

THE BOWSLAUGH HOUSE  
245 MAIN ST. EAST  
CIRCA 1875

1.0 HISTORY

The Bowslaugh House was originally built in 1846 by John Beamer Bowslaugh who inherited Lot 3, Concession 1 from his maternal grandfather, John Beamer.<sup>1</sup>

John B. Bowslaugh was probably best known for his religious connection with the Methodist Camp Meeting Grounds, now Grimsby Beach. John, like his father was a strong Methodist and helped his father build the Stone Church on Ridge Rd., known as Rock Chapel.<sup>2</sup>

All of the original house except the foundation was destroyed by fire in 1874.<sup>3</sup> As a result the house was rebuilt sometime between 1874 and 1876.<sup>4</sup> The bay windows were added sometime after that.<sup>5</sup> The house was again destroyed by fire in 1982 ( all except the Southeast and Southwest corner and floor) and again was reconstructed by the present owner John Allen (except for the scroll brackes that will be added but had not been at the time of this report).

After John B. Bowslaugh died in 1898 ownership of the house was kept in the family until 1907 when Lt. Hamilton Flemming bought the house. It was this family who built the widows-walk in approxiametly 1920,<sup>7</sup> thus accounting for the present reconstructed Bowslaugh house.

2.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION



2.1



The Bowslaugh house, originally built of the Georgian Style sits on the North Side of Main St. E. approximately 150 m west of Park Rd. on 2 acres of land. Originally this "T" shaped house was built of lap siding<sup>8</sup> similar to the structure of the barn. The medium pitched hip roof is covered with a cedar-looking shingle, and the base is course rubble.

## 2.2 SOUTH ELEVATION





The front facade of this building has changed appearance twice over its 140 year presence. The original lower porch of the home which was Victorian Style was rebuilt to the present two-tier porch supported by Roman Columns and adorned with turned railings and decorated lintel.

The front entrance of the house consists of a square, rectangular six panel door, surrounded by side lights and a rectangular transom. The door on the second level of the porch is a double door with three vertical panes.

The windows at ground level are bay windows with the front window being double hung sash six over six and the sides being double hung sash four over four. These bay windows are adorned with scroll brackets. The second floor windows are double hung sash six over six and the window below the gable is a single pane round shaded window. The widow's walk windows originally were nine over one which is characteristic of Georgian Style homes; now they are one over one.

### 2.3 EAST ELEVATION



The east elevation is characterized by two bay windows, both with rectangular bevelled transom lights above double hung sash two over two window and balanced by a double hung sash six over six windows and a semi-elliptical window. The widow's-walk has three one sash one over one windows

2.4 NORTH ELEVATION



This busy facade consist of a shed roof, a wing with a gabled roof, a dormer and a truncated hip roof. The back structure consists of two double hung sash six across six windows and a screen door. The North wing has two single ten pane windows, and the widows-walk has five windowsone over one and one single paned door. The dormer is adorned with three casement windows each consist of six panes. The main body of the house is characterized by a casement window of six panes, and a six across six firstfloor window.



2.5 WEST ELEVATION



The west facade consists of four windows double hung sash six over six, three two pane horizontal sliding windows, and two hinged six pane window. On the back structure there is a six across six window. From this elevation the rock foundation is clearly visible.



### 3.0 THE BARN



The barn at the Bowslaugh house is of Dutch Style, characterized by continuous access from the front to the back. It has a gabled roof with an off grain cupola (according to the author of "Niagara Fruit Barns" this signifies the owner was Pro-Confederate) and a pediment to the left of the main door. On the South facade there are three double hung sash nine over six windows and a vertical hinged door. The main barn door is two leafed. The East facade consists of four windows, all double hung sashed with nine panes over six. This facade also sports a vertical hinged door. The North facade consists of a vertical hinged door, a two leafed door and a hole for the horses to stick their heads out of. The west side consists of three double hung sash nine over six windows.



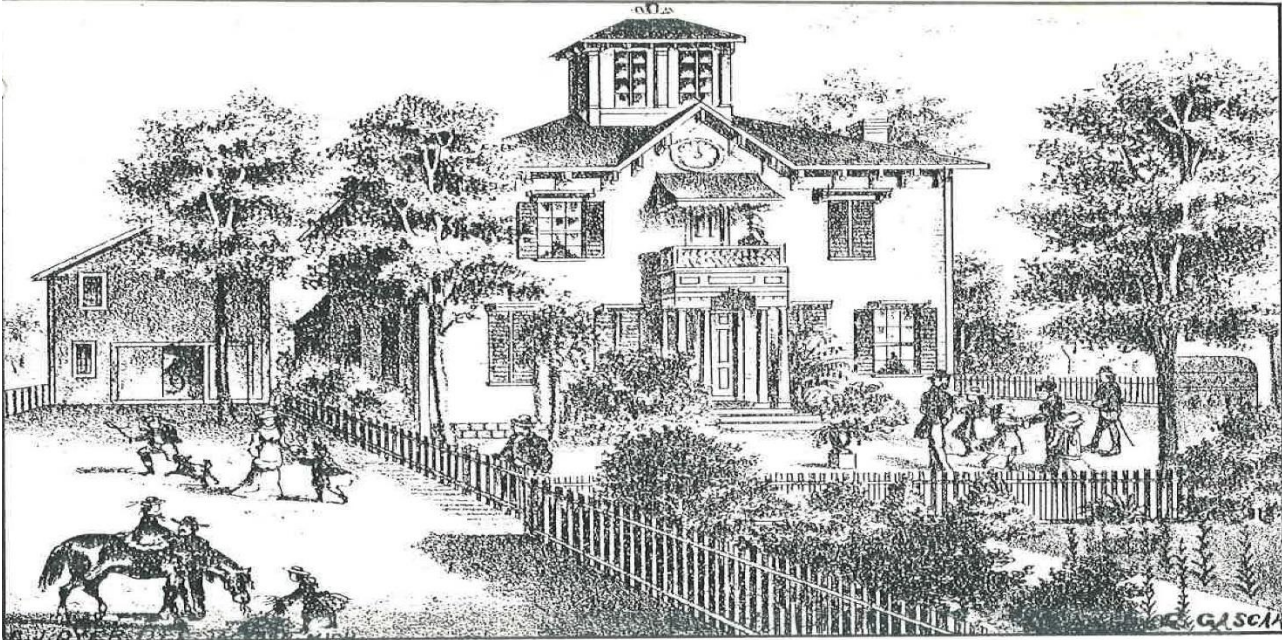
#### 4.0 THE CARRIAGE HOUSE



The carriage house is a free standing structure except where the Southwest corner meets the North corner of the back structure. The roof is a gabled roof and the base is stone. The South side of the structure has three distinct sidings those being cove siding, lap siding, and bevelled siding. The South side is adorned with a ground level hinged door, under which is a well. The East facade is adorned with an upper window double hung sash nine over six. The North side has two doors one being a two leafed ground level door, the other being an upper level hinged door. The West facade consists of a twelve over eight upper window and a horizontally hinged garage door.







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UNCES SION 1 LOT 3 TOWNSHIP OF GRIMSBY. ONTARIO





## ENDNOTES

1. TURCOTTE, DOROTHY, " GREETINGS FROM GRIMSBY PARK, THE CHATAUQUE OF CANADA ". PUBLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE BY THE GRIMSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1985, PAGE 10.
2. THE GRIMSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FILES.
3. ASSUMPTION MADE BY PRESENT OWNER, JOHN ALLEN.
4. REGISTRY OFFICE OF ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO.
5. ASSUMPTIONS MADE BY OLD PHOTOS.
6. ACCORDING TO PRESENT OWNER, JOHN ALLEN.
7. IBID.
8. ASSUMPTIONS MADE BY OLD PHOTOS.
9. TURCOTTE, DOROTHY, " GREETINGS FROM GRIMSBY PARK, THE CHATAUQUE OF CANADA", PUBLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE BY THE GRIMSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1985, PAGE 10.
10. ASSUMPTIONS MADE BY OLD PHOTOS.

**Building Evaluation Sheet**

**Name** **Bowslaugh House**  
**Location** **245 Main Street East, Grimsby**

Reference Number 05

<b>A Architecture</b>		<b>Evaluation</b>
1 Style	Georgian Style	Good
2 Construction	Building reconstructed 1875	Good
3 Age	1875	Good
4 Architect / Builder	Unknown	
5 Design	Windows Walk/front porch/circular/ Window/Gables Front Door	Very Good
6 Interior	N/A	
<b>B History</b>		
7 Person	Bowslaugh connection to Methodist campground	Excellent
8 Event	Meetings & Donations of campground lands	Excellent
9 Context	One of the Fathers of Grimsby Beach Park	Excellent
<b>C Environment</b>		
10 Continuity	Compatible with dominant character of areas	Good
11 Setting	Original trees preserved/large lot	Good
12 Landmark	Yes - sets tone of Main Street East	Very Good
<b>D Usability</b>		
13 Compatibility	excellent as a single family dwelling	Excellent
14 Adaptability	N/A	
15 Public	N/A	
16 Services	Updated	Excellent
17 Cost	very expensive to replace	Excellent
<b>E Integrity</b>		
18 Site	Original site/smaller lot size	Very Good
19 Alterations	Brackets removed/widows walk disproportionate	Good
20 Condition	Needs some repair porch altered	Good

Evaluated by  
 Recommendation

Grimsby LACAC  
 Designate pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario  
 Heritage Act

Date June 17 1986