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The Corporation of the  
County of Prince Edward  
PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES



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June 17, 1999

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

REGISTERED MAIL

Attention: Mr. Allan Gotlieb, Chair

Dear Mr. Gotlieb

**Re: Designation of Three Properties in the County of Prince Edward under  
Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18**

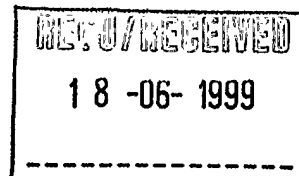
Pursuant to the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act, please find enclosed a copy of the Notice of Intention to designate the Regent Theatre, the Bethesda Church and Driveshed, and the County Grandstand at the Fairgrounds, together with the Reasons for Designation. The Notice will also be published in the next issue of the County Guide. Designation of these properties was recommended by the Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee and will be considered by County Council following completion of the statutory public notification period.

I trust that you will find this in order.

Yours truly,

E. Gardzinski  
Deputy Planning Director/Secretary, PEHAC

c. Court Noxon, PEHAC Chair  
Glen Knox, County Clerk



**Notice of Intention to Designate  
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward**



In the matter of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, and in the matter of certain lands and premises in the County of Prince Edward, take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal addresses as properties of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Act, for the reasons stated below:

① **Regent Theatre, 222-228 Picton Main St., Lots 941&984, R.P. No.24, Picton, Ward 1**

George and Ellen Cook purchased the 'Allan Block' in June 1918 and opened it as 'The Regent Moving Picture House' in November 1918. It quickly became the entertainment and cultural centre of the County. In 1982, the Regent Theatre Foundation was incorporated as a non profit community organization committed to the re-opening of the Regent and after countless hours of volunteer time and generous donations the theatre was purchased and opened in 1994.

The building is an 1830's brick building, a smaller twin of the Stevenson building a block up Main Street. The present Facade was part of a 1931 renovation in the 'California Hollywood' style. With the marquee, the central theatre doors and the flanking business premises it has dominated the downtown streetscape for 68 years. The Lobby was also renovated in 1931 and represents a bit of frozen time with its terrazzo floor, frieze of cherubs, mirrored wooden doors, tin ceiling and period ticket office. A third unique feature is the Fly Tower over the stage area. As far as intensive research can tell, it is the only remaining theatre with an intact fly tower between Montreal and Toronto.

② **Bethesda Church and Driveshed, 1483 Fish Lake Rd., Part of Lot 22, Conc.2, W.G.P., Sophiasburgh Ward 10**

The Bethesda Church and Driveshed form the only remaining grouping of such complementary buildings in their original locations in Prince Edward County.

The Bethesda United Church was constructed in 1900 and provides a fine example of rural church architecture of this period, featuring double brick construction with round headed windows, with considerable interest added by the bold frontal placement of an offset square tower, skewed 45 degrees to the main building. The tower is capped with a bell cast roof, accented with iron cresting. The interior ceiling is covered with the original stamped metal finish supplied by the Pedlar Metallic Roofing Company.

Drivesheds to accommodate the horses and transport of congregation members were once common to rural churches in the County, but all have been destroyed or relocated except the Bethesda example. The Driveshed is located to the rear and side of the Church, reflecting the ancillary role of this functional building. The Driveshed is L-shaped in plan, and combines with the church to form a semi-enclosed yard. The shed is a simple post and beam structure, open at the front, and retains the original hitch rails for tying horses.

These buildings are both individually significant in the local context, but their relative proximity and historic dual role provide additional value.

③ **Grandstand, Part of Lot 1510, R.P. No. 24, Picton Ward 1**

The original Grandstand was constructed in 1878 by the Picton Driving Park Association, reflecting the status and significance of horse racing and Prince Edward County trotting horses. The Grandstand initiated the establishment of the fairground complex, and remains an essential structure in depicting the historical social context of the agricultural fair and other community gatherings. The Grandstand contributes greatly to the fairgrounds and its other important buildings, just as the Grandstand itself is enhanced by its role in the collection of buildings.

This public gathering place has hosted many important occasions such as the running of the Queens Plate in 1879, welcoming ceremonies of a Governor General and other dignitaries, and it figured prominently in the preparation and send off of the Hastings Prince Edward Regiment to World War II. The Grandstand is a timber framed structure with wooden plank seating, modestly embellished with arched eave brackets supporting an extended roof overhang. The building was designed and executed to serve its function as a viewing area, and the construction is attractive in its simplicity. The original Grandstand remains, but was doubled in size shortly after the original was built, depicting the extent of the existing rehabilitated building today.

Any person may, before the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 1999 send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the County of Prince Edward, a Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. When a Notice of Objection has been received, the Council of the County of Prince Edward will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

**Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1999 at Picton, County of Prince Edward  
Mr. Glen Knox, Clerk  
Corporation of the County of Prince Edward  
Drawer 1550, 332 Main St., Picton ON K0K 2T0**

**SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 277 -1999**

**Reasons for Designation**

**Regent Theatre, Picton Main Street**

The building is an 1830's brick building, a smaller twin of the Stevenson building a block up on Main Street. The present Façade was part of a 1931 renovation in the 'California Hollywood' style. With the marquee, the central theatre doors and the flanking business premises it has dominated the downtown streetscape for 68 years. The Lobby was also renovated in 1931 and represents a bit of frozen time with its terrazzo floor, frieze of cherubs, mirrored wooden doors, tin ceiling and period ticket office. A third unique feature is the Fly Tower over the stage area. As far as intensive research can tell, it is the only remaining theatre with an intact fly tower between Montreal and Toronto.