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Department of Community  
& Development Services  
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The Town of  
**Niagara-On-The-Lake**

1593 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD  
P.O. BOX 100  
VIRGIL, ONTARIO  
L0S 1T0

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 **278 REGENT STREET, THE BAKER-O'CONNOR-ROCCHI HOUSE** (PART LOT 147, 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 **278 REGENT STREET, THE BAKER-O'CONNOR-ROCCHI 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**

278 Regent Street is a 2 storey, neoclassical style house with a clapboard exterior. The property fronts onto Regent Street and is located between Johnston and Gage Street.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

Built in c.1836, 278 Regent Street is a five bay house incorporating many elements of neoclassical architecture, including a symmetrical, façade; a low side-gabled roof and large windows in relation to wall surface. Early clapboard with slim corner boards and the six over six sash are indications of an early date. There is a curious window in the gable on the north side of the building which may have been used as a means for hauling objects into the attic.

Tax records indicate that, prior to 1875, 278 Regent Street was a single dwelling unit, but later became a double unit, when it sold to the former Niagara Methodist Church, whose ministers occupied the north part of the house until the church bought the parsonage on Victoria Street in 1920. The south half of the house was rented to a number of tenants to assist in paying the ministers' salaries. At that time there were 2 entrance doors, each with a simple transom.

The entrance door and interior layout were altered when the house was converted back to a single dwelling unit. At that time one of two staircases was removed. The other still exists along with original trim such as baseboards and some doorcases. Original wide pine flooring is still visible in many parts of the house.

The dwelling was believed to have been constructed by John Barker, a prominent local politician in the 1830s. Barker was a carpenter, a yeoman farmer and captain of the town fire department. He is credited with making the two old pulpits in St. Mark's Church. He served in the First Lincoln Militia during the Rebellion of 1837 and in 1866, at the age of 82, he volunteered to fight the Fenians.

Additionally, the Lot was associated with George Hill, a career officer in the British army; Daniel Servos, a military captain in the War of 1812 and owner of vast tracts of land in the Town; and several ministers of the Methodist Church.

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

Key exterior and structural attributes include:

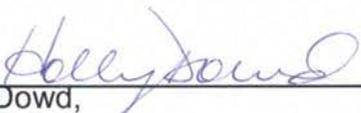
- Entire exterior of the original two storey dwelling excluding the front entranceway
- The clapboard with moderate exposure (5")
- The 6 over 6 sash and sash pattern

Key interior and structural attributes include:

- The closed staircase on the south side of dwelling
- The wide pine plank floors
- All original interior trim including door cases and baseboards

Any person may, not later than the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013.

  
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Holly Dowd, Clerk