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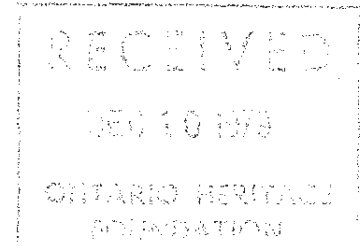
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,  
1974, S. O. Chapter 122

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES  
AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS 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 Town of Kirkland Lake intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S. O. Chapter 122.

Sir Harry Oakes Chateau  
Chateau Drive  
Kirkland Lake, Ontario

Reasons for proposed Designation

Historically, the Chateau is recommended for designation because of the connection of the building with Sir Harry Oakes, the indomitable prospector, whose courage and determination led him around the world to Kirkland Lake where he found and developed the Lake Shore Mines into one of the richest gold mines in the world. From 1911 Oakes' work in the area made him a driving force in the establishment of the new mining town.

Architecturally, the building is a well designed structure skillfully set into the slope of the land. The long, horizontal roof lines, the sheet copper roof accented with dormers and the small balcony are reminiscent of the Prairie School of architecture. Clad originally with cedar shingles, the porch backed and supported by massive logs, the building complemented its rustic setting. Small paned windows added to the charm.

The strong, decisive character of the man is exemplified in the strong, commanding structure designed for him. For Kirkland Lake, the Chateau is a landmark uniquely capable of establishing continuity between the past and the future of the town.

Historical Significance: In 1911, Harry Oakes, prospector, reached the Kirkland Lake area in his search for gold. After sharing in the dramatic staking of the Tough-Oakes (later Toburn) Mine, which, through the richness of its ore focussed the attention of the mining world on the Kirkland Lake area, he set about staking and putting together property which, in 1914, was incorporated into Lake Shore Mines Limited. Almost single-handedly

he set about developing his mine and his story is one of the few in the history of Canadian mining where a prospector staked the claims, financed and brought a mine to the dividend-paying stage, while still retaining control. At peak production in the mid-1930's Lake Shore was considered to be Canada's greatest gold mine.

In 1934 Harry Oakes moved to the Bahamas, becoming dominant in society there. He became a Member of the House of Assembly in 1938 and was created a Baronet of the realm by George VI in 1939.

The Chateau was built in 1919 on Lake Shore property, overlooking the mine to the east and the lake to the north. Set in a carefully landscaped grove of birches, the building was originally planned as a headquarters for directors and visiting dignitaries. In 1923 Sir Harry brought his bride to the Chateau and Eunice Oakes transformed the austere building into a welcoming residence. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1929 the building was rebuilt and enlarged to its present size. The interior remains largely unchanged. In 1967 the building was turned into a nursing home, necessitating some additions and renovations, notably the use of stucco to replace the original shingle and log exterior finish.

Architectural Significance: The building is a well-designed rectangular cube skillfully set into the slope of the land. Low pitched sheet copper roofs with their wide overhangs and small dormers lend elegant proportions to the massive building. Long, horizontal roof lines, punctuated at the second story by a small, pleasant roof balcony further assist the building to settle into its surroundings. The care taken in blending the Chateau into its site relates it to houses of the prairie style of the American midwest. A small area of the original shingle cladding and the few remaining industrial sash windows give a glimpse of the warm, rustic appearance of the building as it stood in the 1930's. Log walls under the wide roof of the porch further contributed to the charm of the Chateau. Covered now with stucco, these logs remain within the walls.

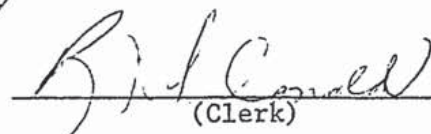
Large, well-proportioned rooms in the interior still show the original finish. The walls are plastered and in one room the plaster has been ornately decorated with bas-reliefs of animals, fairy tales and toys. It is desirable that this room and the master bedroom be restored and preserved in their entirety. Furthermore, representative portions of the upstairs living room and the billard room, along with their light fixtures and moldings should be restored and preserved.

The large, central fireplaces on the ground and second floors are the work of a local builder and worthy of designation. Much of the original work on the building was performed by the carpentry section of Lake Shore Mines, under the direction of David McChesney. Consequently the Chateau has played an important role for many of the people of Kirkland Lake since the building was first begun. Standing as it does as a landmark at the western edge of the town it continues to be an integral part of the community.

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 Town of Kirkland Lake before the fifty day of January, 1980.

DATED at Kirkland Lake

this 5TH day of DECEMBER 1979

  
(Clerk)