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April 05, 2016

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

APR 08 2016

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

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate -
Soldiers Memorial and Memorial Square, Chatham, ON
Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its meeting on March 21, 2016 approved the Intention to Designate the property known as the Soldiers Memorial and Memorial Square, Chatham, ON, described as Sixth St PI Old Survey N Of King St W Except As In 402219 & Parts 48 To 53; 24R3682 under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, for its cultural heritage value or interest, as defined by one or more of the Criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06*.

If no notice of objection is served within the 30-day period, Council shall pass a by-law designating the property or shall withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property by causing a notice of withdrawal.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (519) 352-8401 Ext. 3045.

Sincerely,



Greg Houston
Planning Technician

In the Matter of the Ontario Heritage Act

Notice of Intent to Designate

The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990, Chapter 0.18 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:

Description of Property:

The "Soldiers Memorial" and "Memorial Square" property is located at the north end of Sixth Street in the City of Chatham, in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, on the property described as SIXTH ST PL OLD SURVEY N OF KING ST W EXCEPT AS IN 402219 & PARTS 48 TO 53; 24R3682; CHATHAM-KENT

The property is approximately 47 feet by 101 feet, located between the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce located at 99 King Street West and the commercial business to the west located at 101 King Street West, Chatham.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Historical/Associative (OHA Reg. 9/06):

Following the Great War of 1914-18 the carnage of that war played heavily on the minds of the returning enlistments. In 1919 the veterans of Chatham and Kent County met at Maple Leaf Cemetery on "Peace Day", the 19th of July to remember their fallen comrades. In Canada "Peace Day" would survive for only a couple of years as Remembrance Day on the 11th of November became more popular.

By 1922 a group of Chatham citizens were forming the "Memorial Committee" with the goal of having a "Soldiers Memorial" prominently place in the City of Chatham.

The committee searched out potential designs and costs arriving at what they thought would be appropriate to memorialize the sacrifice of the 356 fatalities from Chatham and Kent County during the war. The Memorial Committee purposed a debenture of \$15,000 to City Council on the 5th of February, 1923. This figure was put to the ratepayers for approval By-law No. 1866 presented on the 2nd of April, 1923 and failed 847 to 706.

Following the vote a mass meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church to form a committee to raise the \$15,000 by public subscription, kicked off by the 24th Kent Regiment Chapter's donation of \$1,000. By the 28th of June, 1923 over half of the money required had been raised and the secretary of the committee reported that the contract was let. City Council had agreed to see that the foundation would be ready for construction and the dedication date was fixed for the 12th of November, 1923. It was also agreed that the sidewalk at the north end of Sixth Street between the Bank of Commerce and the Standard Bank would be removed with all cost going to the Memorial Fund.

In Robert Shipley's book, "To Mark Our Place", on page 90 he makes reference to a petition done by a Mr. Kendall, secretary of the Great War Veteran Association (the forerunner of the Royal Canadian Legion) asking, "What kind of memorial they wished to see?"

“The men said they wanted nothing but an unselfish memorial something symbolic. The men would be bitterly opposed to anything for themselves. The sentiment was the same in Chatham, Ontario. Twenty-four hundred and twenty-two of the aggregate pronounced themselves as being heartily in favour of the monument and the site chosen.”

It should be noted that the inscription on the front of the memorial read that it is dedicated to the men of Chatham and Kent County.

Work began the 9th of October, 1923, with C. H. R. Fuller, City Manager supervising the construction of the “fourteen foot square” by “eight foot deep” foundation, the combined weight of the memorial and foundation would be 190 tons. C. H. Colby, contractor, would be responsible for the construction of the monument.

It was reported in the Chatham Daily News on the 8th of November, 1923 that the “bronze figure of a Canadian soldier representing victory” had been lowered into place atop the granite memorial, completing the construction of the monument.

The “Soldiers Memorial” on “Memorial Square” was dedicated on the 12th of November, 1923, by Lieutenant Governor Cockshutt. In his dedication he said, “This monument is to the memory of our boys who have fallen on the field of battle – the men whose memory will ever remain”.

For over nine decades the Soldiers Memorial has rested on the Memorial Square and for a but few of those decades has been the place where citizens have gathered on the 11th of November to remember the sacrifices of the 697 fatalities of the two Great Wars, the Korean conflict and Peace-keeping assignments.

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

The Soldiers Memorial is an excellent and well preserved example of a first quarter, twentieth century monument. The structure consist of a 14 feet by 14 feet by 8 feet concrete foundation, with an apron approximately 24 inches on the east and west side and 10 feet north and south of the memorial. The Granite memorial has a 28 inch plinth, four section tall of 72 inch, 39 inch, 47 inch and 24 inch approximately 17 ½ feet tall plus an oversized bronze figure of a soldier of the Great War atop. The estimated weight of the foundation, the stone work and figure is 190 tons.

Contextual (OHA Reg. 9/06):

The property is associated with the north end of Sixth Street, Chatham with an entrance to Tecumseh Park at its north end. It is the last vestige of any building that existed on this location before 1923. It is also central in the community of Chatham and central to the commercial portion of King Street West.

The report on the designation of this property is available upon request. Any person may for any of these properties, 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 5th day of April, 2016.