

## Description of Property – Doctor’s House, 103 Queen Street

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the Doctor’s House lies in the building’s being an excellent example of an Italianate style house, the house and office of William Mostyn, one of Almonte’s first doctors and a community leader, its historical associations with many of Almonte’s doctors, and its contribution to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood.

The Doctor’s House was constructed in 1868 – 69, one of several stone structures built in Almonte that year. The building has design value as an excellent example of the Italianate style, which was at the height of its popularity in Canada from the 1850s until the 1880s. It is comprised of two sections with the house portion facing Queen Street and the Doctor’s Office facing Clyde Street. Features of the building that identify it with the Italianate style include its limestone masonry with stone quoins, voussoirs and windowsills, three-bay front façade with side hall plan, tall sash windows bracketed eaves and its entrance portico.

The Doctor’s House has historical value as an early purpose-built medical office, constructed during a period in which the practice of medicine in Canada was becoming increasingly professionalized. With the establishment of medical schools, physicians received formal education in therapeutics, anatomy and physiology, surgery, midwifery, and contagious diseases. As a result, these practitioners required dedicated facilities to provide treatment for their patients.

The Doctor’s House also has historical value as the home and office of Dr. William Mostyn, Almonte’s first physician. Mostyn was typical of professional men of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was deeply involved in his community, serving as an MPP, a school trustee and a member of many boards. In addition, he was active in the eastern Ontario Branch of the Medical Council.

The Doctor’s House has contextual value because of its location on Queen Street, in the area formerly known as “Professional Alley.”

### Description of heritage attributes

Key exterior elements that contribute to the heritage value of the Doctor’s House as an excellent example of the Italianate style include:

- Rough-cut limestone masonry laid in uneven courses;
- Shallow hipped gable roof with deep returned eaves with regularly spaced single and paired brackets (main house);
- Three-bay front façade with a side hall plan;

- Flat roofed enclosed portico (constructed after the completion of the house).
- Details of the portico include:
  - Flat roof with a wide cornice with corner brackets,
  - Multipaned transom windows and 18 over one windows in the double entrance doors
- Rectangular ground floor sash windows with stone voussoirs and lintels
- Round-arched second storey six paned sash windows, also with stone voussoirs and lintels
- Tall slender round-arched eight paned window with stone voussoirs and lintel on the Clyde Street façade, to light the stairs inside
- The Doctor's Office wing, a one and a half storey rectangular structure with a shallow gable roof.

Details of the Doctor's House that contribute to its heritage value as a dual-purpose building include;

- The wing containing the Doctor's Office
- Offset doorway
- Irregular fenestration pattern of four-over-four rectangular windows with stone voussoirs and sills flanking a slender four paned window with stone voussoirs and lintel on the ground floor and two small windows above on the Clyde Street facade

Key contextual attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Doctor's House include:

- The property's location at the corner of Queen and Clyde Street, near noteworthy 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, including St. Paul's Anglican Church and Rectory, the Registry Office and the Wylie House
- The property's large side yard

The additions to the rear of the building, including the garage and pool house are not included in this designation. The interior of the building is not included in this designation.