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MUNICIPALITY OF HURON EAST

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July 15th, 2011.

██████████
Registrar,
Ontario Heritage Trust,
Heritage Programs & Operations,
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5C 1J3

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JUL 21 2011

RECEIVED

Dear ██████████:

RE: By-Law 21-2011, Designation of 401 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario N0G 1H0
By-Law 85-2008, Designation of 402 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario. N0G 1H0

Further to your email of May 4th, 2011, I have enclosed copies of all materials pertaining to By-Law 21-2011 which I emailed to ██████████ on April 29th, 2011. In addition, I have enclosed the following:

- i) copy of letter dated July 14th, 2011 to the property owner indicating that the by-law had been passed
- ii) copy of notice of passing advertisement that was placed in the July 14th, 2011 edition of The Citizen
- iii) copy of By-Law 21-2011 which was given 3rd reading and passed on the 17th day of May, 2011.

Your email prompted me to look at the only other property that has been designated by Huron East since our 2001 amalgamation. For whatever reason, I had omitted the notice requirements to the Ontario Heritage Trust in my procedures to designate properties (my procedural guide has now been updated).

Under the provisions of By-Law 85-2008, the Municipality of Huron East designated 402 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario which is a municipal facility (Brussels Public Library). I have enclosed the following:

- i) newspaper advertisement placed in the September 4th, 2008 edition of The Citizen
- ii) copy of By-Law 85-2008 which was passed by Huron East Council on the 6th day of October, 2008.

It does not appear that we placed a notice of passing of By-Law 85-2008 in our local newspaper, but I can confirm that the by-law was registered.

I apologize for the discrepancies in the designation process. I appreciate the template you provided me and will certainly reference it with any future designations.

Yours truly,



Brad Knight,
CAO/Clerk.

BK:ja

Encl.

**THE CORPORATION
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HURON EAST
BY-LAW NO. 85 FOR 2008**

Being a by-law to designate a property of cultural heritage value and/or interest under the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O 1990, as amended.

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron East is desirous of designating property located at 402 Turnberry Street in the former Village of Brussels, now the Brussels Ward of the Municipality of Huron East as a property of cultural value and interest;

AND WHEREAS the notice requirements of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* have been complied with and no notice of objection has been received by the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the requirements of Ontario Regulation 9/06 have been complied with as per Schedule "A" attached hereto which provides a statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and a Description of the Heritage Attributes of the subject property which also includes a digital photograph;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron East
ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the property located at 402 Turnberry Street, Brussels Ward of the Municipality of Huron East and known as the Brussels Public Library is hereby designated to be a property of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the Clerk-Administrator is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Land Registry Office for Huron.
3. This by-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of final passing thereof.

READ a first and second time this 6th day of October 2008.

READ a third time and finally passed this 6th day of October 2008.


Mayor, Joseph Seili


Clerk, J. R. McLachlan

**THE CORPORATION
OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF HURON EAST
BY-LAW NO. 85 FOR 2008**

SCHEDULE "A"

BRUSSELS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. Property Description:

402 Turnberry Street
Brussels, Ontario N0G 1H0
Part Lot 7, Plan 192
PIN – 41339-0164

2. Statement of Cultural Historical Value or Interest

During the mid 1850's, many Ontario libraries had their beginnings with the Mechanics' Institute Library. The Brussels' Mechanic's Institute Library & Reading Room, incorporated in 1874, charged a subscription fee of \$1.00 per person per year. When the Free Libraries Act was passed in 1882, there were some communities in Ontario which continued to provide public library service which was not always free.

Library services were not always housed in a permanent building. For this reason, Andrew Carnegie, American steel magnate and philanthropist, began his endowment program for free public libraries. The recipients were communities with 2,000 and more citizens. In 1907, the Village of Brussels was fortunate to receive a \$7,000 commitment from the Carnegie Foundation. This gift had an air of celebrity attached to it because Brussels was one of the smallest municipalities to receive it. At the time, it was thought that the decision to grant this money to Brussels was due to local influences within Carnegie's inner circle. James Bertram, Carnegie's secretary, was married to Janet Tod Ewing, a native of Seaforth, Ontario.

The endowment may have been lost had not Bertram intervened in discussions about the Library's location. After numerous sites were presented to the Library Board, Bertram suggested that a final decision be made. The property at the corner of Turnberry and Mill Streets was chosen. Stratford architect W. J. Ireland was selected for the project. The Library Board met in the building on the 30th of December 1909 and the new building was officially opened with a public ceremony on the 14th of January 1910.

Of the numerous Carnegie libraries built throughout Ontario, there are only six with corner entrances, Brussels being one of them. A corner entrance was thought to be overly extravagant in the mind of the thrifty Bertram. Both Carnegie and Bertram had Scottish roots. In their minds, library design concepts were to be dignified and not be overly excessive. Carnegie believed that libraries were for the self-improvement of a community's citizens. One of the common features of a Carnegie Library is an ascending stairway that gives library patrons an impression of elevating themselves. Carnegie's philosophies and the Calvinist background of the area's settlers were similar. The settlers' spare moments away from the pressures of daily toil were spent reading rather than engaging in trivial leisurely pursuits.

The building of the Brussels Library is a true example of the integrity of Carnegie's generous endowment programme coupled with the foresight of the forefathers of Brussels.

3. Description of Heritage Attributes

The Brussels Public Library is a central landmark for the Village of Brussels and a focal point for the village's downtown streetscape. Therefore, any restoration and alteration work done should insure that the exterior architecture of the building is preserved. Any interior restoration or alteration work only needs to be sympathetic to the original interior architecture.

Since 1910, this Library building has continued to fulfill Carnegie's original goal of promoting self-improvement when architect W. J. Ireland used the **Neoclassical Style of Victorian Architecture** to respond to Carnegie's requirements for the building's exterior. The following indicate Carnegie's requirements in *italics* and Ireland's architectural responses in regular font:

- *a centrally-located entrance* – an entrance was located at the building's corner, fronting the founding crossroads of the Village of Brussels.
- *classically columned porticos* – although Carnegie wanted several porticos, this small building received only one portico that impressively frames the corner entrance.
- *an ascending stairway to give library patrons a sense of elevating themselves toward self-improvement* – literally and architecturally the entrance stairway elevates the portico upward to become a part of the roof and an integral part of the Library's function.
- *symmetrical window arrangements* – the window arrangements are not symmetrical with their configurations responding to the hierarchy of the street corner where the building is located. Although not symmetrical, the building's overall Neoclassical composition is one of implied symmetry.
- *an exposed basement* – the raised basement, split entry building type, historically used for public buildings, met this requirement well and was finished off with rusticated stone.

The following is a detailed description of the Library's Heritage Attributes:

(a) **THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE**

While designing this Library during the early 1900's, architect W. J. Ireland used a revised **Neoclassical Style**, popular in the early 1800's for public buildings built in Upper and Lower Canada, instead of choosing the Beaux-Arts Style favoured for public buildings built in Canada during the early 1900's.

(b) **THE CLASSICAL CORNER PORTICO**

A portico is a colonnaded porch supporting a triangular pediment. The classical details of this Library's corner portico originate from the gable end of the Parthenon Temple, built between 447-432 B.C., atop the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

(i) The **colonnade** of the Library's corner portico consists of:

- two round stone Doric-styled columns and two brick columns, with carved stone bases and carved stone capitals, are supported on carved stone plinths.
- the stone columns, brick columns, and stone plinths are flanked by larger brick column-like pilasters, each with a single recessed flute.
- the larger brick pilasters support carved stone capitals and a stone entablature with BRUSSELS PUBLIC LIBRARY embossed on it.
- this colonnade supports a triangular gabled pediment.

(ii) The **pediment** of the Library's corner portico consists of:

- a horizontal eave overhang and sloping gable eave overhangs form the classical pediment triangle of the portico.
- these three equally-sized overhangs are visually supported on wide wood cornices decorated with a small row of wood dentil blocks.
- a circular window oculus, surrounded by a laurel leaf wreath, is centrally located in the pediment. In respect to Carnegie's goal to establish free public libraries to promote self-improvement, architect W. J. Ireland may have chosen the laurel leaf wreath to symbolize the glory and honour of self-improvement offered within a library's walls.

(c) **THE EXTERIOR WALLS**

The exterior walls are classically detailed into three parts consisting of:

- (i) a rusticated coursed stone and brick base.
- (ii) brick walls structurally punctuated with brick pilasters having a single recessed flute and carved stone capitals.
- (iii) a wide wood dentilled cornice extends continuously around the top of the walls under the eave overhangs.

(d) THE FRONT DOOR and THE WINDOWS

- (i) Research of old photographs will show the stylistic details of the original front doors and the transom windows above them.
- (ii) The building's window arrangement is not symmetrical about the "corner centerline". The east windows were designed as triple combinations as they front Turnberry Street, the "main street" of Brussels, with the north windows designed as single windows fronting Orchard Line, formerly the Fifth Line of Morris Township, being the secondary crossroad. Although not symmetrical, the overall composition of the building's exterior implies an informal symmetry about its "corner centerline".
- (iii) Before the ceiling of the Library's interior was lowered and the top parts of the main floor windows were filled in, the Library's main floor double hung operable wood windows were topped by fixed wood transom windows which were each subdivided by a central horizontal wood mullion, a central vertical wood mullion, and two diagonal wood mullions which subdivided each transom window into eight equal triangular panes of glass. This type of transom has been called a "spider" window.
- (iv) If the re-creation of the "spider" transom windows on the exterior were to occur, this would reinstate the entire building's original architectural intent even if the interior's lowered ceiling remained in place.
- (v) The existing double hung windows in the basement are in accordance with the building's original architectural character.

(e) THE ROOF

A plain hipped roof makes the building look smaller while the gabled pediment establishes the building's importance to the community of Brussels.

