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Department of Planning  
& Development Services  
TELEPHONE 905-468-3266  
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# The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

1593 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD  
P.O. Box 100  
VIRGIL, ONTARIO  
LOS 1T0

Rec'd May 5/11  
7.3

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS **58 JOHNSON STREET, THE ECKERSLEY-McEWEN HOUSE** (Part Lot 107, Plan 86), IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: THE ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST, 10 ADELAIDE STREET EAST,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property, including the lands and building known municipally as **58 JOHNSON STREET, THE ECKERSLEY-McEWEN HOUSE** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

### **Description of Property**

The Eckersley-McEwen House is a two storey 3-bay frame building with a clapboard exterior. The house is located on a square lot on the southwest corner of Johnson and Regent Streets.

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

The Eckersley-McEwen House's cultural heritage value consists of the fact that it is one of the larger impressive houses of Neo-classical and Regency design constructed during the 1830's when Niagara-on-the-Lake prospered as a major port and centre of a significant shipbuilding industry. The lot on which the house sits was granted by the Crown to George Young in 1794. The house was probably constructed c.1830 by contractor Ed McMullen and was refurbished in the 1870's by ship's carpenter Robert Fizette. This house and its neighbours, the Post House, Barker Hall and the Varey House on the 4 corners of Johnson and Regent Streets make an impressive early 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural statement and contribute to the uniquely British colonial streetscape that is a defining characteristic of Old Town.

The house is situated on a relatively square flat lot and is located on northeast portion of the property immediately adjacent to both Johnson and Regent Streets.

The house has a 3-bay façade and a hip roof with a clapboard exterior. Its location close to the road is an indication of an early date. The building is set on a roughly coursed stone base. There are two internal brick chimneys with brick corbelling. These indicate the location of the 4 corner fireplaces in the house. Although overall the house is of plain design, it is distinguished by the centrally located doorway which has a fine Neo-classical doorcase with a restrained and delicate elliptical fanlight, paneled reveals, a fluted arch and pilasters, sidelights and a 6 panel door. All of the windows in the house are two over two late Victorian or early 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements. Window mouldings are plain and simply designed with a thin drip mould above and narrow wooden sills. The rear frame addition was extensively remodeled in the 1960's.

The c.1830 portion of the house has a centre hall plan that is largely intact. There are 4 original fireplaces with simple classical mouldings. In one of the rooms to the left of the entrance there are interesting moulded panels beneath the windows. Much of the trim and baseboards are original to the house as are the wide pine floors. The staircase has a fine handrail, a simple balustrade and a rather clumsy looking newel at the bottom. However, some original tapered newels remain on the upper floor. The ceilings are high and the rooms are of a generous size

The Eckersley-McEwen House's cultural heritage value also includes its association with George Young, the first owner of the property, who was one of the first members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and one of the founders of the Niagara Library, and John Eckersley who served as collector of customs in Halifax before coming to Niagara.

### **Description of Key Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior and interior attributes that reflect the value of the Eckersley-McEwen property as one of the fine Neo-classical/Regency houses built in Old Town in the include:

- The entire exterior of the original c.1830 portion of house including stone foundation, clapboard and corner boards and shutters.
- The centre hall plan
- The entrance doorway with fluted arch, paneled reveals, 6 panel door and elliptical fanlight
- The 2 brick chimneys.
- All fireplaces and fireplace mantels.
- Original wide pine floors.
- The staircase, newel posts and balustrade
- Existing original door and window trim and baseboards
- Panel moulding beneath the windows in the room to the left of the entrance.



Any person may, not later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2011, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake notice of their objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

  
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Holly Dowd, Clerk