



## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

### 24 Auditorium Circle

**TAKE NOTICE** that Grimsby Town Council, on May 26th, 2025, resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate LTS 21 to 23, PT LT 24, PT BLK F & ALLEY LYING BTN LTS 23 & 24, as in RO711510; PTS 1 to 8, 30R-719; 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 **24 Auditorium Circle** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

#### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The structure at 24 Auditorium Circle is a representation of the wooden frame cottages that were built during the Chautauqua Methodist movement during the late 1800's. The cottages design is influenced from Folk Victorian architecture.

The structure at 24 Auditorium Circle is notable for the documented age of its additions, and how little has been structurally changed since the 1890s. The structure was built on the typical footprint of Grimsby Beach cottages: a narrow, rectangular footprint to accommodate the narrow proportions of the original tent lots, with a front facing gabled roof. At the time of construction, the cottage had a two-storey porch facing the Auditorium. Historic images show this porch included fretted brackets on its first-storey posts and plain fascia boards along the gables. The two-storey porch facing the Auditorium has since been removed/enclosed, and the first floor porch facing East has been enclosed.

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 Beaches history.

The house at 24 Auditorium Circle was originally constructed as part of the Methodist Campground, a site used since 1859 for summer retreats and religious services by Methodists from Canada and the United States. Both inspired by the Third Great Revival and a growing public interest in Methodism as well as inspiring the Chautauqua American 'Chautauqua' movement of which it would become a part of, Grimsby Park's cottages facilitated an intergenerational community of Methodists and others who's summer homes and businesses became the foundation for the current neighborhood of Grimsby Beach.

The house was built for John & Pheobe McKichan of Hamilton, who occupied it as a summer cottage from 1888-1911. The McKichans were prominent members of Hamilton's Methodist community and were well known in Grimsby Park. Born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1848, John Rennie McKichan arrived in Hamilton with his parents in 1857 at the age of nine. In 1866 he cofounded the *Cunningham & McKichan Company* on King West at Bay, manufacturing paper bags and boxes. In 1870, John established his own wholesale paper, bag and twine

manufacturing firm, *McKichan & Co.* which operated the *Ontario Paper Bag Factory*, John operated his business for 45 years, until his death. The paper firm was sold in 1914 and has been in operation since under the name GT French

The property was later granted to Roderick & Sarah Baldwin MacMillan. Both John and Roderick were Scottish immigrants. Their youngest son John Alexander, aka Alister MacMillan, eventually became the owner of the owner of Barton Tire & Supply Co., located at 474 Barton St. East. Alister later married Nora May Tallman Hall.

After the death of Alister's parents, and a brief transfer to their neighbours, the Ausleybrook's, who had paid the back taxes on the property, the plot was then granted back to Alister MacMillan. Alister and his wife Nora May Tallman Hall, who would make 24 Auditorium Circle their full-time residence in 1958.

24 Auditorium Circle has potential to yield information about the Methodist Camp Ground and Grimsby Park, as well as the construction methods employed by Edward Bowslaugh and Daniel Marsh in the construction of cottages. It also contributes to an understanding of the development of the Grimsby Beach neighbourhood and its history as a religious retreat, amusement park, and residential community.

24 Auditorium Circle demonstrates the work and ideas of two prominent Grimsby builders and carpenters: Edward Bowslaugh, originator of the Grimsby park Planing Mill, who set the standards for design and construction of the early Methodist cottages; and Daniel Marsh, his business partner who also specialized in the building of cottages and would have been involved in 24 Auditorium Circle's construction.

Edward Bowslaugh was the grandson of Peter Bowslaugh, an early Loyalist Settler and prominent Methodist preacher who gave Edward and his brother John Beamer the exposure to religion that would draw them to organizing and building the Methodist Campgrounds.

Daniel Marsh and his sons would go on to build public structures, including schools and churches, all over Grimsby and Western Niagara, including many commercial structures in Grimsby's downtown. The historic dwelling at 24 Auditorium Circle is representative of the age and architectural style that was historically found throughout the neighborhood. The core area of the neighborhood still retains most of the original cottages that have not been lost to historic mass fires or neglect. The form of the cottage has not been significantly altered since its construction between 1888-1890.

The historic dwelling at 24 Auditorium Circle is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. The cottage is a strong representation of the other 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 24 Auditorium Circle is historically linked to its surroundings, as it is 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.

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

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at **24 Auditorium Circle** include:

- Two storey wooden framed cottage

- Balloon Framing
- Folk Victorian design
- Steep rooflines, intersecting gables
- Enclosed porch facing east
- Window and door openings
- Setback from Auditorium Circle

### **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: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**