Bill No. C- *32*

The Corporation of the City of Hamilton

BY-LAW NO. 96- *115*

To Designate:

LAND LOCATED AT MUNICIPAL NOS. 1159 AND 1155 BEACH BOULEVARD

As Property of:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton did give notice of its intention to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with subsection 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection was served on the City Clerk as required by subsection 29(5) of the said Act;

AND WHEREAS it is desired to designate the property mentioned in section 1 of this by-law in accordance with clause 29(6)(a) of the said Act.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. The property located at Municipal Nos. 1159 and 1155 Beach Boulevard and more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, is hereby designated as property of historic and architectural value and interest.

2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation set out in Schedule "B" hereto annexed and forming part of this by-law, to be registered against the property affected in the proper registry office.

3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed,

   (i) to cause a copy of this by-law, together with reasons for the designation, to be served on the owner and The Ontario Heritage Foundation by personal service or by registered mail;

   (ii) to publish a notice of this by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality of the City of Hamilton for three consecutive weeks.

PASSED this *25th* day of *June* A.D. 1996

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

CITY CLERK

(1996) 2 R.P.D.C. 12, February 13

Schedule "A"

To

By-law No. 96- *115*

Burlington Canal
Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling
1159 and 1155 Beach Boulevard
Hamilton, Ontario

Part of the Government Reserve on the south side of the Burlington Canal, in the Geographic Township of Saltfleet, now in the City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

Schedule "B"

to

By-law No. 96-115

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Burlington Canal Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling

1159 and 1155 Beach Boulevard
Hamilton, Ontario

Context

The lighthouse and adjacent keeper's dwelling, built respectively in 1858 and 1857, are located just south of the Burlington Canal on the strip of land dividing Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario. The lighthouse, a *recognized federal heritage building*, marks the entry into the protected waters of the harbour.

Once a prominent landmark on the Beach Strip, the still impressive 55–foot high circular stone structure is now overshadowed by the adjacent steel tower of the vertical lift bridge and elevated roadway to the east and the Skyway Bridge to the west. Gone from its turn–of–the century setting, when the Beach Strip was a popular summer resort, are the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club quarters (1892–1915), the hotels, boardwalk, and the road and railway swing bridges.

History

The lighthouse complex is closely associated with Hamilton's development as a major lake port, which began with the opening of the Burlington Canal in 1832. The first lighthouse and keeper's dwelling, both frame buildings erected in 1837, were destroyed by fire in 1856 and subsequently replaced by the present stone and brick structures. The lighthouse served as an important navigational aid for cargo ships and pleasure craft until 1961 when it was removed from service and superseded by a modern light erected on the new lift bridge. The house, moved a short distance to its present site in the late 1890s, was continuously occupied until 1991 by five successive lightkeepers. The lighthouse and keeper's dwelling are the oldest surviving buildings on the Beach Strip and the only intact structures linked to Hamilton's mid–19th century port function.

Architecture

The lighthouse and keeper's dwelling together constitute one of few extant historic light stations in Ontario. Of the seven surviving lighthouses on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario, only Burlington Canal retains its original lightkeeper's residence. Moreover, relatively few Canadian lighthouses were constructed of stone, most of which predate Confederation. Of eight known examples erected on Lake Ontario, the Burlington Canal lighthouse is now one of only four remaining.

Constructed of squared white limestone blocks laid in regular courses, the lighthouse features slit windows with cut stone sills, a round–arched doorway and a 12–sided iron–framed lantern (dating from 1891 when the original one was replaced). It was erected by the renowned Scottish mason from Thorold, John Brown, the builder of six similar lighthouses on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, known as "Imperial Towers" and all still standing.

The brick keeper's dwelling, a 1 1/2 storey, side-gabled structure with a three-bay facade and parapet end walls, is similar in form to the stone dwellings built in conjunction with the six Imperial Towers, some of which also have raised parapet walls with built-in end chimneys. A distinctive feature of the Burlington Canal lightkeeper's house is the corbel detail of the raised parapets, which is characteristic of Hamilton's 19th century worker housing. The large window openings are accentuated by cut stone sills and lintels. Minor alterations over the years include the replacement of the original six-paned window sashes with single-paned sashes; replacement of the front door; and the rebuilding of the raised parapets with narrower end chimneys and corresponding loss of decorative brickwork beneath the parapet coping. The front doorway, with its rectangular transom, is now obscured by an enclosed front porch, built in 1945 to replace a full verandah added after 1900.

The stone tower has been preserved virtually intact while the lightkeeper's dwelling has largely retained its original character, despite the changes identified above.

Designated Features

Important to the preservation of the Burlington Canal lighthouse complex are:

1. the stone masonry tower and iron lantern, including the round-arched doorway and tall narrow windows.

2. all four brick masonry facades of the keeper's dwelling, including the parapet end walls, original doorways and window openings, and stone trim. Excluded are all later additions, including the front porch, and a rear shed and dormer.