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Ontario Heritage Trust

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIMSBY

BY-LAW NO. 25-62

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 24 AUDITORIUM CIRCLE, AS A FEATURE OF HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND/OR CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Whereas pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, the Council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And whereas the municipal council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby has cause to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

24 Auditorium Circle
Grimsby, ON

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the property at 24 Auditorium circle and a statement of the reasons for the proposed designation, and further, has caused said notice of intention to be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the municipality;

And whereas the reasons for designation and extent to which the designation applies are set out in schedule "B" attached hereto and form part of the By-law.

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby enacts as follows:

1. That the following real property, more particularly described in schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest:

24 Auditorium Circle
Town of Grimsby
The Regional Municipality of Niagara

2. That the Town solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto at the Land Registry Office.

Read a first time, considered, and passed this 3rd day of November 2025.



J.A. Jordan, Mayor



K. Viccica, Deputy Clerk

Schedule 'A' to By-law 25-62

In the Town of Grimsby in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, property description as follows:

LTS 21 to 23, PT LT 24, PT BLK F & ALLEY LYING BTN LTS 23 & 24, as in RO711510; PTS 1 to 8, 30R-719 ; GRIMSBY

Schedule 'B' to By-law 25-62

Statement of Significance and Description of Extent of the Features to which the Designation Applies

The structure at 24 Auditorium Circle is a representation of the wooden frame cottages that were built during the Chautauqua Methodist movement during the late 1800's. The cottage design is influenced from Folk Victorian architecture.

The structure was constructed on the characteristic narrow, rectangular footprint typical of Grimsby Beach cottages, designed to suit the limited dimensions of the original tent lots. It features a front-facing gabled roof, a defining element of the area's late 19th-century Folk Victorian architecture.

The cottage originally had a two-storey porch with fretted brackets and plain fascia boards. Over time, this porch and the east-facing ground-floor porch were enclosed, reflecting the community's shift from seasonal retreat to year-round residence. As the Methodist movement waned and housing demand increased, the cottage community gradually became a year-round neighborhood. The additions and enclosed porches on surviving cottages reflect this phase in Grimsby Beach's history.

24 Auditorium Circle was originally built as part of the Methodist Campground, established in 1859 for summer retreats and religious services. Influenced by the Third Great Revival and the American Chautauqua movement, Grimsby Park's cottages fostered an intergenerational Methodist community, the first of its kind in Canada, whose summer homes and businesses laid the foundation for the present-day Grimsby Beach neighborhood. The historic dwelling reflects the architectural style typical of the area. The form of 24 Auditorium Circle has remained largely unchanged since its construction between 1888 and 1890.

24 Auditorium Circle was built for John and Pheobe McKichan of Hamilton, who used it as a summer cottage from 1888 to 1911. The McKichans were prominent members of Hamilton's Methodist community and well known in Grimsby Park. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1848, John Rennie McKichan arrived in Hamilton with his parents in 1857 at the age of nine. In 1866, he co-founded the Cunningham & McKichan Company on King West at Bay, manufacturing paper bags and boxes. In 1870, he established his own wholesale paper, bag, and twine manufacturing firm, McKichan & Co., which operated the Ontario Paper Bag Factory. John ran the business for 45 years until his death. The firm was sold in 1914 and continues in operation today under the name GT French.

The property was later granted to Roderick and Sarah Baldwin MacMillan. Their youngest son, John Alexander (Alister) MacMillan, who later married Nora May Tallman Hall, became the owner of Barton Tire & Supply Co. After a brief transfer to their neighbours the Ausleybrooks, who paid the back taxes, the property returned to Alister, who, with Nora, made 24 Auditorium Circle their full-time residence in 1958.

24 Auditorium Circle yields information about the Methodist Campground, Grimsby Park, the construction methods employed to construct the cottages. The cottage also yields information about the development of the Grimsby Beach neighbourhood and its history as a religious retreat, amusement park, and residential community.

24 Auditorium Circle demonstrates the work and ideas of two prominent Grimsby builders. Edward Bowslaugh, founder of the Grimsby Park Planing Mill, established the design and construction standards for early Methodist cottages, while his business partner, Daniel Marsh, who also specialized in cottage construction, would have been involved in building 24 Auditorium Circle.

Edward Bowslaugh was the grandson of Peter Bowslaugh, an early Loyalist settler and prominent Methodist preacher, whose religious influence on Edward and his

brother John Beamer inspired them to organize and build the Methodist Campgrounds.

Daniel Marsh and his sons went on to build public structures including schools, churches, and many commercial buildings throughout Grimsby and Western Niagara.

The historic dwelling at 24 Auditorium Circle is both visually and historically linked to its surroundings. As one of the original Methodist Campground cottages built in the 1880s by the Bowslaugh family and D. Marsh & Sons, it exemplifies the proportions, style, and siting characteristic of the surviving cottages in the neighborhood. Its scale, design, and alterations are compatible with neighboring buildings, contributing significantly to the cohesive character of the historic community, including the historic streetscape of Auditorium Circle, Wesley Street and Fair Avenue.

The Heritage Attributes to be designated at 24 Auditorium Circle include:

- Two storey wooden framed cottage
- Folk Victorian design
- Steep rooflines, intersecting gables
- Enclosed porch facing east
- Window and door openings
- Setback from Auditorium Circle, Wesley Street & Fair Avenue