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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1974
S. O. CHAPTER 122

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE
FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESSES IN THE PROVINCE OF
ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Ontario Heritage Foundation,
77 Bloor Street West,
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 2R9

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Renfrew intends to designate the properties, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal addresses as properties of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S. O. Chapter 122

- (a) The O'Brien Apartments, 340 Raglan Street South
Reasons for the proposed designation: "The O'Brien Apartments, 340 Raglan Street South, are recommended for designation as being of both architectural and historical interest. Built in 1909 by M.J. O'Brien as an Opera House, the structure became a centre of Social and Political activity. With the advent of talking motion pictures a new theatre was built and the Opera House was converted into an apartment building and lodge hall. The four-storied, flat roofed structure with its imposing facade is a dominant feature on the Town's main street and typifies the architecture of the period. The building has a neatly framed facade as a result of the slightly elevated pilasters that occur at the outermost facade edges. Some other notable features of the building include the round headed labels over the windows, the bracketed cornice, the pediment and finials crowning the cornice and the unusual umbrage of the apartments. The floor is clad with tiles in which the name 'O'Brien' and the date "1909" appear, the doors and windows are of panelled wood, and the ceiling is clad with floral patterned metal plates.
- (b) Renfrew Public Library, 13 Railway Avenue
Reasons for the proposed designation: "The Public Library, 13 Railway Avenue, was built after World War 1 with the assistance of the Carnegie Foundation

on a site formerly occupied by Stone Stables used in connection with the old Albion Hotel. The Library, complimented by the architecture of the adjacent Fire Hall, create the pleasant courtyard atmosphere of Low's Square. Characterized by a distinctive red brick exterior the building should be noted for the fancy, louvered cupola surmounting roof, and the impressive entrance created by large stone brackets and plaque."

(c) Renfrew Fire Hall, 152 Plaunt Street

Reasons for the proposed designation: "The Fire Hall, 152 Plaunt Street, was built after World War 1 to provide space for the larger modern fire equipment which could not be accommodated in the former fire hall on Duke Street. Combining with the Public Library, the architectural features of the structure create a pleasant courtyard atmosphere in Low's Square. The Fire Hall has a tall tower with elegantly proportioned round headed windows which contrast effectively against the distinctive red brick. The tower, originally used to dry out fire hoses, now serves as a landmark in the low profile development of the Town's core. Other significant features of the Fire Hall include the unique weather vane, the twelve-paned window frames, decorative roof brackets, and fire bell."

(d) The McDougall Mill Museum, Arthur Avenue

Reasons for the proposed designation: "The McDougall Mill Museum, on Arthur Avenue, was built in the late 1850's by John Lorn McDougall one of the pioneer developers of Renfrew. For many years it operated as a grist mill and flour mill under a succession of owners. The structure was presented to the Town by M.J. Murray in the 1960's for use as a museum after having been used for a number of years as a storage building by Renfrew Woollen Mills owned by M.J. O'Brien. The McDougall Mill Museum is an attractive, well preserved example of Mill architecture. Its simple, massive, rectangular shape is accented through the use of stone quoins, a moulded cornice and a low pitched roof. The contrast of the large, stippled quoins on the corners of the museum against the roughly coursed stones cladding the building is especially attractive and the contrast is continued around the openings of the windows. Other notable features of the structure include the lintels above the windows and doors, the flume arches, the two capped chimneys, and the initials stamped on the facade. The building is said to be an example of dry stone masonry construction."

(e) The Airth House, 301 Barnet Blvd.

Reasons for the proposed designation: "The Airth House, 301 Barnet Blvd, is a fine old stone building that belonged to a succession of Airths, one of the pioneer families of the village. With the coming of the railway and subsequent development of the Town, the Airth farm was subdivided and numerous buildings disappeared but the farm house remained and now serves as a reminder of settlement days. The house is of architectural importance due to its well balanced

design. This quality is noticeable in the repeated arrangement of the facade. The symmetrical placement of the windows to either side of the facade door with its transom and side lights is repeated in the returned eaves of the roof on both gable ends. The pattern is continued in the two chimneys crowning the gables. Of further interest are the returned eaves of the addition and the stonework of the walls."

- (f) The Gibbons House, R.R.#1 (on O'Brien Road within the Renfrew Industrial Park)
Reasons for the proposed designation: "The Gibbons House, on O'Brien Road (within the Renfrew Industrial Park), is a stone house built about 1870 by John B. Gibbons a pioneer farmer in Horton Township. In later years the farm was owned by M.J. O'Brien, a wealthy industrialist, and was used for wartime munitions industries. After the war the buildings were demolished but many of the concrete foundations remain, as well as portions of the "Man-proof" fence that surrounded the property. Later Mr. O'Brien used the farm for his Hereford Stock raising operations. After his death the farm passed into other hands, the barn burned down and the house fell into disrepair leaving only traces of its former attractiveness. The Gibbons House is architecturally significant for its balanced, well preserved design. The house may be described as typical of Ontario houses of the period. The straight forward, rectangular shape of the windows and doors reinforce the simple, monumental shape of the house."

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Renfrew before the 24th day of November, 1978.

Dated at The Town of Renfrew this 20th day of October, 1978.

ROBERT G. HOWSE, Clerk
128 Raglan Street South
P.O. Box 187
RENFREW, Ontario K7V 4A3