

**CITY OF ST. THOMAS**

**BY-LAW NO. 17 - 2012**

**A by-law to designate Balaclava Street School, 20 Balaclava Street, in the City of St. Thomas, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.**

WHEREAS pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, 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 designate the property known as Balaclava Street School, 20 Balaclava Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, has been duly published and served, and no notice of objection has been received to such designation;


NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest the property known as 20 Balaclava Street in the City of St. Thomas, all of which is described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
2. The CAO/Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in the aforementioned Schedule "A" in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The CAO/Clerk is hereby 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 St. Thomas Times-Journal.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is finally passed.

READ a First and Second time this 13th day of February, 2012.

READ a Third time and Finally passed this 13th day of February, 2012.

  
Wendell Graves, CAO/Clerk

  
Heather Jackson-Chapman, Mayor

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**Lots 53 and 54, Plan 43, Yarmouth; Lot 10, Plan 139, St. Thomas being the whole of  
PIN 35184-0107**

February 13, 2012

**HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF 20 BALACLAVA STREET, ST. THOMAS**

**PROPERTY:** BALACLAVA STREET SCHOOL

**MUNICIPAL ADDRESS:** 20 BALACLAVA STREET

***Analysis for reasons for designation:***

Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act states that a property may be designated under Section 29 if it meets one or more of three criteria. In applying the criteria to the facts relating to 20 BalACLava Street it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it,
  - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
  - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
  - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement

BalACLava Street Public School meets the criteria of design and physical value as a unique example of "Picturesque Eclecticism" considered to be Canada's first national style. The building also displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit in its exterior heritage attributes exemplified by the brickwork, masonry and other features. There is also a high degree of technical expertise in the architectural and construction methods employed to build this school.

2. The property has historical value or associative value because it,
  - i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
  - ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
  - iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

The school can be associated with the tremendous 1870's housing boom as a result of the coming of the Canada Southern Railway. The institutional/ educational use for over a century also has significant historical and associative value. There are also references to the Crimean War. When the school was constructed in 1898, John Z. Long was one of the foremost city architects often competing with Neil Darrach. He came in second in the bid to design City Hall and is noted for building the Amasa Woods Hospital and other structures in our city. He utilized his expertise, knowledge and understanding of the community to create a school reminiscent of architecture at that time.

3. The property has contextual value because it,
  - i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
  - ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
  - iii. is a landmark.

The school is a landmark in its setting north of Talbot Street. Generations of students, teachers and educational staff have attended or worked at this school and recognize its importance. It provides not only an educational facility but a playground for the neighbourhood. The school continues to be congruous with adjacent and other area buildings i.e. Grace United Church, and remains a bastion of the historical Millersburg setting (annexed to St. Thomas in 1871) and the first St. David's Ward school.