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Lambton
CL

JUL 13 1995

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

Ontario Heritage Foundation
City of Lambton

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337.

- a) 4224 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, Ontario
N0N 1R0

Reasons for Proposed Designation

Historical Reasons:

The site itself, located at 4224 Petrolia Line, was purchased in 1879 by a Jared C. VanCamp and the present structure erected in 1881. VanCamp was described as being an undertaker, cabinet builder and furniture dealer. He forged a close association with the London Furniture Company and the premises served as an outlet for that firm until 1901 at which time it was sold to a Martha McGillivray. In the 1940's it was the site of Fraser's Variety Store, a popular local outlet for groceries, fruits, smallwares, and dresses. More recently, it was occupied by Grant's T.V. At present, the new owner, R. Grandis is undertaking extensive restoration work and will open the premises soon as the new location of that family's well established jewellery business.

There is a local story that states that this building was the site of a nitro glycerin explosion early in it's history. As the story goes, a tenant in the second story apartment was attempting to manufacture the volatile substance when it exploded and did considerable damage to the back of the building. No evidence could be found to substantiate this story but in the course of restoration work recently, badly charred timbers were found at the rear of the structure, indicating a major fire at some point.

The Orange Lodge was located on the premises for a number of years and as a result the structure itself has become known locally as "The Orange Hall".

Architectural Reasons:

Architecturally this structure is very typical of the period. Its grouping is row, non related intermediate and its construction is two story, rectangular with a short facade. Brick, laid in a stretcher pattern is highlighted with decorative work which gives an overall pleasing appearance to the structure.

A patterned entablature runs the length of the building between the first and second floors and is supported by decorative concrete pillars at each end. Decorated iron columns, also found in a number of Petrolia's other commercial structures, flank a recessed double door entry to the building and provide additional support for the entablature running above. Two full length windows framed by the four columns mentioned above complete the ground floor facade.

The primary feature of the second story is three semi-circular windows. Each window is highlighted with a curved, raised, decorated panel with a keystone across the top. A line of stonework running horizontally through the middle of the second story contains a split date brickwork. Finials are located at the extremities of the roofline which is composed of projecting eaves supported by ornate brackets and highlighted with a decorated friezework. Raised brickwork set in a decorative semicircular pattern above each window connect to the bases of the eave brackets which are of alternating lengths.

This building is particularly noteworthy in that it is one of a very few located in the core area that retains an almost original facade.

Any persons may before the 14th of August, 1995, send by registered mail or deliver to the Administrator-Clerk of the Town of Petrolia, notice of his or her 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 Town of Petrolia will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF PETROLIA THIS 12TH DAY OF JULY, 1995.

R. Brad Loosley

Clerk-Administrator