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See i

Leeds, Grenville

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT

P.O. BOX 160 / 360 DIBBLE ST. W.,
PRESCOTT, ONTARIO K0E 1T0

TEL.: (613) 925-2812

December 3, 1985

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

Dear Sir:

Re: DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES IN PRESCOTT

Pursuant to Section 29 (6) of the Ontario Heritage Act,
enclosed are certified copies of By-Laws 50-85 to 54-85 of the
Corporation of the Town of Prescott.

These By-Laws designate five properties as being of architectural
and historical value or interest.

Yours very truly,

Arie Hoogenboom, A.M.C.T.
Clerk Co-Ordinator

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT

BY-LAW NO. 53-85

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
ST. MARK'S CLUB
JAMES STREET WEST, PRESCOTT
AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 337 R.S.O. 1980 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 Prescott has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as St. Mark's Club James Street West, Prescott 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 a 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 Prescott enacts as follows:

- 1) There is designated as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest the real property known as St. Mark's Club, James Street West, Prescott more particularly described in Schedule A hereto.
- 2) That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-Law together with the reasons for designation as detailed in Appendix A to be registered against the property described in Schedule A hereto in the local Land Registry Office.
- 3) That 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 this By-Law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Prescott

Read a first and second time this 2nd day of December, 1985.

Sandra S. Lawton
MAYOR

Neil J. Horgan
CLERK

Read a third time and finally passed this 2nd day of December, 1985.

Sandra S. Lawton
MAYOR

Neil J. Horgan
CLERK

I certify this to be
an exact and true copy
.....
Clerk
Town of Prescott

SCHEDULE "A" TO BYLAW 53-85

LOT 11, South Side of James Street, BLOCK 2, TOWN OF PRESCOTT,
PLAN #19 and being the same lands as previously described in
Instrument #A-48 (secondly).

James Street

N 53° E

83' 6"

168.96'
(2 chains 56 links)

GREVILLE
COLLEGE

11
(2ndly)

10

9

8

Roman
Catholic
Church

271.92'
(4 chains 12 links)
S 37° E

CONVENT

A-48

H-338

K-3870

11
(1stly)

N 37° W
271.92'
(4 chains 12 links)

10

9

8

"PROSPECT HOUSE"

(2 chains 56 links)

168.96' - Reed
N 53° W

136'

136'

Edward Street

83' 6"

BLOCK 2
PLAN # 19 PRESCOTT

Dibble Street

DESIGNATION REPORT OF LACAC OF PRESCOTT

Building - St. Mark's Club (formerly Father James W. Campion's School)

Location - James Street, Prescott
Lot 11 on the south side of James Street

Date of Report - 1 October 1985. Prepared by: T. Craig

A. Reasons for Designation

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee recommends that St. Mark's Roman Catholic Club, also the structure attached to it which was formerly a part of Grenville College, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, for the following reasons:

1. This building was formerly a part of the first school in Prescott, which was built by Rev. Father J. W. Campion who was the Prescott Parish Priest from 1832 to 1836. He constructed the school at the same time that he built his home. Most of the school was dismantled before 1848. Only the west wing was left intact and this is now being used as a garage and implement shed by St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church. When the school was dismantled part of it, which was formerly the barn, was renovated and became the headquarters of the newly organized Knights of Columbus.¹ The meeting room for this organization is still in this building on the second floor. St. Mark's Club use the main floor and the building is identified under this name.
2. Although this building has changed considerably since it was originally built, it is of considerable historic value. It housed the first school in the area and the type of construction used in this school can still be seen in the part that remains. In addition, the alterations which were made on or before 1848 reflect some very interesting structural features of that period.

B. Historical Background

The land on which the school was located was purchased from the Jessup estate by Rev. James W. Campion in 1833.² A school was immediately built on this land. At the same time Father Campion had his home constructed which was behind the school facing Dibble Street. When the school opened for classes Father Campion served as headmaster.

There is considerable information on record which shows that the school was built during the period 1834 and 1835. A newspaper announcement dated 1 Sept. 1835 and which appeared in the Prescott Vanguard on 6 January 1836 stated as follows:

St. Mark's Club (formerly Father James W. Campion's School) - Continued

"Rev. James W. Campion of Prescott, having now completed the above named establishment (Grenville College), respectfully informs the public that it is now open for the reception of boarders and day scholars."

In addition the following extract from "The Documentary History of Education in Upper Canada" 1831-1836 by George Hodgins, 1894, had this to say:

"At Prescott there is a Custom House and a very elegant stone building erected by the Catholic Clergyman, The Rev. J. W. Campion, and designated Grenville College."³

Ruth McKenzie, in her book entitled "Leeds and Grenville - Their First Two Hundred Years" stated on Page 104 - "At least one private Catholic School had been in existence previously. This was Grenville College, established in Prescott in 1835 by the Rev. James Campion".

In 1845 Rev. Campion died and title to both the school and home passed to his two brothers, Patrick and Thomas Campion.² On 11 April 1848 the brothers put both the home and college up for sale.¹ On 6 June 1848 the title to both properties passed to one brother, Patrick Campion.² On 18 Sept. 1848 the title passed to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Diocese of Kingston.²

C. Architectural Description

It was not possible for the writer to locate any information concerning the architectural features of Grenville College. However, Mrs. Barbara Seargeant of Prescott,⁴ who has a wealth of knowledge concerning Roman Catholic History in Prescott, has given me some details about the school. I greatly appreciate her help on this question.

According to Mrs. Seargeant the school, built of rubble stone, was approximately 80 feet wide and had one centre block and two wings (similar to a "U"). As stated earlier only one wing remains. It is not known how long the school operated. When the school and home were advertised for sale on 11 April 1848, it is known that a part of the school had been dismantled. The advertisement stated in part: "The College, some of whose buildings still remain..."¹ The part still standing is 41 ft. long and 18 ft. wide. Several doors and windows have been closed with the same type of rubble stone used in the walls. There is only one original door to the building and the bottom of it is about one foot below the ground outside which is the parking lot. It is apparent considerable grading was done, probably when the parking lot was installed.

St. Mark's Club - Continued

St. Mark's Club and the Knights of Columbus meeting hall are located in what was the barn at the time the school was built. This section is 24 ft. long and 33 ft. wide. This part of the building may have also been made of rubble stone or wood at the time the school was built. However it had been renovated before the building was advertised for sale in 1848. The advertisement stated: "The College, some of whose buildings still remain on the property of the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist, facing James Street, and recently renovated as the headquarters of the newly-organized Knights of Columbus----"1.

St. Mark's Club is a well maintained two story red brick building. The bricks separating the main floor from the floor above have been made into an attractive border. These bricks stand on end at an angle. The windows are long and narrow with white wooden frames. The lintels over the windows are also made of red brick in an arched pattern. The door to the main floor is encased with a white wooden wall approximately eight feet wide. All components in the structure fit together in an attractive manner without losing its heritage appearance.

1. J.A.Morris - History of Prescott 1310-1967 P. 225. Notice of Sale
2. Grenville County Registry Office.
3. From the Book "Built on a Rock". The story of the Roman Catholic Church in Kingson 1826-1976
4. Re Mrs. Barbara Seargeant. This lady resides at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it is apparent that Mrs. Seargeant, being born into a family of Prescott pioneers, would have a good knowledge of historical buildings such as Father Campion's School