

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990.

Description of the Property – Wilkinson House, 903 2nd Avenue West

Wilkinson House is a 2½ storey red brick structure located on the north east corner of the intersection of 9th Street West and 2nd Avenue West within the City's Central Business District.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The design or physical value of Wilkinson House lie in it being an excellent restored example of an Edwardian period structure with many characteristic elements of late Queen Anne style on the exterior and both Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau styles in its interior decor. A two-storey bay window with a thrust forward gable adorns the front façade; while the form is Queen Anne, the large windows of the bay with their simplified almost square shape with heavy lintel and rusticated stone sills reflect the Edwardian influence. The modified Tuscan columns of the front porch are likewise closer to Edwardian. A small double-lite window in the front façade is actually derived from late medieval precedents, this being an acceptable embellishment in Edwardian style. The south façade has a small oriole window tucked in under the returned gable eave, resulting in a unique asymmetrical treatment of the returned eaves. The main entrance door has faceted and pebbled glass lights.

The interior has original plaster ceilings and Miller work graces the upper frieze in the form of intertwined vines and cherubic children picking fruits. A small sculpted figurine of a woman in flowing garments sits atop the newel post of the central stairway. Both the figurine and the ceiling/frieze treatments are in the Art Nouveau style. Avant garde décor for the period, its origins lie in fin-de-siècle Paris. The Arts and Crafts style newels of the stairway have entasis (the optical correction of their profiles), a very unusual approach requiring sophisticated and skilled craftsmanship. The Arts and Crafts style Edwardian trim and wallpaper treatment throughout the house is in excellent condition. The former dining room has a built-in sideboard and Queen Anne style leaded glass windows.

Built in 1912, Wilkinson House has strong historical or associative value because it was built and lived in by the Wilkinson family for 90 years. F.C. (Charles) Wilkinson was born in 1870 and raised in Derby Township (now Georgian Bluffs) in an area known as the Wilkinson Settlement. He learned the shoe trade with early Owen Sound merchant A.M. Anderson, and opened his own store on 2nd Avenue East in 1901. F.C. Wilkinson Boots and Shoes continued in operation until 1964 with Charles passing the business onto his son, Gordon Moore Wilkinson, around 1944. Gordon owned the house until 2002, when it was purchased by Deanne Mallard and

Blake Crothers who restored it to its former grandeur. Presently, John A. Tamming has his law offices in the house.

As a landmark in the City, the property has contextual value in defining, maintaining and supporting the original character of the street; its conversion to a law office continues to link it physically and visually to its surroundings.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available from the Community Services Department, Planning Division.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, may be filed with the Clerk of the City of Owen Sound before June 12, 2009.

Dated at the City of Owen Sound this the 13th day of May, 2009.

Marion I. Koepke, City Clerk
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