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CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

BY-LAW NO. 1415

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

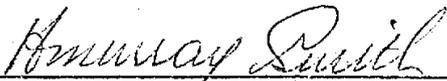
Passed the 12 day of April, 1976.

WHEREAS certain lands and buildings thereon, within the Town of Amherstburg and hereinafter described, are deemed to be of historical and architectural significance;

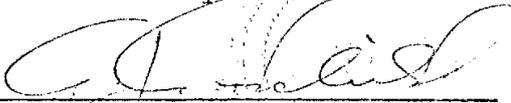
AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Amherstburg, it is expedient and desirable to designate the said property to be of historical and architectural significance;

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 schedule forms part of this By-law, be and the same is hereby proclaimed to be designated in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act and Amendments thereto.
2. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the day following the final passing thereof by the Council of the Town of Amherstburg.



Mayor



Clerk

1st Reading: April 12, 1976

2nd Reading: April 12, 1976

3rd Reading: April 12, 1976

This is to certify that this is a true copy of By-law 1415 passed in open Council on April 12, 1976.



Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

(1) Captain Walter Callam Residence

Location:

All and signular that certain Part of Lot #2, Plan #6, and the premises situate thereon, known as the "Captain Walter Callam Residence", located at 224 Dalhousie Street in the Town of Amherstburg.

Historical Significance:

This brick building was built shortly after the War of 1812 to replace the Commissary burned in September 1813 when Amherstburg was evacuated by the retreating British troops. The windows on the riverside of the building still retain iron bars placed there, according to the old store, "to keep the Indians out". However, in the Patriot troubles in 1838 the Commissary was robbed of some barrels of flour taken in the night by some Patriot sympathizers to supply a Patriot camp near Trenton, Michigan.

Originally, there was a stone "Strong Room" attached to the building where gold, silver, and other valuables were kept. These items were for the pay of the troops and to pay merchants in the absence of banks. Years ago the strong room was razed and the large stone blocks incorporated in the walls of the Gaol at old Sandwich. In modern times the blocks of stone were again moved, this time to Ambassador Park below the bridge where they decorate the perimeter of the Parking Lot. Also, the Commissary was surrounded by picket of red cedar posts. These were removed when the Commissary was converted to a residence at which time they were sold for twenty-five cents each. One of the early residents was Henry Clay, afterwards Crown Attorney who removed to Windsor upon receiving that appointment. Three generations of the Callam family have resided in the building. Capt. Walter Callam added the wing on the east (street) side and the porch on the river side. Otherwise the building is little altered.

(1) Captain Walter Callam Residence

Architectural

The building is representative of brick military construction of the period, and is one of only two brick military buildings remaining in Amherstburg, the other being the Brick Barracks (1819) which is located in Fort Malden National Historic Park.

Summary of Available Information Re Callam House

- 1825 Structure not included in inventory of Buildings in Smyth report.
- 1828 Amherstburg Urban Renewal Study (Jones-1967) indicates building constructed in this year.
- 1834 Military Plan of this date clearly shows the structure labelled as "Commandant's Office".
- 1841 Plan and Section of "Commissariat Office" prepared by Andrew Kemp. Plan shows two offices and vault, with window and fireplace positions as they are at present.
- 1844 Military plan shows the structure labelled as "Commissariat Office".
- 1852 Military Plan shows structure labelled as "Office".
- 1855 (est) Bercyz sketch of Bois Blanc Island and Amherstburg shoreline clearly shows the building, next to the much larger Commissariat Stores Building.
- 1867 Evaluation of property by Samuel Brodie, P.L.S., which states "said to have been sold by the Government to Henry Brown".

SCHEDULE "A"

(3) Jones China Shop

Location

All and singular that certain Part of Lot #8, Plan #1 and the premises situate thereon known as the "Jones China Shop" located at 273 Dalhousie Street in the Town of Amherstburg.

Historical Significance:

A two-storey brick building has always been a commercial building. The date of its building is not presently known, but is before 1849. The first Amherstburg weekly newspaper was published there in March, 1849, with Charles Reeves as editor. At the same period, a portion of the building was the grocery and general store of Peter Taylor. In the 1860's and 70's the property was occupied by John Gottlieb Kolfage. Kolfage was a very enterprising individual. He was at that time Amherstburg's most prominent merchant. Originally, on coming to Amherstburg, he had been a tanner but had expanded from that business to boots and shoes. Later he had a hardware store, tinsmith shop, dry goods, groceries, and clothing. Several of these businesses were carried on simultaneously but in different premises. Kolfage was also interested in local politics and became in 1878 the first Mayor of Amherstburg. (Previously Amherstburg was rated as a village with town powers). In the 1890's the grocery business of Captain Trotter was located on this corner. Capt. Trotter was a Great Lakes mariner and enjoyed a large clientele from fellow shipmasters whom he supplied with groceries. Upon the death of Capt. Trotter, the business was continued for a period by Capt. Fred Trotter, a son. He later disposed of the business to two former clerks, Russel Scratch and Joseph Lovegrove., who operated under the name of Lovegrove and Scratch. They were the first in Amherstburg to adopt the automobile for delivery purposes (about 1910). Later, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Lovegrove continued the business alone in other premises until his death in 1946. Meanwhile, the premises were re-modelled and made into an ice cream Parlour and china

SCHEDULE "A"

(3) Jones China Shop

Historical Significance: Continued

store owned by George H. Jones. The place was noted for its cobblestone ice cream fountain. Gradually the china business became the more important portion of the business and the ice cream part closed out. Mr. Jones was active in municipal life being at various times, a councillor and mayor, and for an extended period was the Town Treasurer. Following the decease of Mr. Jones several different owners have operated the china business which still continues.

Down through the years there has been comparatively little alternation in the lines of the building. An addition to the rear, and new windows being the chief changes.

SCHEDULE "A"

(5) Former Dunbar Residence

Location:

All and singular that certain Lot #8, Plan #1 and the premises situate thereon known as the "Dunbar Residence" located at 273 Ramsay Street in the Town of Amherstburg.

Historical Significance:

A large two-storey brick building on georgian lines erected in 1849. (It was one of three brick buildings built in that year and alluded to in the columns of the "Amherstburg Courier". The others were the Solmoni Hotel and the Paxton Building). Built for a bake-shop and residence by a Mr. Dunbar. Among later users were a funeral director. It was the site of the Amherstburg Library for about twenty years until the Carnegie Library was opened about 1911. Next a machine shop occupied part of the building, the remainder being used by the Pineau family. About 1917 the Amherstburg Continuation School occupied the building and remained there until the General Amherst High School was opened in 1921 since which time the building has been occupied as a residence, the longest tenancy being that of Louis Goodchild.

SCHEDULE "A"

(6) The Gibson Gallery

Location:

All and singular that certain part of Lot #33, Plan #240 and the premises situate thereon known as the Gibson Gallery, located at 140 Richmond Street in the Town of Amherstburg.

Historical Significance:

A one-storey red brick approximately 72 feet in length and 27 feet wide at its greatest width, Romanesque in style. Built about 1892 as a Railroad Station when the Michigan Central Railroad was extended into Amherstburg from Gordon Station. Features include bevelled glass panes in fanlights above the windows and dressed stone sills and decorative trim. Three main divisions, Waiting Room, Ticket Office and Baggage Room. The Amherstburg Station was built at a period when the railroad management was giving attention for the first time to Architecture and had appointed qualified architects to its staff. Previously, stations, unless in a City, were plain affairs often built of vertical board siding such as was the Station at Gordon. Substantially unchanged, the building is presently used as an art gallery and crafts centre.