



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

242 Main Street East

TAKE NOTICE that Grimsby Town Council, on May 12, 2025, resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate CON 1 TO 2 PT LOT 3 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 **242 Main Street East** contributes towards the Town of Grimsby's inclusive heritage.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The structure at 242 Main Street has associations and was built as a home for Albert Oscar Bowslaugh, a fruit farmer regarded as Grimsby's last living Fenian Raid veteran. He and his wife Sarah Jane Calder were members of the Order of Good Templars, in which they both held senior roles. Albert and Sarah Jane also maintained long connections, including owning the land that held the Methodist Camp Grounds. Albert's father was a founder of Grimsby Park, Albert and his family were very involved in the Camp Ground operations, at a younger age Albert assisted with the horse rotations for coaches stopping in Grimsby Beach. Albert went on to become an Engineer and worked on the Canadian Southern Railroad. Upon return to Grimsby, Albert served as a Health Inspector and the oldest county constable in Lincoln County, wearing Badge No. 2, and spent many years handling the police work of both the old Park and Grimsby Beach. Albert also managed the electrical power plant at Grimsby Park, one of the oldest such plants in this part of Canada. Albert was eventually willed the Methodist Camp Ground land deed following his father's death, the lands were later sold by Albert to H.H Wylie.

The subject property was operated as a farm, for fruit and other crops, since at least 1871, developing its own varietal of peach (Bowslaugh's Late) at a time when tender fruit farming was becoming financially viable in Grimsby.

It later came into the ownership of John Hewitt and his daughter and was integrated into the Deer Park Farm. Later, it was sold to Scottish immigrant and veteran Henry Dowie, who continued fruit farming on the land until 1965. Dowie's military service included joining the Royal Canadian Airforce soon after its 1924 creation, and become a permanent force instructor with the 112th City of Winnipeg Squadron. In 1938, Henry secured an officer's commission with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and served in the organization throughout the Second World War. In 1945, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire, and in December of that year moved to Niagara. A portion of the purchase by Dowie was paid for by the Veterans Land Act (1942), for his time in service. Dowie was an executive of the Peach Kings from 1946-1949 during that time he helped to lead the team to become Intermediate Level Champions. He was also a member of the Lions' Club and of the local Legion branch and was one of the volunteers who solicited donations for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital following the Deer Park Hospital fire.

The property has the potential to yield information about the Town's agricultural success, Methodist Camp Ground operations and the Grimsby Beach Planing Mill.

The structure at 242 Main Street East has the potential to yield information about long standing agriculture use of the Main Street East corridor. The structure is associated with 4 separate farm operations. These farms included Bowslaugh Farm, Deer Park Farm, Harry Dowie's Farm from as early as 1871. This property provides insight into how families utilized their farm parcels, often leading to the construction of additional dwelling units for family members as generations matured to adulthood while working on the farm. The property is associated with experimental farming practices and the innovative development of the Bowslaugh's Late, a peach varietal named as its late fruiting season.

Albert Bowslaugh who built the structure at 242 Main Street East was very involved in the development of key aspects of the Methodist Camp Ground Company operations. Albert's role as the oldest county constable in Lincoln County provided insight into the safety related operations associated with the Town of Grimsby, Grimsby Park patrons, and local municipalities and the daily supervision of the surrounding areas. Albert's management of the Grimsby Park Powerplant also provided insight into how the Methodist Camp Ground would have been powered during the height of the organizations operation.

The property was almost certainly built with materials prepared by the Grimsby Park Planing Mill and Daniel Marsh. At the time of construction, the home was under the ownership of the Bowslaugh family who operated the mill with the assistance of new business partner Daniel Marsh, a notable carpenter.

242 Main Street East is important in maintaining and supporting the character of the Main Street East corridor. The mass, scale and form of the subject structure, is an example of a vernacular Ontario farmhouse of the Victorian era, along with its setback from Main Street East and the presence of mature trees from its time as a farmhouse, support the historic character of the area as an agricultural landscape.

The Albert O. Bowslaugh house known as 242 Main Street East is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings. The historic dwelling is directly associated with the Bowslaugh family and their use of the lands a farm from as early as 1871. The property was home to three different farms over 90 years. The home at 242 Main Street West was built as a result of family farming and the need for housing once a child had grown into adulthood. The original farm included both 242 Main Street West as well as the original family home built by the family patriarch, John B. Bowslaugh located at what is now 245 Main Street East. These farm house estates are surviving examples of the area's 19th and 20th century agricultural history and visually illustrate the development that occurred during the height of the farming industry. Further, the historic estates visually illustrates the scale of the original farming operation conducted by the Bowslaugh family. This is a strong example of an original farm that stretched across the old arteria road originally extending to both the north and south side of Main Street East.

HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at **242 Main Street East** include:

- Vernacular Victorian Architecture
- Intersecting gable roof
- Wooden soffits and fascia
- Window and door openings
- Front door surround with sidelites
- Original foundation

- Set back from Main Street East
- Proximity to family patriarch John Bowslaugh's House at 245 Main Street East

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

Last date to file Notice of Objection: June 21st, 2025