



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.



Planning, Building and By-law Services

December 2, 2025

Sent Via email

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

RECEIVED
2025/12/02
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

RE: NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 400 CENTRAL AVENUE, FORT ERIE

Please be advised that at its Council-in-Committee meeting held on September 8, 2025, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie considered Report No. PBBS-63-2025 and approved the following recommendations:

THAT: Council approves the designation of 400 Central Avenue 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 attached 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.

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, December 27, 2025.

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* Part of 400 Central Avenue

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 Part of 400 Central Avenue on which the Fort Erie Railway Museum is situated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, as amended, as being of cultural heritage value or interest for its historical and contextual value.

Description of Property: Part of 400 Central Avenue – Part of Block J Plan 525, Part of Athley Road Plan 531, Part of Block G Plan 531, all of Lot 196 Plan 531 and Part of Lots 197, 200, 201, 203, 204, and 205 Plan 531 designated as Part 1 on 59R-3996; Fort Erie

The property being Part of 400 Central Avenue is a designed landscape which serves as the Fort Erie Railway Museum. It is located on the east side of Central Avenue in the historic Village of Bridgeburg, now part of the Town of Fort Erie. The property contains two former train stations: 1. Ridgeway Station built in 1901 in the settlement of Ridgeway and was moved to the property in 1975; and 2. GTR B-1 Station which was located on the Canadian side of the International Bridge, was built in 1873 and was moved to its current location at the Fort Erie Railway Museum in 1982. The property also houses a historical steam engine and a caboose.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The part of 400 Central Avenue on which the Fort Erie Railway Museum is situated (the "Property") contains a representative example of an early 20th century train station design, known as the Ridgeway Train Station. The building was constructed in 1901. The one storey building follows a rectangular plan and has a long and low massing consistent with train stations of this era. The Hip Dutch gable roof with overhanging bell-cast eaves, eyebrow dormer, two-storey tower with classical elements and the rhythmic composition of the window opening across all elevations are legible and representative of train station design. The frame building with a combination and placement of vertical wood siding and horizontal staggered wood shingles also help distinguish it as a former train station.

The Property contains a representative example of a brick building constructed with Gothic Revival architecture influences. The one-and-a-half storey "T-shaped" plan building has an intersecting gable roof, brick construction with raised quoins and decorative brickwork in gable ends which is typical massing and ornamentation of buildings constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Additionally, the tall and segmentally arched window openings, small openings in gable peaks, and canted bay window are all additional features of the Gothic Revival style.

The Property is associated with Fort Erie's railway history as a museum and repository for buildings and artifacts related to Fort Erie's railway industry, which at one point hosted the third largest rail yard in Canada and employed many town residents. A proposal for a railway museum located in Fort Erie was first developed in 1969, although there was little municipal support for the idea at that time. In 1972, an easement was acquired for the museum within Oakes Park, adjacent to the Sugarbowl on the east side of Central Avenue. The current footprint of the site was developed in 1974, and the museum began with the acquisition of steam powered Engine

#6218, also known as "Pride of Fort Erie" when it was retired in 1973 and presented to the town along with damaged Caboose #79138. As a testament to Fort Erie's railway history, the Ridgeway Station was relocated to the museum in 1975 to serve as the main exhibit hall, and seven years later, in 1982, the B-1 GTR Station, which had originally been located next to the International Bridge from Bridgeburg to Black Rock, New York, was also relocated to the museum in order to serve as an office and gift shop. The museum is a testament to Fort Erie's railway history, which depended on the rail corridors for its livelihood beginning in the mid-19th century and is managed by the Fort Erie Historical Museum Board which also administers Fort Erie's other museum and historical sites.

Although not in their original locations, the Ridgeway Station and B-1 Station illustrate the association of each of their original communities with the rail lines that helped spur their development. The Ridgeway Station was built around 1901 as a replacement for the original station, which had been built around 1856 and was located on the opposite side of Disher Street. The rail station was integral to the development of Ridgeway as a settlement, as the town grew around the intersection of Ridge Road and the rail corridor, which formed the nucleus of the village. Even today many businesses in Ridgeway are still clustered within three blocks of the rail station's former location. The 1901 Ridgeway Station was considered one of the most attractive Grand Trunk railway stations and was admired as an architectural landmark in the community. The station was relocated to the Fort Erie Railroad Museum in 1975. The B-1 GTR Station was built in 1873, the same year the International Bridge opened to rail traffic. Its sister station, known as B-2, was located across the Niagara River in Black Rock, New York. The station was not used for passenger access and was instead used as an inspection station for trains and goods passing back and forth across the International Bridge, as well as serving as a headquarters for officers that noted water conditions of the Niagara River, the condition of the bridge itself, as well as other duties. The International Bridge and its associated rail stations made Fort Erie one of the main entrance points for all rail freight along the Canada-United States border and facilitated the growth of rail yards in both Fort Erie and Buffalo, New York. Over the years the B-1 Station became dilapidated and was saved from demolition by local outcry. The station was moved to the Fort Erie Railroad Museum in 1982, where it was restored and is now used as a gift shop and museum office.

The Property is a well-known tourist attraction and museum and is a landmark within the local community. Located on the east side of Central Avenue, the property was designed specifically as a museum in the early 1970s, and the relocation of Engine #6218, also known as "Pride of Fort Erie" when it was retired in 1973 and presented to the town along with Caboose #79138, in addition to the relocation of two discontinued railway stations makes the property memorable and easily discernible. The property is a conspicuous feature that serves as a local tourist attraction.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key elements that contribute to the heritage value of The Property include:

- Location and siting of the museum near Fort Erie's former rail yards
- One-storey frame former train station (Ridgeway Station)
- One-and-a-half storey brick former train station (B-1 Station)
- Historical steam engine and caboose
- Ridgeway Station
 - One-storey frame former train station
 - Rectangular plan with long, low massing
 - Hip Dutch gable roof
 - Overhanging bell-cast eaves
 - Eyebrow dormers
 - Two-storey tower with classical elements
 - Rhythmic composition of window openings with wood sills and surrounds
- B-1 Station
 - One-and-a-half storey brick former train station
 - T-shaped plan
 - Intersecting gable roof
 - Quoins
 - Diamond and "X" motif brickwork front gables
 - Segmentally arched window openings with radiating brick voussoirs, raised stepped brickwork surround and stone sills
 - Canted Bay window

A more detailed description of the property's cultural heritage value or interest may be found in Council Report PBBS-63-2025 dated September 8, 2025.

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 the 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