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(Lennor & Addington)



TOWNSHIP OF ERNESTOWN

JUL 14 1994

July 8, 1994

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Fairfield House - Designation Under
Part IV of Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised that the Township of Ernestown's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee has recommended that the Fairfield House and surrounding lands, located in part of lot 37, Concession Broken Front, be considered for designation for architectural and historic reasons under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 0.18, R.S.O. 1990.

The Council of the Township of Ernestown has supported this position, and it is the intent to adopt the required by-law at the Council meeting to be held August 8, 1994.

If you have concerns, please follow the instructions in the attached notice.

Yours truly,

Brenda J.H. Loyst, A.M.C.T.
Deputy Clerk

BL/sc

NOTICE

JUL 14 1994

TAKE NOTICE the Corporation of the Township of Ernestown proposes to designate lands and/or buildings of historic and/or architectural value as per Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

DESCRIPTION

The property involved is legally described as part of Lot 37, Concession B.F. in front of Concession 1, Community of Amherstview, and is located on the south side of Highway 33 (Bath Road). The structure, known as the Fairfield-White House, is used as a museum and the surrounding lands as a park.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The structure, known as either the Fairfield House or Fairfield-White House, has been recommended by the Ernestown Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee to be designated. Areas that would be included in the designation for architectural and historical reasons, would include the full exterior and interior (excepting service features introduced in the 1980s) of the Fairfield House, the historical components of its adjoining shed and portions of the surrounding site.

Fairfield House was completed, according to tradition, in 1793. The Province first marked its significance with a plaque in 1959, updated in 1985 to recognize Fairfield House as a "superb example of an 18th century dwelling" and "an outstanding physical record of 18th century building techniques." The timber-framing with clapboard covering and the steeply pitched gable roof with ridge parallel to length of the house, as well as the interior details, originate in the vernacular building traditions of New England. The rectangular centre-hall floor plan, the facade with balanced fenestration on either side of the entrance door, the two chimneys at opposite ends of the house, and fireplace woodwork details show the influence Georgian styles had on vernacular building by the late 1700s. The double verandah and French windows on the second level were added to the facade about 1860.

The 1793 kitchen wing contains a complete small house frame, separate from and possibly earlier than the main house. The second storey was added in the 1860s. The shed connects with the kitchen and formerly had a stone bakeoven, as well as an attached privy. The metal roof and interior structural reinforcements of the early 1980s are measures taken to provide interim stability.

Fairfield House and its site are complementary. Historically they are links to the Loyalist beginnings Ernestown shared with other parts of the Province. From 1784 into the 1950s, the Fairfield homestead was the hub of family activities that reflect the rural nature and the growth of Ernestown. The site initially provided the essential building materials and later evolved into the farm that surrounded the house. The only traces of the extensive Fairfield farm are the old apple trees from the Fairfields' orchard west of the house.

The parkland itself has historical significance. The site of the Fairfields' original dwelling was east of Fairfield House. The low shore in that direction ~~also allowed boats access to the land.~~ Transportation by water and by the original lakefront road from Kingston to Bath are represented by features of the lakefront, which also includes significant outcrops of fossil-bearing limestone. In front of the house and along the shore passes the original roadbed of the Kingston to Bath road.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may object to this proposed designation by filing with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Ernestown not later than the 8th day of August 1994 a Notice of Objection including reasons in support of the objection.

ANY questions on this matter should be directed to Murray Beckel, Planner, at 386-7351.

DATED at the Township of Ernestown this 9th day of July 1994.

Brenda J.H. Loyst, A.M.C.T.
Deputy Clerk
Township of Ernestown
P.O. Box 70
Odessa, Ontario
K0H 2H0