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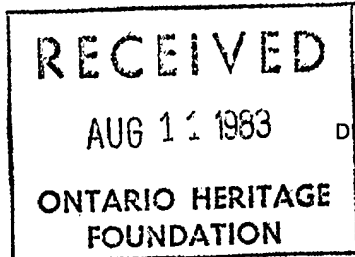
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# THE CITY OF LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

P. C. McNORGAN  
City Clerk



TELEPHONE  
(519) 679-4530



DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK

REGISTERED

August 11, 1983

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
c/o Ministry of Culture & Recreation  
6-77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1M2

Re: Designation of 639 Talbot Street, London  
The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, c. 337

Please find enclosed, a certified copy of By-law No. L.S.P.-2674-338, entitled "A by-law to designate Raleigh House, 639 Talbot Street of historic and architectural value.", passed by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London on August 2, 1983.

R. J. Tolmie  
Secretary - Board of Control

/pd

Encl.

By-law No. L.S.P.-2674-338

A by-law to designate Raleigh House,  
639 Talbot Street of historic and  
architectural value.

WHEREAS pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property including buildings and structures thereon to be of historic and architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to so designate the property known as Raleigh House at 639 Talbot Street in the City of London having been duly published and served, no notice of objection was received to such designation;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London, as follows:

1. There is designated as being of historic and architectural value or interest the real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, known as Raleigh House at 639 Talbot Street, in the City of London for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" hereto.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered upon the title to the property described in Schedule "A" 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 Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the London Free Press, 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 Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1980.
4. This by-law comes into force on the day it is passed.

PASSED in open Council this second day of August, A.D., 1983.

*M. A. Gleeson*

M. A. Gleeson  
Mayor

*K. W. Sadler*

K. W. Sadler,  
Deputy City Clerk

First reading - August 2, 1983  
Second reading - August 2, 1983  
Third reading - August 2, 1983

i, K. W. Sadler, Deputy City Clerk of the Corporation of the City of London, hereby certify this to be a true copy of	
By-law	L.S.P.-2674-338
Passed	Aug. 2, 1983
Date	Aug. 11, 1983
	<i>K. W. Sadler</i> (Deputy City Clerk)

SCHEDULE "A"

to By-law No. L.S.P.-2674-338

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying, and being all that portion of Lots 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Registered Plan 161(W) and Lot 2 east of Wharncliffe Road in the City of London, in the County of Middlesex, in the Province of Ontario and described as follows:

PREMISING that all bearings herein are astronomic and are referred to the bearing north 69 degrees 36 minutes 10 seconds east of the southerly limit of the said Lot 12 as shown on a Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office - Registry Division for Middlesex East (No. 33) as Plan 33R1550.

COMMENCING at a point in the southerly limit of the said Lot 14 distant 30.0 feet measured south 69 degrees 36 minutes 10 seconds west thereon from the southeast corner of the said Lot 14;

THENCE north 19 degrees 50 minutes west parallel to the easterly limit of the said Lot 14 a distance of 86.89 feet more or less to the northerly limit of the said Lot 14;

THENCE north 69 degrees 16 minutes east along the said northerly limit 10.00 feet more or less to a point distant 20.00 feet measured south 69 degrees 16 minutes west thereon from the southeast corner of the said Lot 10;

THENCE north 19 degrees 15 minutes west 12.00 feet;

THENCE south 69 degrees 16 minutes west 5.00 feet more or less to a lattice fence existing as of January 26, 1971;

THENCE north 19 degrees 50 minutes west along the said lattice fence 30.66 feet more or less to a chain link fence existing as of January 26, 1971;

THENCE south 76 degrees 29 minutes 27 seconds west along the said chain link fence 15.59 feet more or less to an angle therein;

THENCE 74 degrees 28 minutes 07 seconds west continuing along the said chain link fence 22.06 feet more or less to an angle therein;

THENCE south 72 degrees 09 minutes 07 seconds west continuing along the said chain link fence 70.48 feet more or less to an angle therein;

THENCE south 68 degrees 58 minutes 27 seconds west continuing along the said chain link fence 48.89 feet more or less to the easterly limit of that portion of the said Lot 2 east of Wharncliffe Road and the said Lot 12 designated as Part 3 on the said Plan 33R1550;

THENCE south 18 degrees 12 minutes 06 seconds east along the last mentioned easterly limit 136.01 feet more or less to the southerly limit of the said Lot 12;

THENCE north 69 degrees 36 minutes 10 seconds east along the southerly limit of the said Lots 12, 13 and 14 a distance of 155.69 feet more or less to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE "B"

to By-law No. L.S.P.- 2674-338

Historical Reasons:

"Raleigh House", later "Birkhill", at 639 Talbot Street is a fine example of one of several spacious estates erected in mid 19th century London along the high bank of the Thames River in what was then a largely undeveloped suburban area. Called "Raleigh House" this large mansion was built in 1866 or 1867 for J. H. Wellstead of whom nothing is known. Although never an occupant, he rented it first to a Captain Grant, a soldier stationed with the British Garrison, and afterwards to George Becher Harris, son of John Harris of "Eldon House". Harris a prominent solicitor with the firm of Harris & Magee, purchased the house from Wellstead in 1871 and lived there until he moved back to "Eldon House" in 1887. Thereafter, the house was occupied by James Cowan, who changed the dwelling's name to "Birkhill". Cowan founded the famous London hardware store of James Cowan & Co. on Dundas Street, which until closed recently was a local business landmark since 1875. Much involved in municipal politics, he served as mayor of London in 1887-88. Converted to the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House in circa 1943, 639 Talbot Street's splendid reception rooms and many bedrooms make it ideal for this purpose.

Architectural Reasons:

"Raleigh House" is a particularly good example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Irregular in plan, the villa's exterior design is a veritable profusion of gables, bargeboards, multiple chimneys, bays and differing window shapes. Verandahs once shaded three sides of the house, but only a segment at the east side kitchen entrance remains. Interior design features worthy of preservation comprise the large entrance hall, the drawing room, including its arched doorway and sliding doors, the panelled wooden ceiling of the den, the staircase and upstairs hallway. Also meriting note are the three plaster arches, each with cast plaster corbels, one in the downstairs hall and two in the upstairs hall.