

# Staff Report



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Subject	<b>9 and 13 Paisley Street – Notice of Intention to Designate</b>

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## Recommendation

1. That the City Clerk be authorized to publish and serve notice of intention to designate 13 Paisley Street pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
  2. That the designation bylaw be brought before Council for approval if no objections are received within the thirty (30) day objection period.
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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

In November 2022, the Government of the Province of Ontario passed Bill 23 (amended by Bill 185), which made changes to the Ontario Heritage Act that will remove all non-designated properties from the Municipal Heritage Register on January 1, 2027. Heritage planning staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee have been reviewing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council publish its intention to designate 13 Paisley Street pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The cultural heritage significance and heritage attributes of the property are described in this report.

### Key Findings

9 and 13 Paisley Street are listed as a non-designated built heritage resource on the City of Guelph’s Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets two or more of the criteria used to determine cultural heritage value or interest as set out in Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22; see Attachment-1).

Heritage planning staff, in consultation with Heritage Guelph, have completed a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report and statement of significance. Staff have determined that the building at 13 Paisley Street meets four of the nine criteria used to determine cultural heritage value according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as

amended by O. Reg 569/22) under the Ontario Heritage Act. Therefore, the property merits individual heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

## **Strategic Plan Alignment**

The key findings and recommendations of this report align with 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority 6.1.4 to conserve our cultural heritage resources.

### **Future Guelph Theme**

City Building

### **Future Guelph Objectives**

City Building: Grow and care for our community space and places

## **Financial Implications**

None

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# **Report**

## **Location**

9 and 13 Paisley Street (Figure 1) are part of a mixed-use, residential and commercial block on the northwest side of Paisley Street (Figure 2), with a legal description of Part Lot 638 in Plan 8. The building block continues northeast in the adjacent property of 9 and 13 Paisley Street. The balance of both properties is now surface parking.

Figure 1 – 9 and 13 Paisley Street. (Heritage Planning 2025)





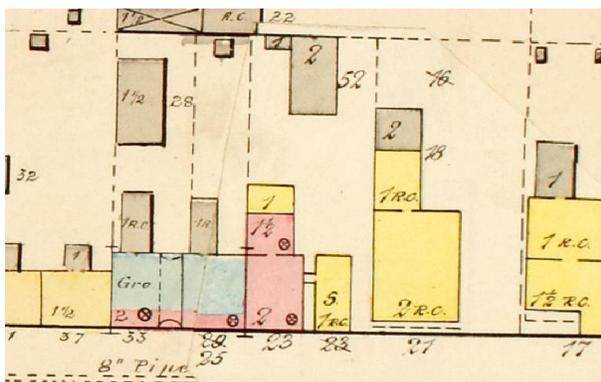
Figure 3 - Detail from Cooper's Map of the Town of Guelph of 1875. (Guelph Civic Museum)



Lots 638 and 639 were severed over the years starting with part of Lot 638 being sold to Francis W. Galbraith by George Smith in 1857. The pieces of Lots 638 and 639 bought by Galbraith make up the modern-day properties of 9, 13, 15 and 17 Paisley Street. Lot 638 was further severed in the sale of part by Jane Galbraith, on behalf of her sibling Francis Galbraith, to Richard Mahoney in 1875. The property was severed again in 1884 when Francis Galbraith sold part of the property to Eliza Humphries, wife of William Humphries, with the added context of the new Married Women's Property Act enacted the very same year. This act made Ontario the first province to give married women the same legal rights as men to buy property and enter into agreements. The final severance came in 1905 when part of Lot 638 was sold to Julia O. Simpson, wife of James H. Simpson, by Jane E. Galbraith.

The subject buildings appear to have been built for commercial and residential purposes. This is evidenced by the 1892 revision of the 1881 Fire Insurance Plan of the City of Guelph (Figure 4), which shows what is known today as 13 Paisley Street addressed as 23 Paisley Street. 23 Paisley St is shown in red as it was built in brick and a single-story, wood frame, roughcast building stood where 9 Paisley St is today. Residentially, the buildings were used either as homes for business owners, whose businesses were operated on the property, or as temporary homes for working-class people before they settled in a more permanent residence. This is evidenced by the frequent turnover of occupants found in the city directories.

Figure 4 - Detail from Fire Insurance Plan, 1881 revised 1892 (Guelph Civic Museum)



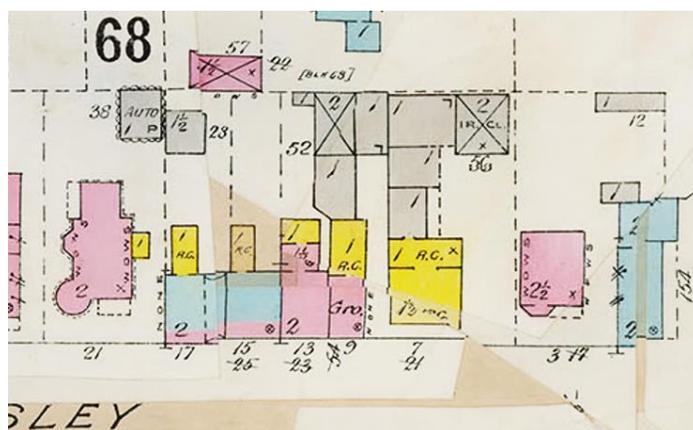
The properties accommodated a series of businesses and business owners over the years. As per the city directories, the first of these shop owners is Joseph H. Dietz, who operated and lived above the grocery store at 33 Paisley with his wife, Pheobe, and their three children. Born in Germany in 1838, Dietz immigrated to Canada, settling in Guelph before opening his store.

The next business noted in the directories is William Humphries' Shop at 23 Paisley (now 13 Paisley St) with Humphries living beside his shop at 25 Paisley (15 Paisley St). Humphries was a painter specializing in signs, homes, and ornamentals. By 1885, the Dietz grocery store was taken over by J. H. Simpson, the last owner of a grocery store in the westmost part of the building, which he would operate until at least 1894. By 1901, the grocery store moved back to the easternmost building replacing Humphries shop and leaving Simpson's shop, and home, vacant.

According to Bonnie Durtnall's History of Bikes in Guelph, a notable occupant of 25 Paisley (now 15 Paisley Street) was W. G. Mitchell, who capitalized on the biking craze of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century by opening Mitchell & Co Bicycles at 126 Quebec Street. One advertisement from 1895 describes the business by noting, *they keep one of the finest stocks of bicycles west of Toronto*. Mitchell moved out of this residence on Paisley by 1905. That same year, a new grocery store opened in the location of Humphries old shop at 23 Paisley, run by John Scott. Mr. Scott lived with his wife in the attached adjacent building at 25 Paisley.

By 1910 two significant changes occurred. The 1-storey, wood frame, roughcast store building shown on the 1881 (1892) Fire Insurance Plan (Figure 4) was replaced by a 2-storey brick extension east of 23 Paisley Street. The 1897 (1911) Fire Insurance Plan (Figure 5) shows that by 1911 the street numbers had been changed - 23 Paisley Street was now 9 and 13 Paisley St while 25 and 33 Paisley St had become 15 and 17 Paisley St.

Figure 5 - Detail from Fire Insurance Plan, 1897 (revised 1911) (Guelph Civic Museum)



The operator of the grocery store at what was now 9 Paisley Street would be replaced by C. T. Hicks. Unlike previous owners, who lived in the building adjacent to the store, Hicks is noted as living in the same building as his business, marking the first time that an occupant's home and business shared an address. This was

possible due to the wooden extension added to the back of the original brick building circa 1907. By 1915, the Nichols Brothers (David and George) replaced Hicks as the operators of the grocery store at 9 Paisley opening Nichols & Sons Grocery. Nichols & Sons was one of the longest-lasting businesses in the properties operating there until 1939. Another notable change was the opening of City Laundry Company at 17 Paisley by J. Sam who lived above the laundromat. This marks the final time a commercial business was located on the western side of the buildings. By 1920 the building became completely residential.

In 1945, when the Nichols brothers retired, the grocery store at 9 Paisley was taken over by Ivan Felcker who operated it and lived in the rear. By 1951, ownership of the store changed again when it was taken over by business partners Albert J. Coady and Edward G. Kendrick who opened Coady & Kendrick Grocery Store. Coady lived in the rear of the store and Kendrick lived at 25 Paisley. Coady & Kendrick Grocery would be the last grocery store within this block and closed sometime after 1970.

## Building Description

9 and 13 Paisley Street have late-Italianate architectural styling with a medium pitched roof and shed roof dormers added to the front and side roof slopes.

The building addressed today as 13 Paisley Street was built between 1862 and 1874 as a continuation of 15 and 17 Paisley Street as a two-story block using an ashlar limestone foundation and buff brick walls that have since been covered with paint (Figure 6).

The window and door heads of 13 Paisley St have a projecting drip moulding in coursed brick. The band course of corbelled brick continues from 15 and 17 Paisley St connecting with the stone sills of the upper windows at 13 and 9 Paisley St. The upper windows on the front of 9 Paisley St are similar but shorter and wider than those on 13 Paisley St.

Figure 6 - 9 and 13 Paisley St (Google Street View 2022)



## **Determination of Cultural Heritage Value**

13 Paisley Street, which forms a part of an original historic block with 15 and 17 Paisley Street, is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act because it meets four of the nine prescribed criteria for determining design and physical value, historical and associative value, and contextual value, as per Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by 569/22.

### **Design/Physical Value**

13 Paisley Street meets Criteria 1 as it is an important part of a representative example of Confederation era building form constructed in a combination of local limestone and buff brick.

The subject property meets Criterion 2 because the building has high physical integrity in that it has retained most of its original architectural design features in limestone and brick and displays a high degree of craftsmanship.

### **Historical/Associative Value**

The subject property meets Criterion 4 because it has direct associations with a theme of historical mixed use involving local stores with housing above – a combination that was conventional in many of Guelph’s residential neighbourhoods since the establishment of the Town and in some cases continuing into the first half of the 20th century.

### **Contextual Value**

The residential and commercial block of 13, 15 and 17 Paisley St meets Criterion 7 because of its prominent front façade forms an uninterrupted block face on the northwest side of Paisley Street that is a fundamental part of the historic Paisley St streetscape in the downtown area.

## **Heritage Attributes**

The following elements of the property at 13 Paisley Street should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

- two-story, building form with a medium pitched roof
- ashlar limestone foundation with buff brick front wall
- location and opening shapes of all original front windows and front door
- front windows and door with projecting drip moulding in coursed brick
- band course of corbelled brick (continued from 15 and 17 Paisley St) connecting with the stone sills of the upper windows at 13 Paisley St

## **Financial Implications**

None

## **Consultations and Engagement**

At their meeting of March 6, 2025, Heritage Guelph passed the following motions:

1. That Heritage Guelph advises City Council that 13 Paisley Street merits designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

2. That Heritage Guelph advises City Council that the committee supports the heritage attributes recommended in the staff report titled 9 and 13 Paisley Street – Draft Council Designation Report and dated March 6, 2025.

Heritage Planning staff are in discussion with the property owner regarding the proposed heritage designation.

## **Attachments**

Attachment-1 Criteria to Determine Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

## **Departmental Approval**

Krista Walkey, MCIP, RPP, General Manager, Planning and Building Services

## **Report Author**

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### **This report was approved by:**

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