

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMSAY

BY-LAW NO. 1797

BEING a By-law to designate the premises known municipally as Part of the West Half of Lot 21, Concession 9, Township of Ramsay, as being of architectural and historical value and interest.

WHEREAS The Ontario Heritage Foundation Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, authorizes the Council of a Municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon to be of architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramsay has caused to be served on the owners of the dwelling situated on Part of the West Half of Lot 21, Concession 9, Township of Ramsay, and upon The Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and have caused such notice of intention to so designate, to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality, once a week for three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramsay enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value and interest, the real property known as Part of the West Half of Lot 21, Concession 9, Township of Ramsay.
2. The municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described, in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on The Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality, once a week for three consecutive weeks.
4. That Schedule "A" hereto attached shall form part of this By-law.

READ a first and second time this 21st day of November, 1989.

READ a third time and finally passed this 21st day of November, 1989.


REEVE


CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMSAY

BY-LAW NO. 1797

SCHEDULE "A"

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION

The Naismith House is significant for both historical and architectural reasons. In the late nineteenth century it was the home of James Naismith, a native of Ramsay Township who has gained international recognition as the inventor of basketball. R. Tait McKenzie, also famous nationally and internationally as a surgeon, educator and sculptor, shared the home for a brief period with the Naismiths. The home is thus directly associated with the area's two most historically prominent residents. It is also a fine example of vernacular Classical Revival architecture, a style characteristic of many of the stone residential buildings in the Township.

NAISMITH HOUSE

Part of West 1/2 of Lot 21, Concession 9
Township of Ramsay

Reasons for Designation:

The Naismith House is significant for both historical and architectural reasons.

In the late nineteenth century, it was the home of James Naismith, a native of Ramsay Township who has gained international recognition as the inventor of basketball. R. Tait McKenzie, also famous nationally and internationally as a surgeon, educator, and sculptor, shared the home for a brief period with the Naismiths. The home is thus directly associated with the area's two most historically prominent residents.

It is also a fine example of vernacular Classical Revival architecture, a style characteristic of many of the stone residential buildings in the township.

Detailed Description

History:

In the year 1832, Robert Young (aged 30) came to Canada from Scotland with his wife Ann and brothers Peter and William. On November 4, 1835, Robert purchased Lot 21 W from Miss Margaret Kent, who had secured it from the Crown. In 1848 he purchased Lot 22 W from the Canada Company.

The Youngs had eleven children: Elizabeth, William, John, Margaret, Stephen, Janet, Robert, Ann, Mary, Peter and Jean. In 1850, the Youngs built the fine stone house which sits on the property today. Robert Young was himself a stone mason.

In 1870, Robert died, willing the farm to Peter Young, the tenth child. Margaret, the fourth child, had married John Naismith, and that same fall both Margaret and her husband died of typhoid. Their three orphan children, James, Robert, and Anne, were brought to live with their grandmother and Uncle Peter. These children had all been born in the wood frame house on the property, which had been the Young home before the construction of the stone house.

Robert Naismith died of appendicitis while young. Anne continued to keep house for her uncle.

James Naismith worked at the farm and attended Almonte High School. He went to McGill at the age of 23, and later became a noted physician and educator. His invention of the game of basketball has made him internationally famous.

R. Tait McKenzie, another of Almonte's famous sons, and his brother William came to live with the Naismiths for a time after their father's death, while a new family home was being built for them.

In 1902, Peter Young sold the farm to Richard Oates, who sold it two years later to his son Thomas. Richard and his wife Ellen Louise had five children: Thomas, Clifford, Lila, Iva and Ebert.

In 1926, the farm was sold to John Grace, who sold it to his son Hugh Grace in 1948. The present owners, Greg and Marianne Smith, purchased the home from Hugh Grace in 1988.

Architecture:

The stone house is of centre hall design, with a kitchen wing at the back. The principal facade is of three-bay design with a centre gable and gable window. The side facades contain regularly spaced windows and are marked by end chimneys. The stonework is of above-average quality, with even coursing on the front facade, well-detailed window and door openings, and raised corner quoins of dressed stone. The centre entrance is of Classical Revival design, with its rectangular transom and sidelights. The ground floor window sash are twelve over twelve. The house originally had a cedar shingle roof.

The house used to have a broad verandah along the front and extending back along the sides. It was marked by decorative brackets and treillage, and a standing seam metal roof. Photographic documentation of this porch survives. There were also some rear sheds and outbuildings of wood construction which have changed over the years.

Site:

The house is well-known because of its prominent location at the intersection of Highway 15 and the Clayton Road. Its sweeping lawn adds to the visual impact of the home.

A provincial historic sites marker commemorating the life of James Naismith is situated adjacent to the front of the property.