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December 18, 2012

**ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST**

DEC 20 2012

**RECEIVED**

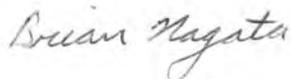
Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto ON M5C 1J3

**Re: Registration of Heritage Designation By-law - O'Hara House  
142 Victoria Avenue, Community of Chatham (City)  
(Part of Park Lot 15, Plan 18 As IN 230257 Together With & Subject To  
R.O.W. As IN 230257; Chatham-Kent)**

At the Council Meeting held December 10, 2012, Chatham-Kent Council passed By-law 195-2012 designating the aforementioned property under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value and interest. The By-law was registered on title of the respective property on December 17, 2012 as Instrument No. CK79322.

A Copy of the By-law is attached for your file.

Sincerely,



Brian Nagata  
Junior Planner

C: Municipal Heritage Committee

Attachment(s)

BY-LAW NUMBER 195-2012

OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

A By-law to designate the property located at **142 Victoria Avenue, Community of Chatham (City)** as being of historical and architectural value or interest.

PASSED the 10th day of December, 2012

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 142 Victoria Avenue, Community of Chatham (City) 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 Trust 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.

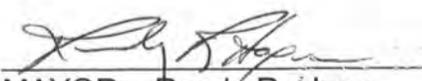
READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME this 10th day of December, 2012.

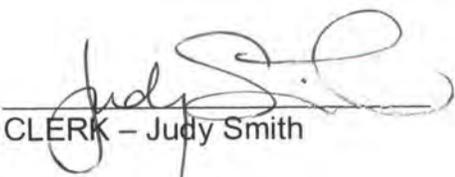
I hereby certify this to be a true copy of By-law Number 195-2012  
passed by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its meeting held on

Dec 10 .. 2012

And the same is now in full force and effect.

  
Judy Smith, Clerk  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

  
MAYOR - Randy R. Hope

  
CLERK - Judy Smith

## Schedule A



# *Heritage Chatham-Kent*

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## *Municipal Heritage Committee*

### DESIGNATION REPORT

**“LLYDICAN”  
THE O’HARA HOUSE  
142 VICTORIA AVE  
CHATHAM**

#### **Description of Property**

“Llydican”, the O’Hara House property is located at 142 Victoria Avenue, Chatham. The legal description of the property is: Part of Park Lot 15, Plan 18 as IN 230257, Together With & Subject to R.O.W. as IN 230257; Chatham-Kent in the City of Chatham in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The property consists of an elegant two storey frame residence of Italianate style.

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

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

The property has direct associations to Robert O’Hara, a prominent early lawyer and horticulturalist, and his son Geoffrey, an internationally renowned composer of popular music in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Robert O’Hara attended Upper Canada College and settled in Chatham in the 1860s, practicing law as part of the partnership of Douglas & O’Hara. He built a stylish home that he named “Llydican” around 1869, the property becoming the focus of his many horticultural interests. He was especially interested in roses and wrote frequently for floral magazines. Robert was also an expert marksman and taxidermist.

Robert and his wife, Maria, had five children, several of whom became prominent civil servants. One son, Geoffrey DeVere O’Hara (1882-1967), originally planned a career in the military, attending Royal Military College, however, he cut his studies short to return to Chatham upon the death of his father in 1900.

In 1904, O’Hara moved to the United States where he began performing in Vaudeville and the following year he began making recordings for Edison Records. His early recordings were of traditional First Nations Music and were often accompanied by lectures of the intricacies of the native music. Beginning around 1910, O’Hara began writing popular songs including *Your Eyes Have Told Me What I Did Not Know* (1913), *Tennessee I Hear You Calling Me* (1914), and the huge hit *K K K Katy* (1918).

During World War I, O’Hara served as a singing instructor of patriotic songs for U.S. troops and was commissioned by President Woodrow Wilson’s administration to compose a modern version of *The Star Spangled Banner*

(1918). In all, O'Hara composed over 500 popular and patriotic songs during his career.



Geoffrey O'Hara

In the 1930s, O'Hara lectured on music at Columbia University, Huron College, and the University of South Dakota, eventually receiving an honorary doctorate in music in 1947. He also helped organize and held executive positions in several music and writers' associations in the United States. O'Hara is widely recognized as one of the great and prolific North American composers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

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

The O'Hara house is a well preserved and elegant example of an upper middle class residence with an eclectic mix of architectural elements but principally of Italianate style. The house is of frame construction (presently vinyl sided) with two floors forming an offset "T" footprint with an impressive pillared front porch.



**Contextual:**

The building is significant as one of the original estate homes along Victoria Avenue and because of its massing and set back that forms an even and orderly line with other contemporary houses preserving a pristine streetscape largely unchanged for over 100 years. Its prominence on the northwest corner of Victoria Ave. and Forest Street gives it visual prominence and serves as a local landmark.

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

Key elements of the O'Hara House that contribute to its value as a well preserved example of an upper class 19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate style residence include:

**Exterior:**

- Complex roofline
- Central brick chimney with inset arched panel
- Restrained bargeboard on south gable end
- Prominent scrolled frieze brackets on front (east) and north gable ends
- Wide beaded frieze board
- Square framed double arched attic lights in east and north gables
- Window placement
- Window casements
- Decorative eclectic window headers
- Front porch supported by plain Doric pillars
- "French" doors on east and south facades
- Glazing pattern in windows and "French" doors
- Prominent front door casement with large semi-circular transom
- Double front doors with paneled construction
- Paneled and glazed secondary entrance doors

**Interior:**

- Floor plan
- Centre hall staircase, railing, turned balusters and paneled base.
- Interior doors
- Door casement trim and baseboards on first floor hall and parlour
- Wainscot, door casement trim in dining room
- Paneled and glazed double interior front doors
- Second floor doors, door casement trim, and baseboards
- Fireplace mantels

**Contextual:**

Key elements of the O'Hara House that support its contextual significance are:

- Setback from the street in relation to the surrounding buildings.
- Prominent placement on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Forest Street

**Sources:**

-Victor Lauriston *Romantic Kent*, Chatham, 1952

- *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Kent Ontario*, J.H. Beers & Co., Toronto 1904

-Chatham City Directories 1877-1930

-Tim Gracyk, Frank Hoffmann, B. Lee Cooper "Popular American recording pioneers, 1895-1925" (2000)

**Schedule B**

Part of Park Lot 15, Plan 18 as IN 230257, Together With & Subject to R.O.W. as IN 230257; Chatham-Kent

PIN No. 00542-0252