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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY

BY-LAW NO. 2937-90

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE STRUCTURE MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS  
616 KING STREET AS BEING OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND  
INTEREST

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, c. 337, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby considers it desirable to designate property hereinafter described to be of historic and architectural value and interest;

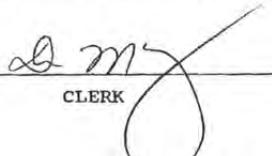
AND WHEREAS, the Council of the said Corporation has caused to be served on the owners of property municipally known as 616 King Street, Whitby, Ontario, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of its intention to designate the structure at the aforesaid address to be of historic and architectural value and interest and has caused such notice to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Whitby;

AND WHEREAS, no person has served a notice of objection to the proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby enacts as follows:

1. The structure known as Green-Lawler House located on the property municipally known as 616 King Street, Whitby, Ontario and being more particularly described in Schedule "A", attached to and forming part of this by-law, is designated as being of historic and architectural value and interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B", attached hereto.
2. This designation shall not preclude any changes that may be deemed necessary for the efficient use of the structure provided that any and all changes shall be in keeping with the original and current character of the structure and shall be carried out in consultation with the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of the Town of Whitby.

BY-LAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D., 1990.

  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

SCHEDULE "B"

TO

BY-LAW NO. 2937-90

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

DESIGNATION REPORT

GREEN-LAWLER HOUSE

616 KING STREET

1876

HISTORICAL REPORT  
GREEN-LAWLER HOUSE  
616 KING STREET  
1876

Compiled by Brian Winter, Archivist, Whitby Historical Society  
March 14, 1983

#### WERDEN'S PLAN--AN INTRODUCTION

The property described in this historical sketch is part of Werden's Plan, a street plan for a portion of the Town of Whitby, bounded by Dundas, Reynolds, Burns and Henry Streets. The plan was drawn by Provincial Land Surveyor John Shier for Asa Werden in May, 1854 and registered in the Ontario County Registry Office on Sept. 1, 1854.

The land in Werden's Plan consisted of 200 acres, the north half of lots 26 and 27, First Concession of Whitby Township.

The original patent for this land was made to John Scadding (1754-1824), on May 17, 1802. Born in Devonshire, Scadding was property manager for John Graves Simcoe in England. In 1792, when Simcoe was appointed Governor of Upper Canada, Scadding accompanied him to this country. He stayed with Simcoe in Upper Canada until the governor left Canada in 1796. Scadding returned to England to manage the Simcoe estate, but had been granted large tracts of land in Canada including a portion of Whitby Township where the Town of Whitby is presently located. He returned to Canada in 1817 or 1818 to manage his land here. In 1819, he established the village of Windsor at what is now Whitby harbor, naming it after his home in Devonshire, England. John Scadding brought his family to Canada in 1821, but met an untimely death when a tree fell on him in 1824.

On April 24, 1820, Scadding sold his land in lots 26 and 27, Whitby Township to Joseph G. Losie. Little is known of Losie, except that he was an early settler in the township and operated the first store in Whitby.

On July 2, 1821, Losie sold his land to Asa Werden (1779-1866). Werden was born in Connecticut, U.S.A. and settled in Athol Township, Prince Edward County, Upper Canada, before the war of 1812. He came to Canada with only the clothes on his back and some leather-maker's tools, but through enterprise and hard work amassed an estate worth \$247,000 when he died. Since crown grants were not available when Werden came to Canada, he had to buy land where it was available. He owned large tracts of land in Athol Township and in the Picton area, but he also purchased 200 acres in Whitby Township and 200 acres in Pickering Township. He never lived in Whitby or Pickering, but sold off various parcels of his Whitby land over the years since 1821, making \$50,000 on that land alone before he died.

Asa Werden was a Member of Parliament for Prince Edward County in 1831, a director of the Prince Edward Agricultural Society, Chair-

Werden's Plan --

man of a temperance society, and owner of a large tannery, as well as several lumber and grist mills, all in Prince Edward County.

Werden was most skillful at buying land and selling it at a profit. As mentioned above, he had a town plan made for his Whitby land in 1854 and began selling lots.

On Sept. 28, 1865, Werden made his will, giving his 200 acres of Whitby land, minus what had already been sold, to his sons John Burns Werden and Sully Paoli Werden. They were made executors for this land and had the rights to sell the lots after his death, with the proceeds to be divided among Werden's six children and their children.

Asa Werden died at Athol Township, Prince Edward County, on May 28, 1866. For more than 10 years after his death, Werden's executors made profits by sale of lots in Whitby from his estate. The houses discussed in the following pages were built on land originally owned by Asa Werden and sold either before or after his death, according to the records presented in these historical summaries.

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Notes on Sources:

The material on John Scadding comes from Toronto of Old, by Henry Scadding, 1873 (reprinted, 1966.)

The material on Asa Werden comes from Athol, Stories of a Township, by Philip F. Dodds, 1979.

GREEN-LAWLER HOUSE, 1876

616 King Street  
Werden's Plan, lots 19 and 20, 6th Double Range West of Brock Street.

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The lots on which the Green-Lawler house stands were originally owned by Asa Werden who sold them to his son Elias G. Werden on June 18, 1855.

On Nov. 18, 1868, Elias G. Werden sold the lots to John S. Sprowl, Governor of the Ontario County Jail at Whitby. After Sprowl's death on April 19, 1869, the property was vacant and the subject of a number of legal controversies. On Jan. 18, 1876, a vesting order of the Court of Chancery conveyed the property to Margaret Green, wife of William Green.

William Green (1820-1884) was born in Scotland in April 1820 and settled in Whitby in 1842. He was married to a sister of Rev. Dr. William Ormiston, who belonged to a prominent Whitby family and was a Presbyterian minister in New York City. Green was a wealthy gentleman, but little is known about his life. He died at Whitby on Sept. 28, 1884 at the age of 64.

In 1876, immediately after purchasing the property at King and Trent Streets, Green had a large brick house constructed.

The Whitby Chronicle of Nov. 9, 1876 reported: "Mr. Green has put up a good two-storey brick dwelling 28 x 30 with brick kitchen 16 x 26 on King Street. Cost \$3,000. Mr. T. W. Robinson carpenter work, Messrs. Dunkley & Westlake, brick and mason work."

The Green family (with the name Green later spelled "Greene") continued to own the house until 1901, although they rented it out for several years.

One of the people who rented the house was William Ware Tamblin, Principal of the Whitby Collegiate Institute from 1888 to 1896. On his death in 1914, Tamblin willed \$200 to the School Board to be invested and the interest used for prizes in an annual public speaking contest. The Tamblin Public Speaking Prizes were awarded annually for nearly 50 years.

On Dec. 31, 1895, William David Greene, a son of William Green, sold the house to Mary V. Greene for the benefit of her children.

On Nov. 8, 1901 Thomas S. and Mary V. Greene, executors of William David Greene's estate sold the house to Arthur Thomas Lawler (1866-1928). Lawler, the son of a local grocer, was born at Whitby on June 13, 1866. After his father's death in 1895 he took over the family grocery business. Lawler was a member of the town council

in 1902, 1903 and 1905, Mayor in 1906 and a member of the Whitby Board of Education for 20 years. In 1905 he married Carolyn Grose of Newcastle and raised his family in the house at King and Trent Streets. Lawler died at Whitby on Nov. 24, 1928. On Aug. 12, 1929 the executors of his estate sold the house to Mrs. Lawler.

On April 25, 1934, Mrs. Lawler sold the house to Albert W. Richardson who died shortly after the house was purchased. His wife lived there for 25 years.

On June 30, 1959, the executors of Albert W. Richardson's estate sold the house to Stuart C. and Prudence J. Roblin. Roblin was born in Belleville and came to Whitby with his parents in 1930. In the 1940s and 1950s he was manager of the Whitby Dairy Bar and later entered the insurance business. In 1965 he was appointed registrar of the Supreme Court, registrar of the Surrogate Court and Clerk of the County Court for Ontario County.

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ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

GREEN-LAWLER HOUSE

616 KING STREET

1876

Compiled by Sandra Black

June 1983

This house embodies several features of the Loyalist Georgian tradition. For instance, it is composed of two simple masses, both rectangular in plan and both with end gable roofs. The main two-story block faces King Street, while the rear 1½-story wing, which is centred at one-quarter the distance from the main block's north wall, fronts toward Trent Street.

Yet, the use of polychrome brick and other decorative devices places this house much later in the nineteenth century. It is built principally of red brick laid in common bond over rubble stone foundations. All corners are trimmed by buff brick "quoins" which alternate every three courses with the red brick. On the main façade, one buff brick quoin is extended from side to side below the second story windows to form a string course.

Buff brick is also used to accent all window openings. Typically, jack-arch window heads have radiating voussoirs (edged with a projecting header row on main block windows) and drop labels terminating in raised end blocks and T-shaped finials. The one exception to this is the pointed arch window tucked into the small gable centred in the rear wing's south side. This window, its upper half trimmed by buff brick, has been boarded up.

All other windows have four-paned, double-hung sash set in simple surrounds above painted wood lugsills. The main block has two such windows flanking the front door, three lined up above these openings, two pair set one above the other on both end elevations, and an upper window with door below centred in the rear wall.

In addition, two north windows light the rear wing, while a smaller inset window and right-hand door appear on the south side. The latter openings have been protected by the addition of a shed-roofed porch of frame construction, which has a shingled skirt and fixed eyebrow windows under the eaves. Two sets of three double-hung aluminum windows meet at the SW corner, while another pair are set to the right of an aluminum door. The back elevation of the rear wing has a door-size patch of buff brick to the left with gable-shaped markings above, indicating that a one-story shed once adjoined the rear wall.

The raking trim of the rear gable consists of a quarter-round moulding, a plain soffit, and a fascia of fillet-bead-cyma recta profile. On the gable ends of the main block, this trim is augmented by bargeboards, each of which has intricate scrolled ornament applied to a solid wood skirt. On each side, this skirt has been scalloped into a trefoil-like outline, punctuated by acorn-like finials at the apex and at the junctures of the three segments. The outer ends of each bargeboard

terminates with a simple segmental drop trim.

On the north wall, a brick fireplace chimney tapers at second story level into a shaft that passes under the bargeboards and through the asphalt-shingled roof. Like that of the rear wing, the main roof is of moderate slope, and trimmed with troughs along the eaves. A more shallow shed roof shelters the main doorway. Its previously hipped profile is revealed on the sides, which are supported by large wooden brackets. Each of these consists of an inverted "L" bisected by a wooden pin that intersects the carved crosspiece,

Between these brackets is the main doorway. It has a four-panelled door, complete with knocker, flanked by two-paned sidelights over single side panels. Above, a two-pane transom occupies the shallow segmental arch, its trim continuing the simple surrounds of the doorcase.

This house is a modest example of late nineteenth century eclecticism. It demonstrates how stylistic details of various origins have been applied to an enduring vernacular form. Designation of this house should protect the ornamental brickwork and bargeboards, as well as original fenestration and doorway details. In effect, it should cover the façade, the north and south elevations (excluding the porch addition), and the rear elevation, while allowing for restoration of any presently altered elements.

SANDRA BLACK

JUNE 1983