowing access underneath the boulder itself. Though this access is relatively small, moisture is clearly building up and being trapped in this area.

The sandblasted names and decorative details on the polished surface of the granite are currently more legible than they likely would have been originally thanks to the natural aging of the stone. The dark bio-growth on the surface is not a result of prolonged exposure to moisture and is therefore ideal for highlighting the sandblasted letters.

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- 1: Stable, clean pink granite (40x magnification)
- 2: Dirtied granite surface (40x magnification)
- 3: Stable bio-growth in sandblasted letter (40x magnification)
- 4: Unstable higher plant life in sandblasted letter (40x magnification)
- 5: Loss of joining material

Surrounding Environment

As mentioned with the issues of foundation, the ground upon which this monument rests is unstable. The rest of its environment, however, on a quiet street and directly under a large tree, has kept it protected and safe since its installation. These factors should be taken into account when considering relocation.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

As per discussion with the City of London Culture Office, there are ongoing motivations to relocate the Simcoe School War Memorial. The following recommendations reflect not only this request, but also the concerns listed in the condition section.

Relocation

If the City of London decides to go ahead with the moving the monument, CSMO conservators can be on-site to either perform the move or serve in a supervision role to ensure no harm comes to the monument during relocation. It is of the utmost importance that conservators are present in the designing of the lifting procedure and during the actual execution of the move to ensure all precautions are taken to prevent damage to the monument. The top portion of the monument will have to be stabilized prior to the move and extra temporary support system must be created and installed before the relocation. CSMO is able to provide these further specifications upon request.

Before the relocation takes place, a proper foundation for the monument must be laid in its new location. CSMO also recommends a conservators contribute to the design and approval of this foundation before it is created.

Cleaning

The Simcoe School War Memorial requires extremely careful cleaning. As mentioned above, some of the natural bio-growth is ideal for highlighting the inscriptions in the stone, while other areas are harmful for the stability of the stone. CSMO conservators can meticulously execute such a cleaning with conservation grade materials to ensure proper legibility, but overall stability are maintained.

Stabilization and Moisture Access

The moisture access to the front limestone plaques needs to be addressed as soon as possible to prevent worsening of the existing signs of instability, such as cracking. The seam surrounding the plaque needs to be sealed, while still allowing for moisture drainage to prevent trapping.

In addition to the seam along the plaque, the loss in joining material along the base of the granite boulder also needs to be replaced.

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CONSERVATION TREATMENT PROPOSAL & BUDGET

Cleaning and preparation for the move -	\$ 2,100.00
Removal and transportation -	\$ 6,400.00
Installation at new site -	\$ 3,200.00
Cleaning, sealing stones and proposer support -	\$ 2,800.00
Materials, equipment and final conservation report with maintenance recommendations -	\$ 4,200.00
TOTAL -	\$18,700.00 plus HST

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to prepare and submit treatment proposal.



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