

BY-LAW NUMBER 1979-66 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIAA BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE WILMOT HOUSE AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural and historic value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Orillia has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as the Wilmot House and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real 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.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the Wilmot House, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, be and it is hereby designated as being of architectural and historic value or interest.
2. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Registry Office for the division of Simcoe.
3. THE Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 14th day of May A.D. 1979.

  
MAYOR

  
DEPUTY CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 1979- 66 OF THE CITY OF ORILLIA

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Orillia, in the County of Simcoe and being composed of all of Lot 4 on the north side of Tecumseth Street as shown on a Plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Simcoe as Plan No. 8;

SAVE AND EXCEPT the easterly 15 feet of perpendicular width throughout from front to rear of the said Lot.

IN THE MATTER OF The Ontario  
Heritage Act, 1974

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF By-law Number  
1979-66 , a by-law to designate  
certain property pursuant to the  
Act.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

THE WILMOT HOUSE

HISTORY

Jackson Wilmot purchased the property in 1873 when he came to Orillia from New York, where he had been trained in the design and decoration of building interiors. Jackson and his wife, Mary, lived in a smaller building at the rear of the property while he gradually built the present house over a period of years. They are believed to have taken up residence in 1880. When Jackson died in 1885, his son, Theodore, continued to live in the house and from there he managed his plant nursery business with his greenhouses located at the rear of the property. During the 1930's Theodore converted the house into three apartments; he, his wife and his daughter maintaining the largest apartment. In 1965, after the death of her parents, Mary sold the house to William and Jean Smith, and donated many of the Wilmot furnishings to Pioneer Village and other museums in and around Toronto. In 1968 Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Yeoman purchased the house from the Smiths. They lived on the ground floor and continued to maintain the second story as an apartment, as it is today.

This Gothic styled structure typifies those features popular throughout Ontario during the mid 1800's; steep pitched roofs, arched windows, bays and the extensive use of ornate bargeboard or gingerbread. The home has one of Orillia's few examples of a board and batten exterior, constructed of two-inch pine boards. The wood frame structure sits on a stone rubble foundation and boasts two brick chimneys. One chimney was for the purpose of a stove and the other was in preparation for a fireplace which was never built.

That the building serves as a multiple family dwelling is well concealed from the passerby. During the 1930's a window on the west wall was converted to a door to allow access to one of the apartments on the ground floor. An addition to the northwest (rear) corner of the building provided a stairway, with an exterior entrance, to the second floor, which is now the only access to the upper story as the two interior staircases were removed in the 1960's. Both of these changes have employed the use of similar building materials so as to make the alterations difficult to detect. After the building left the ownership of the Wilmot's, the only other alterations to affect the exterior, apart from new paint, were to the verandah. A turned wood railing and a section of treillage below the eave were removed. At the same time, the level of the front lawn was increased, thus resulting in the elimination of seven steps and a wood railing which were replaced with three broader steps.

One of the building's most outstanding features is its main entrance, with its segmental transom and sidelights. Jackson Wilmot designed and built the four panelled door and the wood panels which line the twelve-inch deep embrasure. Clear glass panes have replaced the original stained glass. Jackson Wilmot is also responsible for an ornate plaster inset in the ceiling of the front foyer, and also decorated the interiors of several buildings in Orillia, including the old Catholic rectory which was torn down in the 1960's.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

1. board and batten siding
2. gable trim
3. wood trim and window shape
4. projecting bay
5. main entrance
6. plaster work in foyer ceiling