

C O R P O R A T I O N
OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
BY-LAW NO. 1272-82

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN
MUNICIPALLY AS THE DAVIS-ELDER HOUSE,
YORK ROAD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, AS BEING
OF ARCHITECTURAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS section 29 of 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 or historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as The Davis-Elder House at York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 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 the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; 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 Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake enacts as follows:

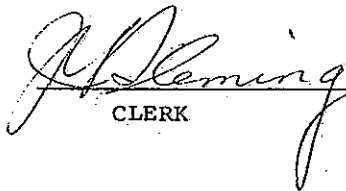
R01
York Rd., 1717

1. There is designated as being of architectural value or interest, the real property known as the Davis-Elder House, York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto.

2. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto 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 owner of the aforesaid property and 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 for each of three consecutive weeks.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 12th DAY OF *October*, A.D. 1982
READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 12th DAY OF *October*, A.D. 1982


CLERK


LORD MAYOR

SCHEDULE "A" to

THE DAVIS-ELDER HOUSE
York Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Township of Niagara, in the County of Lincoln, and Province of Ontario, and being composed of that part of Lot 44 of the said Township more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a point in the northerly boundary of said Lot 44 at a distance of 125.42 feet from the northwest angle of said lot;

THENCE North 89 degrees 25 minutes East along the Northerly limit of said lot, 110 feet to a point;

THENCE South 0 degrees 35 minutes East, 200 feet to a point;

THENCE South 89 degrees 25 minutes West, 110 feet to a point;

THENCE North 0 degrees 35 minutes West, 200 feet to the place of beginning.

SCHEDULE "B" to

THE DAVIS-ELDER HOUSE, York Rd.
Niagara-on-the-Lake

In 1798 the Crown granted David Secord, brother-in-law of Laura Secord, the land on which this house stands. In 1818 by Deed of Gift (for "ten pounds and natural love and affection") title was passed to his son, James. Captain William Davis, a sea captain, purchased the land in 1819 and built the stone cottage for his son. It is reputed that during the winter, the shipwrights fashioned mantels and interior woodwork for the house.

The Davis-Elder House, c. 1820, is a good example of the local shallow L-shaped house, here in a one-and-a-half storey stone version with end chimneys. The original exterior front of five bays with centre doorway illustrates its original central hall plan. The house is a smaller version of the Prest House, a similar stone structure of two storeys located about one quarter of a mile to the east and built by the same man two or three years before. The Davis-Elder House is similar in plan to the Prest and Woodruff Houses among others in the area, a narrow main block only one room deep with a centre hall, supplemented by a kitchen ell.

The house is of interest for its original detail, particularly the Drawing Room mantel, a highly elaborate design created by the very simple means of small square fillets mounted one upon the other, and the carved aprons below the windows. The trim is for the most part original in the main house, but the stair has been reversed in later changes to include the Hall in the Drawing Room. Cupboards flanking the original Dining Room mantel are more recent and the Kitchen mantelpiece is a conjectural restoration of the early detail long ago lost with the removal of the bakeoven from the right of the fireplace.

The original features of a cornice gutter and eaves returns have been restored. Although interior plan changes have been made (notably in the removal of a partition to the hall and the reversing of the stair) and an addition made to the rear in 1968, the house maintains much of its original character. The designation includes the exterior form and detail of the building such as restored cornice gutter and eaves returns and such interior detail as original trim.