



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

400 Main Street West

TAKE NOTICE that Grimsby Town Council, on August 8th, 2023 resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PT LT 17 CON 2, North Grimsby; PT ROW BTN CONS 1 & 2, North Grimsby, (UNOPENED), as in NG5336, LYING S OF LIVINGSTON AV ROW; PTS 1 & 2, 30R-5952; 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 **400 Main Street West** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The structure at 400 Main Street West is representative of the Edwardian style. The features unique to the building are the hexagonal balcony above the porch on the front facade, corbels supporting the soffit on the dormers, and the "witches' hat" detail on the end of the rafters of the hipped roof. The Edwardian style gained popularity during the 1890s To 1930s during the reign of King Edward. The style is a reaction to the decorative excess of the Victorian period. The Edwardian style was about simplified details, large rooms with lower ceilings, and oak woodwork. The structure at 400 Main Street West is an intact example of this style, the building retains the original unpainted smooth red brick, stone lintels and sills, flared cedar shake detail between the first and second floors, and wooden windows throughout the first and second floors.

The property also features a wooden framed barn built on top of a stone foundation. The large structure is standing to the rear of the dwelling and features a gambrel roof clad in steel. The exterior of the barn has been clad in steel siding as well. The façade fronting Main Street West features multiple window openings. The structure would have been integral in supporting Grimsby's fruit economy, as well as having associations with the Farmerettes who worked on the property during WW II.

400 Main Street West is associated with the Smith Family. John Smith was a United Empire Loyalist who arrived in Canada in 1787 and was granted lot 17 on concessions I and II, Grimsby Township. John Smith was educated and highly respected within the community. Smith served on the town Council from 1792 until 1820, holding titles such as Pound-keeper, assessor, collector and town warden.

Ezekiel Smith was the youngest son of John and Hannah Smith, born in 1802. When his father passed Ezekiel inherited the west half of his farm, while his brother John Wilcox inherited the eastern half. The couple had five children, the youngest of which, Sardis, inherited his father's farm.

Sardis Smith was born in 1834, he was the youngest son of Ezekiel and Mary Smith. Sardis grew apples, and sold them not only at the Hamilton Market but packed and shipped them overseas, he was in competition with his cousin E.D. Smith who operated out of Winona.

Robert Owen Smith inherited his father's (Sardis) working farm, he too used to commute from Kerman Avenue. Robbie built the brick house at 400 Main Street West in 1913 after missing the radial car a few times on the way to work. When R.O. Smith passed, his son Donald was running the farm along with his son Duncan. The farm had been run by six generations of Smith's, with a total of 85 acres and grew Peaches, Cherries, Plums, Grapes, and Nectarines. In 1995 when "The People and Places from Grimsby's Past" was written by Dorothy Turcotte she quotes: "It is one of the few active Two Century farms remaining in Ontario", it just goes to show that John Smith created a sustainable farming operation that spanned generations.

During World War II the R.O. Smith farm was host, like many other farms within the area to the Farmerettes, when young men went to fight in the war, they left a gap in the farming operations. So farmers turned to young school girls for help during the harvest season, offering them a wage and housing for the duration. There are many documented stories of young girls who worked harvesting tender fruit during this time. The canning factories also employed young woman to help with canning operations during the harvest season.

The Smith family has built many additional significant houses along Main Street West, such as 390 Main Street West, 382 Main Street West and 482 Main Street West.

The structure at 400 Main Street West is important in maintaining and supporting the character of the historic Main Street West corridor. The Edwardian style residence and surrounding property still maintains its historic use of agricultural farming. The property has been referenced as the "Smith Two Century Farm" due to the property being under the ownership of the Smith family for over two centuries.

The dwelling at 400 Main Street West is physically, functionally and historically linked to its surroundings. Constructed by Robert Owen Smith in 1913, the house was built so that he no longer had to commute from his home on Kerman Ave. Roberts father (Sardis), and Grandfather (John), farmed the land and Roberts son Donald and grandson Duncan farmed the land after him. Collectively the six generations of Smith farmers worked the property for over 200 years, historically linking the parcels and buildings to John Smith, the original Crown land grant recipient.

HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 400 Main Street West include:

Edwardian Dwelling

- Two and a half storey stature
- Hipped roof featuring a "witches bend" detail at the eaves
- Gabled dormers with cedar shake siding and decorative brackets supporting the soffits
- The original unpainted smooth red brick
- Stone lintels and sills on the main floor
- Flared cedar shake detail between the first and second floors
- Wooden windows throughout the first and second floors
- Original window and door openings
- Original wooden double hung windows throughout
- Single leaf front door with side lites

- A deep porch with brick columns supporting a hipped roof with a second floor balcony, the balcony is a hexagon shape
- Red brick chimney

Auxiliary Building

- Wooden framed barn clad in steel siding
- Stone foundation

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