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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAR 13 2015

RECEIVED

March 12, 2015

VIA MAIL

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

██████████ and ██████████  
573 Lakeshore Road West  
Oakville, ON L6K 1G6

**Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate**  
**The Acacias, 573 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville, Ontario**

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Attached please find the Notice of Intention to designate the above-mentioned property which is served upon you in accordance with section 29(3) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.18, (the "*Act*").

Pursuant to section 29(4.1) of the *Act* any person who objects to the proposed designation must file a notice of objection to the designation with the Town Clerk at 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3, no later than April 13, 2015.

Sincerely,

Francesca Piazza  
Legislative Coordinator

Encls.

c.c. V. Tytaneck, Town Clerk  
D. St. George, Acting Director of Planning Services  
N. Chandra, Assistant Town Solicitor  
R.S. Hannah, Senior Manager of Planning Services  
S. Schappert, Heritage Planner

To be the most livable town in Canada.

## **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

On March 9, Oakville Town Council resolved to pass a Notice of Intention to Designate the following property under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, as amended, as a property of cultural heritage value and interest:

The Acacias  
573 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville, Ontario

### **Description of Property**

The Acacias is located on the north side of Lakeshore Road West. This 2-1/2 storey brick and shingle residence is surrounded by mature acacia trees and gardens. The farmhouse faces south toward Lake Ontario.

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

The Acacias has significant physical value as a 2-1/2 storey home with Arts and Crafts inspired details. The house at 573 Lakeshore Road West illustrates many of the design features common to Arts and Crafts homes: the combination of brick and wood shingles as wall cladding, the grouped multi-pane windows, the entrance under a portico, exposed rafter tails on the unusual roof shape. Known for the acacia trees that surround the residence, the house was designed to fit into the landscape surroundings and despite changes in the lot size since its construction circa 1911, the connection between the residence and its surroundings is still significant.

The Acacias has historic value through its associations with early owners of the residence, especially the Windeat sisters (Emma Sarah and Louisa Helen) who built the house circa 1911. Emma Windeat, likely the most notable member of the family, was one of the first female artists to become a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. A painter of portraits and landscapes, Emma was also a founding member of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto, and exhibited her works at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, Art Association of Montreal and Women's Art Association of Canada.

The next owner of the property, Willis Norman Millar, was an assistant professor of Forestry at the University of Toronto and a published author of several books on forestry management practices. The house in Oakville was suitable for his family and also close to the U of T practice forestry site in Bronte.

The owners of the house from 1937 to 1972 were the Wetthey family – likely relatives of the Windeat sisters. Drina Wetthey, who lived in the house for many years, was secretary to several headmasters of nearby Appleby College.

The house is also associated with well-known local architect, George Nepean Molesworth. Molesworth (1885-1958) was a prolific architect who designed many buildings (commercial, institutional and residential) in Toronto, Oakville and the surrounding area. Molesworth himself was a life-long resident of Oakville, commuting into Toronto for his architectural practice.

Educated at the University of Toronto, Molesworth went on to serve a 4 year internship with Eden Smith, the foremost architect of Arts and Crafts in Toronto, from 1908-1911. His work was certainly influenced by Smith's design aesthetic and the principals of the Arts and Crafts movement. Forming his own practice in 1911, some of his earliest designs were for properties in Oakville, including the residence at 573 Lakeshore Road West. Molesworth went on to design other notable local buildings including Brantwood School, Maplegrove School and Linbrook School.

The Acacias also has contextual value because it is historically, physically, visually, and historically linked to its immediate setting. The residence is still surrounded by the acacia trees for which it was named; however, the size of the lot has decreased over the years as parcels of land were severed off from the farm. The front garden of the property includes a wall that links the house to the front yard and associated landscaping, an important design feature relating to the Arts and Crafts movement. The property still maintains a strong connection between the residence and its landscape, including the acacia trees, the surrounding gardens and garden walls and the proximity to nearby Appleby creek.

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than April 13, 2015. Objections should be directed to the Town Clerk, 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3.

Any inquiries may be directed to Susan Schappert heritage planner at 905-845-6601, ext. 3870 (TTY 905-338-4200), or by email at [susan.schappert@oakville.ca](mailto:susan.schappert@oakville.ca).

The last date to file a notice of objection is April 13, 2015.