

CITY OF ST. THOMAS

BY-LAW NO. 187 - 2014

**A by-law to designate 225 Wellington 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 225 Wellington 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 225 Wellington 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 8th day of December, 2014.

READ a Third time and Finally passed this 8th day of December, 2014.

Original signed by "Wendell Graves"
CAO/Clerk

Original signed by "Heather Jackson"
Mayor

SCHEDULE "A"

Part of Lots 1, 6 and 7, south side Talbot Street, Plan 43, part Lot 8, Plan 189 and part of Block Reserved for Shops, Plan 65, designated as Part 2, Plan 11R-9163; S/T E94030, S/T Easement in Gross as in CT52020; Together With E90324, E94030 and E140106 , City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin

SCHEDULE "B"

December 8, 2014

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS
INTENT TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS A HERITAGE PROPERTY

PROPERTY: 'MCR LOCOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOPS'
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS: 225 WELLINGTON STREET

Analysis for reasons for designation as provided by the Municipal Heritage Committee:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under The *Ontario Heritage Act* as it relates to the Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value of Interest. Under this regulation, a property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets one or more of three criteria.

In applying these criteria to the facts relating to the property it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

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

Heritage Attributes of the Building:

- Edwardian Classicism architectural style
- Wood locomotive doors
- Section of wood block flooring
- Brick exterior and interior
- Steel and glass windows
- Stepped clerestory (or "monitor") roof
- Easily visible remnants of heating system
- Connected buildings
- Whiting cranes
- Transfer table
- Building plate

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.

Elgin born George Carruthers Briggs drew, traced and checked the elevation plans of the building. He had an extensive Canadian rail career beginning in 1906 and ending with his death in 1938. He worked for both the Canadian Northern and Canadian National.

The new locomotive shop built in 1913 was completed by the Arnold Construction Company of Chicago, under the supervision of L.B. Wulff, superintendent and engineer-in-chief. The Michigan Central was the major employer in St. Thomas for many years with over 1,600 staff. Everyone in the City knew a rail employee. Lodges were formed as a result of the rail economy of the City.

The social, cultural and economic contributions of the Michigan Central Railroad to St. Thomas and area began with the completion of the line in 1873 and endured for 100 years.

The MCR Shops is owned by the Elgin County Railway Museum and has been used as a museum facility since 1988.

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 Michigan Central Locomotive Repair Shops, built in 1913, is one of two remaining buildings of significance in St. Thomas that testify to the 19th and 20th century rail industry that was the basis of St. Thomas growth and prosperity.

The shops were part of a larger rail complex, which consisted of over 300 acres. Other buildings within this complex included the Michigan Central Station (now known as the Canada Southern Railway Station), the Freight House, the roundhouse, power house, original car shops building, etc. This complex was part of a North America wide rail network, which included the New York Central Railway and linked the economic centres of New York, Detroit, Buffalo and Chicago.

The MCR Shops has been inducted into the North America Railway Hall of Fame, as has its Whiting Cranes, example of Jordan Spreader and two of the MCR's industrial products. Its sister building, the Canada Southern Railway Station, has received a historic plaque from the Ontario Heritage Trust and has a heritage easement by Ontario Heritage Trust.