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June 20, 2011

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JUN 20 2011

RECEIVED

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

Re: Registration of Heritage By-law 82-2011
Thomas McCrae House
Pt. Lt. 16, Con 1 (Raleigh), Pt. 1, 24R-4296
7407 Riverview Line, Community of Raleigh

Registration of Heritage By-law 83-2011
Adams Block
Pt. Lt. 1, Block 47, Plan 14, Chatham
125 Queen Street, Community of Chatham

Registration of Heritage By-law 84-2011
Tye Block
Pt. Lts. 15 & 16, Block K, Plan 144 T/W & S/T ROW as in 276292, Thamesville
9 Victoria Street, Community of Thamesville

Attached is a copy of By-law 82-2011, approved by Chatham-Kent Council on June 6, 2011 for the above-noted property – Thomas McCrae House.

Attached is a copy of By-law 83-2011, approved by Chatham-Kent Council on June 6, 2011 for the above-noted property – Adams Block.

Attached is a copy of By-law 84-2011, approved by Chatham-Kent Council on June 6, 2011 for the above-noted property – Tye Block.

Sincerely,



Ryan Jacques
Planning Technician

Attachment(s)

BY-LAW NUMBER 82-2011

OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

A By-law to designate the property located at **7407 Riverview Line, Community of Raleigh** as being of historical and architectural value or interest.

PASSED the 13th day of June, 2011

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18 as amended, provides that the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent may designate a property within the boundaries of the Municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has appointed the Heritage Chatham-Kent Advisory Committee and the said committee has recommended that the Municipality designate the hereinafter described property pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has given Notice of Intention to Designate the hereinafter described property to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been received by the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" annexed hereto;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipality of Chatham-Kent enacts as follows:

1. That the property municipally known as 7407 Riverview Line, Community of Raleigh and more particularly described in the attached Schedule "B" be designated to be of cultural heritage value and interest pursuant to The Ontario Heritage Act.
2. The Clerk be authorized to register the by-law against the property described in Schedule "B" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk be directed to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

THIS By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME this 13th day of June, 2011.

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of By-law Number 82-2011 passed by Municipality of Chatham-Kent Council at its' meeting held on June 13, 2011, and the same is now in full force and effect.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent



MAYOR - Randy R. Hope



CLERK - Judy Smith

Schedule A



Heritage Chatham-Kent

Municipal Heritage Committee

The Thomas McCrae House c. 1812

Introduction

(This introduction does not form part of the reasons for designation report. It is included for information purposes only)

The McCrae House was built in a simple but elegant countrified Georgian style as would be expected for an early frontier home of a loyalist settler of some means. It does not feature the heavy Rococo influenced detail of earlier, more opulent, Georgian homes of New England, nor does it have the lighter Neoclassical details of finer Federal homes of the c. 1810 period. It is, truly, a country Georgian piece of architecture that relies on symmetry and proportion for its appeal.

The main block of the home originally had identical facades facing the river and the road since the house was equally likely to be seen and approached from either direction. The river façade has now been altered with the centre door being bricked up and a new door being created where a window opening once was. The two side lights that originally flanked the door, however, are still present. These sidelights, built directly into the brick structure are a defining characteristic of very early Georgian homes. It would not be difficult at some future time to re-introduce the centre door and return the existing doorway to a window and this should be considered when defining the designated features. Likewise, an early alteration has occurred on the west gable end where it appears that a former doorway may have been converted to a window opening.

The original kitchen wing was attached to the east gable end of the house. This tends to be an earlier design tradition and one that is more commonly associated with New England and New York architecture (as opposed to the kitchen wing extending perpendicular at the rear of the building). This design may reflect McCrae's loyalist preferences or it may simply have been the necessity of having identical facades. The original kitchen wing has been removed, however, the modern replacement, although not

a direct replica, echos the scale, roofline, window placement, and construction material of the original.

The windows have all been replaced with modern large pane double-hung vinyl, although the window openings and casements are original. Interestingly, a pre-turn-of-the-century photograph of the house shows that the windows had already been modernised to a two over two glazing pattern from the original which would have been at least six over six and probably twelve over twelve panes per sash. Modern shutters and aluminium/vinyl covering over trim have been added but are easily removable.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

THOMAS McCRAE HOUSE**Description of Property**

The Thomas McCrae House property is located on 7407 Riverview Line, Pt. Lt. 16, Con. 1 (Raleigh), Pt. 1, 24R-4296 in Raleigh Township in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The property consists of a two-storey rectangular end gable brick building constructed in 1812 in a simple Georgian style.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**Historical/Associative (OHA Reg 9/06):**

The McCrae House is the oldest verified structure in Chatham-Kent and, arguably, the most historically significant.



McCrae House, river façade with original kitchen wing, c. 1880.

Thomas McCrae, a United Empire Loyalist and the original owner of the house/property, was one of Chatham-Kent's earliest settlers, establishing himself on Lot 16 in the 1790s. He and his family farmed and, reputedly, had an early store of sorts. McCrae was one of the first parliamentary representatives, being elected to the legislature of Upper Canada in 1800. He also served as a militia officer and company commander during the War of 1812 and was present at the capture of Fort Detroit. McCrae is also significant in having kept a diary that is particularly detailed in its description of the events pertaining to the War of 1812.

This diary has been utilized by scholars and historians and is referenced in many publications although its location is presently unknown.

Construction of the house itself is believed to have commenced around 1810-11. It was reputedly built by a bricklayer by the name of Lenover. McCrae's share of prize money from the capture of Fort Detroit was supposedly used to complete the construction in 1812-13.

The house figured prominently in the War of 1812. In July of 1812, the house was visited by U.S. Col. Duncan McArthur and his men during their infamous raiding expedition along the Thames at which time they seized flour, whiskey, and salt. During the British and First Nations retreat up the Thames in October 1813, family tradition maintains that Tecumseh visited McCrae and dined with him in this house.

Following the Battle of the Thames, during the American occupation of the region, the house was used to quarter American soldiers and as an administrative site to administer oaths of neutrality to local inhabitants. In mid-December 1813, McCrae notes in his diary that the house was filled with "about 40 men and three officers, viz., Lts. Larwill and Frisk and Ensign Davis."

The events that followed are well documented in McCrae's diary as well as in official British Army records. Lt. Henry Medcalf of the Norfolk Militia, along with several men, was sent down the shore of Lake Erie to secure some cattle that were roaming near Rondeau. Once here, he learned of the Americans occupying the McCrae house and "determined instantly on crossing the country and endeavouring to surprise them." Medcalf and his 27 men marched through snow, bitter cold, and darkness, from Lake Erie to Chatham where they found Lt. John McGregor, Roderick Drake, and six other men of the Loyal Kents. Medcalf and McGregor then formulated a plan of attack and marched their troops for miles west to the McCrae house.

On December 15, they arrived to discover that no sentries had been posted by the Americans. The house was surrounded and before dawn, a volley was shot through the windows of the house (several bullet marks in the exterior brick walls of the house can still be seen), killing one American, wounding three, taking forty prisoners, and capturing a significant quantity of arms that were distributed to the Loyal Kents. McCrae notes in his diary that the following day "Trudelle and Delisle (dug) a grave for the American soldier who died yesterday."

As author Victor Lauriston points out, this skirmish, while not a major event of the war, is nonetheless very significant in Canadian history as "it was all-Canadian, the deed of the militia and of the militia alone. Here a militia lieutenant had revealed vigorous initiative and decision and his ill-equipped and strangely assorted following had shown a courage and endurance worthy of the best

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regiments of the line." The event is acknowledged as a nationally significant event by a cairn adjacent to the property.



Federal cairn commemorating the skirmish at McCrae's.

Design/Physical (OHA Reg 9/06):

The McCrae House is a well-preserved Georgian residence that reflects the affluence and status of its original United Empire Loyalist owner. Its design is pure high-country Georgian and an excellent representation of a simplified Federal style of architecture popular at the turn of the 18th century that derives its beauty from classical proportions and symmetry. Principal design elements include:

- A brick two-storey symmetrical five bay façade, originally identical on both the northern (river) exposure and the southern (road) exposure with a central doorway flanked by side lights.
- Medium pitch gable ends surmounted by wide chimneys.
- A kitchen wing (re-built) appended to the side as opposed to the rear of the structure to allow for identical facades on both the river side and road side

The McCrae House is the oldest brick structure in Chatham-Kent and the earliest of a handful of pre-neo-classical Georgian homes that survive in the community.

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Northern exposure, McCrae House.

Contextual:

The relationship between the Thomas McCrae House and its broader setting, with its prominence close to the shoreline on an elevation at a major bend in the Thames River, gives it a visual prominence when approaching in either direction by water. Likewise, its mass, proximity to Riverview Line, and situation on a bend, gives it visual prominence on the road side as well, especially when approaching from the east (the west side is obscured by vegetation).



Approaching from the east on Riverview Line.

Description of Heritage Attributes/Character Defining Elements

Key exterior elements of the McCrae House property that contribute to its value as a well preserved example of an early loyalist Georgian home include:

- Red brick construction
- Flemish bond brick pattern in main block
- Window and door placement, main block
- Window and door casements, main block
- Chimneys, main block
- Roof pitch, main block
- Brick headers over windows and doors, main block
- Window sills (presently covered), main block
- Simple soffit and eaves, main block
- Shot marks and names scratched into exterior brick walls, main block

Key elements of the McCrae House property that support its contextual value include:

- The structure's focal dominance along the Thames River as a result of its mass and its proximity to the water's edge.
- The structure's mass as accentuated by its close proximity to the road.



View of river from McCrae House property

Sources:

- Fred Coyne Hamil, *The Valley Of The Lower Thames 1640 to 1850* University of Toronto Press, 1951.
- Victor Lauriston, *Romantic Kent, The Story of a County 1626-1952* c. 1952
- *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Essex and Kent* H. Belden & Co., Toronto, 1881.

Photographs of Key Exterior Elements:



Red brick in Flemish Bond construction
Brick headers over window and door openings



Window openings, casements, and roof pitch, western exposure



Window and door openings and casements, north (river) exposure



Window openings and casements, eastern exposure



West chimney



East chimney



Front (south) façade showing the very significant side lights flanking the centre door



West gable end showing very simple brick header over window opening as well as simple, unadorned soffit and eaves

Schedule B

PT LT 16, CON 1 (RALEIGH), PT 1, 24R-4296; CHATHAM-KENT

PIN No. 00884-0046