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CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN

E. H. HARES, A.M.C.T. (A)  
CLERK,  
Phone 789-5575



37 Main Street E.  
Box 2700  
Huntsville, Ontario  
POA 1K0

July 6, 1984.

Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Bloor Street West,  
TORONTO, Ontario.  
M7A 2R9.

Dear Sir:

Re: Notice to Designate

The Corporation of the Town of Huntsville granted approval for Notice to Designate the following properties:

1. Brandt's Flower Shop,  
90 Main St. East.
2. The Hart House,  
24 King St.
3. The Proudfoot House,  
34 Chaffey St.

Notices will be placed in our local newspaper three weeks in succession in accordance with your Designation Hand Book with a by-law to be passed by Council following the final notice.

This is my first experience with Heritage Designation and your assistance and guidance with the required procedure would be most appreciated.

Yours very truly,

*E. H. Hares.*

E. H. Hares, A.M.C.T. (A)  
Clerk/Administrator of the  
Corporation of the Town  
of Huntsville.

EHH:dc

Wards — Huntsville, Chaffey, Stephenson, Port Sydney, Stisted, Brunel



## REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

### THE HART HOUSE, 24 KING STREET, HUNTSVILLE

This elegant Victorian house was built on a height of land bordering on the Muskoka River and overlooking the Town of Huntsville. It was built in 1894 for Dr. Jacob Wilson Hart, by William Proudfoot, a local master builder. In size, presence, and decoration, the Hart House represents the North American stately home of the period and is Huntsville's finest example. The site is integrately important to the character and significance of the house and makes this distinctive residence a most impressive contribution to the local architectural scene.

On the exterior, each facade is given a different elevation, and the roofline is composed of intersecting ridges, including a hexagonal bell shaped turret, originally polychromed with patterned tile. The building uses a great variety of materials - brick, stone, clapboard and shingles in various designs. All surfaces are broken by overhangs, bay windows, balconies, dormers, and verandahs on 3 sides with elaborate gingerbread trim. The outside of the house is vividly coloured - red with contrasting trim; the windows bright with panes of coloured glass. Over the front door the transom contains a heart design in coloured glass.

On the interior, the front staircase is beautifully crafted. The stairs widen as they curve graciously into the front hall. The handrail curves to a well-worked newel post. The double front parlour is separated by an oak trimmed arch, and French doors lead to the verandah. In the ceiling is a medallion in fern and scallop design. The fireplace in the parlour is of heavy carved cherry wood in leaf design. Pink minton tiles grace the hearth and opening of the fireplace. On the second floor, the room above the stairwell is supported by 2 long screws attached to a large attic beam.

Historically, too, this house is important. Dr. Hart was a beloved physician in Huntsville from 1886-1924. In 1901, he built an addition of 36 rooms and offices to the back of his residence, to be used as a hospital. It had large verandahs overlooking the river, to allow patients to enjoy Muskoka's fresh air. Often as many as 80 patients were cared for in the facility. In 1909, a change in government caused him to close the wing. However, after his death in 1924, his family ran it



...as a tourist home known as Hart House. In 1961, this part of the establishment was torn down.

Dr. Hart came to Huntsville in 1886 after graduating in medicine from Trinity Medical College in Toronto. He immediately built the Village's first hospital - a wooden structure on Chaffey Street. He also established a branch hospital in Sudbury in 1892. He was instrumental in developing a medical plan for local citizens, whereby they paid \$5.00 a year to cover all hospital admissions.

He was active in local politics, and was reeve of the community in 1891 and 1892. He became Huntsville's first Mayor in 1901, when it was incorporated as a Town. This Office he held for 3 years. He was a staunch liberal and in 1905 he ran in a provincial by-election against Judge A.A. Mahaffy, but was defeated.

Dr. Hart was involved in several aspects of the lumbering industry, being president of both the Huntsville Lumber Syndicate in 1899, and the Muskoka Wood Manufacturing Co. in 1902.

He died at the peak of his career. His funeral was the largest in the Town's history.

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