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Niagara

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CITY OF WELLAND
ONTARIO
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
411 EAST MAIN ST.
L3B 3X4

97-50

January 29th, 1997

Dear Sirs:

Re: Proposed Designation Under
Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
The Bridgetender's House
44 Merritt Street

In accordance with the requirements of Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, enclosed herewith please find Notice of Intention to Designate the above-referenced structure under Part IV of the legislation.

For your reference, I have attached a copy of the Council resolution and the background report prepared for the Welland Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and City Council.

Yours very truly,

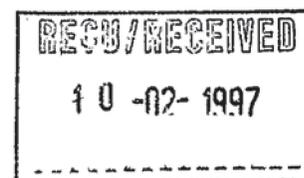
DONNA VETTORI
Assistant Clerk

DV:ck

Enclosures

c.c. - Mr. G. Chipman, Chairman
- Mrs. R. Mantesso, L.A.C.A.C. Co-ordinator

The Ontario Heritage Foundation
7th Floor
77 Bloor Street West
TORONTO, ON M7A 2R9



(Crest)

In the matter of the Ontario Heritage Act,
R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18

And in the matter of the structure
and property known municipally as
"The Bridgetender's House"

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Welland intends to designate the property know as "The Bridgetender's House" and located municipally at 44 Merritt Street as a property of historical interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

This house was built circa 1855-56 by William Page on a lot that was originally part of the pioneer Shotwell farm. The Shotwells were Welsh Americans who settled along the Welland River about 1800. William Page was a member of a United Empire Loyalist family from Vermont who settled in the Quaker Road area, also during the early 19th century. Page was a bookkeeper and later a nurseryman who served Welland as a Councillor in 1877 and 1878. In November 1856 Page sold the house to Rebecca F. Winters. During her ownership it was rented to (among others) Benjamin Diffin, a member of a United Empire Loyalist family and cooper by trade who operated a tavern at the north-east corner of West Main and Fraser Streets and served as a Welland Village Councillor in 1869. The property passed back into the Shotwell family when Elijah Shotwell purchased it from the Winters' estate in 1875. Mr. Shotwell's second wife, Eunice continued to live there after his death in 1899. In 1905 she married Thomas Lord Box. Mr. Box was born in Bedford, England and came to Canada in 1842. During the 1860's he served as Welland's Bridgetender, and later worked as a pattern maker for M. Beatty and Sons. In 1915 the house passed into the hands of Addie Hill. Later owners were Oliver and Florence Gordon and Gerald E. Nash, owner of a Ford dealership on East Main and later Niagara Streets. Among the tenants of the house during the 1930's and 40's was Howard A. Snelling, a well respected educator who was principal of Welland High School for 21 years.

This small, one and one half storey house built of Hooker brick was one of the earliest brick houses built in Welland. It exhibits an eclectic mixture of mid nineteenth century detail including a Greek Revival type gable front arrangement, Neoclassical style front entrance, Neoclassical or Adam style windows of six over six panes and two sets of Regency style French doors of sixteen panes each on the south and east sides, all of which have much of their original glass and hardware. The interior of the main section of the house retains much of its original mid-nineteenth century wood trim, doors and hardware on both floors, including Classical Revival style "eared jambs" typical of the 1850's in the first floor front hall and living room.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation may be filed with the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Welland not later than the 3rd day of March, 1997.

Dated at the City of Welland this 1st day of February, 1997.

CRAIG A. STIRTZINGER,
City Clerk,
City Hall, 411 East Main Street,
Welland, Ontario L3B 3X4

Insertions: The Welland Tribune
Saturday February 1st, 1997