

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIMSBY

BY-LAW NO. 24-49

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET, AS  
A FEATURE OF HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND/OR CONTEXTUAL  
SIGNIFICANCE

Whereas pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, the Council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And whereas the municipal council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby has cause to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

2 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grimsby, ON

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the property at 2 5<sup>th</sup> Street and a statement of the reasons for the proposed designation, and further, has caused said notice of intention to be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the municipality;

And whereas the reasons for designation and extent to which the designation applies are set out in schedule "B" attached hereto and form part of the By-law.

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby enacts as follows:

1. That the following real property, more particularly described in schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest:

2 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Town of Grimsby  
The Regional Municipality of Niagara

2. That the Town solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto at the Land Registry Office.

Read a first time, considered, and passed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

  
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J.A. Jordan, Mayor

  
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V. Steele, Town Clerk

Schedule 'A' to By-law 24-49

In the Town of Grimsby in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, property description as follows:

LTS 165 to 167 & 185 & PT LT 184, Township Plan 64, as in RO372130;  
GRIMSBY

Schedule 'B' to By-law 24-49  
Statement of Significance and Description of Extent of the Features to which the  
Designation Applies

The structure at 2 5th Street is a representation of the wooden frame cottages that were built during the Chautauqua Methodist movement during the late 1800's. The cottage at 2 5th Street contains many elements of Folk Victorian style, while also possessing vernacular features that are unique to the Grimsby Beach community. The Grimsby beach cottages at the time of construction were known for their narrow and tall floor plans (due to the buildings being constructed on former tent lots). Features such as multiple storey porches, multiple sets of French doors, arched wooden sash windows, board and batten siding, bargeboards, gingerbread, turned porch posts and bracketing were also commonly seen.

The dwelling at 2 5th Street is representative of the distinct Grimsby beach cottage style that can be found within the neighborhood. The cottage at 2 5th Street would have been constructed by the Bowslaugh family and D. Marsh & Sons. Most cottages were built with materials that were prepared at the D. Marsh Grimsby Beach Planing mill. D. Marsh and sons were responsible for the construction of many notable buildings within Grimsby. The original mill was located on Park Road.

The Grimsby Chautauqua movement was about community, arts, culture and religion, the use of multiple outdoor porches became a vital part of the community's culture. The cottage at 2 5th street shows evidence of multiple storey porches that have been enclosed over time. The cottage at 2 5th Street is representative of this style, and retains a majority of its original form, including the steep rooflines and tall stature. As the area declined after the Methodist movement halted, and the need for housing grew, the cottage community transitioned to a year-round neighborhood. Many of the surviving cottages have been expanded over the last century to accommodate the needs of the occupants, the additions and enclosure of the porches on the cottage are representative of this layer in Grimsby Beach's historic legacy.

The cottage at 2 5th street is historically known as Ilfracombe Lodge and was constructed in 1887. The cottage was owned by Reverend Dr. Alexander and Sarah Burns.

Alexander and Sarah Burns of Hamilton were associated with Grimsby Park prior to 1885 as evidenced in early Park programs. They acquired the lots on 5th Street from the Ontario Methodist Campground Company in 1887, this was prior to the Bowslaugh family agreeing to sell the cottages. Ilfracombe was one of the earliest cottages to be "pre sold" out of the Methodist Campground Association. These early sales were in an effort to attract wealthy families to occupy and establish the cottages along the lakeshore. The cottages on the lakeshore such as 2 5th Street were built in the second phase of construction and were built to be larger and more striking to attract wealthy Methodist families to summer at the park. 2 5<sup>th</sup> Street along with the larger and more striking cottages along the shoreline of Lake Ontario were known as Millionaires Row.

Alexander Burns was a Reverend, an associate of the Methodist Church and a top North American academic and lecturer of the period. Dr. Burns was active in every phase of the Grimsby Park community, preaching at the auditorium, teaching Sunday school and thorough involvement in all the social programs held in the Park.

Rev. Burns was educated at Victoria College, Cobourg before the college became part of the U of T. On graduation in 1861 he received the Prince of Wales Gold Medal, the first to be awarded the institution's highest honor. He entered the Methodist ministry in 1862 and spent a time in Wellington County. At 28 he married Sarah Andrews of Cobourg in 1863. In 1865 the President of the University of Iowa selected Alex to be his successor and Alex agreed to move. He became the Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa and subsequently the University President. The University of Iowa was known as the first US university to admit men and women on an equal basis, this was a principal Burns followed throughout his career and one principal he brought with him to Canada.

The cottage at 2 5th Street was owned by this notable family from 1887-1918, during this time the property was passed down from Rev. Burns and his wife Sarah to their children.

The dwelling at 2 5th Street has the potential to yield information to the understanding of the Chautauqua Methodist movement, and the cultural practices of the community. The structure also provides insight into the notable Burns family, who contributed significantly to the Methodist association at Grimsby Beach for over 30 years. The structure also provides a greater understanding of the type of housing used by the wealthy Methodist campground leaders, during the height of the Methodist movement.

The historic dwelling at 2 5th Street is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. The cottage is a strong representation of the surviving original Grimsby beach cottages built by the Bowslaugh family and D. Marsh & Sons. The proportions, proximity to the other cottages, style, and alterations are all compatible with the surrounding building stock. The cottage at 2 5th Street is historically linked to its surroundings, as one of the original Methodist Campground cottages constructed in the 1880's. During this time the seasonal community would gather in the summer to celebrate arts, culture and religion. Historically the cottage would have been in view of passenger ships arriving daily, the cottage was designed to attract wealthy methodists upon their arrival at the pier. At one point the Park would see over 10,000 guests per day.

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 2 5th Street include:

- Two storey wooden framed cottage
- Steep Rooflines, intersecting gables and dormers
- Window and door openings
- Setback from 5th Street
- Beech tree in the south-west corner of the property