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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
MAY 11 2019

RECEIVED

BY-LAW NUMBER 2 OF 1993

OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS

Being a By-Law to designate the property known municipally as 67 Peel Street South as being of architectural value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known municipally as 67 Peel Street South and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) There is designated as being of architectural value or interest the real property known municipally as 67 Peel Street South more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto.
- 2) The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the properties described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper land registry office.
- 3) The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY, 1993.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY, 1993.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY 1993.

MAYOR

Dep CLERK

"Schedule A"

Reasons for the Proposed Designation

James Carter House - 67 Peel Street South

The James Carter House is one of four mansions built at the expense of George Carter for himself and members of his family.

By 1868 Carter Senior had acquired the town block bounded by Jones, Peel, Elgin, and King Streets. On early maps of the town, this parcel of land had been reserved for Thomas Mercer Jones, the Commissioner of the Canada Company. George Carter's first house (the present 224 Jones Street East) was built as the "home place" in 1869 to the plans of the London, Ontario architect William Robinson; the house at today's 217 Jones Street East was erected, around 1875, for his daughter Harriet and her husband Clarence Freeman; the Second Empire style mansion (today's 236 Jones Street East) was erected in 1881, to the plans of St. Marys' architect William Williams, for Charlotte Carter and her husband H.L. Rice; the fourth mansion (67 Peel Street South) was built for James Carter and his wife, Mary Box, in 1883.

This family compound of four grand houses erected within a space of fifteen years owes its existence to the prosperity of the St. Marys' grain market in the 1860's and 1870's, and of George Carter's ability to capture that market.

The James Carter house is the most advanced building of its time in St. Marys. with its elaborate detailing it would easily have been at home in the City of Toronto during the same period. Its architect obviously had access to up-to-date plans and periodicals.

This building is attributed, on stylistic grounds, to William Williams, the St. Marys Town Clerk during the 1880's and the designer of our principal structures of that period. This house stands midway between his plans for the H.L. Rice villa in 1881 and the Sidney Fraleigh house (today's Kingsway Lodge) in 1887. Each of these houses is a landmark.

What is most evident from even a cursory look is the great height of the house. The eye is drawn up to and beyond the full third storey with its slate roof by the tall external chimney with its decorative brickwork. The massive gable on the Peel Street facade marks the parlour or reception room on the ground floor with the best bedroom above; the gable on the Elgin Street front accentuates the dining room with its bay window. As the accompanying 1890 photograph illustrates both gables were originally joined by a wrap-around verandah with an elaborate porch and loggia above.

The pattern of movement by which one enters the house and eventually reached the second floor is quite complex. a double set of side stairs lead one up to the verandah; the double front-doors (complete with original screens) have etched glass lights with ruby glass in the transom. These open onto the main floor in which the ceilings are fourteen feet high; the plaster work of the cornices and medallions is ornate and often carved. In both the reception room and the living room great double hung sash windows which extend

"Schedule A"
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from floor to ceiling fill the rooms with light by day and at night illuminate the darkness without. The doors have oak surrounds trimmed with walnut. The house possesses five original marble fireplaces; three on the main floor are still surmounted with their original gilt-framed mirrors.

A square staircase with mahogany newel leads, at right angles to the long entrance hall, to the second floor where the ceilings are twelve feet in height. The interplay of bathroom and dressing rooms off the principle bedrooms indicates the involvement of an accomplished architect. The arrangement of rooms on both floors, the positioning of the main stair, back stair to maid's quarters, and stair to the attic can be found in some of the published plans of R.W. Shoppell which may have inspired William Williams.

With its original appointments the Carter house was a showplace as even the partial description of it in Helen Duncan's novel The Treehouse indicates. Certainly, surrounded with its high cast-iron fence (also part of this designation) it stands today as a proud statement of the power and prestige of the first owner.

DESCRIPTION

Town of St. Marys, County of Perth being composed of Lots 16, 17, 18 and 19, North Side of Elgin Street, Registered Plan 225