

Heritage Designation Brief



Carnegie Building

500 George Street North

Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

February 2006

HERITAGE DESIGNATION STATUS SHEET

Street Address: 500 George Street North

Roll Number: 040100089000000

PIN Number: 281060087

Short Legal Description:
Please check! LT 1 E OF GEORGE ST. & N. OF MURRAY ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 2 E OF GEORGE ST & N OF MURRAY ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 1 E OF GEORGE ST & S OF MCDONNEL ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH; LT 2 E OF GEORGE ST & S OF MCDONNEL ST PL 1 TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH.

Names of Owners: City of Peterborough

Owners' Mailing Address: 500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9

Owners' Concurrence: Yes

PACAC Application Review Date:

On Site Evaluation Date:

Evaluation Category: A

Evaluators: Sue Schappert

Heritage Type: Built Structure

Designation Type: Ontario Heritage Act – Part IV

Designation Brief Completion Date: September 2008

PACAC Application Approval Date: October 2009

Designation Brief Completed by: Susan Schappert

Submission Date:

Objections Noted: N/A

Comments: Recommended by DSC to include City Hall

"The short statement of the reason for the designation, including a description of the heritage attributes along with all other components of the Heritage Designation Report constitute the "Reasons for the Designation" required under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Designation Report is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours."

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Heritage Evaluation Criteria Note:

Category A: The properties in this category are individually outstanding and have the broadest heritage significance in the City by virtue of architectural, historical, and environmental criteria along with overall integrity of design and construction. "Category A" properties generally hold provincial and/or national significance.

Built in 1910, the former Carnegie Library Building has excellent cultural and heritage value as one of only 125 Carnegie Libraries in Canada. Constructed using funds from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, Peterborough's Carnegie Library was built during Peterborough's prosperous years in the first decades of the new century, with a rapidly growing population of more than 16,000. Additional funding was donated to the City from the estate of Charlotte Nicholls, one of early Peterborough's most prominent benefactors. The building represents a growing public awareness of the importance of libraries as educational institutions, and has value as a monument to public education and the increasing importance of literacy. The building also housed the Victoria Museum collection, which was the first museum collection in Peterborough. Now part of Peterborough City Hall, the Carnegie building continues to serve a civic purpose today.



The building style of the Carnegie building closely resembles other educational institutions built in Peterborough in the same period, such as the former Peterborough Normal School and the Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational Institute across Confederation Square. Local architect and City engineer, John E. Belcher, designed the structure in the Beaux Arts style, with an eclectic mix of Renaissance and Classical features.

CURRENT OWNER: Corporation of the City of Peterborough

ORIGINAL OWNER: Corporation of the City of Peterborough

ARCHITECT: John E. Belcher

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1910-1911

BUILDER: Unknown

CONTEXT- SITE AND SETTING:

Now part of Peterborough's City Hall, the Carnegie Library is included in a precinct of downtown Peterborough dominated by monumental civic buildings. To the north is George Street United Church, and to the west is Confederation Square. The City Hall building to the south is attached via a modern link. To the east lies parking and across Water Street, the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Services and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. All of these buildings are similar in size, giving the area a consistently scaled streetscape.



SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES TO BE DESIGNATED

The Reasons for Designation include the following heritage attributes and apply to all elevations and the roof including all facades, entrances, windows, chimneys, and trim, together with construction materials of wood, brick, stone, plaster parging, metal and glazing, their related building techniques and landscape features:



Exterior Elements:

- Red brick walls with on limestone foundation
- Cornice line and brackets
- Hip roof with gabled portico
- All fenestration including the dimensions of the original window openings, sills and continuous decorative band forming window headers.
- Brick pilasters with capitals and bases
- Entrance portico, including:
 - Pediment
 - Ionic brick Columns
 - Stairs to main entrance
 - Main entrance

