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"The Town of Maples"

TOWN OF PORT ELGIN

Nancy Smith
Bruce

MUNICIPAL OFFICES
MAPLE SQUARE CENTRE
BOX 550, PORT ELGIN
ONTARIO, N0H 2C0
519-832-2008

January 30, 1990

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

Dear Sir:

Re: Port Elgin Public Library
Designation under Heritage Act.

The Council of Port Elgin completed designation of the Port Elgin Public Library, 708 Goderich Street, Port Elgin at the meeting of January 22, 1990.

In regards to this designation enclosed please find the following:

1. certified copy of designation by-law.
2. copy of reasons for designation.
3. copy of notice being placed in the Port Elgin Beacon Times.

Your very truly,


Martin Parker
Administrative Assistant to CAO

MP'we

enclosures

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PORT ELGIN

BY-LAW NO. 3-90

A By-law to designate the property, including buildings and lands, known municipally as the Port Elgin Public Library, 708 Goderich Street, as a property of Architectural and Historical Value of Interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1980, R.S.O. Chapter 337, 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 Port Elgin caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as the Port Elgin Public Library at 708 Goderich 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 Town of Port Elgin enacts as follows:

- 1) There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property known as The Port Elgin Public Library, 708 Goderich Street, 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 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 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 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 1990.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 22ND DAY OF JANUARY 1990.


Reeve


Chief Administrative Officer.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY


DOUGLAS A. COURT
CLERK-TREASURER

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 3-90

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Port Elgin in the County of Bruce and being composed of Pt Lot 107, Plan 11, Block 68, west of and fronting on Goderich Street and south of Elgin Street.

PORT ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Carnegie Libraries represent a significant part of the cultural history and architectural heritage of Ontario. The Port Elgin Library situated on a prominent site on the main street of the Town was constructed in 1908 with an original grant of \$8,000. from the Carnegie Free Trust of New York.

S. G. Kinsey of Port Elgin was chosen as Architect and the contract for erection of the building was awarded to Miller Bros. also of Port Elgin.

Historically the building has served both as a focal point for political and social activities and as a civic symbol for over 80 years.

From an architectural standpoint the Port Elgin Public Library features symmetrical design and classical detailing. It has a centrally located main entrance with a classically columned portico flanked by a symmetrical arrangement of windows.

The bracketed pediment is supported by four plain columns, grouped in pairs with large Ionic capitals. An oval window framed in stone with four keystones is placed in the centre of the pediment and the words "Public Library" are found on the frieze area of the entablature. Other items reflecting Ontario Carnegie library ornamentation which are included in the Port Elgin library design are brick quoins and a bracketed cornice.

The main entrance features double oak and glass doors with a stained glass fanned transom light.

In each of the north and south walls of the entrance is an oval stained glass window with a lamp of learning incorporated into the design. These windows are framed in stone with four keystones.

The building is single storey with an exposed basement and a fieldstone foundation and the entrance is served by a single flight of exterior stairs.

Minutes of the Port Elgin Council meeting of March 13, 1908, indicate that the library was to be constructed of Milton Pressed red brick. The mortar is a matching red colour. A stone belt course runs along 3 sides of the building with a concrete belt course on the rear of the west wall. The west wall also contains a random window placement compared to the other three exposures which have a symmetrical arrangement of paired windows on the basement level matching larger windows on the floor above. All windows are flat headed and all have stone lintels and sills with the exception of these on the west wall which have concrete lintels and stone sills.

The building has a shingled hipped roof terminating in a flat section at the ridge and has a stone-capped chimney on each of the north and south walls.

Although architectural drawings have not been located to date, the committee has been advised that the main floor of the library was originally one large room with the delivery desk positioned towards the back. The present delivery desk and the majority of the bookcases are original to the building as is the wainscotting which appears on both upper and lower floors.

For the most part the interior trim, doors and window and door mouldings are original and contribute significantly to the character of the library interior.

Details of the original floor, ceiling and lighting are still under investigation and will be included in an amended report as they become available.

The basement level contains two rooms of special significance to the community. The north room was, until recently, the meeting place of the Port Elgin Town Council while the adjoining room to the south was the scene of Saugeen Township Council meetings.

Conclusion:

This prominent Port Elgin landmark has both historic and architectural significance to the community and is one of a decreasing number of Carnegie Libraries remaining in Ontario. It is a part of the community's heritage and as such should not be lost.



TOWN OF PORT ELGIN

"The Town of Maples"

MUNICIPAL OFFICES
MAPLE SQUARE CENTRE
BOX 550, PORT ELGIN
ONTARIO, N0H 2C0
519 822 2008

January 29, 1990

The Beacon Times
694 Goderich Street
Port Elgin, Ontario
N0H 2C0

Dear Sir:

Would you please place the attached notice in your paper for
publication on January 31st, 1990
February 7th, 1990
February 14th, 1990

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,

Martin Parker
Administrative Assistant to CAO

MP'we

enclosure

In the matter of
The Ontario Heritage Act
R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337
and
The Port Elgin Public Library
708 Goderich Street
Town of Port Elgin
Province of Ontario

Notice of Passing of By-Law

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of
the Town of Port Elgin has passed By-Law #3-90 to
designate the above mentioned property.

Date in Toronto this 31st day of January, 1990.

D. A. Court
Chief Administrative Officer