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Pembroke

Economic Development and Planning Department

April 17, 1991

Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West
2nd Floor
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 2R9

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find enclosed two by-laws designating 84 Renfrew Street and 237 Victoria Street in the City of Pembroke as Heritage Buildings along with the reasons for designation as required by the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.

? Isabella

Trusting this meets with your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Colleen Sauriol, M.Sc.
City Planner

RECEIVED
IN THE OFFICE

APR 22 1991

ARCHITECTURE AND
PLANNING
HERITAGE BRANCH

ONTARIO HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

APR 22 1991

N. Smith



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE

BY-LAW 91-21

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN
MUNICIPALLY AS 237 VICTORIA 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 Public Library at 237 Victoria 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 Pembroke Public Library at 237 Victoria Street, more particularly described in Schedule A and Schedule B 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 AND SECOND TIME THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 1991.



Mayor

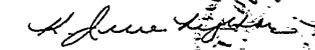


C.A.O.

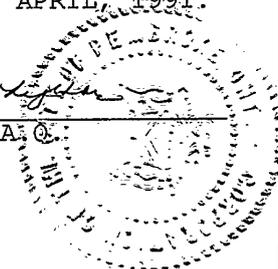
READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 1991.



Mayor



C.A.O.





Designation Report:

The Pembroke Public Library

- erected 1914
- architect: Francis Conroy Sullivan
- builders: Kehoe Brothers, Pembroke





The Pembroke Public Library - 1914

Pembroke Public Library

The Pembroke Library has been a part of Pembroke's downtown since it was built with funds from Andrew Carnegie, shortly before World War One. Although Carnegie supported over 2,500 libraries over a 17 year period, the Pembroke building is unique in being on the cutting edge of architectural design in a field normally noted for conservative though elaborate buildings.

The library was designed by Francis Conroy Sullivan, an Ottawa architect, almost certainly in association with noted American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada reports four collaborations between Wright and Sullivan with the Pembroke building the only one known to be standing. A preliminary project drawing dated 1913 has also been recently published in a compilation of Wright's drawings. The connection has also been confirmed by Wright's son. The degree of Wright's involvement is uncertain, however, and was almost certainly at an early stage; the building as constructed is almost wholly Sullivan's work.

Despite the fact that the Pembroke Library was Sullivan's first independent commission he received the highest fee of any Carnegie architect, \$2,159.00. The building cost \$15,500.00, not including the \$2,500 paid to Alexander Moffat Jr. for the site. It was built by the Pembroke firm of Kehoe Brothers and was furnished with products of the Steel Equipment Company of Canada, now Storwal Inc.

Pembroke, Canada's Next City, a promotional booklet published in 1914, described the library as follows: "*The building is of rather odd architectural design but is very neat and compact, and is the last step in library building. The whole main floor is taken up for library purposes, being finished in rich chestnut with attractive brass electric fixtures and stained windows. The basement is divided into a board room and a large meeting room.*"

Sullivan's early training in architecture was as a draftsman with the Ottawa architect Moses Edey. During his time with Edey he worked on drawings for the avante garde Daly Building. He also worked with the Ottawa firm of E.L. Horwood, leaving after one year to study under Wright at the American architect's Chicago studio. He also spent some time as an architect with Public Works Canada.

Sullivan is widely credited with bringing the Prairie School to Canada. His work mirrored much of Wright's, although he is generally recognized to have developed, in the relatively brief period of his practice, his own style.

Interior woodwork was one of his strong points, and the interior entrance of the Pembroke Library is exceptionally well executed. Consisting of a double staircase with a decorative grill leading into the main room, the design was executed in varnished chestnut wood and is strongly influenced by both Wright and the work of the British Arts and Crafts movement. Sullivan also designed two matching coat racks and a small table, all still in use.

Sullivan closed his practice in 1917. A characteristic lack of tact and the determination to produce the best building possible often led to disagreements, especially with contractors, and to fewer commissions. Sullivan also began drinking heavily. In later years he was taken in by Wright and he died at Wright's Taliesin studio in 1929 at the age of 47.

Architectural Description

The Pembroke Public Library remains one of the most striking examples of the prairie design vernacular found in Canada. In their attempt to accent the prairie's natural beauty and "its quiet level", the early architects of the prairie school believed that "a building should harmonize with its surroundings... hence gently sloping roofs, low proportions, quiet sky lines, suppressed heavy chimneys and sheltering overhangs."



Pembroke Public Library, c. 1960.

Sullivan uncompromisingly applied this thesis to the design of the Pembroke Public Library. The library has incorporated many of the classic design characteristics of the prairie style:

1. Strongly symmetrical cruciform floor plan with a similarly unwavering placement of the centered entrance and windows. Several brick additions attached to the building over the past 25 years have been kept to the rear and side, preserving this effect from the primary elevations.

2. The typical "prairie box" centrally located front entrance provides a conspicuous focal point for the facade. The massive cast stone entrance surround framed a pair of heavily stylized wooden doors which complimented the glazing pattern of the front elevation windows. Located on either side of the entrance surround are cast stone plaques in the art nouveau style inlaid in a brick frame, the detailing reminiscent of the Sullivanesque (Louis Sullivan, Chicago) ornamentation prominent in the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

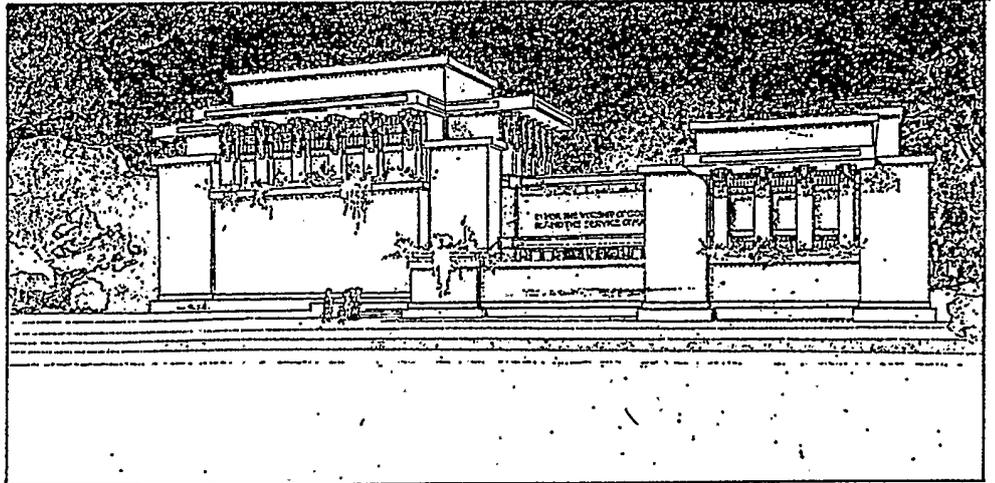
3. The windows are classic prairie style, tall casements with a strongly abstract geometric glazing pattern, set in cast stone surrounds which are further accented with geometric patterns which help to emphasize the horizontal lines of the building.

4. The building has wide overhanging eaves with fascia decorated in a simple geometric pattern repeated both on the window surrounds and in the interior millwork. The design of the fascia and eaves are strikingly similar to Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois. The band of stucco ornamentation above the foundation is also similar to Unity Temple.

5. The building is constructed of locally produced clay brick, the cast stone detailing of the front elevation echoed in simple brick detailing on the back and sides of the original building.

6. The interior chestnut millwork is largely intact, although much has been painted in the past 25 years. Detailing echoes the exterior decoration, most notably in the relation of the newel posts, which are related to the ornamentation of the front window surrounds, and the ceiling banding, which repeats the pattern of the original fascia. A chestnut screen separates the double staircase from the central public space.

A number of pieces of original furniture designed by Sullivan for the building remain in place and



Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois, 19??.

are in good condition, including two coat racks based on the design of the entrance screen, and a small wooden table in the "craftsman" style.

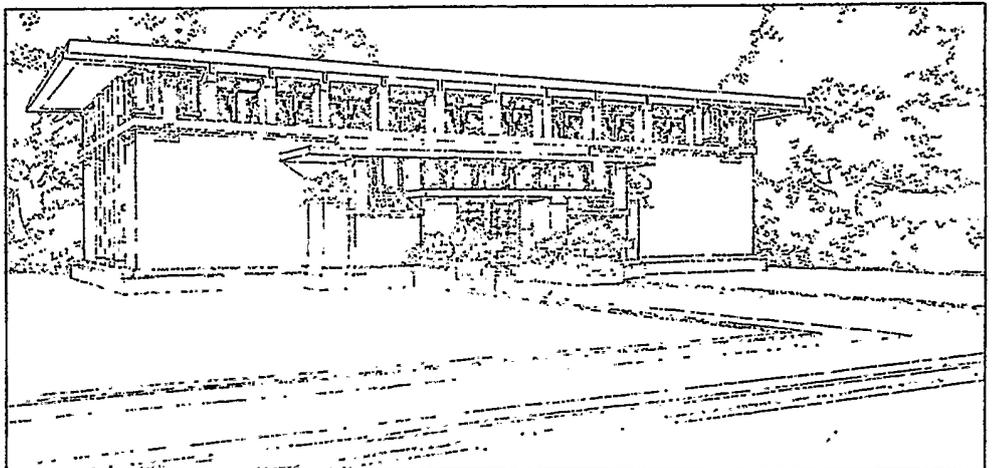
See Schedule "B"

Reason to designate:

The Pembroke Public Library is recommended for designation for both its architectural and historical significance.

The acquisition of a Carnegie Library in 1914 represented the culmination of over 20 years of effort by the local community beginning with the founding of a "Mechanics Institute" in 18??. The program to obtain a Carnegie grant and build the library involved some of Pembroke's most prominent citizens of the pre-WW I period and the Carnegie program itself was a major cultural force in the early 20th century.

Architecturally the building is an outstanding example of the prairie school designed by Canada's only major proponent of the style, Francis Conroy Sullivan. It was Sullivan's first independent commission. There is substantial documented evidence of Sullivan's mentor Frank Lloyd Wright's participation in the design process including published drawings of early proposals for the building.



Frank Lloyd Wright's "Carnegie Library project, Pembroke Ontario, 1913.

The exterior is a fine example of Sullivan's work, from the wide overhang of the roof, with fascia detailing reminiscent of Wright's Unity Temple, to the stucco ground course. The geometrical glazing, cast stone window surrounds and abstract detailing of the cast stone entrance are both reminiscent of the contemporary work of Wright and indicative of the direction taken by Sullivan in his architectural career. The glazing in the original entrance doors strongly accented the pattern of the windows. One unique feature is the twin Art Nouveau plaques flanking the entrance.

The interior millwork is largely intact and relates strongly to the exterior detailing, most notably in the newel posts of the staircase, which echo the detailing of the window surrounds, and the ceiling banding, which repeats the pattern of both the window surrounds and the original fascia. The staircase is divided from the main public area by a magnificent wooden grill.

Three pieces of furniture designed by Sullivan for the building, two coat racks and a small table, remain in place and in good original condition. The coat racks are especially interesting in the way they tie together elements of the newel detailing and the screen. All woodwork was executed in varnished chestnut. An unusual feature of the interior woodwork was the highlighting of the relief on the side of the stair handrail with a deep cherry-red semi-opaque stain.

The library has been documented in a wide selection of literature pertaining to Canada's architectural history.

Appendix A: Reasons for designation to be published with notice of intention to designate:

1. Pembroke Public Library

The Pembroke Public Library is recommended for designation for both its architectural and historical significance.

The acquisition of a Carnegie Library in 1914 represented the culmination of over 20 years of effort by the local community beginning with the founding of a "Mechanics Institute" in 18??.

Architecturally the building is an outstanding example of the prairie school designed by Canada's only major proponent of the style, Francis Conroy Sullivan. It was Sullivan's first independent commission. There is substantial documented evidence of Sullivan's mentor Frank Lloyd Wright's participation in the design process.

Of particular interest is the interior millwork which is largely intact, and the three pieces of furniture designed by Sullivan for the building, two coat racks and a small table.

SCHEDULE "B"

Reasons for Designation, Pembroke Public Library

Property to be designated: 237 Victoria Street, Pembroke, Ontario, more particularly that part of the Moffat Homestead in the Moffat Section of the City of Pembroke, which may be better known and described as follows: commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Renfrew Street, if produced, would intersect with the eastern boundary of Victoria Street in the Moffat Section of the said City of Pembroke; thence north sixty-five degrees and forty-three minutes east, astronomically, one hundred and eighty-four and one half feet more or less; thence north twenty-four degrees and seventeen minutes west, astronomically, one hundred and one half feet more or less to a point distant 152 feet 8 inches from the southern boundary of pembroke Street; thence south sixty-five degrees and forty-three minutes west, astronomically, one hundred and eighty-four and one half feet more or less to the eastern boundary of Victoria Street; thence southerly along the said eastern boundary of Victoria Street, one hundred and one and one half feet more or less to the point or place of beginning, and containing by admeasurement eighteen thousand, seven hundred and twenty-six square feet, more or less.

The Pembroke Public Library is recommended for designation on both historical and architectural grounds.

Architecturally, the building is of great importance, being an exceptionally well preserved example of a Prairie School building designed by Canada's primary practitioner of the school, Francis Conroy Sullivan. The library was built with funds from Andrew Carnegie, shortly before World War One. Although Carnegie supported over 2,500 libraries over a 17 year period, the Pembroke building is unique in being on the cutting edge of architectural design in a field normally noted for conservative though elaborate buildings.

The library was designed by Francis Conroy Sullivan, an Ottawa architect, almost certainly in association with noted American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada reports four collaborations between Wright and Sullivan with the Pembroke building the only one known to be standing. A preliminary project drawing dated 1913 and labelled "Pembroke Public Library" has also been recently published in a compilation of Wright's drawings. The connection has also been confirmed by Wright's son. The degree of Wright's involvement is uncertain, however, and was almost certainly at an early stage; the building as constructed is almost wholly Sullivan's work.

Despite the fact that the Pembroke Library was Sullivan's first independent commission he received the highest fee of any Carnegie architect, \$2,159.00. The building cost \$15,500.00, not including the \$2,500 paid to Alexander Moffat Jr. for the site. It was built by the Pembroke firm of Kehoe Brothers and was furnished with products of the Steel Equipment Company of Canada, now Storwal Inc., also located in Pembroke.

Sullivan's early training in architecture was as a draftsman with the Ottawa architect Moses Edey. During his time with Edey he worked on drawings for the avante garde Daly Building. He also worked with the Ottawa firm of E.L. Horwood, leaving after one year to study under Wright at the American architect's Chicago studio. He also spent some time as an architect with Public Works Canada.

Sullivan is widely credited with bringing the Prairie School to Canada. His work mirrored much of Wright's, although he is generally recognized to have developed, in the relatively brief period of his practice, his own style.

Interior woodwork was one of his strong points, and the interior entrance of the Pembroke Library is exceptionally well executed. Consisting of a double staircase with a decorative grill leading into the main room, the design was executed in varnished chestnut wood with a semi-opaque cherry red stain highlighting the relief on the sides of the handrail. The entrance, along with the rest of the building's woodwork, is strongly influenced by both Wright and the work of the British Arts and Crafts movement. Sullivan also designed two matching coat racks and a small table, all still in use. Due to the exceptional quality of the interior the LACAC recommends the preservation of all remaining original woodwork and the restoration of the varnished finish on that now painted.

The Pembroke Public Library remains one of the most striking examples of the prairie design vernacular found in Canada. In their attempt to accent the prairie's natural beauty and "its quiet level", the early architects of the prairie school believed that "a building should harmonize with its surroundings... hence gently sloping roofs, low proportions, quiet sky lines, suppressed heavy chimneys and sheltering overhangs."

Sullivan uncompromisingly applied this thesis to the design of the Pembroke Public Library. The library has incorporated many of the classic design characteristics of the prairie style:

1. Strongly symmetrical cruciform floor plan with a similarly unwavering placement of the centered entrance and windows. Several brick additions attached to the building over the past 25 years have been kept to the rear and side, preserving this effect from the primary elevations.

2. The typical "prairie box" centrally located front entrance provides a conspicuous focal point for the facade. The massive cast stone entrance surround framed a pair of heavily stylized wooden doors which complimented the glazing pattern of the front elevation windows. The original doors have been removed and the LACAC recommends their restoration. Located on either side of the entrance surround are cast stone plaques in the art nouveau style inlaid in a brick frame, the detailing reminiscent of the Sullivan-esque (Louis Sullivan, Chicago) ornamentation prominent in the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

3. The windows are classic prairie style, tall casements with a strongly abstract geometric glazing pattern, set in cast stone surrounds which are further accented with geometric patterns which help to emphasize the horizontal lines of the building.

4. The building has wide overhanging eaves with fascia decorated in a simple geometric pattern repeated both on the window surrounds and in the interior millwork. This fascia has been covered with sheet metal and the LACAC recommends its restoration. In addition, two metal columns have been added to support the overhang and the LACAC recommends that they be removed and any necessary structural repairs to the roof framing be performed. The design of the fascia and eaves are strikingly similar to Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois. The band of stucco ornamentation above the foundation is also similar to Unity Temple.

5. The building is constructed of locally produced clay brick, the cast stone detailing of the front elevation echoed in simple brick detailing on the back and sides of the original building.

6. As noted, the interior chestnut millwork is largely intact, although much has been painted in the past 25 years. Detailing echoes the exterior decoration, most notably in the relation of the newel posts, which are related to the ornamentation of the front window surrounds, and the ceiling banding, which repeats the pattern of the original fascia. A chestnut screen separates the double staircase from the central public space.

Three pieces of original furniture designed by Sullivan for the building remain in place and are in good condition, including two coat racks based on the design of the entrance screen, and a small wooden table in the "craftsman" style.

The building is also of historical significance to the community of Pembroke.

The acquisition of a Carnegie Library in 1914 represented the culmination of over 20 years of effort by the local community beginning with the founding of a "Mechanics Institute" in the late nineteenth century. The program to obtain a Carnegie grant and build the library involved some of Pembroke's most prominent citizens of the pre-WW I period and the Carnegie program itself was a major cultural force in the early 20th century.

The building occupies a prominent location on the former Town Square and is a noted local landmark.