

Reasons for Designation

157 Thomas Street_ Bryce and Dalton House



Legal Description

PLAN 96 LOT 63

Description of Property

This late Victorian style semi-detached brick house stands out with its unique form and composition of a low hip roof with a two-storey projecting bay and gable window at its end. The simple, plain brick exterior is adorned with decorative terracotta panel inserts, adding to its appeal.

Physically, it is a unique two-storey late Victorian style semi-detached house. Historically, it was the home of John Bryce and John Dalton. However, its true significance lies in its contextual value, as it belongs to a cluster of designated historic buildings along Thomas Street beside the Fairgrounds in Downtown Milton, enriching the local heritage.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

Most of the land in this neighbourhood was originally owned by Hugh Foster. John Horner acquired a large tract of land in this area, which included this property formerly known as the Horner Farm. In 1892, John B. Bruce purchased the old Horner farm to build several brick houses on the lots that were surveyed by John Joseph Dalton. Bruce was a Toronto real estate speculator. In August 1892, he advertised that he had two "very neat double houses" erected for sale or for rent. However, Bruce went missing, and John completed the houses around November 1892. In May 1893, Jessie Dalton (spinster), the sister of John Dalton, purchased the property through a power of sale. Jessie later married Alfred E. Marsen. They owned 155 and 157 Thomas Street until 1906, when they sold the property back to John Joseph Dalton in 1906 who sold it to Norman Hubert Brown in 1920. Norman sold the property to Albert Barton six months later in the same year.

Albert Barton arrived in Milton, Canada, in 1911. In 1912, he married Mary Anne Dowling. They operated a dairy from their farm just southwest of the Town. They later took up residence on Robert St. Albert was then employed by the Milton Farm Co-op and later became an inspector of service installations for the Town. He was a member of Grace Church and the Milton Fire Department. He also purchased and renovated several homes in Downtown Milton. Barton sold this property to two different owners in 1924. The 155 Thomas Street half was sold to Edwin & Lili Ann Lewis, and the 157 Thomas Street half was sold to Ensley Sherk.

Since then, this half of the property has been passed down through several owners, each contributing to its unique history and character: Isabela and George McMillan (1949), Gordon and Elizabeth Hadley (1950), Margaret Hardy (1965), Albert and Beverly Belter (1967), Douglas and Susan Loomis, (1970), Peter and Judith Griswold (1973), Douglas and Maureen Timbers (1977), Hendry and Stella Hall (1979), Susan Teasdel (1981) and Edwards Margaret (1981).

The current owners, Patrick Joseph and Patricia Anne O'Reily, have continued the legacy of the property, adding their own personal touch and contributing to its rich history.

Physical or Design Value

This late Victorian style semi-detached house has an unusual form that combines a low hip roof with a two-storey box and gable window, projecting eaves, plain fascia, soffit and frieze. A single flue brick chimney remains at the south end of the building. The presence of plain brickwork over the entrance doors is also an unusual feature, as houses of this age typically include decorative detailing wherever possible. This lack of detailing is contrasted with the use of terracotta bricks band above the entrance door and medallions above the windows of the projecting bay creating an interesting façade for this house. A similar but not identical pair of late Victorian semi-detached houses built by Bruce and John is located adjacent to the lot at 165 and 167 Thomas Street. The front entrance consists of a raised stone platform with straight steps. Originally an open-covered porch framed the entrance. Windows are one over one, slightly shaped with voussoir headers, plain lug sills, some double-hung, some fixed, and two-storey bay windows. The original windows had shutters which were replicated in the 2020 addition to the house.

Contextual Value

This property has contextual value as it contributes to the heritage character of this cluster of designated historic buildings along Thomas Street beside the Fairgrounds in Downtown Milton. Its significance is further underscored by the fact that in 1995, Chris Burnett, a renowned artist from the Campbellville/Halton area, received a Heritage Visual Arts Award from the Milton Heritage Society for her painting 'Milton Fall Fair' depicting this property and others along Thomas Street.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that reflect the cultural heritage value of the property include:

- Massing of the two-storey brick semi-detached house with a stone foundation
- A low hip roof with a two-storey box and gable window, projecting eaves, plain fascia, soffit and frieze
- One over one windows with voussoir headers, plain lug sills, some double-hung, some fixed.
- Two single flue chimneys on the South end.
- Front entrance platform with straight steps
- Decorative terracotta bricks inserted in brickworks
- Historic home built by John B. Bryce and John J. Dalton
- Contextual contribution to the heritage character of this cluster of designated historic buildings along Thomas Street beside the Fairgrounds in Downtown Milton.
- Subject of the painting 'Milton Fall Fair' painted by Chris Burnett, a renowned artist from the Campbellville/Halton area