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Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Community Development and Planning Services

Planning Services

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Chatham ON N7M 5K8

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September 21, 2011

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

**Re: Notice of Intent to Designate - Chrysler Ward School
9 Park Street, 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 Chrysler Ward School, located at 9 Park Street, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jacques".

Ryan Jacques
Acting Development Planner

c Municipal Heritage Committee

Attachment(s)

Canadian Register of Historic Places Nomination
Chrysler Ward School, 9 Park Street, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

*any field that appears in grey is mandatory

Identification

Historic Place Name	Chrysler Ward School		
Other Names	#	Type:	Name:
	1	Other	Queen Street School
	2	Other	Gray & Sons Repair
	3	Other	Gray-Dort Motor Company
	4	Other	Gray-Dort Social Club
	5	Other	Masonic Temple
	6	Other	Gentry Manor
	7	Other	9 Park Street

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:	9
Street Name:	Park Street
Postal Code:	N7M 3R1
Locality:	Chatham
Community:	Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Upper Tier:	n/a

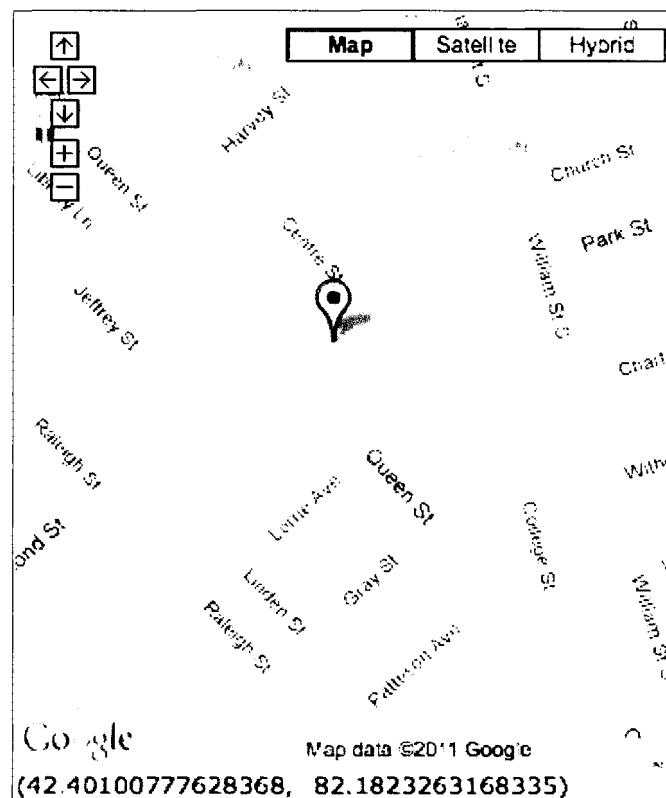
Coordinates

UTM		Latitude/Longitude	
Determination:	n/a	Determination:	Geocoding
Datum:	n/a	Datum:	NAD83
Zone:	n/a	Latitude:	42.401416
Northing:	n/a	Longitude:	-82.182499
Easting:	n/a		
Borden #:	n/a	Borden #:	n/a

Boundaries

Boundary Description:	Part of Lots 10 to 13 and all of Lot 14, Block 48, Plan 14, Municipality of Chatham-Kent.
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Map



Description

Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place: i.e. Description of Property	The Chrysler Ward School is located at 9 Park Street on the north side of the confluence of Richmond Street, Park Street and Queen Street in the City of Chatham, Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The two-storey painted brick commercial building was constructed in 1871.
Heritage Value: i.e. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest	<p><i>Historical or Associative Value:</i></p> <p>The Chrysler Ward School represents one of the oldest known structures that was used as a school in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. It was built in 1871 and was the only school located in the Town of Chatham's Chrysler Ward, hence it's name. The school, along with four others throughout Chatham, was erected from municipal funds at the disposal of the Town along with proceeds from the sale of school lands. As the modest six-room school became overpopulated, additions were added and it became known as the Queen Street School.</p> <p>Around the turn of the century the Queen Street School was surplus and the building became associated with one of the most well-known industries in Chatham. William Gray purchased the property at which point it became known as Gray & Sons Repair. The school's design lent itself well to the use as a repair shop for the Gray buggies and sleighs that were manufactured in Chatham. Following William's death in 1884, his son Robert Gray picked up where William left off and in 1915 he began manufacturing Gray-Dort automobiles. The automobile production meant that the family's industrial empire boomed, selling more than 23,000 automobiles from coast to coast. Due to this boom, buggy production slowed, resulting in the repair shop's transition to the Gray-Dort Social Club.</p> <p>As the Gray-Dort Social Club the building was central to the community's social life. It acted as Chatham's unofficial community centre, a place where employees enjoyed billiards and silent movies and where many annual local events and dances were held. Robert is said to have favoured this building and retained ownership long after all other assets of the Gray-Dort Motor Company were sold following the cessation of Gray-Dort automobile production in 1924. It was not until his death that the structure took on its next incarnation, and the longest use to date, as the Masonic Temple. During this time the structure again played a prominent role in the social life of the Chatham community, hosting many local functions. The Masons sold the building in 1995 at which point it became the Gentry Manor.</p> <p><i>Design or Physical Value:</i></p> <p>The Chrysler Ward School is a unique example of the Classic Revival style of architecture. This style was concerned with the application of Greek plans and proportions to civic buildings, and it was common of schools of this era to be built in the Classic Revival style.</p> <p>The exterior is largely original and the structure's long and diverse history is evidenced in its many additions and alterations. The Chrysler Ward School's unique design features a temple inspired, somewhat monumental scale with a two-storey porticoed colonnade and four prominent Doric columns. The fenestration varies, but the numerous long, tall windows with decorative arched brick labels are notable. Other unique features include the grand main entrance featuring a keystone, the corbelled brick work under the eaves, and the</p>

	<p>decorative brick blind arches with brick pilasters and capitals.</p> <p><i>Contextual Value:</i> Located prominently at the confluence of three Streets: Richmond, Park and Queen, the Chrysler Ward School is a landmark in Chatham and represents a long history of the community's social activities and events as well as their contribution to the automotive industry, both locally and nationally.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> <i>A Community on the Thames</i>, 1987. <i>Chatham-Kent: A Place of Refuge</i>, visualheritage.ca/kent/dort.htm. Gentry Manor, gentrymanor.com/history.php. <i>Gray-Dort: The Class of the Light Car Field</i>, 1988. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Heritage Register <i>Report to the Minister of Education</i>, 1871.</p>
Character-Defining Elements: i.e. Description of Heritage Attributes	<p><i>Exterior character defining elements that contribute to the value of the Chrysler Ward School include its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two-storey painted brick exterior - the combination hip and gable roofs - temple inspired, monumental scale - two-storey porticoed colonnade with gable roof - four Doric columns - varied fenestration - grand main entrance with brick keystone - decorative arched brick labels - patterned brick corbel - ornamental brick pilasters with brick capitals - brick blind arches <p><i>Characteristics that contribute to the contextual value of the Chrysler Ward School include its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prominent location on the confluence of three Streets: Richmond, Park and Queen - close proximity to the commercial downtown core - first school to be built in the Chrysler Ward of Chatham

Contributing Resources		Type:	Count:		
		Building	1		
Area (m²)	1691				
Dates of Significance	#	Type:		From:	To:
	1	Construction		1871	1871
BA	#	Type:	Name:		
	1	Architect	n/a		
	2	Builder	n/a		

Function Category and Type

Category and Type	#	Function:	Category:	Type:
	1	Historic	Education	Primary or Secondary School
	2	Current	Commerce/Commercial Services	Shop or Wholesale

Theme

Theme Category Type	#	Category:	Type:
	1	Building Social and Community	Education and Social Well-Being

		Life	
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Images

	Image 1:	Image 2:	Image 3:
File Path:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Image Type:	Contemporary Photograph	Contemporary Photograph	Contemporary Photograph
Caption:	West View of the Chrysler Ward School	South Elevation of the Chrysler Ward School	Detailed View of the Chrysler Ward School's Decorative Brick Work
Description:	Façade and south elevation of the Chrysler Ward School, 2011.	Chrysler Ward School's south elevation depicting the fenestration and arched brick labels, 2011.	Featured is the patterned brick corbelling and ornamental brick pilasters with brick capitals, 2011.
Copyright:	Lindsay Benjamin, 2011.	Lindsay Benjamin, 2011.	Lindsay Benjamin, 2011.
Miscellaneous Info:	n/a	n/a	n/a



Image 1



Image 2

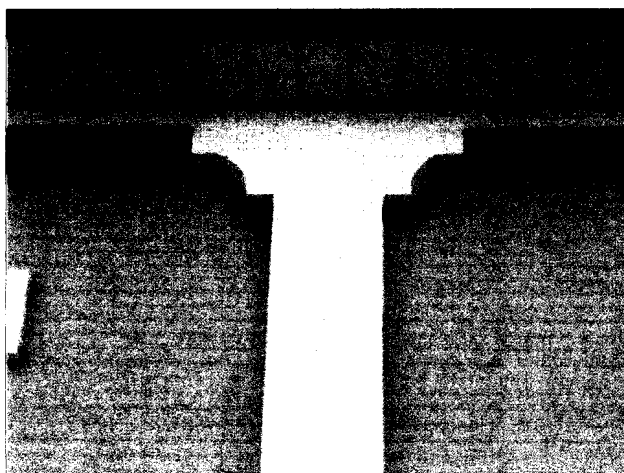


Image 3

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
	http://www.gentrymanor.com/	Other	Gentry Manor Website

Management

Ownership Type:	Private (Corporation)
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