



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

123 Main Street West

TAKE NOTICE that Grimsby Town Council, on August 8th, 2023 resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PT LT 142, Corporation Plan 4, as in RO659591; GRIMSBY as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Reason for the Notice of Intention to Designate is to recognize the physical, associative and contextual value that **123 Main Street West** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The structure at 123 Main Street West is representative of the Italianate architectural style. Italianate architecture in Ontario gained popularity from the 1850s-1900's. The style followed the same principals of classical architecture, which was utilized in early Canada to bring order, stability, and authority to areas with developing governments. Public buildings such as courthouses, libraries, and schools were designed using classical attributes, as these buildings provided a visualization of order and uniformity.

The Italianate structure at 123 Main Street West is a two and a half storey red brick building. Key Italianate identifying features are the arched window and door openings, corbels below the eaves, tall windows, and the multi storey bay windows. Italianate residences in Ontario often will have a frontispiece, large sash windows, and ornate details on the window and roof brackets, all of these elements can be found on the structure at 123 Main Street West, and are signature features of the Italianate style.

123 Main Street West is associated with Nathaniel Pettit a UEL settler, Robert Lillie Gibson, Richard Allison, and the Dolmage Family. The structure at 123 Main Street West was built by Robert Dolmage and his wife Francis in 1876. The Dolmage family was involved within the community and local politics.

The Dolmage General Store building (now demolished) was located on the corner of Main and Mountain streets. The building was an example of early adaptive reuse. The building was used by the family to house three businesses and the family residence until the construction of 123 Main Street West. In 1906 the Dolmage sisters sold the Dolmage General Store building to John Hewitt, who added a large extension to the building, converted the upstairs to guest rooms, added a kitchen, and a dining room which created *The Village Inn*. The Village Inn was a very notable structure along Main Street and is a strong example of how the streetscape evolved and the needs of the town changed.

123 Main Street West is important in defining and maintaining the character of "Dolmage Corner", at the intersection of Gibson Street and Main Street West. Gibson street was first used as an access street for the Loyalist Grist Mill (formerly called Mill Road), and over time the street evolved into residential corridor with a dead end.

Robert Dolmage built his Italianate house on the top of the hill overlooking the intersection, showcasing the wealth and prosperity of the family. Dolmage oriented the house so that the front façade faced the intersection, letting the house stand prominently on top of the hill when coming down Main Street. At the time of construction the property extended south-east down Gibson Street and was used for farming, the area has since been developed for housing.

123 Main Street West is a Landmark. The house stands prominent within its landscape, and is the only example of a red brick Italianate building within the immediate surroundings. Historic newspaper clippings refer to the intersection as “Dolmage corner”. At one time the property was known for its beautiful gardens that were established and tended to by the daughters of Robert & Frances Dolmage.

HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 123 Main Street West include:

- Two and a half storeys tall
- Italianate style architecture
- Hipped roof with multiple projecting gables and dormers
- Protruding frontice piece with pediment
- Bracketed eaves below the wooden soffits
- Original wooden sash windows with wooden louvered shutters
- Double arched front door
- Two storey bay windows
- Unpainted red brick façade
- Original window and door openings

OBJECTIONS

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper. Objections should be directed to Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby ON, L3M 0J53.

MORE INFORMATION

Any inquiries may be directed to Bianca Verrecchia, Heritage Planner at 905-945-9634 ext. 2122 or by email bverrecchia@grimsby.ca

Last date to file Notice of Objection: September 16th, 2023