



## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

### 2a Baker Road North

**TAKE NOTICE** that Grimsby Town Council, on March 31st, 2025, resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate LT 19, Township Plan 113; 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 **2a Baker Road North** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The farmhouse at 2a Baker Road North is a representative example of the Italianate architectural style. The style was favored by many wealthy farmers along Grimsby's Main Street Corridors towards the end of the 19th century. The 2-½ storey red brick building was constructed in 1895, built on top of a stone foundation. The structure is composed of two parts: a larger, 2½-storey Italianate section (the southern section), facing south towards Main Street East, and a 1½- storey less decorated section (the northern section), extending from the northern side of the structure. At the time of construction, the building would have been viewed from Main Street East, and the rear section of the home would not have been easily seen from the road. This rear section would likely have housed the kitchen and staff of the home.

Features unique to the home include the porch that wraps around the west and south facades with a curve, the highly decorative bargeboard details above the dormers, and the use of leaded and stained glass throughout the house. Although many of the Italianate houses along Main Street are highly decorated, most do not feature leaded or stained glass windows. 2a Baker Road North is the exception, featuring many leaded window panels that would have been created by artisans.

The position of the home on the former agricultural parcel is unique to the Main Street East corridor, featuring a much larger setback than the surrounding original farmhouses. This larger setback from Main Street is a trend that did exist within the Town and strong examples of this setback can be seen on the Main Street West corridor. Having a front yard in front of farmhouses was a trend that occurred nearing the end of the 19th century.

The farmhouse at 2a Baker Road North displays a high degree of craftsmanship. The building is decorated with elements such as detailed barge boards, and leaded glass panels. These elements would have been created by skilled craftsmen and artisans. The use of these materials was likely to show the wealth and status of Henry Baker, who originally built the home.

The house at 2a Baker Road North was built for Henry Frederick Baker, a fruit farmer, veteran of the Matabele Wars and the First World War, and Grimsby's first Scout leader. The building was also home to Henry's wife, Mary Elisabeth Nelles, a lifelong resident of Grimsby, fruit farmer, and daughter of Cyrus Sumner Nelles. As a veteran of Imperial military service in both France and southern Africa, Henry Baker's life is an example of how deeply intertwined Grimsby was with the wider British Empire. As the home of an officer who served with the Chinese Labour Corps, 2a Baker Road North is also a connection to an important and largely unknown part of Chinese Canadian history and of Canada's involvement in the First World War.

Henry Baker also acted as Grimsby's first Scout Master in 1910, Grimsby's Scout chapter was among the first in Canada, with the very first chapters likely being established by 1908. Soon after Henry's departure for military service in Europe in July 1915, his wife Mary began hosting meetings of the Grimsby Hospital Supply Club, open to the public and meeting at the Baker household twice every Thursday to make and fundraise for medical supplies for Indian soldiers fighting in the Dardanelles during the then-ongoing Gallipoli campaign. Mary was at that time was the President and a member of the Buying Committee. Mary would subsequently work at hospitals that served the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the war.

The house and property are also associated with Grimsby's agricultural success. The home was built as a farmhouse used to house the Baker family and support the agricultural operations on the farm, during the height of the tender fruit farming industry. 2a Baker Road North has the potential to yield information about the development of Main Street East and Baker Road, as well as providing insight into Grimsby's agricultural industry success. The setback of the home is a unique feature along Main Street East and was potentially inspired by the deep setbacks that existed along Main Street West during the time of construction.

2a Baker Road North is a character-defining feature of both Main Street East's 19th -century residential architecture and a surviving element of its historic fruit farming landscape. The house's massing and scale, its original external details, its orientation to Main Street East and Baker Road North, and its setback from the road supports the area's residential character and marks the agricultural history of the surrounding land. It was also built for and served as the long-time residence of the family for whom Baker Road was named.

The house is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. The Italianate structure was built as the farmhouse for the Baker family agricultural parcel and is a surviving example of the area's long history as farmland. Its size, shape, external details, setback from and orientation to the road are all indicative of its origins as a farmhouse. Fruit farming was instrumental in establishing Grimsby as a prosperous township, the farmhouse located at 2a Baker Road North visually illustrates the wealth and prosperity that resulted from this formational part of the Town's history.

### **HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED**

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at **2a Baker Road North** include:

- Hipped roof with widows walk
- Gabled roof with intersecting gable dormers
- Dormers decorated with barge board, intricate woodwork
- Wooden soffits and fascia, supported by brackets
- Arched window and door openings • Brick exterior
- Wooden windows and doors throughout
- Leaded glass windows
- Wooden front entrance door, sidelites and transom
- Wooden wrap-around front porch with a curved roof
- Wooden porch columns
- 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 Victoria Steele, Town Clerk, Town Clerk, 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby ON, L3M 0J5.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Any inquiries may be directed to Bianca Verrecchia, Intermediate Heritage Planner at 905-945-9634 ext. 2122 or by email [bverrecchia@grimsby.ca](mailto:bverrecchia@grimsby.ca)

**Last date to file Notice of Objection: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**