



The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie By-law 127-2024

Being a By-law to Designate 651 Ridge Road North as Being of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Whereas Section 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to pass a by-law to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas at the Council-in-Committee meeting held on August 12, 2024, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie approved the Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation through report number PDS-57-2024 to designate 651 Ridge Road North under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas in accordance with subsection 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, Council of the Town of Fort Erie has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands municipally known as 651 Ridge Road North and legally described in accordance with "Schedule A" and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate the property as being of cultural heritage value or interest, and has caused the Notice of Intention to Designate to be published in the Fort Erie Observer, a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Fort Erie; and

Whereas it is deemed desirable to designate 651 Ridge Road North as having Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended;

Now therefore the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie enacts as follows:

- 1. That** the property legally described in accordance with "Schedule A" and municipally known as 651 Ridge Road North is hereby designated as having cultural heritage value or interest for architectural, historical, and contextual attributes and reasons under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended, for the reasons set out in the Statement of Significance attached as "Schedule B" and forming part of this by-law.
- 2. That** the Clerk of the Town is authorized to affect any minor modifications, corrections or omissions, solely of an administrative, numerical, grammatical, semantical or descriptive nature to this by-law or its schedules after the passage of this by-law.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 16th day of December 2024.

Mayor

Clerk

Schedule "A" to By-law Number 127-2024

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

651 RIDGE ROAD NORTH

Legal Description

651 Ridge Road North is legally described as Part Lot 23, Concession 2, Lake Erie Bertie, Being Part 1 on 59R15255, in the Town of Fort Erie.

Schedule “B” to By-law Number 127-2024

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

651 RIDGE ROAD NORTH

Description of the Property

The property is municipally known as 651 Ridge Road North, and is legally described as Part Lot 23, Concession 2, Lake Erie Bertie, Being Part 1 on 59R15255, in the Town of Fort Erie.

651 Ridge Road North is located near a historically important crossroad with Ridge Road North and Nigh Road. It consists of a two-storey frame Georgian building constructed between 1828 and 1851 as a hotel and tavern.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

651 Ridge Road North is a representative example of a residence built in the Georgian architecture style. The two-storey rectangular shaped plan building has a steep side gable roof, box-like massing, and symmetrical five-bay façade, which is typical of the Georgian architecture style. Additionally, the symmetrical composition of the subject property combined with its rhythmically placed rectangular window openings and centrally placed entrance adorned with sidelights and finished with Classical detailing, are also features associated with the Georgian architectural style.

651 Ridge Road North has associative value as an early business associated with the crossroads at two important early thoroughfares, Ridge Road and Nigh Road, in addition to an association with the Willson family, an early settler family in the Ridgeway area. The Willson family were early settlers to the Ridgeway area who opened and ran a hotel/tavern business near the intersection of two important thoroughfares, Ridge Road and Nigh Road, just north of the main commercial core of Ridgeway. The inn was established some time between 1828 and 1851 and was known locally as Willson’s Hotel, near Willsons Corners. The Willson family also supplemented their income as farmers, and in 1861 owned approximately 80 acres in addition to the subject property. The subject property operated as inn until at least 1871, when Alexander Wilson was listed as a hotel keeper. The Willsons owned the subject property from 1798 until it was sold in 1954 ending approximately 156 years of continuous ownership.

651 Ridge Road North is historically linked to its surroundings. The subject building is an example of an early building in the area. Combined with its function as a tavern for over a century and its occupation by the Wilson family for over 150 years, as well as its proximity to Willson’s Corners, the subject property provides a historical link to its surroundings.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key elements that contribute to the heritage value of 651 Ridge Road North include:

- Two-storey Georgian architecture style building
- Side gable roof
- Box-like massing
- Symmetrical five-bay façade and two-bay side elevations
- Rhythmically placed rectangular window openings
- Formal front entrance with sidelights and classical detailing
- Red brick chimney
- Location along Ridge Road North near major crossroads