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*Niagara*

# Clerk's Office

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

RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE

DEC 23 1993

ARCHITECTURE AND  
PLANNING

December 15, 1993

*Nancy Smith*

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

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

File #R01.06

Dear Sir/Madam:

REGISTERED MAIL

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  
CJB:dlk

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
206 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada L2A 2S6

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

Phone (416) 871-1600

Fax (416) 871-9984

The Municipal Corporation of the  
Town of Fort Erie

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990  
CHAPTER 0.18

AND

IN THE MATTER OF LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING  
LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

**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 Part of Block A, registered Plan 38 for the former Township of Bertie, now known as Plan 995 in the Town of Fort Erie, located on the south west side of Point Abino Road and commonly known as the Holloway Memorial Chapel, as property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

The original Holloway Chapel, built in 1894, was a small one-storey, wooden country church of no recognizable style with neither plumbing nor electrical facilities.

By the 1950's the little building, constantly exposed to high water and winter winds, had deteriorated badly. At this time Mr. William Baird, a nearby property owner, hired local Canadian builder, Elmer Zimmerman, to rehabilitate the chapel, make desirable improvements, and bring it up to code. This collaboration, involving Baird, Zimmerman and the Chapel Board, resulted in the present Holloway Chapel, which was moved at this time a few hundred feet to higher ground.

The present architecture of the Holloway Chapel is vaguely New-England-Colonial-Revival.—The design of the Chapel approximates that of the eighteenth-century village churches of the northeast area of the U.S. and Canada. The design was carried in the minds of early settlers from England and Scotland.

The Holloway Chapel follows this traditional plan, which calls for a rectangular, shed-like building with a gable at each end. As often consistent with this style, the Holloway Chapel has a welcoming, open portico attached to the front and a simple Christopher Wren-style steeple rising from the roof above the front gable. The Chapel also has the original large casement windows, with their diamond-shaped panes, filling the sides of the building. The portico, the steeple, and the windows are notable exterior features of the Chapel, which is built of white wooden clapboarding, chiefly from the original building. It has no vinyl, aluminum, or other artificial materials. It is these decorative features that form part of the specialness of the Chapel and add support to a claim for local plaque recognition.

Added to these exterior features are the improved, charming siting on a natural slope looking out on Abino Bay.

Inside the Chapel, almost all of the original, 100 year old structure remains. The windows are intact, as are the original pews, the "matchboard" grooved wainscotting going all around the sanctuary, the "reeded" doorway architrave moulding. These features are typical of the 1890's, according to on-the-site comments made by Peter Stokes, the Niagara-on-the-Lake restoration architect and a member of the Niagara Township LACAC Committee.

Appropriate Colonial fixtures have been added, an electric organ in a mahogany case, a communion rail, and a simple pulpit. Just inside the main portal are a bathroom on one side and a minister's-robing-room on the other. These are improvements over the original, and in Mr. Stoke's words, "part of the evolution of the building". They do not detract from the original integrity of the structure.

The Holloway Chapel exterior, interior, and landscaping are in excellent condition.

In regard to historical criteria, the Holloway Chapel would also seem to qualify for local plaque recognition. In a sense it symbolizes the American-formed settlement on Point Abino in its evocation of an early New England Colonial-Revival country church. It is named after the business man who founded the first commercial business on the Point and whose descendants began the first modern settlement there. The chapel also symbolizes the religious freedom of both countries in that it is, I think, the only non-sectarian house of worship in the Greater Fort Erie area, open to all peoples, and featuring each Sunday in the summer an American or Canadian guest preacher of various faiths.

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In local history, too, the Chapel takes on some of the legendary folklore of the Jesuit priest, Father Aveneau, who is said to have stopped at the Point about 1678 to Christianize the Indians here.

Also connected with the site of the Chapel are the Neutral Indians, of which a thousand or more lived on the Point until they were caught in the crossfire between the Iroquois and the Hurons and were all but eliminated.

Any person may within thirty days after the date of the first publication of this Notice of Intention to designate, 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 January 10th, 1994.

Dated at Fort Erie, Ontario this 21st day of December, 1993.

Fort Erie Times Review  
THREE EDITIONS  
December 21st, 28th, 1993 and January 4th, 1994

Carolyn J. Booth, AMCT  
Town Clerk  
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