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CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

BY-LAW NO. 1752

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS BELLEVUE, AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST.

WHEREAS section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of AMHERSTBURG has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as BELLEVUE at 525 DALHOUSIE ST. and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the clerk of the municipality;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of AMHERSTBURG enacts as follows:

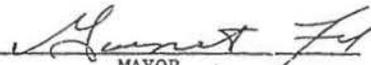
- 1) There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property known as BELLEVUE at 525 DALHOUSIE ST., more particularly described in schedule A hereto.
- 2) The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule A hereto in the proper land registry office.
- 3) The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.
- 4) This By-law shall come into force and effect on the final passing thereof.

Finally passed this 12th day of October, 1982.

1st Reading - October 12, 1982

2nd Reading - October 12, 1982

3rd Reading - October 12, 1982

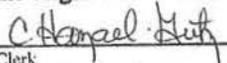

MAYOR


CLERK

Certified to be a true copy of By-law No. 1752 passed in open Council on the 12th day of October, 1982.


Deputy Clerk

Certified True Copy of the original document.


Clerk
Town of Amherstburg
Date: Sept. 12/08

IDENTIFICATION

Building Name: Bellevue

Address: 525 Dalhousie Town: Amherstburg County: Essex

Lot: 4 Plan: 1 Register Book: old book Malden

Present Owner: Ukranian church Present Use: church center

Original Owner: Robert Reynolds Original Use: Residential

Accessibility to Public: Interior: No

Exterior: yes -visible

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Exterior Building Material: brick painted white

Interior Building Material: lath and plaster

Structural System: basic house construction

Condition: fair

Integrity: original site

Threats To The Building: Deteriation

Related Outbuildings and Property: well, land around building,
two converted apartments at the back (originally garage with dorms above)

Surroundings of Building: houses and apartments

Plan: rectangle Storeys: two Building Area: 3.3 acres

Roof Shape: metal hip Roof Trim: simple wood brackets

Chimney: 1 at each end of main building Foundation: limestone, south
side is sagging needs repair

First Storey:

Doors- single door, 3 panes of glass in upper half, side light
each side

Classic georgian pediment supported by four ionic style columns

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Bellevue structure is a domestic georgian style, built in the year 1816. The architect according to local tradition was Charles Bullfinch, who designed in part the United States capitol. "Mr. Bullfinch was for a long time the major of Boston, most of the buildings he designed are in Boston."

On the site was once a large farm lot, fronting right on the river, but later split up into smaller lots for housing.

The structure itself faces west towards the river and originally was a simple rectangle structure, but later additions on each side changed it's original form.

Bricks used in the construction of Bellevue were made in a brickyard, then operating on the banks of the Rough river. A scow was used for the transport of the bricks to Amherstburg. See the list of masons, carpenters and labours who helped construct the Bellevue. Since Robert Reynolds played an active part in the army, it was ordered that each enlisted man would donate one day towards the construction of Bellevue. This took mostly the form of unloading and transporting the bricks from the shores of Amherstburg to the site.

Christ church which was being built at the same time was using the same brick.

The structure itself is a two storey, rectangle building with a shallow metal hip roof of a domestic georgian style .

The front door is a single, three glass pane door centered in the front elevation with one side window on either side, and

with a fan light over the door which is now covered by a classical georgian style pediment supported by four ionic style columns.

The first storey windows which are a 12 pane double hung window with shutters. A total of four windows, two on each side.

The second floor has the same style windows as the first, except for the center window. Which is larger in size and has sidelights instead of shutters.

The hip roof has been converted to a metal hip roof but the original center pediment with circular attic window still exists.

As to the addition the first set of additions (closest to the main building) is of a 1½ storey style with gable roof, with the ½ storey being a dormer. The first storey is a wooden bay style window that extends from floor to ceiling. The second set of additions on each side has the roof capped in a perpendicular position to the first set of additions. One window exists here with a circular top and sidelights and shutters. Around the top of this window is brick work forming a half circle. Both sets of additions were built before the 1930's.

At the far south end a third addition exists, it is composed of a long open hall screened in with a hexagon style room, also open and screened in.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

The domestic georgian style building is symmetrical in nature and of a simple design. Excluding the additions, one can still see the original building, the main part.

Historical Features:

Owned and built by a well known family, the Reynolds, it was used by them for two generations.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Bellevue was built between 1816 and 1819 on the lower Detroit river, on a site opposit the island of Bois Blanc (bob-lo), and just below the town of Amherstburg. It was designed as the residence of Robert Reynolds. Very early it became a land mark for passing ships, and a home noted by all literary travellers to the area.

Robert Reynolds, (1781-1865), youngest son of Commissary officer Thomas Reynolds of Amherstburg in 1796; he also held this same position at Detroit from about 1780 at which time Detroit was still retained by the British. Robert Reynolds succeeded his father as Deputy Commissary-general. (see Reynolds family geneology and Reynolds family notes).

In 1803 Robert Reynolds married his brother's sister-in-law, the young widow Therese Bouchette Des Revieres's first husband was killed in a dual in 1800 by another officier. The late husband was the step-son of the wealthy merchant James McGill of Montreal. It is probable that after the death of James McGill (1813) and of his widow (in 1818), Robert and Therese Reynolds felt able to build, with local red brick, the impressive georgian mansion named Bellevue. The bulk of the McGill fortune went to establish and endow the McGill University of Montreal.

Bellevue was the residence of two generations of the Reynolds family the last Reynolds to dwell there was Robert Todd Reynolds,

M.D., (1811-1897) who was a surgeon and physician and practiced in Amherstburg in the mid years of the last century.

Another noted resident of Bellevue was Catherine Reynolds, daughter of Thomas Reynolds. She has been termed " Detroit's first native artist." She was born in Detroit some time prior to the Detroit census of July 16, 1782 and died at Bellevue on sept. 17, 1864. Some thirty of her works are known among them a water color view of Bellevue and the often-reproduced "view of Amherstburg." (all are catalogued at the Detroit Institute of Arts.)

"Among later residents of Bellevue was William Johnston, an Amherstburg druggist, who offered the home for sale in 1834. (see newspaper item). At that time the river frontage extended for one thousand feet and the marine prospect, thus afforded, was listed as one of the attractions. A later owner, Perry Leighton, was well known in his day as an antiquarian; his private museum was maintained in one wing and was an attraction he was pleased to show to interested visitors. In more recent times the John G. Mullen family became the owners and the interior of Bellevue was refurnished, and the classic lines of the exterior again revealed. The Mullen family were the last to live in Bellevue as a family residence.

In 1946 the Department of Veterans' Affairs purchased the building and converted it into a convalescent home, with accommodations for 25 veterans. When the Veterans' Affairs Department

closed the facilities it was for a period, a nursing and boarding home under private ownership.

In 1961, ownership of Bellevue passed to the Ukrainian Catholic church. The members of the congregation have diligently worked to bring another transformation to the building to make it a center for religious and cultural expression." -David P. Botsic