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Planning and Development Services

October 2, 2024

Sent Via email
Sent Via Registered Mail

OHA Registrar
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

RECEIVED
2024/10/02
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

RE: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 651 RIDGE ROAD NORTH, RIDGEWAY

Please be advised that at its Council-in-Committee meeting held on August 12, 2024, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie considered Report No. PDS-57-2024 and approved the following recommendations:

THAT: Council approves the designation of 651 Ridge Road North as outlined in this report, for architectural, historical and contextual attributes and reasons, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act; pursuant to the recommendation of the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, and further

THAT: Council directs staff to prepare a Designation By-law and provide Notice of Intention to Designate in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

In accordance with Council's direction and pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, please find enclosed a Notice of Intention to Designate the above property. A Notice of Intention to Designate will also be published in the Town's local newspaper on October 10, 2024.

In the event that you have an objection to the proposed designation, you are required to serve a Notice of Objection on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice, being November 9, 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kimberlyn Smith
Junior Community Planner
Town of Fort Erie
905-871-1600 Ext. 2508
ksmith@forterie.ca



THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

Public Notice

Notice of Intention to Designate Under *Ontario Heritage Act* 651 Ridge Road North

Take Notice that upon recommendation of the Town's Museum and Cultural Heritage Committee, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie intends to designate 651 Ridge Road North under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, as being of cultural heritage value or interest for its historical and contextual value.

Description of Property – 651 Ridge Road North – Part Lot 23, Concession 2, Lake Erie, Bertie, Part 1 on 59R15255, in the Town of Fort Erie

651 Ridge Road North is located on Ridge Road North near a historically important crossroad with Nigh Road. It consists of a two-storey frame Georgian building constructed between 1828 and 1851 as a hotel and tavern.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

651 Ridge Road North is a representative example of a residence built in the Georgian architectural style. The two-storey rectangular-shaped building has a steep side gable roof, box-like massing, and symmetrical five-bay façade, which is typical of the Georgian architecture style. Additionally, the symmetrical composition of the subject property, combined with its rhythmically placed rectangular window openings and centrally placed entrance adorned with sidelights and finished with classical detailing, are features associated with the Georgian architectural style.

651 Ridge Road North has associative value as an early business associated with the crossroads at two important early thoroughfares, Ridge Road and Nigh Road, in addition to an association with the Willson family, an early settler family in the Ridgeway area. The Willson family were early settlers to the Ridgeway area who opened and ran a hotel/tavern business just north of the main commercial core of Ridgeway. The inn was established sometime between 1828 and 1851 and was known locally as Willson's Hotel, near Willsons Corners. The Willson family also supplemented their income as farmers, and in 1861 they owned approximately 80 acres in addition to the subject property. The subject property operated as an inn until at least 1871, when Alexander Wilson was listed as a hotel keeper. The Willson's owned the subject property from 1798 until it was sold in 1954, ending approximately 156 years of continuous ownership.

651 Ridge Road North is historically linked to its surroundings. The subject building is an example of an early building in the area. Combined with its function as a tavern for over a century and its occupation by the Wilson family for over 150 years, as well as its proximity to Wilson's Corners, the subject property provides a historical link to its surroundings.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key elements that contribute to the heritage value of 651 Ridge Road North include:

- Two-storey Georgian architecture-style building
- Side gable roof
- Box-like massing
- Symmetrical five-bay façade and two-bay side elevations
- Rhythmically placed rectangular window openings
- Formal front entrance with sidelights and classical detailing
- Red brick chimney
- Location along Ridge Road North near major crossroads

A more detailed description of the property's cultural heritage value or interest may be found in Council Report PDS-57-2024 dated August 12th, 2024.

Further information respecting the Notice of Intention to Designate the property is available from the Town of Fort Erie by contacting Kimberlyn Smith, Junior Community Planner, at (905) 871-1600, Ext. 2508, or by email at ksmith@forterie.ca.

Notice of Objection

Any person may, within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this Notice of Intention to Designate, serve on the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie a Notice of Objection to this proposed designation, setting out the reasons for this objection and all relevant facts.

If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Town of Fort Erie shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the Notice of Intention to Designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation by-law must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intention to Designate. Council must publish a notice of passing of the designation by-law, which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the by-law may be made to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Where no Notice of Objection is served, Council may pass a by-law designating the property.

Peter Todd, Manager, Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6
(905) 871-1600, Ext. 2211
clerk@forterie.ca