

The Corporation of the Town of Essex

By-Law Number 2354

Being a By-Law to designate the Essex United Church located at 49 Talbot Street South in Essex, more particularly described as PLAN 267 LOTS 8 TO 11 LOTS 21 TO 23 PT LOTS 7 & 24 PT CLSD ALLEY, as being of cultural heritage value or interest under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., Chapter O.18, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-Laws to designate real property within the municipality, including all buildings and structures thereof, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex deems it desirable to designate the Essex United Church located at 49 Talbot Street, Essex, more particularly described as PLAN 267 LOTS 8 TO 11 LOTS 21 TO 23 PT LOTS 7 & 24 PT CLSD ALLEY, as being of cultural heritage value and interest;

AND WHEREAS Notice of Intention to Designate the Essex United Church Building has been served on the owner of the property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and such notice was published in the Essex Free Press and Harrow News, newspapers having general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule 'B' attached to and forming part of this By-Law;

AND WHEREAS a notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex has considered the objection;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Essex hereby enacts as follows:

1. **That** the real property known as the Essex United Church Building located at 49 Talbot Street, Essex, more particularly described as PLAN 267 LOTS 8 TO 11 LOTS 21 TO 23 PT LOTS 7 & 24 PT CLSD ALLEY, is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest.
2. **That** the Clerk is hereby authorized and instructed to register a copy of this By-Law against the property described in Schedule 'A', attached hereto, in the local Land Registry Office.
3. **That** the Clerk/or his/her designate, is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-Law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause Notice of this By-law to be published in the Essex Free Press and in the Harrow News.
4. **That** the effective date of this By-Law shall be the date of final passage thereof.

Read a first, and a second time and provisionally passed on August 12, 2024.

Mayor

Clerk

Read a third and final time and finally passed on September 3, 2024.

Mayor

Clerk

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2354

**Essex United Church Building
49 Talbot Street South, Essex, Ontario**

Legal Description

PLAN 267 LOTS 8 TO 11 LOTS 21 TO 23 PT LTS 7 & 24 PT CLSD ALLEY

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2354

Reasons for Designation Under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18

Essex United Church Building

General Description of Property

49 Talbot Street South is located on the eastern side of Talbot Street within Essex Centre.

It is comprised of the Essex United Church: a large red brick church that was built in 1908 and expanded in 1958.

Description of Property that has Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The area of the property that demonstrates cultural heritage value or interest is the area that includes the original portion of the Essex United Church built in 1908.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Historical/Associative Value

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

49 Talbot Street South retains significant historical or associative value because it has direct associations with beliefs, organizations, and institutions that are significant to the community. The Essex United Church served as a pillar within Essex Center, helping develop and maintain an important religious and communal space within the community from 1908 until its closure in 2024.

The Essex United Church is connected to one of the earliest Methodist congregations to have formed in Essex Center and the congregation dates back to the 1870s. The original church, the Canada Methodist Church, was built in 1876 and was located on the corner of Fox Street and Gordon Avenue. In 1884, the congregation of the church would grow as the community's two Methodist churches amalgamated and the church was expanded to accommodate this growth.

In 1907, the church was damaged beyond repair during the 1907 Essex Rail Explosion and the congregation opt to build a new church in 1908 on the present property. Construction of the new church was done under the congregation's guidance, and the cornerstone would be laid on May 25, 1908. The first service in the new church was held on February 28th, 1909.

In 1925, the church would officially become Grace United Church, with the amalgamation of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Canada and the establishment of the United Church of Canada. In 1946, the building would become the Essex United Church and in 1958, the church would undergo a massive expansion to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation. This expansion would include the addition of a new hall, several classrooms for the extensive Sunday School class, a vestry, boardroom, and a parlor.

The church's pipe organ would be installed in 1927 by the Casavant family of Quebec, who are famous organ builders who are known for their craftsmanship and have work across the world.

Contextual Value

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

49 Talbot Street South retains contextual value because it maintains and supports the character of the surrounding area through the materials used to construct the building being

similar to the surrounding area. The red brick seen in the church can be seen in the homes at 54 Talbot Street South, 94 Talbot Street South, 98 Talbot Street South, and 102 Talbot Street South.

Alongside this, the building helps define and maintain the character of Talbot Street South due to its size. The building's size helps define Essex Center's skyline and serves as a main focal point within the community.

The congregation of this church was comprised of the two congregations from the former Grace Methodist and the Methodist Episcopal Churches after they amalgamated in 1884. Following the 1907 Essex Rail Explosion, the congregation advocated for the construction of a new church and would lay the cornerstone of the new church on May 25, 1908.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

49 Talbot Street South retains contextual value because it serves as a well-known marker within Essex Center due to both its size and longstanding history. It also serves as a defining feature of the community's landscape, an important feature in maintaining the area's character, and as a waypoint within Essex Center.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The key heritage attributes that contribute to the historical/associative value of 49 Talbot Street South, includes:

- The location of the church at the eastern side of Talbot Street within Essex Center;
- The mass, form, and style of the original church built in 1908, excluding the 1958 additions;
- The red brick cladding on the original church, excluding the 1958 additions,
- All existing windows and stained-glass pieces with limestone voussoirs and underscored by brick sills on the sanctuary and original portion of the church,
- The large red brick tower and square belfry with bell from the Canada Methodist Church,
- The existing roof lines and peaks,
- The small square roof belfry and all existing finials,
- Inset engraved cornerstone,
- Small circular vent openings on the northern and southern side of the building;
- The existing limestone foundation,
- The brick chimney,
- Geodetic Survey of Canada benchmark on the south-eastern side of the building,
- The 1927 Casavant Organ with 27 stops over 3 manuals,
- The tin ceilings,
- The balcony within the sanctuary.

The key heritage attributes that contribute to the contextual value of 49 Talbot Street South, includes:

- The location of the church at the eastern side of Talbot Street within Essex Centre,
- The original 1908 church structure and all additions made, excluding the 1958 additions.