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Rec'd
Feb 5/01

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The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

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P.O. Box 100
VIRGIL, ONTARIO
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
507 BUTLER STREET, THE STEWART-ANDERSON HOUSE (Part Lot 337, Township
Plan 86), IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF
ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION, 10 ADELAIDE STREET
EAST, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property, including the lands and building known municipally as **507 BUTLER STREET, THE STEWART-ANDERSON HOUSE**, as a property of architectural and historical value and interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., Chapter O.18

Reasons for the Proposed Designation

The Stewart-Anderson House is recommended for designation for primarily historical reasons as one of the few surviving intact examples of houses built by and for Niagara-on-the-Lake's early Black settlers. It is also a significant example of Niagara-on-the-Lake's early vernacular building style. Built c.1835 for William Stewart, a Black teamster, on property originally granted to Andrew Butler, son of Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler, the house is best described as Neo-Classical in the simple vernacular style of the early nineteenth century and reflects the simpler dignified structures of the early Town. The designation applies more particularly to the entire exterior façade and structure of the house, including the exterior portion of the chimney.

Any person may, not later than the 12th day of March 2001, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Niagara-on-the-lake notice of their objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 5th day of February 2001.

Holly Dowd
Holly Dowd, Deputy Clerk

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REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Stewart-Anderson House 507 Butler Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Stewart-Anderson House is recommended for designation for primarily historical reasons as one of the few surviving intact examples of houses built by and for Niagara-on-the-Lake's early Black settlers. It is also a significant example of Niagara-on-the-Lake's early vernacular building style.

Historical Background

The property, originally granted in 1802 to Andrew Butler, son the Lieutenant-Colonel John Butler, is located outside the main area of the Old Town, on the way to Butler's Burial Ground, straddling an unopened right of way. In 1828, Andrew Butler's son, Joseph Walter Butler, sold the one-acre lot to Niagara merchant Lewis Clement and in 1834; Clement sold the land to William Stewart, newly arrived in Niagara in the Fall of that year. Records indicate that Stewart, who was a black teamster, was able to write his name and that he was one of 17 Black men who signed a petition in 1847, asking that Solomon Moseby, an escaped slave, not be returned to the United States

It is probable that Stewart hired Robert Baxter, a Black carpenter who had just purchased a ½ acre lot on Butler Street from Thomas Butler, to help him build his house. He sold half of his lot to Baxter after the house was finished. Tax assessment records indicate that William Stewart lived in the house until 1847 when he sold his lot to John Oliver, a neighbouring pro-abolitionist farmer whose land eventually became the site of the Black Baptist Church. John Oliver's son, Matthew, inherited the house in 1867 and sold it to his son, Alex, the following year. Later owners include Henry Knapp (1870-74), Charles Hoag and descendants (1874-1949) and, finally Peggy Anderson. It is currently owned and is being restored by the Niagara Foundation.

Architectural Features

Built c.1835, the house is best described as Neo-Classical in the simple vernacular style of the early nineteenth century, unpretentious, small and with a few characteristic, but basic details of its period. It reflects the simpler dignified structures of the early Town and resembles other early houses such as the Dover-Daly House on Platoff Street and the early part of the MacMonigle-Craik House on Gate Street.

Original surviving details on the ground floor include main room finishes and trim including the chair rail, baseboard and architraves to openings; enclosure, stringers and cupboard doors for the stairway; 6 panel front door and hardware; chimney complete with the fireplace; the stovepipe thimble in the west wall; the floor deck and structure; and some sash.

Original surviving details on the second floor include the flooring; the beaded board partition and board door with wrought H hinges; the 6 paned sash and frame of the north end window and the frames of the south end windows.

Designation

This designation applies to the lands and more particularly the entire exterior façade and structure of the house including the exterior portion of the chimney.