

## **SCHEDULE 'A'**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The cultural heritage value of the F.W. Harrison House lies in it being an example of the American Colonial Revival style of architecture. The building was originally constructed circa 1895 in the Georgian style. Influences of this architectural style continue to be present in the building's simple brick exterior, steep gable roof, and chimneys positioned on the south and north façades. While the original sidelights of the front (east) entrance have been removed, the original entrance door and rectangular stained-glass transom remain intact, typical of early nineteenth century Georgian style.

In 1898, the property was purchased by Frederick William Harrison (F.W. Harrison), and his wife Amy Adair. The Harrisons introduced the building's current American Colonial Revival architectural features. Most notable is the addition of a monumental pedimented portico in Doric order with a second storey balustraded balcony. Original cedar shingles remain un-weathered under the portico's pedimented roof projection. The building also boasts a raised stone veranda with a balustraded railing, modillion block cornice, diagonally mullioned windows and two large bay windows on the front (east) façade.

Within the interior of the building, there are several prominent vernacular design features that display a high degree of artistic merit. These include the front foyer, including the stairway with its cherry balusters and rosewood trim. F.W. Harrison was involved in the Harrison family timbering and lumber outfit, John Harrison & Sons Co. Ltd. It is certain that they were responsible for the interior wood trim of the Harrison House. Similarly, the applied-plaster decoration on the ceilings of the north and south ground floor rooms and southern bedroom on the second storey add to the elegance of the home. This plaster decoration is known as, "Miller-work", as it was completed by Owen Sound's Charles and Harry Miller. Charles and Harry were renowned artisans who began Millers Brothers Painters and Decorators in 1886. By the 1920's they were known for their Tube Work, a raised relief decoration in plaster, similar to icing on a cake.

The F.W. Harrison House has historical value for its association with Frederick William Harrison and the Harrison family. Besides being a successful businessperson, F.W. Harrison was an inventor and an important public figure in Owen Sound. He was Mayor of the City in 1911 and sat on the Board of Trade in 1912. As Mayor, F.W. Harrison was responsible for the change of street names to numbered streets and avenues and the conveyance of Harrison Park, a cultural heritage landscape located at 75 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East, to the City.

F.W. Harrison House has contextual value evidenced by its position at the foot of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street West hill. The property has an expansive lot area, the building is setback back from the street, and the perimeter is bordered by a stone terrace which physically, functionally, and visually links it to its surroundings.

### **Description of the Property's Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior elements that contribute to the heritage value of the F.W. Harrison House as an example of the Georgian and American Colonial Revival styles of architecture include its:

- Red brick exterior.

- Steep gable roof pitch.
- Pedimented portico in Doric order with a vernacular ocular window.
- Second-storey balustraded balcony.
- Modillion block cornice.
- Two (2) attic dormers on the second storey of the front (east) façade with a vernacular flat roof form and two (2), one-over-one sash diagonally mullioned windows each.
- Two (2) bay windows on the first storey with three (3), one-over-one sash windows each.
- Brick chimneys positioned on the north and south façades.
- Two (2), one-over-one sash diagonally mullioned windows on the front (east) façade.
- Six (6), one-over-one sash windows, and two (2) blind windows with brick hood moulds on the north and south façades.
- Original front (east) entrance door with rectangular stained-glass transom.
- Cornice returns on the north and south façades.

Key vernacular interior elements that display a high degree of artistic merit and contribute to the heritage value of the F.W. Harrison House include:

- The front foyer, including the front stairs with its cherry balusters and rosewood trim.
- Applied plaster decoration (Miller-work) on the ceilings of the north and south ground floor rooms and the southern bedroom on the second storey.

Key exterior attributes that contribute the contextual heritage value are:

- Expansive lot area and setback of the building from the street (4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West).
- The stone terrace around the perimeter of the building.
- Stone pathway and steps leading to the front (east) entrance of the building from the street (4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West).
- Position at the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street West hill.

The following attributes of the property are **not** considered to have heritage value:

- The northwest porch addition.
- The southwest sunroom addition.
- The second storey fire escape affixed to the west (rear) façade.
- Two (2) attic dormers on the second storey of the west (rear) façade.
- The coach house positioned at the northwest corner of the property.



View of Harrison House from 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West, during site visit in 2021.





Exterior views of front (east) façade Harrison House during final site visit for CIP Façade and Structural Improvement Grant for works including the repainting of windows, columns, balcony, and porches etc. August 18, 2022. (Above 3 photos)





Upper: The front foyer, including the front stairs with its cherry balusters and rosewood trim. (2021)

Lower: Miller Applied plaster decoration (Miller-work) on the ceilings. (2021)