

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

BY-LAW NO. 2017-079

A By-law to designate Ferncliff, located at 401 King Street West, to be of historical significance

Recitals:

1. The *Ontario Heritage Act*, Section 29 in Part IV, as amended, provides that the Council of a municipality may by by-law designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The property has been evaluated against the Criteria of O.Reg. 9/06 and it has been determined that the property meets at least one of the prescribed criteria for designation under Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
3. The Committee of the Whole has reviewed report COW-ED-2017-12, and concurs with the Heritage Advisory Panel's recommendation to designate the Ferncliff Property at 401 King Street West, to be of historical significance.
4. The Council of the Town of Gananoque passed Motion 2017-110 authorizing staff to publish a Notice of Intention to Designate the property.
5. On August 24, 2017, the Notice was published on the Town's website, in the local newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.
6. The public was provided an opportunity to object to the Notice of Intention to Designate, to the Town Clerk, within a thirty (30) day period of providing the Notice.
7. The Town Clerk has not received any objections to the proposed designation as of September 25, 2017.
8. The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Gananoque deems it advisable to pass this By-law.

Accordingly, the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Gananoque enacts as follows:

HERITAGE DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

Building/Property Name: Ferncliff Property

Address: 401 King Street West, Gananoque, ON K7G 2G7

Original Owner: unknown farm, then, Agnes Maule Machar

Present Owner: Mrs. Damaris Davis

Date Built/Operated: post 1857

Architect/Contractor: N/A

Property Description:

The subject property has a long history and has the potential to yield significant built heritage, cultural landscape and archaeological resources. No history of the site's development was found as part of the research conducted for this report. Some aspects can be inferred from physical evidence on the property, and some from academic research and journalistic reporting on the life of Agnes Maule

Machar. From these sources, it would appear that Machar purchased the property in 1857 from a local farmer (its rocky and undulating topography making it unsuitable for farming) and had constructed a cottage based on alpine chalets that she would have seen in her European travels.

The current building is a two storey, frame structure on a fieldstone foundation. Exterior cladding is vertical board and batten and the roof is clad in asphalt shingle. The roof is a simple gable with deep overhangs. The façade (south facing) has two French windows on the main floor with solid exterior shutters. In the second storey are 3 French windows with solid exterior shutters. The east elevation has three bays with a single French window with solid exterior shutters in the first bay, a central entranceway with a single wooden panelled door with a transom above, and solid wooden exterior shutters. The third bay has a smaller 6/6 window with solid wooden exterior shutters. Above in the first and third bay are single 6/6 windows with solid wooden exterior shutters. The north elevation has a central two storey projecting bay with a hipped roof and single 6/6 windows flanked by single 6/6 windows in the second storey and an offset single entrance door and a small window in the first bay. The west elevation has three bays with a single French window in the third bay and exterior additions covering the other bays. Above in the first and third bay are single 6/6 windows with solid wooden exterior shutters. A small frame gable-roofed outbuilding is located to the northwest of the cottage.

The cottage is situated on a low ridge of bedrock which slopes gently towards the river before dropping straight down to water level. The cottage is accessed by a narrow, gravelled driveway that follows the rise and fall of the site's topography as it winds south from King Street. There are remains of a concrete foundation of near the entrance, on the west side. The vegetation on the property includes characteristic hardwood and softwood species of the region, in a climax forest of mature oak, hickory, maple, ash, pine and cedar. The tree canopy is high and the understory is somewhat open, with some new growth and scattered deadfalls. The bedrock forms a rugged topography, with ridges interspersed with gullies and steep slopes. The immediate vicinity of the cottage has been cleared of vegetation to create an open area facing the river and a gravelled parking and access area on the north side. The landscape flanking the cottage includes several openings in the forest cover and a series of informal pathways and several field stone walls. The edge of the cliff is free of vegetation above, with scattered vegetation growing in the cliff face (including ferns). Steps have been cut into the cliff face to provide access to the water. Views from the cliff top are panoramic to the southeast, south and southwest, overlooking the St. Lawrence River and some of the Thousand Islands.

Designation: By-law 2017-079

Registration: LE94630

Statement of Heritage Value or Interest:

The property is valued for mid-19th century recreational building design in the Thousand Island region, and is a unique example of a vernacular interpretation of chalet designs found in alpine Europe. Aside from construction of the cottage, various outbuildings (no longer extant), and access routes, the surrounding natural landscape does not appear to have been altered since at least the 1850s and thus is a rare surviving example of an early 19th century rural property.

The property is valued for its direct associations with Agnes Maule Machar, a Person of National Historic Significance and with important contemporary persons of her circle who visited there (including Emily Pauline Johnson and George Munro Grant). As a gathering spot for artistic and intellectual persons of the mid-late 19th century, as well as being a place that inspired Machar's poetry and other writings, the property provides an understanding of her work as well as of the cultural life of Canada during that time. The property may also have the potential to yield an understanding of pre-contact indigenous culture.

The property has contextual value as a local landmark and has contributed to the character of Gananoque since the 1850s. Although located within the town limits, its primary visual links are to the Thousand Islands.

The heritage attributes are derived from these identified values. Heritage attributes of the Ferncliff are:

- the extant built heritage resource (cottage) on its original hilltop site;
 - original board and batten exterior cladding
 - original fenestration pattern of French windows with shutters
 - original wooden windows
 - original rubble stone foundation
 - surviving original interior components (ground floor wooden wall panelling, shallow-arched ceiling divider, masonry fireplace and surround, wooden flooring, room and hallway configuration; second floor stairway, room and hallway configuration, wooden wall panelling)
- the modifications to the landscape made as part of site development (entrance drive, clearing around the cottage to reveal views of the river and surrounding forest, dry stone walls, stairs cut into the cliff face);
- surviving mature forest ecosystem and topographic/geological features; and
- areas of archaeological potential.

Legal Description:

PIN 44249-0021

PT LT A W GANANOQUE RIVER PL 86; PT BLK K W GANANOQUE RIVER PL 86 AS IN LR47038

References:

Owner: Mrs. Damaris Davis

Consultant: Bray Heritage

Dictionary of Canadian Biography University of Toronto/Université Laval

Article by Ruth Compton Brouwer, Professor of history, King's College, Western University

Estate file AO RG 22-159, no. 3867

Poetry collection "The Thousand Islands" (Toronto: 1935)
http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/machar_agnes_maule_15E.html

Kingston Historical Society, article by Brian S. Osborne 2011
"The World of Agnes Maule Machar (1837-1927): Social Reform, Nation, Empire, Nature"
<http://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/machar.html>

"Harper Government recognizes incredible contributions of Agnes Maule Machar" accessed <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/harpergovernment-recognizes-the-incredible-contributions-of-agnes-maulemachar-291390261.html>

"The Puzzle of Agnes Maule Machar", Heather Chitty, Thousand Islands Life
July 13, 2015

<http://www.thousandislandslife.com/BackIssues/Archive/tabid/393/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/1766/The-Puzzle-of-Agnes-Maule-Machar.aspx>

Article in the Gananoque Reporter, by Michael O'Neill, February 26, 2015

http://virtual.gananoquereporter.com/doc/Gananoque-Reporter/gananoque_reporter-0226/2015022401/7.html#6

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 17th day of October, 2017.



Erika Demchuk, Mayor



Kelly Shipclark, Clerk

(Seal)