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# Office of the Clerk

*Ningua*

CAROLYN J. BOOTH, A.M.C.T.  
*Town Clerk*

November 4, 1997

REGISTERED MAIL

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

Re: Notice of Intention to designate under the  
Ontario Heritage Act - The Point Abino Lighthouse -  
Point Abino Road South, Town of Fort Erie

R01.09

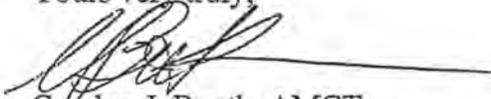
Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice to Designate the lands described therein as one of architectural and historical value.

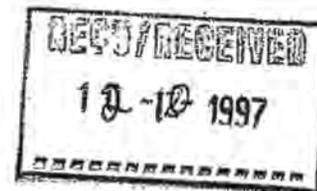
You will note that any person may within thirty days of this notice mail or deliver their objection to the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie.

Would you kindly notify us as soon as possible whether or not you have any objections to the Notice of Intention.

Yours very truly,

  
Carolyn J. Booth, AMCT  
Town Clerk

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Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
Municipal Centre  
Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone (905) 871-1600

Fax (905) 871-4022

The Municipal Corporation of the  
Town of Fort Erie  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990  
CHAPTER O.18  
DESIGNATION OF POINT ABINO LIGHTHOUSE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, described as lands on the south of the roadway fronting the shore lots in Block D, Part of Lot 32, in the Broken Front Concession Lake Erie for the former Township of Bertie, now known as the Town of Fort Erie and commonly known as the Point Abino Lighthouse, (metes and bounds description available) as property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Point Abino Lighthouse and lighthouse dwelling were built in 1918 by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Point Abino was one of over forty lighthouses constructed during the first two decades of the twentieth century. This was Canada's last period of manned lighthouse construction. When the new and larger Welland Canal opened in 1932, the Point Abino Lighthouse provided improved navigational aid to Great Lake freighters.

The Point Abino Lighthouse is considered an architectural rarity not only on the Great Lakes, but out of all of Canada's 264 major lighthouses. The Point Abino Lighthouse is a square, slightly tapered tower with a polygonal lantern. It is distinguished from the other concrete towers by its unusual shape, massiveness, and ornate classical detailing. The lighthouse is approached from the shore by a rather grand staircase which gives access to the platform. The classical detailing of the formal, temple-like facade is continued on all sides. Ornamentation on the tower follows the classical, tri-partite division referring to base, shaft and capital of classical columns. The windows are surrounded by cast concrete arches with key-stone and pedimented entablature. The cap or platform flares out from the shaft and is surrounded by a decorative, cross-braced balustrade.

The tower, which rises 87 feet above high water, is divided into five floors (including the lantern platform). The glazed lantern houses an electric 400 watt mercury vapour lamp which is magnified by glass prisms with an intensity of 50,000 candle power. The light can be seen sixteen miles in clear weather.

The Point Abino Lighthouse was constructed as a reinforced concrete shell which was lined with brick at the base and on the fourth level of the tower. The brick lining was separated from the concrete by an air space which acted as an insulator against cold and dampness. These areas housed equipment and the keeper's watch room. The Department's experience with previous towers gave Point Abino a more refined design in concrete and the cast concrete itself lends to a crisp and modeled look of classical themes. The building has survived the elements very well with normal maintenance.

Since the Point Abino Lighthouse was built on a shelf of rock (which at high water was submerged) it was necessary to house all the equipment within the structure. The basement houses a cistern, a coal bin and oil tanks. The ground floor houses the engine room with a diesel-powered generator and fog horn alarm.

The lighthouse was designed by employees of the Department but was built by private contractors. The Point Abino Lighthouse is, however, one of the most elaborately designed of any of the Department's light stations. This is due to its proximity to an up-scale residential area and the Department's wish to appease the local residents. The site and the buildings have been carefully maintained and minimally changed since 1918.

The site of the Point Abino Lighthouse was chosen so that the light could be seen from Port Colborne to the west and Buffalo to the east. The lighthouse is a visual point of reference between the two centres. Point Abino is located on the north shore of Lake Erie and it warns of a reef extending into the lake from the point.

The lighthouse is an important symbolic and visual landmark in Fort Erie and the greater area. It is, by definition, a landmark and is undoubtedly familiar to thousands of Lake Erie navigators. The Point Abino Lighthouse has always attracted considerable attention from nearby communities and lighthouse enthusiasts. It ceased operating in 1996.

Any person may, on or before November 7, 1997, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie, his/her objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing. Where no Notice of Objection is served, the Council will consider a by-law to designate the aforesaid property on November 17, 1997.

Dated at Fort Erie, Ontario this 7th day of October, 1997.

Carolyn J. Booth, AMCT  
Town Clerk