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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES
KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 143 WILLIAM STREET SOUTH
IN THE CITY OF CHATHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF
ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Chatham intends to designate the exterior and one room known as the "Bay Room" or "The South East Room" in the interior of the residence municipally known as 143 William Street South and described as the South Part of Lot 1, Old Survey, Chatham, as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337.

Architectural Significance: This rather large, late Victorian house exhibits several stylish motifs, popular in the late 1890's, the foremost being the prominently elaborated central entrance porch. This area of the facade is dominated by a central tower, which rises above the entrance to a height of three storeys, with attic, and it features a French chateau - inspired Mansartian roof. Facing Charteris Street, a semi-circular drive approaches the house to a roofed carriage-way, constructed of registered, rusticated limestone supports. Typical necessities of the era include the iron rings, and a steep step to facilitate a lighting from carriage to side porch. Significant interior features of the "South East Room" include: Greek key inlaid oak floor, oak dado, tin walls and ceiling, "rope turned" mantel decor and railing, semi-circular bay featuring oak window seat, curved leaded glass windows, and stained glass clerestory. An unusual iron ceiling fixture, with amberina glass, dominates the room. Complimentary iron wall scones and fireplace moulding complete the decor. These features look characteristic of a carriage industry.

Historical Significance: Three generations of the William Gray family have played a prominent role in the history of Chatham. William, who came to Canada in 1853, Robert, his son and William Murray, son of Robert, worked to promote Chatham. All three served terms in public office. The Family established and operated a thriving business that produced the Gray-Dort which, "in its time was probably the best selling car in Canada." For a few years, Gray-Dort Motors were by long odds

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Chatham's most important industry. The Grays were the first Chathamites to own some of the modern conveniences which we now take for granted. Thus, the Gray family closely influenced the development of Chatham.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the City of Chatham before the 15th day of July, 1984.

Dated at Chatham, Ontario, this 15th day of June, 1984.


Clerk