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Renfrew

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE

BY-LAW 91-51

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN
MUNICIPALLY AS 42 RENFREW STREET
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 City of Pembroke has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as Pembroke Victoria Hall at 42 Renfrew Street and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published 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 Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Pembroke enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest the real property known as Victoria Hall at 42 Renfrew Street, Plan 101, Part Moffat Homestead, Lot 300, 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 Chief Administrative Officer 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.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 6th DAY OF AUGUST, 1991.

H. Jane Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

Mayor
Mayor

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 3rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1991.

H. Jane Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

Mayor
Mayor

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 3rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1991. ✓

H. Jane Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

Mayor
Mayor

Reasons for Designation:
Pembroke Town Hall/Victoria Hall

Victoria Hall is recommended for designation for both its historical and architectural significance.

Historically, Victoria Hall, built in 1884, is almost certainly the first municipal building in Canada constructed with electrical service. Pembroke was one of the first communities with a commercial generating station, commencing operation in October 1884, and contemporary newspaper accounts indicate that the building, which was nearing completion at the time, would take advantage of the new service.

The building was an important social centre, housing not only the municipal offices, but a second floor meeting hall which accommodated numerous dances, theatricals, political rallies and public meetings. The building also housed the town jail and fire hall.

Victoria Hall was built and designed by Pembroke architect and contractor Michael Gorman. Gorman was born in Pakenham in 1837(38?) and came to Pembroke in 1864. His obituary credits him with having "planned and constructed a great many buildings from Ottawa to Sudbury." He was also active in local politics, serving on town council and the separate school board. He died in 1928.

Architecturally, Victoria Hall is an excellent example of institutional buildings which exhibited a blend of two of the dominant architectural styles prevalent during the second half of the 19th century; Gothic Revival and Italianate. The combination was often referred to as the Picturesque Movement.

By using the formal planning and massing principles of the Gothic Revival and then softening the rigidity of the building by using the more intuitive decorative vocabulary of the Italianate style, the architect has created a wonderfully statuesque building.

The building's Gothic Revival roots are illustrated by the following characteristics:

1. The strongly symmetrical front facade with steep Gothic roof pitch flanking a projecting square tower.
2. Trefoil windows in the Gothic style, placed in Italianate full arch openings.

Italianate detailing includes:

1. Tall slender windows, topped by a round arch and accented by graceful voisoirs. The trefoil windows in the facade appear to be intact, however, the upper section has been boarded over.
2. The original entrances flanking the central tower featured double doors entering from close to grade level. These entrances were replaced c. 1905 with much a grander approach which featured twin staircases with solid balustrades and massive newel posts leading to beaux arts porticos framing massive doorways entering the building at about two meters above grade. These elements have since been removed.

3. The original gabled roof ends in a small box eave constructed of simple moldings. The roof has a slight bell cast. The eave is visually supported by a cornice of evenly spaced corbelled brackets executed in polychrome brick, in contrast to the majority of local architecture in this style which employs wooden or metal bracketing. The cornice continues across the front of the building, creating a richly textured belt course, and is repeated on the central tower.

4. The strongly Italianate tower is atypically located in the centre of the facade and is the dominant design element. Designed to accommodate a large clock which was never installed, the opening is boarded over and, traditionally was painted in imitation of a clock face. The clock opening is also accented with a brick voissior and is echoed by semi-circular ornaments on the sides. The tower ends in a steep mansard roof pierced by richly detailed arched dormers, originally capped by wooden finials. The tower roof was capped by a wrought iron railing and a bronze fire bell.

5. The rich masonry treatment of the building extends to the well executed limestone foundation. The walls are of locally produced clay brick with every seventh course being a header course. Brick quoining is common to all exterior corners from the top of the foundation to the bottom of the brick cornice.

The building is quite well preserved. Among the features that should be maintained are the remaining original windows and the heavy iron bars of the original lock-up windows. The IACAC recommends the eventual restoration of the facade to its appearance in the 1920s, including the eventual restoration of the beaux arts entrances, the restoration of the painted clock face, the restoration of the dormer finials and the reinstallation of the firebell, which is in the possession of the Ottawa Valley Historical Society.