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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 **266 KING STREET, THE EEDSON-FYFE HOUSE** (Part Block 39, 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

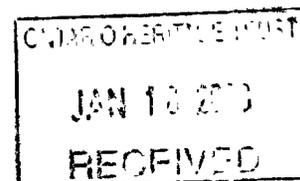
TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property, including the lands and building known municipally as **266 KING STREET, THE EEDSON-FYFE HOUSE** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

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

The Eedson-Fyfe House's cultural heritage value consists of the fact that it was one of the earlier houses constructed in the "New Survey" deeded to James Crooks in the 1820's, and also in the relatively untouched condition of the exterior, as illustrated in a photograph of the property taken in 1861.

The interior of the house has been altered over the years and much of the original trim has been removed. However, wide sawn beams are visible in the basement and it is possible to verify that the building is of post and beam construction. Original wide pine floors can also be seen inside built in cupboards on the main floor and from below in the basement.

While a one storey addition was added at the rear of the house sometime before 1925, many of the early exterior features remain including clapboard siding; large window openings on either side of a simple, unadorned central door and along the side of the building; and a low hip or cottage roof. A well executed facsimile of the original 12 over 12 window sash was installed a number of years ago and the window trim, corner boards and clapboard are of early construction. A simple white picket fence still encloses the front of the property conserving the early appearance of the streetscape and the cultural heritage landscape as illustrated in the 1861 photograph.



The Eedson-Fyfe House's cultural heritage value also includes its association with the Eedson Family. The original owner of the property was Rebecca Eedson, a Common School teacher who purchased the land from James Crooks. Thomas Eedson, her brother, who was a carpenter, probably constructed the house. The Eedsons were a respected family, interested in education, Methodism and Temperance. Rebecca and her brother Thomas were the children of United Empire Loyalists who first settled in Nova Scotia before moving to Niagara. Thomas worked on the St. Vincent de Paul rectory and was awarded the contract for the Kivas Tully designed restoration of St. Andrews Church after the destructive hurricane of 1855.

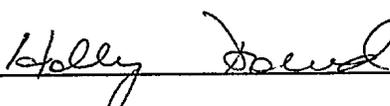
Perhaps one of the most interesting owners of the house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was Charles Camidge. Camidge was the son of the chief organist of York Minster and was a fine classical scholar who was interested in natural science, music, law, engineering and accounting. After the Crimean War he was sent to Canada as paymaster of the Grand Trunk Railway. Camidge came to Niagara in 1869 as headmaster of the Niagara Grammar School and served as Justice of the Peace in 1881. After his tragic suicide in 1895, the house was owned by the McClelland family and the Davy family. The house was finally inherited by the daughter of [REDACTED], who still resides in the house.

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

Key exterior, structural and landscape attributes that reflect the value of the Eedson-Fyfe property as an excellent and rare example of a simple Niagara Regency cottage and as one of the earlier buildings situated on its original lot in the area known as the New Survey include:

- The location of the house close to the street with the majority of the property extending to the rear.
- The low picket fence and gate.
- The timber frame and entire exterior structure of the original Regency cottage.
- The clapboard, corner boards and window trim
- The original window and door openings
- The restored 12 over 12 window sash.
- Original wide pine floor boards.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2008.

  
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Holly Dowd, Clerk