

## Heritage Designation Brief

### “Castlewraye”



**500 Gilmour Street**

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

October 2017

## Heritage Designation Status Sheet

Street Address: 500 Gilmour Street

Roll Number: 030050070000000

Short Legal Description: PLAN 88 LOT 38 REG 0.52AC  
121.00FR 186.00D

Owners' Mailing Address: 500 Gilmour Street  
Peterborough ON K9H 2J9

PACAC Application Review Date:

Heritage Type: Built Structure

Designation Type: Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV

Designation Brief Completion Date: 7 September 2017

Designation Brief Completed by: Emily Turner

Comments:

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The subject property has been researched and evaluated in order to determine its cultural heritage significance under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets **any one** of the nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Act. Staff have determined that 500 Gilmour Street has cultural heritage value or interest and merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### 1. The property has design value or physical value because it:

#### **i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method:**

500 Gilmour Street is a good example of a late nineteenth-century house modeled on a Georgian plan. The main house itself is a symmetrical, square design, particularly noticeable when approached from the original entranceway. It also demonstrates the way in which Italianate features were added onto Georgian-style houses, including its western canted bay window and wide projecting eaves.

#### **ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:**

The building displays a high degree of craftsmanship in its execution of a Georgian-style house. Its overall design is an excellent example of the application of symmetry in late nineteenth-century design, as well as the classical and Italianate features integrated into the Georgian template.

#### **iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:**

There are no technical or scientific achievements associated with this property.

### 2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:

#### **i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community:**

500 Gilmour Street has cultural heritage value as the home of a number of important Peterborough residents, particularly during the twentieth century. Between 1899 and 1918, it was the home of Peterborough Examiner editor Ferman Richardson Yokome, whose impact on the development of the editorial standards of the paper was significant.

Between 1989 and 1999, the house was the residence of postmodern artist David Bierk who founded Artspace in downtown Peterborough in 1974. Bierk

was a successful and influential postmodernist, particularly with regard to the use of appropriation in modern art, as well as a key member of the Peterborough arts community until his death in 2002.

**ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture:**

The subject property has the potential to yield information about suburban development in late nineteenth-century and early-twentieth century Peterborough. In particular, the use of classical features in conjunction with the growth of an upper middle class in this area speaks to the preoccupations of its designer and early residents within the social structure of early twentieth century Peterborough.

**iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community:**

The original architect of the building was likely its first occupant, carpenter Andrew Douglas.

**3. The property has contextual value because it:**

**i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area:**

The property maintains the suburban character of the surrounding neighbourhood which is primarily composed of late Victorian and Edwardian red brick, single-family houses on large treed lots. It expresses the early character of the upper and middle class areas of the Old West End area of Peterborough and is aesthetically consistent with the surrounding properties through its construction methods and design features. The property is a contributing heritage resource to the historical cultural landscape of suburban Peterborough.

**ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings**

The property is historically and physically linked to its surroundings as part of the major wave of suburban development that occurred in the Old West End of the city between 1890 and 1920. It is historically linked to the surrounding properties through their shared development as part of the suburban landscape. It is visually linked to the surrounding community through the consistent use of red brick, its setback from the street and use of classically-inspired features complementary to a number of other properties in the immediate area.

**iii. is a landmark. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).**

The property is not a specific landmark.

## Design and Physical Value

The building is a good example of late nineteenth century domestic architecture in suburban Peterborough, which, in general, responded to dominant styles in domestic design present across urban Canada at this time. Built circa 1897, the house is structured around a Georgian plan, but integrates Italianate elements, including the narrow windows, and use of a

verandah on two sides of the original square design.



The entranceway of the building uses Classical features consistent with late nineteenth and early twentieth century suburban domestic design. Originally, the building had a central entranceway on the southern side, creating a symmetry reflected in both its flanking windows and

chimneys. With the removal of the entranceway to the eastern side of the house between 1924 and 1929, the house retained its classical features with the addition of a centrally-placed entrance portico, keeping the symmetrical value of the entranceway. The removal of the entranceway to the eastern side of the house potentially reflects the development of the automobile in the 1920s and the desire to remove outdoor space away from the road, providing insight into trends in suburban development during this period.

As a whole, the building itself is an excellent example of the use of Georgian features in late nineteenth century design, using both earlier design features, including the shallow-pitched hipped roof, central single door, sash windows and overall symmetry. However, this structure also demonstrates how this style was adapted to late nineteenth century taste, through the addition of Italianate elements including the original and present verandahs, the present entranceway, and the canted bay window.

## Historical and Associative Value

500 Gilmour Street has cultural heritage value or interest in its historical occupants, many of whom played important roles in the Peterborough community. The current house was constructed in 1897 as a replacement for an older structure, completed around 1875. The builder and occupant of both houses was Scottish immigrant and carpenter Andrew Douglas. The property itself was originally part of a larger parcel Bank of Upper Canada which was subsequently subdivided, and eventually sold to Jessie and Andrew Douglas in 1873.



After Douglas's death, the house was purchased by Ferman Richardson Yokome, editor of the Peterborough Examiner who had a significant impact on the development of quality journalism and editorials in the newspaper during the early twentieth century. Yokome lived the property with his family from 1899 to his death in 1918; his family continued to live in the property until 1920 when it was sold to Sifroy Goulet.

Throughout the twentieth century, the house was owned by a succession of professionals involved with important areas of the Peterborough economy, including education, healthcare and industry. However, in 1989, the house was sold to postmodern artist David Bierk who, in 1974, had founded Artspace, an artist run centre that became an integral aspect in the

development of artistic and cultural activity in the Peterborough area. With regard to postmodern art in general, Bierk was a seminal figure in the use of appropriation in postmodern art and is widely recognized for that. Bierk lived in the property until 2000 before passing away from leukemia in 2002.

Throughout this period, he remained an important member of the Peterborough arts scene and widely recognized for his own work.

The history of occupants at 500 Gilmour Street demonstrates its place within the development of an upper middle class in Peterborough, particularly during the period when the Old West End neighbourhood was established. During this period, the significant manufacturing and industrial sector in the city allowed for the growth of houses such as 500 Gilmour Street through



increased wealth in the city. 500 Gilmour Street is an important example of the houses that were built by the growing upper middle class in the city. The



house is also representative of this context because of its use of Classical design features, both Georgian and Italianate, which were typically used as indicators of social or commercial success and affluence. Their use in the upper middle class context of the Old West End neighbourhood speaks to the social preoccupations of both the builder and inhabitants and the wider social context of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Peterborough.

### **Contextual Value**

The subject property is historically and visually linked to its surroundings as part of the development of the Old West End neighbourhood between 1890 and 1920. It is historically linked to the local neighbourhood in their shared history of the development of new suburban building patterns outside the main core of the city centre. It is visually linked to the

surrounding community through the consistent use of red brick, large lots with significant setback from the road and the use of classical features consistent with other historic properties in its immediate area. The property is an integral part of the historic landscape of suburban Peterborough.

*"The short statement of reason for designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Brief constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Brief is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."*

## **SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

500 Gilmour Street has cultural heritage value or interest as a late nineteenth-century domestic structure in the Old West End neighbourhood of Peterborough. As a house which integrated a range of Classical elements from prevalent late nineteenth-century architectural styles, it exemplifies the new upper middle class suburban developments occurring in the city around the turn of the twentieth century. The house was also the residence to important members of the Peterborough communities, particularly Ferman Richardson Yokome, who had a significant impact on the development of the Peterborough Examiner in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and David Bierk, who was both an internationally recognized artist and an important figure in the development of Peterborough's arts and cultural scene from the 1970s onward.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED**

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all façades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, plaster parging, metal and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features:

### **Exterior Elements:**

- Two-story brick structure
- Georgian composition with Italianate details
- Hipped roof
- Construction set back from the street and lot line on treed site
- Granite Rubble foundation
- Three brick chimneys
- Eastern entrance with columns and pediment
- Rear verandah and upper storey sunroom
- Fenestration, including:
  - Original window openings;
  - Canted bay window
  - Wooden window trim and brick mould;
  - Window sills;
  - Window openings and their associated elements including sash, moulding, jambs and trim