

September 21, 2011

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
TORONTO ON M5C 1J3

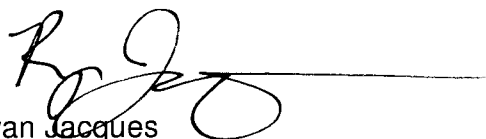
**Re: Notice of Intent to Designate
2-4 King Street West, Community of Chatham
Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

At the Council Meeting held September 12, 2011, Chatham-Kent Council approved the Municipal Heritage Committee's recommendation for the Intent to Designate the property, located at 2-4 King Street West, in the Community of Chatham, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value and interest.

The Notice of Intent to Designate was advertised in Chatham-Kent Matters on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, with the last day for filing a Notice of Objection being Thursday, October 20, 2011, (copy attached).

If no appeals have been received, a By-law to designate the property will be prepared for Council's consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Jacques
Acting Development Planner

c Municipal Heritage Committee

Attachment(s)

Canadian Register of Historic Places Nomination
2-4 King Street West, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

*any field that appears in grey is mandatory

Identification

Historic Place Name	2-4 King Street West		
Other Names	#	Type:	Name:
	1	Other	Merrill Hotel
	2	Other	Retro Suites

Recognition

Authority:	Local Government (ON)
Recognition Type:	Municipal Heritage Designation Part IV
Recognition Date:	yyyy-mm-dd (To be added after passed by council)

Location

Location

Building Number:	2-4
Street Name:	King Street West
Postal Code:	N7M 1C6
Locality:	Chatham
Community:	Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Upper Tier:	n/a

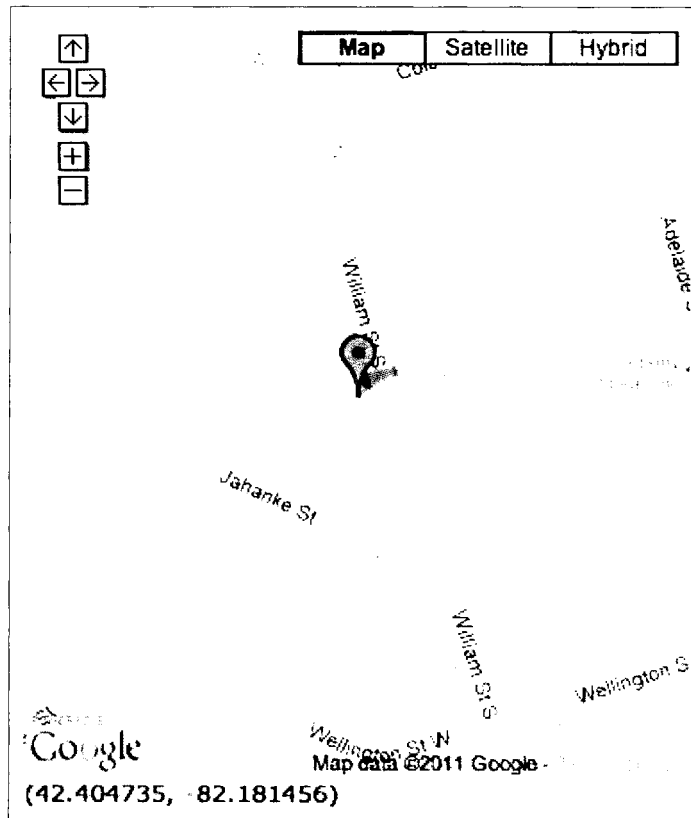
Coordinates

UTM		Latitude/Longitude	
Determination:	n/a	Determination:	Geocoding
Datum:	n/a	Datum:	NAD83
Zone:	n/a	Latitude:	42.404735
Northing:	n/a	Longitude:	-82.181456
Easting:	n/a		
Borden #:	n/a	Borden #:	n/a

Boundaries

Boundary Description:	Part Lot 81, Old Survey, Municipality of Chatham-Kent.
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Map



Description

Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place: i.e. Description of Property	2-4 King Street West, known historically as the Merrill Hotel, is located on the southwest corner of King Street and William Street in the City of Chatham, Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The property consists of a three-storey salmon-brick commercial building that has served as a hotel since its construction in the 1890s.
Heritage Value: i.e. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest	<p><i>Historic or Associative Value:</i></p> <p>2-4 King Street West is associated with the commercial history of downtown Chatham. The corner of King and William Streets, which the building now occupies, has been a prominent corner since the Town's founding and served as the location of the earliest Baptist Church in the area (circa 1855). The Merrill Hotel was opened on the site in the 1890s by Francis Towne Merrill. It was one of the first brick buildings to be constructed on the King and William block. The business was so successful that in 1903 it expanded, adding a "hallway and staircase" on the pie-shaped lot on the corner next to it (what is now 20-26 William Street South). For over a century the Merrill Hotel has provided hospitality to the Chatham community and its visitors, a tradition that continues as the structure now serves as the entrance to a boutique hotel, the Retro Suites.</p> <p><i>Design or Physical Value:</i></p> <p>2-4 King Street west is a good example of an Italianate commercial block. Typical of this style are the segmentally arched windows on the first and second storeys and the large arched display windows on the third storey. The façade features a cornice with dentils, brick window surrounds and three brick pilasters that separate the four bays. The façade is not symmetrical as the fourth bay, located on the corner of King and William Streets, is narrower than the other three. Typical of the commercial style of architecture, the building has a flat roof.</p> <p><i>Contextual Value:</i></p> <p>King Street is the historic main street of Chatham and the south side has historically been the busier side of the street, housing some of the oldest brick buildings in the City. This area has come to represent the centre of business and the home to many of the area's hostelrys. Throughout the 1850s and 60s, the corner of King and William Streets housed the first Baptist Church and from there along the south side of King to the Market Square was a series of wood frame shops, such as William Northwood's grocery store, the Dublin House and R.O. Smith's furniture store. The corner's historic prominence was enhanced by the nearby industry across McGregor's Creek, including the T.H. Taylor Woollen Mill at 14 William Street North, built in 1869, and the Beaver Flour Mill, built in 1872, but which burnt down in the 1980s.</p> <p>It was not until the 1880s that these buildings at King and William Streets were replaced with the brick structures that exist today and have come to house many of the City's most successful businesses. The structures from the Bates Building at 28-34 William Street South and around the corner to 16 King Street West form a continuous commercial front. Most of these buildings are two or three storeys, therefore maximizing their frontage on the main street. The basements of all the structures on this prominent corner were connected and it was believed that they were used in rum running during the era of prohibition.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i></p>

	<p>Chatham Directory, 1876-1877, 1915, 1919. <i>Community on Thames</i>, 1987. <i>Historic King Street, Chatham, Ontario</i>, K. Stoney and C. Naismith, 1978. Historic Plaque, Ontario Heritage Foundation & R.M. Classic Car Investments Municipality of Chatham-Kent Heritage Register Municipality of Chatham-Kent Land Registry Records <i>There Was a Time</i>, Jim & Lisa Gilbert. <i>Windfall</i>, 1979.</p>
Character-Defining Elements: i.e. Description of Heritage Attributes	<p>Key exterior elements of 2-4 King Street West that contribute to its value as an Italianate Commercial Block and historic hotel include its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - three-storey salmon-brick construction - segmentally arched windows on the first and second storeys - third storey large arched windows - cornice with dentils - brick window surrounds - three brick pilasters that separate the four bays - unsymmetrical façade, with the fourth bay located on the corner of King and William Streets being narrower than the rest - flat roof <p>Key elements of 2-4 King Street West that support its contextual value include its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - location on the corner of King and William Streets - proximity to McGregor's Creek and commercial businesses in downtown Chatham - forms part of a continuous commercial store front that stretches from 28-34 William Street South to 16 King Street West

Contributing Resources	Type:		Count:	
	Building		1	
Area (m²)	398			
Dates of Significance	#	Type:	From:	To:
	1	Construction (circa)	1890	1899
BA	#	Type:	Name:	
	1	Architect	n/a	
	2	Builder	n/a	

Function Category and Type

Category and Type	#	Function:	Category:	Type:
	1	Historic	Commerce	Hotel, Motel or Inn
	2	Current	Commerce	Hotel, Motel or Inn

Theme

Theme Category Type	#	Category:	Type:
	1	Developing Economies	Trade and Commerce

Images

	Image 1:	Image 2:	Image 3:
File Path:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Image Type:	Contemporary Photograph	Contemporary Photograph	Contemporary Photograph
Caption:	Façade of 2-4 King Street West	Detailed View of a Bay of 2-4 King Street West	Contextual View of 2-4 King West
Description:	Featured is the façade depicting the three-storey salmon-brick construction, 2011.	Featured are the segmentally arched and large arched windows on the façade, 2011.	Northwest view of the row of commercial structures that line King Street West, 2011.
Copyright:	Lindsay Benjamin, 2011.	Kayla Jonas, 2011.	Lindsay Benjamin, 2011.
Miscellaneous Info:	n/a	n/a	n/a

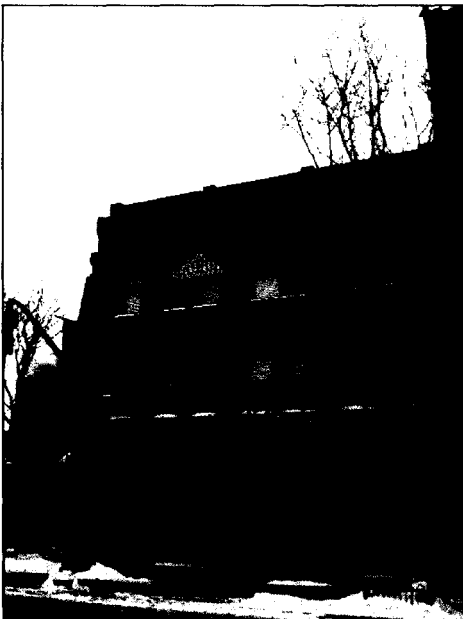


Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

Resources

Location of Documents:	Chatham Cultural Centre 75 William Street North Chatham Ontario N7M 4L4		
Collections:	n/a		
Related Link	URL:	Type:	Description:
	http://www.chatham-kent.ca	Local Government Website	Municipality of Chatham-Kent Website
	http://retrosuites.com	Other	Retro Suites Website

Management

Ownership Type:	Private (Taxable Corporation)
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