



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

421 Elizabeth Street

TAKE NOTICE that Grimsby Town Council, on July 4th, 2023 resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PT LT 413, Corporation Plan 4; PT 2, 30R-665; 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 **421 Elizabeth Street** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The structure at 421 Elizabeth Street is a representative example of the Ontario Gothic farmhouse style. The features unique to the building are the brick bay window on the main floor, the front porch with second floor balcony, and the decorative bargeboard and scroll work.

421 Elizabeth Street is a one and a half storey house built in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Some key physical attributes include; the front facing gable gothic revival architectural style, unpainted brick façade, the window and door openings, centered front entrance with sidelights and transom, bargeboard, drop finials, front verandah, and old growth trees.

The property at 421 Elizabeth Street is associated with the Whittaker and Farrell families. The Whittaker family built and ran one of the most successful and well known fruit farms within the area, the farm operated from the 1840s until 1913. The Farrell family ran a basket factory on Elm Street, and were members of the Canadian Wood Products Co.

The Whittaker family came from Ireland in the 1840s. William was born in 1831 in Ireland, he married Catherine Noonan, and they had 8 children together. William and his family built a log cabin close to the water and became fruit farmers, the Whittaker fruit farm became known as one of the best farms within the district. The first burying ground within Grimsby was located on this lot just north of the farmhouse. William was known as a hard worker. His brother Samuel had a few businesses within the township, Samuel trained as a shoe maker and built his own shop in 1859. The building later was bought and used for the local library. Samuel also built the Whittaker block located on Main Street West. After Williams death in 1888 the farm and homestead was inherited by his wife Catherine, then passed to his two youngest sons William F and James G Whittaker.

William Fenton Whittaker was born in 1868, he married Mary Anne Game. In 1910 when William F and his Brother James G inherited their father's farm and homestead, James sold and conveyed all of his interest in the farm and land to his brother leaving William F the sole owner to his father's farm. William F sold the farm and farmhouse to H.H. Farrell in 1913. Shortly after selling the farm and homestead William and Mary Anne moved to New York State. Descendants of his can still be found today in the area.

Henry H. Farrell is the son of John Farrell, and grandson of Patrick and Katherine O'Farrell, who came to North America from Donegal County Ireland. Patrick was a stonemason and found work on railway projects. Patrick worked on many projects within the town such as the small church on Patton Street, the Town Hall and grammar school on the corner of Adelaide and

Depot Streets and residential projects, including 421 Elizabeth Street. The Farrell family at the time was living in a wood cabin down the street. Henry H. Farrell, owned one of the prominent basket factories within the Town. Henry H. Farrell and his business was also one of the original group of 5 that made up the Canadian Wood Products organization. The prosperity of the Town of Grimsby is directly linked to the successful tender fruit farming industry, and thus Henry H. Farrell and his business contributed directly to the prosperity of the Town.

In the 1920s and 1930s Henry Farrell's sons later joined their father in business at the successful fruit basket factory, the name was then changed to Henry H. Farrell & Sons. Charles T. Farrell, the brother of Henry, was the Reeve for the Town of Grimsby from 1917-1920, and the Mayor from 1922-1923, Charles was also the Masonic Lodge Master. The son of Charles, Vance R. Farrell became the Reeve for the Town from 1939-1940, and served as a Doctor for the Town of Grimsby.

The structure demonstrates the work and ideas of a builder. 421 Elizabeth Street was built by Irish stone mason Patrick Farrell. His work can be found throughout Grimsby and the good condition of surviving structures is a testament to the quality of Patrick's work, as the demand for Patrick's trade grew, his family became very well known within the area. Patrick's grandson was mayor when Grimsby was incorporated into a town in 1922.

The house is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the area. 421 Elizabeth Street maintains the rural atmosphere that strongly represents the former agricultural use prior to the construction of the surrounding subdivisions. The property is representative of the once large and substantial family owned farms that contributed to the success of Grimsby. Historically the Whittaker family owned a large parcel bought from Adolphus Nelles, farming various typed of fruit from the 1840s until 1913. Farms this large in the area would've had a large impact on the town.

421 Elizabeth Street is physically and visually linked to its surroundings. William created a steady income source through farming the land. He built a farm that was sustainable through generations, allowing his sons to inherit a working-farm. 421 Elizabeth Street is the oldest surviving structure in the immediate area, and has significant ties to the Whittaker and Farrell Families.

HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 421 Elizabeth Street include:

- Front facing gable gothic revival architectural style
- Brick façade, laid in an English bond pattern
- Window and door openings
- Brick arched voussoirs
- Centered front entrance with sidelights
- Bargeboard details along gables
- Drop finials under each gable
- Front verandah
- Turned porch columns
- Front bay window
- Second story balcony above the entrance

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: August 12th, 2023