

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
TORONTO, Ontario.
M5C 1J3

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia intends to designate Plan 22 W, Pt Lot 24 Centre Street (Water Stand Pipe) as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, Part IV, Section 29.

- a) Plan 22W, PT Lot 24 Centre Street
Petrolia, Ontario.
N0N 1R0

Reasons for Proposed Designation

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Petrolia's Standpipe is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its design value or physical value.

- The standpipe is purported to be one of few remaining examples of this form of Victorian engineering.
- The Petrolia Waterworks system was designed by Willis Chipman, who has been touted as one of the most brilliant civil Engineers of his day. It brought much needed freshwater 17 kilometers from Lake Huron all the way to the Victorian town of Petrolia.
- Petrolia's standpipe represents one of the first municipal water systems in Canada and likely the first to transport water such a great distance
- The standpipe continues to be part of Petrolia's skyline, and is visible from all over the town

Attributes:

- built in 1896, and was designed by Willis Chipman
- stands 25 feet in diameter and 85 feet high
- Sits on a heavy foundation of stone and Portland cement.
- Construction consists of battleship grade steel plates. A description of each plate and it's proper placement is imbedded on every steel sheet.
- An ornamental, wrought iron balcony sits at the top, and is reached by a ladder.
- Capacity of the tower is 257,700 gallons.

Research & Evaluation Report:

Timeline

1871	A large delegation presents Council with a petition for water.
1874	Petrolia's population hits 3600 and most of the town is still buying water from wagons

1875	The "Advertiser" calls for the construction of a waterworks
1892	Petrolia enters an agreement with the private Petrolia Waterworks Company to sell water to the town. Wells are drilled, but are a poor source of clean water. The poorly managed company fails.
1895	Most wells are polluted. Diphtheria and typhoid epidemics abide. Town Council calls in engineer Willis Chapman
January 24, 1896	Ratepayers vote in favour of a bylaw to raise \$172,000 to fund pipeline from Lake Huron
March 1896	Chapman brings in survey crew
June 16, 1896	William Garson and Company is hired to construct the project
October 1896	First plating for the water tower arrives in Petrolia
January 29, 1897	The water tower is filled with water, supplying Petrolia's hydrants and residents with a steady supply of clean water

Criteria

Design or Physical Value	
I. is rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	n/a
iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	X

At the height of Petrolia's boom it lacked a reliant source of clean water for its residents. Due to the nature of being a Victorian oil town, it also was plagued with fires and explosions. The construction of a pipeline and the resulting standpipe brought a solution to these problems. Both the length of the pipeline and the building of a massive steel standpipe were unique during the late part of the 19th century. The engineer responsible for the system was touted as one of the most brilliant civil engineers of his day. Today, the Petrolia Standpipe not only represents one of his great achievements but is also one of the few remainders of its kind in Canada.

Any persons may before the 10th day of February, 2019 send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerks Office 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 10th, day of January, 2019.

Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk