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*Joes*



MUNICIPAL OFFICES  
519-736-5401

# The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

P.O. BOX 159  
271 SANDWICH ST. SOUTH  
AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO  
N9V 2Z3

April 23, 1987

Ontario Heritage Foundation,  
77 Bloor St. W.,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9


Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of By-Law No. 1958, being a by-law to designate the Amherstburg Public Library as being of historical and architectural significance.

Notice of intention and notice of the Passing of the By-law have been published in our local paper, the Amherstburg Echo.

Trusting this is satisfactory, I remain,

Yours truly,

  
D. J. Potvin,  
Deputy Clerk

DJP/gs

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

BY-LAW NO. 1958

A By-law to designate property located within the Town of Amherstburg as being of historical and architectural value to the heritage of the Town of Amherstburg.

WHEREAS certain lands, and buildings located thereon, within the Town of Amherstburg, and as herein described as the Amherstburg Public Library, are deemed to be of historic and architectural significance;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Amherstburg, it is expedient and desirable to designate the said property to be of historic and architectural significance;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION  
OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That for the reasons aforesaid, the property including buildings, and lands within the Town of Amherstburg as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, which is hereby proclaimed to be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 4, Bill 176 of the Ontario Heritage Act and Amendments thereto.
2. This by-law shall come into force and take effect on day following the final passing thereof by the Council of the Town of Amherstburg.

  
Mayor

  
Clerk

1st reading: April 13, 1987

2nd reading: April 13, 1987

3rd reading: April 13, 1987

Certified to be a true copy of By-law  
No. 1958 passed by the Council of the  
Corporation of the Town of Amherstburg on  
the 13th day of April, 1987.



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

All and singular those certain parcels or tracts of land lying and being in the said Town of Amherstburg and composed of lot number Lot #17 and part of Lot 16, Plan #1, and the premises thereon situate, known as the Amherstburg Public Library, and located at 232 Sandwich Street South, on the S/W corner of Richmond and Sandwich Street, in the Town of Amherstburg.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Library's style is typical of the architecture of that day. It is described today as Eclectic (composing many classical features). Made of limestone, it has smooth stone bands at the corners, stone sills, parapets with copings and a stone chimney on the west wall.

The basement is half below grade and is constructed of rubble stone set in mortar joints. At every two feet are 1" x 3" continuous leveling boards.

The interior is plaster over wood lathing. Two greek columns inside the front door are plastered also. The ceilings are high and has a rosette. The woodwork is of weathered oak. In the attic is an old door (now covered) that opened to vent fresh air in and hot air out. Over the entrance is an engraved stone parapet (Public Library).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The need for a public library was recognized early in the history of the little Town of Amherstburg. Each effort made by the citizenry gave way to bigger and better ideas.

The first attempt came in the form of the Mechanics Institute in 1863. We have no record of how long the Institute survived, but we know that it was followed by the Young Men's Debating Society. Then in the year 1900 Dr. Joseph Boyle, a physician retired from practise in the State of New York and residing in Malden, made a generous gift to the Town. This came in the form of a cash donation of \$3,200. and a sizeable collection of Canadian



Historical and Biographical books. The Town Merchants agreed to give a subscription each year for the upkeep of the Library.

At that point in time (1900) the Library was located in the Park Building on Dalhousie Street. Later it was moved to Ramsay Street (between Gore and Murray Feb. 1901) and remained there until the present Library was completed.

When the American House Hotel burned to the ground in 1895 the space that it had occupied was later to become the home of the new Carnegie Library. The Hotel was situated on the S/W corner of Richmond and Apsley Street (now Sandwich St.) Lot #17 and part of 16, Plan #1.

Andrew Carnegie agreed to a grant of \$10,000. for the building of the Library, but only after much correspondence between himself and Mr. John Legatt, the Town Clerk. Mr. Carnegie was determined that certain standards be adhered to before granting any money. A condition was imposed that the Town would spend 1/10 the amount of the grant each year for upkeep of the Library.

The Architects selected by Council were Crane & Pennington from Windsor, who were careful to submit plans in a style that had previously met approval by Carnegie at other locations: This accounts for the design to include what has come to be known as the "Carnegie Stairs", "Carnegie Basements" that were only half below grade, and the nearly ever-present stone ledge that runs around the building at grade level and at the level of the top of the stairs. The similarity to other buildings was offset by the use of limestone for the entire building. Few libraries in Ontario were made completely of stone.

The stone in this library is of local historic significance as it was quarried from the old Huron Indian Quarry in Anderdon Township. At the turn of the century the Huron Indians that remained at the Anderdon Reserve treated off remaining lands. Most received Crown Grants for their properties.

Chief Jas. White received a grant for the Stone Quarry. Later it was sold to the Solvay Corp. from Detroit. The Solvay Corp. was parent to the present Allied Chemical Co.

Joseph B. Wilson and his brother, sons of a local pensioner, were hired as building contractors. Both men were stone masons. The building was started in 1911 and completed in 1913. The total cost of the project was \$9,500., Five Hundred Dollars under budget!

In 1913 the Library had 6,000 books specializing in Canadian Historical and Biographical works. In 1935 Ontario Library Inspector F. C. Jennings stated in his report that the Amherstburg Library was one of the most complete and up to date in the County.