

Notice of Intention to Designate (NOID)

16 Byng Avenue

Description of Historic Place

The property located at 16 Byng Avenue is situated within Ward 5 in the City of Cambridge. The legal description of the property is Part Lot 19, Plan 291; Part 1, Plan 58R- 20441. The property is located on the west side of Byng Avenue. It is bounded by Lansdowne Road South to the west, George Street South (upper plateau) to the east, and St. Andrews Street to the south. Laneway 163 is located directly to the west of the stone residence. The property is east of Kitchener and west of the Grand River.

Summary of Cultural Heritage Value

The stone residence on the subject property was constructed circa 1832 in the Regency architectural style, using locally sourced limestone. It was originally intended to serve as a gatehouse for a larger estate planned by William Dickson, the founder of Galt (now part of Cambridge).

Following William Dickson's relocation to Niagara in 1837, the property, along with his business ventures and land holdings, was transferred to his son, William Dickson Jr. The house was named "Kirkmichael", a tribute to the region in Dumfries, Scotland, from which the Dickson family originated.

The cultural significance of the subject property is rooted in its association with the founding family of Galt and its embodiment of the Regency architectural style. The property is a rare and tangible link to the legacy of William Dickson Jr., one of the area's largest landowners of the 19th century. The residence holds considerable historical value as the last physical remnant of the extensive Dickson estate, reflecting the social and economic prominence a single individual could wield in the early development of the city.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following key heritage attributes capture the cultural and historical significance of the stone residence at 16 Byng Avenue:

- The significant setback from Byng Avenue, creating a distinct relationship with the streetscape.
- All four exterior elevations designed in the Regency style.
- The use of limestone in a broken course pattern, highlighted by prominent relief or 'padded joints'.

- The large limestone cornices that accentuate the façade.
- The stone voussoirs above the main entrance, displaying traditional masonry techniques.
- The low-pitched hipped roof, typical of the Regency style.
- The presence of four segmental dormers, adding to the visual rhythm of the roofline.
- The one and a half storey height.
- The yellow brick chimney.
- The wrap-around porch, supported by decorative wooden posts, replicating the original design.
- The main entrance, featuring an elliptical transom, sidelights, and decorative tracery.
- The six exposed, casement style, 24 pane, wood windows (four in façade and two on north side)

The designation only pertains to the exterior of the property. No elements of the interior are included in this designation.