

CORPORATION  
OF THE  
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

BY-LAW NO. 2241-91

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS THE FOG SIGNAL STATION, 99 RIVER BEACH ROAD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as the Fog Signal Station at 99 River Beach Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 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 the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake enacts as follows:


1. THERE is designated as being of architectural and historic value and interest the real property known as the Fog Signal Station at 99 River Beach Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto.
2. THE municipal 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 Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.


*Laac 02-12-91  
Jap.*

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 1991.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 1991.

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 1991.

  
LORD MAYOR S. IGNATCZYK

  
TOWN CLERK R. G. HOWSE

SCHEDULE "A"  
TO BY-LAW NO. 2241-91

THE FOG SIGNAL STATION

99 RIVER BEACH ROAD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

ALL and SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, formerly in the County of Lincoln, now in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Province of Ontario, and being composed of part of Lot No. 31, Plan M-16 in the said Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which said parcel may be more particularly described as follows:

Parcel 31-1, Lot 31 on Plan M-16 in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, registered in the Land Registry Office (No. 30) for the Land Titles Division of Niagara North at St. Catharines.

SCHEDULE "B"

TO BY-LAW NO. 2241-91

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION

The Fog Signal Station, 1904  
99 River Beach Road  
Part of Lot 31, Plan M-16  
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

The Fog Signal Station is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons.

Built by The Department of Marine and Fisheries Canada in 1904 and operated as a warning signal for marine vessels until 1978, the Fog Signal Station served those who used the waterways in the days when Niagara's waterfront was a bustling centre of the shipping industry. The Fog Signal Station is one of a very few original structures of its kind still standing in the country.

An unusual survivor of great lakes navigational aids, featuring an attractive yet functional design, the Fog Signal Station is distinctive in itself and thoroughly compatible in its present relationship with adjoining buildings.

The Fog Signal Station is an example of the Shingle Style or Colonial Revival style of architecture popular at the turn of the century and its typical features include wood shingle cladding, shingle-roofed eaves returns and moulded cornices to window heads.

This frame structure is supported by a heavy concrete foundation with battered (inward sloping at the top) sides which extend several feet below ground. The foundation is filled with large pieces of quarried limestone and several concrete supports which braced the large machines located on the floor above.

The main storey and a half block, which appears to be the original portion of the structure, has a medium-pitched gable roof facing the street (south). The west wing has a slightly lower gable roof. Both sections of the roof are covered with asphalt shingles. A one storey flat roofed addition, the engine room, forms the north-west corner of the structure.

The building has one over two bays in the main section of the facade. The front door has been moved from its original position. Both the front facade and (west) side entrances have straight side stairs of concrete.

A single chimney with elaborate brickwork is set inside the west wall of the main block. A foghorn is set on top of the wood-faced stack which rises from the peak of the roof in the centre of the main section of the building.

The window sash are small-paned in arrangements of 6 over 6 and 4 over 4 where original. The 6 over 6 window sash are located on the first floor front facade and east wall, while the other windows are of the 4 over 4 variety, including the double light in the north wall, except one 3 over 6 window which is located on the front facade. There is also a small opening on the lake side of the building and other openings which have been cut into the north and west walls near the roof line.

Original moulded cornices remain located on the heads of the two east side main floor windows, one window on the west side of the building, and on two of the main floor windows on the lake side of the structure.

The Fog Signal Station sits on land which was formerly part of Block E on the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company Plan and was once the site of the Fairchild Ship Yards. The property was conveyed (for \$2,000.00) to the Dominion of Canada for a Fog Signal Station by the heirs of local hotelkeeper John Rousseau who purchased Block E in 1870.

W. H. Noble, the Assistant Commissioner of Lights and James Aikins, a prominent local politician and agent for the Niagara Navigation Company which had offices in Niagara-on-the-Lake, selected the sites for the Fog Signal Station and two lighthouses built at the same time. According to newspaper reports of the day, Aikins had lobbied vigorously in Ottawa to have these aids to navigation constructed.

Two large boilers for the Fog Signal Station arrived early in August 1904 and the building was completed in November of that year. Mr. Murphy, a Government engineer, was in charge of the project while J. Beaudry was superintendent of the construction of the fog signal building as well as the lighthouses.

Local resident Fred Masters was appointed as the first manager of the Fog Signal Station at an annual salary of \$100.00.

The Station closed during the winter months when lake navigation ceased.

The heavy machinery required for the operation of the fog signal station was removed (c.1950) and the north-east "ell" section of the building was built to house newer and much lighter electrically driven air pumps. Hydro and diesel power replaced natural gas and pressurized air. The fog alarm was sounded by an air operated diaphone until 1972-73 when it was switched to an electronic horn. All machinery used to drive the foghorn has since been removed from the building.

The building was converted for residential use (possibly in the 1950s) by the stationkeeper who also operated the two dock area lighthouses. Other stationkeepers were William (Bill) McMillan, Russ Ansley and Frederic Masters.

Frederic Masters, nephew of the original stationkeeper, assumed the job in 1955 and may have been the building's first resident. He was the Station's last keeper and also worked for the nearby yacht club. A Niagara native, Masters received the Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry when wounded while serving with the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve during World War II.

The Fog Alarm Station was decommissioned in 1978 and in 1982 the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake obtained ownership of the building and land from the Crown.

A shoreline protection project has been completed along the length of the property's waterfront and the building is currently leased to the Niagara Foundation, a local organization interested in the preservation of historic properties. The interior restoration of the building is in progress.

This designation includes the entire exterior facade of the Fog Signal Station known municipally as 99 River Beach Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake.