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ESTABLISHED 1834

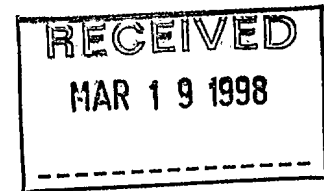
TOWN OF FERGUS *Wellington*

198 ST. ANDREW STREET WEST, FERGUS, ONTARIO N1M 1N7

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

March 18, 1998



Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam:

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fergus intends to designate the property including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as property of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act:

190 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, Ontario

Reasons for Designation

In the nineteenth century, in many towns in North America, the establishment of free or subscription libraries was an early priority. Fergus' public library was founded in 1837. In correspondence after 1900 with the Carnegie Corporation, it was noted "Fergus' public library is among the oldest in the Province."

Approval of a grant of \$7,000.00 for the building of the Fergus Carnegie Library was obtained January 29, 1908. Construction was completed and the building opened on February 9, 1911. The design was the work of Walter Mahoney, an architect who designed 14 Carnegie libraries.

Fergus' library was considered successful by the Carnegie Corporation who wrote that "the Fergus plans are probably the best that can be done with a square building." It should also be noted that the Department of Education was instructed by the Carnegie organization to supply plans of Fergus library when requested. At that time, the plan of Fergus library was referred to the Architects of Mount Forest, Walkerton and Grand Valley libraries.

The Fergus library is one of 79 Carnegie libraries in Ontario, out of the original 111, that continue to be used as libraries albeit with additions and renovations. Most of the Carnegie libraries followed the Beaux Arts Theories of symmetry and classical detailing which resulted in columned porticos and symmetrical arrangements of windows. Fergus library was no exception.

The front elevation consists of two flights of steps to an arched front entrance, which is flanked by two truncated modified Doric columns sitting on heavily tooled (rusticated) stone pedestals. Originally the steps were "wrap-around" with a centre handrail.

On either side of the entrance at the first floor level are two arched double-hung sash windows with semi-circular fan lights. All the arches are constructed of heavily tooled (rusticated) stone, while the walls are finely tooled stone laid in courses. The lower floor windows, no filled with stone blocks have heavily tooled stone lintels which are part of a rusticated stone band course separating the two floors.

At roof level a false pediment was built, no doubt to enhance the symmetry of the building with an elliptical window in the spandrel. The flank walls are built of limestone rubble with ribbon pointing. The lower and first floor windows have stone lintels rather than the arches used on the front. The lower floor windows have been filled with stone rubble and pointed as above. The first floor windows are also double-hung but with rectangular fan lights. In addition on the south side has been built of coursed stonework which unfortunately does not match the earlier material.

The building is an excellent example of the Carnegie libraries and one of the few constructed of stone. Although small, it has an imposing character and contributes to the quality of St. Andrew Street West.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Fergus before the 20th day of April, 1998.

Dated at Fergus, Ontario this 18th day of March, 1998.

William J. Tigert, B. Comm., A.M.C.T.
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
198 St. Andrew Street West
Fergus, Ontario, N1M 1N7