

Schedule 'A'

The Pew House

18 South Street South, Thorold

Property Description

The Pew House is located at 18 South Street South in Port Robinson, just south of the intersection with Bridge Street. It is not known who constructed the one and one-half frame building but it follows a vernacular version of a hybrid of the Georgian and Italianate styles of domestic architecture popular in Ontario in the late nineteenth century. Its heritage value is found in various ways, but principally in its association with Isaac and John Pew, village blacksmiths, whose work supported activities on the Welland Canal at this location between c. 1870 and 1903.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The cultural heritage value of the Pew House resides in its historical associations, its architectural design and its contextual presence as the former location of blacksmithing.

Historical Value

- The activity of the village blacksmiths, Peter Young along with Isaac and John Pew in the heyday and subsequent waning of industrial and commercial prosperity of the original southern terminus of the Welland Canal at Port Robinson.
- Evidence of the type of self-made immigrant who through hard work and determination were able to establish successful businesses in commercial and industrial growth economies. For Isaac Pew specifically this included accrual of sufficient personal wealth to purchase three village lots out of which to manage a successful business for half a century.
- Evidence of the impact of waning fortunes on the blacksmith's legacy insofar as their heirs assumed different professional trajectories and/or moved away causing the property's sum total to be gradually reduced.

Design Value

- Vernacular expression of a hybrid combination of two popular domestic building styles (Georgian and Italianate).
- The original footprint of the house's main floor has been little altered, with its long foyer entrance and two segmented front rooms on the north side.
- The façade sports a full-width verandah and exaggerated entrance that almost certainly were 'historic' embellishments at a later date.
- The floorboard planking has been refinished and is possibly original.

- The upper half-storey footprint appears to be original with two bedrooms and quaint corner cupboard.
- The sloped eaves, mouldings, exposed floorboards and portions of the banister appear to be original and, may be considered character-defining features that add considerable veritas to the house's heritage value.
- It is possible that the windows in the main section of the house are in their original position; and while they have all been updated to modern specifications, many of the mouldings are original.
- Good functional design, quality of materials and craftsmanship are evident in the windows and façade.

Contextual Value

- The proximity within less than 2 km of eight designated properties demonstrates the community's profound commitment to preservation of its heritage assets associated with its prominent position as an early centre of nineteenth century commerce, shipbuilding and trade along the Welland Canal.
- The re-naturalized post-industrial landscape associated with the dry dock and lock that were located within 500 meters of the house.
- Considerable archaeological potential associated with the blacksmithing activities of half a century in the northeast corner of South Street South and its intersection with Bridge Street.
- Probable archaeological potential associated with Indigenous land-use activities prior to the arrival of European settlers in the late 18C as related to the area's location adjacent to the Welland River (Chippewa Creek) and various landforms.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that express the heritage value of the Pew House include:

- Vernacular expression of a hybrid combination of two popular domestic building styles (Georgian and Italianate) that bear specific connotations about the identity of the occupants and his sense of place in the community.
- Good functional design, quality of materials and craftsmanship evident in the:
 - Original expression of window apertures in the gable ends of the original house.
 - The balance of proportions on the original building between the house's width and length and pitch of roof to height.
 - Near original interior configuration of the entrance foyer and upper half-storey along with many original mouldings, wall treatments, cupboards, hatches, etc. in the original house.
 - Non-original verandah spanning the width of the façade.

- Original location of the house and its additions adds to the site's heritage integrity.

Its simple design harmonizes well with the surrounding setting of post-industrial and former canal lands and also resonates with the professional stature of the indispensable but service-oriented nature of a blacksmith's position in nineteenth century and early twentieth century society.