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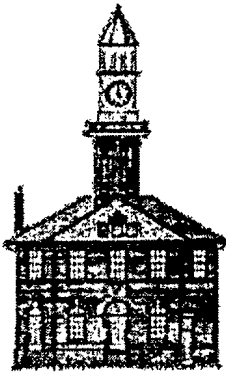
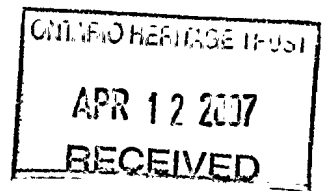
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# *Heritage Chatham-Kent*

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## *Municipal Heritage Committee*

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

In the Matter of the Ontario Heritage Act

Notice of Intent to Designate

The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990, Chapter O.18 as amended, provides that the Municipal Council may pass a by-law designating property within the boundaries of the municipality to be of cultural heritage value and interest.

The Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent hereby gives Notice of Intent to designate the following property:

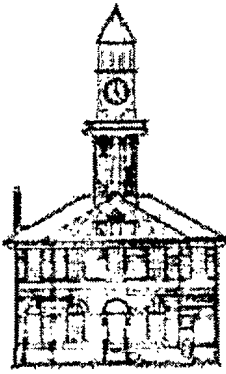
**15231 Thomson Line, Community of Duart, as a property of cultural heritage value and interest.**

The report on the designation of this property, which was adopted by Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, is available upon request from Community and Development Services, Civic Centre, 315 King Street, West, P.O. Box 640, Chatham, Ontario, N7M 5K8.

Any person may, within 30 days of the date of this Notice, serve on the Clerk, a Notice of Objection in writing, setting out the objection and all relevant facts. Where a Notice of Objection has been served, the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Municipality of Chatham-Kent this 11th day of April, 2007.

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# *Heritage Chatham-Kent*

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## *Municipal Heritage Committee*

Appendix 1

### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

#### DUART HALL

##### **Description of Property**

The Duart Hall Property is located on 15231 Thomson Line, in the village of Duart, Orford Township in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The property consists of a single, rectangular front gable frame building constructed in 180 in a simple vernacular gothic style.

##### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

##### **Historical/Associative (OHA Reg 9/06):**

The Duart Hall is an historically important living, well preserved, and quintessential example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century community hall that has served as the hub of social, political, and institutional activity in the Scottish settlement of Duart and the surrounding area for over 125 years. The building was constructed by Mr. John Walker for \$ 900.00 in 1870 as a town hall for Orford Township Council (the original council table and six chairs, made by local cabinetmaker Richard Genge, remain in the building). In 1901 the building became a bona fide community hall used for dances, banquets, plays, political debates, concerts, bridal showers, variety shows, and auctions. The hall hosted Guy Lombardo and his band on several occasions. As the focal point for area events, the building became a source of ongoing community pride and its maintenance became the subject of ongoing fundraising and volunteer work by many local organizations including the Duart Women's Club and, more recently, the Highgate Lions' Club.

##### **Design/Physical (OHA Reg 9/06):**

The Duart Hall is a well-preserved building that retains and reflects its utilitarian functions as a gathering place for the community. Its design is classic mid-Victorian rural vernacular placing function over form. Principal design elements include:

- A long rectangular front gabled construction with four tall windows along each side to provide maximum light and ventilation.
- A large open concept interior space with a stage at the rear and kitchen/preparation area at the front (added c. 1925).

The hall is one of the few remaining examples of an important local form of institutional building of unusually Spartan, functional architecture, that manifested itself in several schools and churches in Orford Township from the same era (1860 to 1880).

**Contextual:**

The relationship between the Duart Hall and its broader setting, with its prominence at the west end of the main street is an important part of the preservation of this rural village's streetscape that has remained largely unchanged in the last one hundred years. The hall and a large brick church immediately across the road act to frame a cluster of late 19<sup>th</sup> century frame houses and commercial buildings. The hall's context is enhanced by its proximity to the street, the absence of other structure to the west (it is the focal point as one approaches the village) and the very flat landscape.

**Description of Heritage Attributes/Character Defining Elements**

Key exterior elements of the Duart Hall property that contribute to its value as a well preserved example of a rural gathering place:

- Original stone foundation (portions pared with later concrete)
- Long rectangular front gable structure with medium-pitch roof
- Timber frame construction
- Window placement on east and west side of building
- Original window casements
- Original six over four pane window sash
- Original wood soffit and frieze mouldings

Key interior elements of the Duart Hall property that contribute to its value as a well preserved example of a rural social gathering place:

- Large open central meeting room
- Wooden stage
- Tongue & groove beaded wooden wainscot and chair rail, coat rail, and trim
- Interior wooden window casement mouldings and sills
- Tongue & groove wooden ceiling (presently concealed under later drop ceiling)
- Wooden doors and hardware
- Hanging light fixture, c 1930
- Narrow tongue & groove floorboards over earlier wider boards
- Original wooden council table, side table, and chairs made by Richard Genge for \$9 in 1870-71

Key elements of the Duart Hall property that support its contextual value include:

- The location on the property in relation to the road, adjacent church and downtown.
- Empty lot/lack of buildings to the west of the hall giving it visual priority as the beginning and/or end point of the downtown part of the village.



**Side View -- Duart Hall**



**Front View -- Duart Hall**