

Heritage Value

The heritage value of 16 Orchard Street lies in its association with the George Zwicker family who were influential amongst the first European settlers in shaping the development of the area; in its long association with the Mader family from 1837 – 1949, who also influenced the way the town developed; in its age and vernacular architecture; and, as a representation of the early history of the community.

John George Zwicker, known as George, was born in 1747 in what is now Germany. He came as a small child with his family during the ‘foreign protestant’ settlement process initiated by the British. In 1777, George Zwicker purchased a 340-acre mill property from Joshua Mauger’s agents at the western area of the bay. He also purchased the unsurveyed town lots which had been granted but not laid out. He then sold off portions of the Mauger Mill Lands to relatives and friends, retaining for himself the area closest to the shore, including the mill.

After George’s death in 1815, his four sons by his second wife each got a share of the homestead [the dwelling at 16 Orchard St.] and mill and divided the remaining mill lands among themselves – 119 acres. One son, Henry, sold all his share in 1837 to John Adam Mader, the great grandson of Ulrich Mader who was also part of the 1753 settlement of Lunenburg. As a blacksmith, John Mader would have benefited from locating his shop at the juncture of the roads to Lunenburg, Chester and Blockhouse.

After John Mader’s death, his heirs divided the remaining 24 acres in a land division recorded on an 1860 plan that shows roads, numbered lots and the “Homestead” lot with a drawing of a house on it. The lots and streets laid out in the Mader plan shaped the development of the town and are clearly in evidence today. His descendants continued to live in the house at 16 Orchard St. until 1949.

The building at 16 Orchard Street was originally set on a large lot with nothing obstructing its prominent position at the town’s crossroads or its view overlooking the harbour. Over time commercial properties along Edgewater Street were sold off from the original homestead so that the house is now cut off from the main streets. After a fire in 1978 gutted much of the interior, subsequent renovations included the addition of dormers and an extension. Despite the changes, this 240+ year-old building is a good example of 18th century architectural vernacular and provides a sense of the history of the town.

Character-Defining Elements

The character-defining elements of the building at 16 Orchard Street relate to its location, its history and its architecture and include the following:

- Location as shown on the 1860 Mader plan of division
- 18th and 19th century architectural details such as the wide roof overhang sitting close to the top of the windows, wide corner boards, large central chimney, horizontal wood cladding and 6/6 windows
- The modest one-and-one-half-storey scale
- Its original site orientation toward the harbour