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April 8, 2010



When Ships Climb The Mountains...

Mr. Richard Moorhouse,
Executive Director,
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Mr. Moorhouse:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate
Ontario Heritage Act
The Decew-Young House
2440 Decew Road
City of Thorold, Ontario

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of a Notice of Intention to Designate the above noted property in accordance with Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18. This notice will be published in Niagara News on April 14, 2010.

You have been notified as required under the provisions of Section 29(3) of the Act.

I trust this is in order.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adele Arbour". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Adele Arbour, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning & Building Services

AA/em
Attach.

cc: Heritage Thorold LACAC
Susan Daniels, City Clerk

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE CITY OF THOROLD, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold intends to designate The Decew - Young House located at 2440 DeCew Road on the north side of Decew Road, between the Decew House remains and the restored Morningstar Mill, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 2005 Chapter 0.18, Section 29.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

The Decew - Young House
2440 DeCew Road
Part Township Lot 41
Thorold, Ontario

The Decew - Young House is located at 2440 DeCew Road on the north side, west of Merrittville Highway.

Cultural Heritage Value

The fact that the building was built by John Decew gives it significance. It is located near two local heritage sites that were once part of the small community of Decew Town. About a quarter mile to the east are the remains of the Decew House (formerly John Decew's imposing stone house), and a half mile to the west is the restored Morningstar Mill at the picturesque Decew Falls. The Decew House was made famous by Laura Secord during the War of 1812, when she trekked from Queenston to warn Lt. James Fitzgibbon, the officer-in-charge of the military outpost there, of an impending attack by Americans.

Architectural Significance

The house is a one and one-half storey, three-bay Ontario Cottage of timber construction with a rubble stone basement. Decew Road follows the line of the former Mohawk Trail, an important east-west route used by native peoples above the Niagara Escarpment.

Within the east wing of the three-bay cottage, there is evidence of a smaller building, circa 1815. Built by John Decew, who purchased the land in 1812, this small timber-framed house may have been used to accommodate workers or a general store or blacksmith shop for the community of Decew Town. Philip Young and his wife Mary owned the property for more than 20 years and it was probably they who enlarged the house to its present three-bay, one and one-half storey configuration with a one storey kitchen wing to the rear. The exterior is clad in the original mid-nineteenth century clapboard (also known as weatherboarding) with decorative beaded corners and deep fascia boards below the eaves. The rubble stone basement contains evidence of an earlier c. 1815 structure, with full and hand-hewn half timbers. On the second floor there are a number of early nineteenth century details present, such as an opening for a ladder for access from the first floor, an interior wooden door with a Georgian Cross and Bible panel, folk faux oak graining on doors and mouldings and a very early c. 1800 Suffolk latch.

Historical Significance