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# LEE, ROCHE & KELLY

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES

NICHOLAS B. ROCHE, B.A., LL.B.

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ERNEST P. LEE, Q.C. (1929-1981)

6 DOMINION STREET  
P.O. BOX 990  
BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO  
POB 100

TELEPHONE 645-2286  
AREA CODE (705)

"REGISTERED MAIL"

July 15, 1985.

Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Bloor Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: Town of Bracebridge and Burton  
Old Post Office Historical Designation

I enclose herewith one copy of a "Notice of Intention to Designate" regarding the Old Post Office building and clock tower at 49 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge, Ontario.

This notice is served on you pursuant to Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,  
LEE, ROCHE & KELLY



per: N. B. Roche  
NBR/lmf  
Encl.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,  
R.S.O. 1980, CHAPTER 337;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES  
AT THE FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Bloor Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M7A 2R9.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Coporation of the Town of Bracebridge intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337:

- (a) 49 Manitoba Street (Old Post Office building and clock tower)

REASONS FOR PROPOSED DESIGNATION:

In the year 1908, the Bracebridge Town Council took an option on the property owned by John McCosh at the corner of Manitoba and Thomas Streets. For some years prior thereto, the Federal Government had promised to the citizens of Bracebridge that a new Federal Building would be erected in Bracebridge to house the post office and the Customs Office. The property was purchased by the Federal Government from the McCosh family in 1911.

In 1912, it was announced that \$18,000. had been included in the supplementary estimates for a Dominion Government Building in Bracebridge for Post Office and Customs purposes.

The plans for the new building were drawn up by Donald Ewald, chief architect, and were based on a set of standard plans for public buildings constructed in many Ontario towns during this era, skilfully using local materials and craftsmanship. The building has served as a focal point in the town for seventy years.

The building was erected in 1914-15 and the Post Office moved into the new building on May 4th, 1915.

A striking architectural feature of the building is the clock tower. The clock was installed in November of 1914 by J. H. Elliott of Bracebridge, and the timepiece is described as having four dials, each 4½ feet in diameter, with hands 2½ feet long, with the faces illuminated by electric light and a striking bell weighing 800 pounds. The clock tower is a unique feature of the building and is a focal point in the Town of Bracebridge. The clock keeps excellent time and rings on the hour.

The building was used as the Post Office for the Town of Bracebridge from 1915 until 1959. The one-storey rear section of the building housed the 122nd South Muskoka Regiment during World War II, and a 20-yard target range was located in the basement of that section.

When a new Federal Building was completed in 1959, the building was sold by public tender to John P. Burton Senior.

The exterior of the building remains unchanged since it was built in 1915, and the interior has been renovated to house several offices and apartments.)

The building was later purchased by Robert Burton in 1972.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Bracebridge before the 19th day of August, 1985.

DATED at Bracebridge this 15th day of July , 1985.



Clerk of the  
Corporation of the  
Town of Bracebridge