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CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW No. 80-438

A BY-LAW to designate the Property  
at No. 135 Bradley Street of  
architectural value and of historic  
interest.

BY-LAW read a first, second and third  
time and passed this 15<sup>th</sup>  
day of December 19 80.

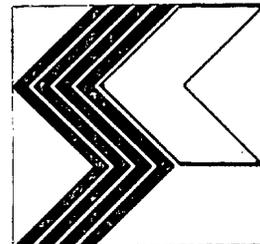


Clerk

# CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BOX 3012  
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 7C2  
PHONE (416) 688-5600

T. R. HOLLICK  
CITY CLERK



January 9th 1981

Kathy McLaughlin  
Ministry of Culture and Recreation  
Heritage Administration Branch  
7th Floor, 77 Bloor Street West  
TORONTO M7A 2R9

Dear Ms. McLaughlin

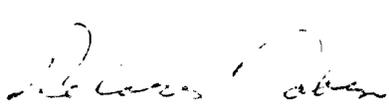
Re: Designation of 135 Bradley Street (Locktender's House)  
Under the Terms of The Ontario Heritage Act 1974 SO  
Chapter 122, Our File Number 10,64,119

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Thank you for returning the designating by-law, number 80-438, as requested recently. The legal description has been corrected and the by-law is returned herewith.

Also enclosed, for your own files, is the paperwork returned to us in error.

Yours truly

  
Delores Tobin  
Assistant Clerk (Legislation)

djp

RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE  
JAN 13 1981  
HERITAGE  
ADMINISTRATION  
BRANCH

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

BY-LAW NO. 80-438

A By-law to designate the Property at No. 135 Bradley Street of architectural value and of historic interest.

WHEREAS The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines has caused to be served upon the owner of the lands and premises known as No. 135 Bradley Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out as Schedule "B" hereto;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the said proposed designation has been served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historic value or interest the real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto, known as No. 135 Bradley Street.
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of St. Catharines.

PASSED this

15<sup>th</sup>

day of

December

1980.

  
CLERK

  
MAYOR

SCHEDULE "A"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of St. Catharines in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, formerly in the Town of Merritton in the County of Lincoln, and being composed of Lot No. 834 according to a compiled plan for the Town of Merritton deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Lincoln as Corporation Plan No. 6.

SCHEDULE "B"



LOCKTENDER'S HOUSE

ADDRESS: 135 Bradley Street

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: a) Present - Lot 834, Corporation Plan 6  
b) Past - Lot 10, Concession X Grantham

BUILT: Circa 1849-51

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

PRESENT OWNER AND USE: [REDACTED]  
Residential (single)

ORIGINAL OWNER AND USE: Department of Public Works, Canada West  
Semi-detached Locktenders' Residence

### SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which this building is located was originally part of a 100 acre Crown Grant in 1804 to Jacob Ball Sr. After passing through various members of the Ball family, the property was sold to the Board of Works in 1844 and to the Welland Canal Loan Company in 1852. Mr. David M. Florence purchased the house in 1937 from the Crown for \$800.

An interesting feature of this house is that the backyard was once a quarry. Some of the stone used on the Second Welland Canal was apparently quarried at this location.

### DESCRIPTION

This was a similar structure to #77, 79 Bradley Street but has been converted into a single family residence. It is a 1½ storey building made of local sandstone laid in random coursing with dressed limestone quoins at the corners.

The gable roof with its simple chimneys at each gable is trimmed with extended bargeboard, complete with eave returns and frieze.

An enclosed stone vestibule entrance at the front and a large clapboard addition to the rear have been constructed over the years.

Door and window openings are simple design with cut stone lintels and lugsills. A pair of eyebrow windows are located just below the eaves on the front facade.

### LOCKTENDERS' HOUSES

During the boom of the 1840's there was a massive influx of unemployed people into St. Catharines. The Irish in particular were fleeing one of the greatest 19th century famines. This migration created a great deal of hardship in the community. Buildings crudely built of wooden slabs went up daily in the Oak and Elm Streets area of Merritton. This concentration of shanties became known as Slabtown.

The "Battle of Slabtown" eventually influenced the decision to build the Locktenders' houses. More of a skirmish than a battle, the confrontation had great local implications.

In 1847 Irish Orangeman (Protestants) petitioned for a lodge and were so granted in the summer of 1848. The Lodge was organized to meet in Duffin's Tavern, now the site of the Lincoln County Board of Education. Many townspeople felt that this would lead to more trouble and in fact, it was the tavern that was the scene of the battle.

On July 12, 1849 the Orangemen were celebrating by attending a dinner at their Headquarters. It was the 'Glorious Twelfth', an occasion commemorating the Battle of the Boyne, and the members of the Slabtown Lodge said they would 'walk'; the Catholics determined that they would 'not walk'. Problems arose when the Orangemen damned the "Papists". On hearing of the celebrations, the Irish Catholics set out to put a stop to it. However, after a great deal of persuasion, a local priest managed to calm the men down and convince them that they should take a route home which wouldn't pass the Orangemen's Lodge. Nevertheless, some of the more radical of the group decided to go down to the Lodge at Duffin's Tavern

and strike up three cheers --- one for the Queen, one for the Govenor, and one for the Pope. During the last cheer one of the more inebriated men fired a shot from his pistol which broke the window of the Tavern and interrupted the celebrations. In the resulting melee two men were killed and another two seriously wounded.

There were other problems on the canal on the morning of July 12 when a Catholic Locktender passing a vessel through a lock was assailed by two Orangemen. Retaliation was threatened so the Canadian Government stationed "a party of the Coloured Corps" in Slabtown. (4) p. 49 The ill feelings towards the Locktenders and the need for solid stone structures is emphasized in the following account:

Two new Locktenders have been appointed within a month or two;...These two men since their appointment are outcasts. They will not be received into a house or get lodging in the vicinity...No slight temporary shed or frame building would be considered safe, and unless the Commissioners are disposed to permit the whole of these situations to be filled exclusively by the one party, some expense must be gone to provide houses. There are no houses that are suitable, convenient or that can be rented. (4) p. 50

In order to avoid the negative influence that Slabtown was having on his Locktenders, the Chief Engineer of the Board of Works, Hamilton H. Killaly, recommended that dwellings be built to accommodate those men operating the locks. This was contained in the excerpt from the following letter dated July 17, 1849:

...I conceive there might be 7 or 8 lockhouses at least at once built permanently which will cost 120 each (the tender at 100 having been withdrawn), and to provide temporary accommodation for these men would cost nearly one half the cost of the other...I will take no steps in the matter, however, until I learn the decision of the Commissioners.\*

The Department of Public Works continued to provide housing for their employees after the decision to build these Locktenders' Houses.

The tender for the construction of these buildings was called for in 1849 and construction likely took place in 1850-51. The April 8, 1852 issue of the St. Catharines Journal makes the following reference to the newly-erected buildings:

THE WELLAND CANAL - We are pleased to note the activity indicative of the return of navigation along the line of the canal. We notice with pleasure the erection of good stone houses as a residence for the locktenders alike convenient and respectable. Formerly it was quite a piece of exploration to find in which of a number of shanties the locktender resided but now there will be no such difficulty.

Three semi-detached buildings were built in the Mountain Locks section of the Second Canal opposite Locks 15, 18, and 19 to house six Locktenders and their families. Their close proximity to the canal was important for the operation of the waterway, the Locktenders being required to handle two or three locks (and eventually, even the boat crews were expected to help in order to save the government money). In the winter the Locktenders and their helpers doubled as maintenance workers on the canal.

#### REMARKS

\*\* Due to the many disturbances which were occurring along the line of the canal, a Company of soldiers was raised from amongst the coloured men settled in the Province. In addition to which a party of mounted police were stationed along the line. These measures prevented further outbreaks.

\* Canadian currency was changed from sterling to \$ decimal by a law passed in June of 1857.