

THE WELLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Prepared for the Welland L.A.C.A.C.
Committee**

by Nora Reid, B.A., M.A., (History of Art)

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The Welland Public Library
140 King Street
Welland, Ontario

Prepared by Nora A. Reid, M.A.

ARCHITECTURE

STYLE (figs. 7-10, 14-21)

The original Welland Public Library building (figs. 7-10) was constructed in a style of Beaux-Arts Classicism typical of most "Carnegie" libraries built in Ontario during the first two decades of the 20th century. Like the majority of "Carnegie" libraries, it is a single story building with exposed basement, central main entrance, symmetrical window arrangement and classical details.ⁱ Built of red brick, its ornamental details in contrasting buff stone include prominent corner quoins (figs. 7 & 14), window lintels and sills, a string course dividing the basement from the first floor (figs. 15) and classical detailing on the prominent central "frontispiece" or vestibule, containing the original front entrance door (now converted to a window).

This frontispiece (figs. 7, 16-17) has a doorcase surmounted by a semi circular tympanum window and flanked by two monumental stone pilasters whose capitals have volutes in Ionic style with egg and dart decoration. Above these is a wide stone entablature inscribed with the words "Public Library" above the entrance. This has a projecting cornice supported by small square modillion blocks. Centrally located above this entablature is the City of Welland's crest, a lion rampant flanked by two ships. A simpler entrance at the basement level on the south side of the building (fig. 18) is also executed with stone surround and inscribed "Auditorium" above the door.

CONSTRUCTION

Exterior walls are interlocking tile faced with dark red Milton brick and the stone trim is Indiana limestone.ⁱⁱ

AGE

Although the offer of funding for construction was made by the Carnegie Corporation in 1913 (see HISTORY below), the library was not started until 1922. On the 30th of May, 1922, the Welland Public Library Board of the City of Welland purchased a portion of land, part of Block CC on the east side of what is now King Street, for \$8,000. from the executors of the late James C. Nixon.ⁱⁱⁱ The contracts for the building were awarded by early in December of 1922, with construction to be commenced the following week.^{iv} The library building was completed in 1923.

Additions (Figs. 13, 21-27)

Sod was turned in January of 1961 for the 4000 square foot addition to the north side of the Library building and it was completed that year. A further two storey addition was constructed on the east side of the building in 1974-75.^v

ARCHITECT

Original Building

Norman Kearns

Norman Andrew Kearns, son of Andrew S. Kearns, was born in Finch, Ontario, on July 12, 1883, attended public schools in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and after graduating high school apprenticed in the office of architect W. Nicholson Lailey in Brandon, Manitoba. He subsequently apprenticed with a number of other architects in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario. In 1914 he married Anna Mary Williams in Toronto and they had one daughter. The Kearns were members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Kearns came to Welland in 1919 and opened an office in the Temple building. Among the buildings he designed in the course of his career in addition to the Welland Public Library were public schools at Fenwick, Fort Erie, Humberstone and Port Burwell, Bridgeburg (Fort Erie) high school, Lakefield Town Hall, municipal buildings at Crystal Beach and Thorold, Ridgeway Oddfellows Hall, and the Rosary Hall (now Canadian Legion), Hydro Electric and J.R. Tuck buildings in Port Colborne. In Welland, Kearns designed Quaker Road school, Ross school and Welland Vocational School, the Welland Market Building, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Gram building, Goodwin building, the Hydro Electric Building on Division Street and alterations to Maple Leaf Park school (Crowland) and First Street school,^{vi} and the Market Square Building in Welland.

Additions and Renovations

Kearns and Gerencer were the architects for the 1961 addition. The 1974 additions were designed by the architectural firm of Fraser and Macie, and the 1993-4 renovations to the front entrance were designed by Welland architect Lou Macie.^{vii}

CONTRACTOR

Original building

W. J. Hickey

The general contractor for the original Welland Public Library building was W. J. Hickey

of Welland. In addition to the library, Hickey also built the Temple Building, Merritt Park Band Stand, McCuaig Hall (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church), Holy Trinity Guild Hall, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Empire Cotton Mills, Union Carbide, Roy Beatty house, W.G. Smith's Drug Store, and Grey Gables.^{viii}

The suppliers were: Ritchie Stone Co., Hamilton, cut stone; Williams and Moore, wiring and lighting; Harrison and Philp, plumbing; Hay Stationery, steel shelves; Ross Co. and R. D. Spencer, shades; MacIver & Son, painting and decorating; W. J. Hickey and Aikenhead Hardware of Toronto, tables and shelving; Dennis Wire & Iron Co. of London, Ont., lamp standards; Northern Electric Co. of Toronto, electric fixtures; C.A. Dunham Co., Toronto, heating specialties; Vulcan Asphalt & Supply Co., Toronto, mastic floors.^{ix}

Additions

Contractor for the 1961 addition to the library was Felker Construction Co. of Fonthill.^x Contractor for the 1974-75 addition was Philip Casucci Construction.

DESIGN

The design of the building conforms with the standards set out by the Carnegie Corporation for libraries receiving a Carnegie grant. The memorandum "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" (sic) that the Corporation sent to all municipalities receiving its grant states, "Small libraries should be planned so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position...Experience seems to show that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of building, with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases...By a one-story and basement building is meant a building with the basement about four feet below the natural grade, the basement being from say 9 to 10 feet and the main floor from say 12 to 15 feet high in the clear." (sic)^{xi}
(The idiosyncratic spelling is the Company's own "shorthand".)

The Carnegie Corporation also sent six suggested plans. It would appear that Welland's architect, Norman Kearns, followed almost to the letter their specifications in his final design for the original library building, utilizing plans "A" and "B" (see fig. 4), with the exception of the added flourish of having the vestibule project from the front of the building rather than locating it inside, thus providing the opportunity to design a more imposing entrance while leaving more space inside for library uses.

Apparently Kearns's first design for the library deviated too far from the Carnegie Corporation's guidelines and in consequence the Corporation's Assistant President wrote Welland Mayor James Hughes a sharply critical letter:

Permit me, in the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Bertram, to acknowledge your letter of June 26 [1922] enclosing a plan for your proposed library.

I judge from his drawing that the architect paid no attention to the "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings" which was sent you...Let us suggest that your architect begin again with this memorandum before him.^{xii}

Kearns response to the Mayor, dated July 27th, 1922, illustrates the pressure the architect was under to conform to the Carnegie Corp's wishes:

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the suggestion made by Mr. W. S. Learned, Assistant to the President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, I have prepared a new set of drawings for our proposed library, and while doing so have kept before me the memorandum of the Carnegie Corporation.

Before my plans were returned I had written to the Carnegie Corporation asking for criticisms of the drawings as submitted. However, after I had my opportunity of comparing them with the outline drawings shown in the memorandum I felt that I could discover why the preparation of a new design was necessary.

I have not spent a great deal of time in the rendering of these drawings because I anticipate that some changes may be suggested by the Carnegie Corporation and that such change may be shown on the more highly finished drawing which I shall prepare after the general scheme of this building has been approved or rejected by the Carnegie Corporation.

I am enclosing, herewith, a descriptive specification of this design.

Sincerely yours,

Norman A. Kearns^{xiii}

It should be noted that although Kearns followed the Carnegie Corp's specifications closely regarding the basic elements, the exterior design and decoration was the product of the architect alone. As the Carnegie "Notes" state, "It will be noted that no elevations are given or suggestions made about the exteriors. These are features in which the community and architect may express their individuality, keeping to a plain, dignified structure and not aiming at such exterior effects as may make impossible an effective and

economical layout of the interior."^{xiv}

INTERIOR (figs. 31-35, 37, 40-42)

Kearns interior arrangement of rooms likewise followed the basic layout of plans "A" and "B" of the Carnegie "Notes", both in the basement (fig. 37) and main floor (figs. 31-35, 40-2). Shortly after its opening, an article in the Welland Tribune reported that the architect utilized "...a departure from the usual system of stack rooms and alcoves employed in many libraries and the adoption of an open arrangement where every department is in sight of a central desk...The entrance opens to a vestibule from which leads the basement stairway and through which access to the central part of the library is gained. Facing this entrance vestibule stand the charging counter and the desk of the librarian. It is from here that free and unobstructed view may be had of every department on this floor."^{xv} He also followed the injunction in the "Notes..." to keep the rear and side windows (fig. 22) "...about six feet from the floor, to give continuous wall space for shelving."^{xvi} This arrangement has since been altered (see ALTERATIONS below).

The interior wood trim was made of mahogany.^{xvii} The remaining details of interest are at the ceiling level, where a wide cornice is punctuated by scrolled brackets (fig. 32). This trim is now painted the same white as the walls which makes it almost 'invisible' and detracts from its decorative quality.

HISTORY

PERSON

Andrew Carnegie

(Figs. 1-2)

Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, the ancient capital of Scotland on November 25, 1835, the older of two sons of William Carnegie, a weaver, and Margaret Morrison Carnegie. As the industrial revolution rapidly substituted machinery for hand labour during the 1840's, William Carnegie's four loom shop became increasingly unprofitable, and on May 17, 1848, the family emigrated to the United States. They settled at Pittsburgh, where Margaret Carnegie's brother and sister had previously emigrated. Andrew's first employment was as a bobbin boy at the Blackstock Cotton Mill, where his father was working. After learning double entry bookkeeping for his second job, he applied for a position at the Ohio Telegraph Company, where he worked as a messenger.

At sixteen he was promoted to assistant operator at \$25.00 per month.

The Pennsylvania railroad was then in the process of being completed to Pittsburgh and in 1853 Carnegie was offered a job as assistant to Thomas A. Scott, Superintendent of the

Pittsburgh division. During this period he began to lay the foundations of his fortune by investing his money in the stock of enterprises as diverse as grain elevators, railroads, bridge building companies, locomotive works, express companies and insurance companies. When Scott became vice-president of the railroad, he appointed Carnegie to Superintendant of the Pittsburgh division.

When the Civil War broke out, Scott was made Assistant Secretary of War and took Carnegie with him to Washington. The carnage that he witnessed during that period left Carnegie with a deep horror of war, which led to his later efforts on behalf of world peace.

By 1865, through association with his old friend Tom Miller, Andrew and his brother Tom had become partners in a new company, the Union Iron Mills Company, and he resigned his position at the railroad, shortly afterward forming the Keystone Bridge Company.

With his companies thriving, near the end of 1867 he moved to New York and opened an investment office. In the first few years he had developed a transatlantic business and sold over \$30 million worth of bonds. He also set out to enlarge his education and become more cultured.

In 1872, with his younger brother Tom, Harry Phipps and Andrew Kloman, he organized Kloman, Carnegie and Co., to manufacture iron in Pittsburgh. This was the first of his enterprises to actually carry the Carnegie name.

The Carnegie brothers soon became interested in the benefits of the new Bessmer process of converting iron into steel and in January of 1873 the firm of Carnegie, McCandles & Co. was formed, later to become Carnegie Steel Co. Carnegie was shrewd at outmanoeuvring business rivals, and even shrewder in ousting business partners. In 1882 Carnegie became a partner with Henry Frick in the H. C. Frick Coke Company, which manufactured the fuel used to run the steel-making blast furnaces. One year later Carnegie took over the Homestead steel plant in Pittsburgh, organizing a new firm, Carnegie, Phipps & Company, to run it.

In the meantime Andrew Carnegie was rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous, supporting various civic and social movements, and writing essays for magazines on the dignity of labour and the workers' right to strike. In 1886 he married Louise Whitfield and they had one daughter. Through political contributions, he became influential in the administration of U.S. President Benjamin Harrison. Carnegie's first gift of a free library was to his old hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland. In 1891 President Harrison spoke during Carnegie's presentation of the new Carnegie Library and Hall to the city of Pittsburgh (Allegheny City).

The Carnegie Steel Company Limited was formed in 1892 with a capital of \$25 million dollars and Henry Frick in charge of operations. That year a notice was posted at the

Homestead plant that stated the works would be “non-union”. The Homestead workers knew Frick was ironed handed with labour and a strikebreaker at his coke mills but trusted in Carnegie, taking him at his (written) word in a Forum essay, where he admonished “...take not thy neighbor’s job”. However Carnegie made himself incommunicado at his remote lodge in Scotland, leaving Frick to manage the ensuing strike. There followed one of the bloodiest strikes to that date in American industrial history: complete anarchy with gun battles between strikers and private guards resulting in several killed and dozens wounded. When it ended Carnegie was publicly denounced in both Europe and America for the inconsistencies between his words and actions. By 1900, Carnegie Steel was making a net profit of \$60. million per annum. Carnegie Steel and the Frick Coke Co. were consolidated in March of 1900 to form the Carnegie Company with a total capital of \$320,000,000.

His biographer, John Winkler, called Carnegie “...the most cruel task master American industry has ever known...”^{xviii}, yet he was also one of the first pioneers in large scale philanthropy. In 1901 J. Pierpont Morgan’s U. S. Steel Corporation bought the Carnegie Company for \$250,000,000 in bonds. Andrew Carnegie then retired and set out to live his “Gospel Of Wealth”, written several years previously, in which he wrote, “The man who dies...rich dies disgraced.”^{xix} Before his death in 1919 he had given away all but \$25 million of his fortune, chiefly to the Carnegie Corporation (founded 1911), which was to carry on his legacy of philanthropy, but also to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1910), the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (1906), the Carnegie Hero Funds (1904), the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, and for endowments to Scottish Universities and the building of Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Peace Palace at the Hague.^{xx}

The genesis of Carnegie’s widespread building of public libraries came when Dr. J. S. Billings of the New York Public Library called him with plans to build 68 branch libraries throughout the city. Carnegie pledged \$5,200.000. provided the city would furnish the sites, agree to pay 10% yearly of the cost of the buildings for maintenance and attach Carnegie’s name to each building. Carnegie and later the Carnegie Corporation went on to build 2811 free public libraries throughout the English speaking world based on similar conditions. Carnegie “...stamped his library system upon a continent...” and wrote

I think I am doing a lot for the morality of the country through my libraries. You know how much of the immorality and mischief is because of the idle hours of the boys and girls, expecially in the rural regions, where time hangs heavily on their hands. Now they have hundreds of good books to read and pleasant reading rooms where they can go after school or after working hours.^{xxi}

There were six Carnegie libraries built in the Niagara region between 1901 and 1923.

CONTEXT

History of the Welland Library

The genesis of the Welland Library dates to November of 1824. The first written record referring to it is that of the proceedings of the first anniversary meeting of the library “...at the school house near Brown’s Bridge on Saturday the 26th of Nov. 1825”. There were ten shareholders present - David Thompson, James Brown, George Bradshaw, Nathan Heacock, Amos Bradshaw, John Hellemes, Josiah Page, Patrick O’Reilly, Alexander Brown and George Shrigley. Four new shareholders were admitted and the members present then discussed the constitution of the organization:

The Constitution was then read and as it did not appear to contain all the requirements of the Institution; it was agreed that its substance should be still preserved and embodied into a new Constitution, together with such enlargements as should be agreed upon.^{xxii}

Among the first books purchased for the library were four volumes of “Clarke’s Travels” purchased from Aaron Crane of Pelham.. Shareholders could keep a book out for four weeks, a week longer if they lived more than five miles from the bookroom. Grease spots, torn or folded leaves on books brought a fine of 3 3/4 pence while a borrower who allowed a book to be removed from his house paid 5 shillings. 1841 was a year of much activity, with 60 volumes purchased by the committee. Members in arrears with their subscriptions for shares lost library privileges unless they paid 5 shillings, “...provided that they had paid at one time the full amount of ten shillings for a share...”^{xxiii}

Brown’s bridge was in a rural area near Welland. The first library within the village of Welland itself was that associated with the Mechanics Institute. This organization was founded at a meeting in the Welland Court House in July of 1858, the same month the Village of Merrittsville was formally incorporated as the Village of Welland, for “...the promotion of scientific pursuits and the advancement of knowledge...”^{xxiv} The means to achieve this was to be regular public lectures and the development of a library. That same year, at a meeting in the Sons of Temperance Hall, the Welland Library Association voted to amalgamate with the Welland Mechanic’s Institute. In 1862 the library carried a total of 307 volumes, with 144 loaned during the year. That year also saw the first expansion of library services, as the minutes of the last recorded meeting reported that \$30. had been spent over the preceeding 12 months for magazines and reviews. The first annual report for the library separate from that of the Mechanic’s Institute was in 1876, when the library carried a total of 447 books.

The Mechanic’s Institute failed to make much headway with its aims, and eventually failed in 1877. A short-lived attempt to resurrect it was unsuccessful and it ceased to exist in 1881. The library, however, continued to thrive. The first librarian was Miss Bertha Hooker, who took over the job in 1867. After its amalgamation with the Mechanic’s Institute the library was located in J. H. Bugar’s “Medical Hall” drug store,

then James Tuckey's watchmaker's and jewellery store on West Main (1877-78). From there it moved to an upstairs room in the Rose Block at the corner of West Main and Niagara, then in 1882 to the upper floor of the McCaw Block at the corner of East Main and Cross Streets, where it opened with a collection of 2000 volumes. Miss Hooker was succeeded as librarian by Miss Jennie Ross, who resigned in 1891. The library received its first municipal grant for \$25. from the town of Welland in 1885. This increased to \$100. per year in the 1890's.

In 1895 the library paid \$7.00 per month at McCaws and was financed by fines and a membership fee of 50 cents a year. The library and reading room was open from 7-10 p.m. six nights a week. That was the year the library became officially known as the "Welland Public Library" due to changes in the Public Libraries Act. Miss Annie Ross served as librarian from 1891-93 and Mrs. Moore from 1893-95, followed by Mr. Henry Boyd, who remained in that position until 1914. The library in 1896 contained 2085 volumes; 1234 were fiction, but no children's books were recorded. The circulation that year was 3,916 and the librarian's salary was \$6.50 a month.

The latter part of the 1890's saw the library moving to several locations, including the fire hall and the police station before finally settling in the new town hall on the corner of Division and King (then called South Main) streets in the year (depending upon your source) 1899 or 1901. By this time the library was receiving grants from both the town and the department of education. Yearly membership fees were 50 cents. It carried over 3000 books and had 100 members.^{xxv}

About 1910 the town became interested in obtaining a Carnegie Library grant. The question of a Carnegie library was referred to the business committee of the town Council, chaired by Mayor Sutherland. The Welland Telegraph of May 9, 1911 noted that Hamilton was "ahead of Welland", having obtained a Carnegie grant for \$100,000. and that "Welland ought to be getting some of this good money."^{xxvi} Application was made, and in a letter to Mayor John Goodwin dated December 8, 1913, the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation offered Welland a \$20,000. grant, provided that the city "...agrees by resolution of council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) a year, and provides a suitable site for the building..."^{xxvii}

Unfortunately, despite two attempts, Welland was unable to pass the necessary library bylaw^{xxviii} and in October of 1921 James Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation (Fig. 3) wrote the following letter addressed to "His Honor, the Mayor, Welland, Ontario:

In response to an application from the City of Welland, through the Mayor, this Corporation in letter of December 8, 1913, promised a donation of \$20,00 to provide a Free Public Library Building on certain conditions specified in that letter of promise.

As it is manifestly not desirable that promises of this description should remain in force indefinitely, I am directed to ascertain

from you whether construction is about to be undertaken.^{xxix}

Further prodding arrived early in February of 1922 in the form of a letter from W. O. Carson, the Inspector of Public Libraries with the Ontario Department of Education to A. W. Jackson, Secretary of the Welland Public Library Board. In it he noted:

About the end of last October the Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York wrote to me in regard to thirteen places in Ontario that had been promised gifts for building libraries... I met the Secretary, Mr. Bertram, in New York last week. He informed me that the promise would be withdrawn from each place that did not arrange to build at once.^{xxx}

The response from Welland was immediate. Jackson, who was City Treasurer as well as Treasurer of the Library Board, wrote to Bertram on the 9th of February:

About the end of October the Mayor received a letter from the Secretary of the Carnegie Foundation New York, enquiring into the Library situation in this City.

The City Council immediately asked the Associate Library Board as to their intentions in the matter, a meeting of the Associate Library Board was called, and a motion was unanimously carried, asking the City Council to submit a By-Law to the people, at the New Year elections thereby making the Library a Free Library.

The By-Law went before the people on January 2nd and was carried, and has just received its third reading, consequently the Library Board would like to know the attitude of the Carnegie Foundation towards it at this time.

The above explains the delay in writing you. Our present building is not at all suitable for Library purpose. The population of the City is about ten thousand, with suburban area with another ten thousand, as the Steel Mill and Pipe Mill are out side the City limits, although the people living in their immediate vicinity look to Welland for their recreation and instruction.

Roughly the above gives you a slight idea of our present position. We need a new building badly.

Yours very truly^{xxxi}

The Corporation's reply was swift. In a letter of February 14th, 1922, Bertram responded,

...The attitude of the Corporation is shown in letter of October 26th. Whether the opportunity which has been so long before Welland is now available or not depends upon the promptitude with which effective steps are taken to take advantage of it..^{xxxii}

In his reply of March 22nd, Jackson noted that the library had had to move from its Town Hall quarters into three rooms of a private residence and reiterated the City's desire for a grant, "...especially as there are several splendid Library buildings in this District which were financed by your Corporation..."^{xxxiii} Bertram's reply must have been encouraging, because in April Mayor Hughes wrote to the Corporation secretary advising him that "...Welland is very desirous of building a Library to cost approximately \$40,000. That is, if your offer of \$20,000. dating back to 1913, can be extended to meet those requirements..." but adding "...we are prepared to accept the \$20,000 if you cannot see your way to increasing it."^{xxxiv} This resulted in a quick and rather sharp response from the secretary. Dated just two days later, Bertram's letter read:

Your favor of April 26th received. This Corporation does not see its way to double the amount made available December 8, 1913. It must be remembered that the opportunity has been before Welland for more than eight years and if the opportunity extended in 1913 had been acted upon promptly the building might have been erected on contracts made before the world war.

It may be fair to assume that \$20,000 would have gone far in erecting the building which would cost \$40,000 now. Be that as it may, any proposal from Welland now should carry with it an agreement on its part to provide the greater part, certainly not less than half, of the expenditure in excess of \$20,000. Permit me to emphasize the second paragraph of my letter of October 26th, together with the pertinent passages of my letters of February 14th and March 26th.

Very truly yours,
James Bertram
Secretary^{xxxv}

A compromise was quickly reached. On May 10th, the Welland Library Board sent to the Mayor the following communication, signed by its Chairman, George Wells:

By resolution of the Library Board at a meeting held on May the tenth, the Board having carefully considered the offer of the Carnegie Corporation, beg to suggest that their offer be accepted with regard to a \$30,000 building (\$25,000 being from the Carnegie Corporation and \$5000 from the City of Welland, and that the lot to the south of the present building be acquired if possible.^{xxxvi}

Progress on the new library moved quickly after that. In June the City Council approved the purchase of a lot on South Main (now King Street) from the James Nixon estate^{xxxvii} for \$8,000. The final certification in regard to the building was sent to the Carnegie Corporation in December of 1922^{xxxviii} and the building contracts were awarded, with

construction commencing soon afterward (see AGE above).

Since completion of the new Carnegie Library in 1923, the Welland Public Library has continued to expand its services. The number of books on the shelves rose from 4,250 in 1925 to over 30,000 by 1958. A childrens' department was started with its own librarian (Figs. 11, 12, 37). Over the years photographs, films, records, microfilm and videotapes were added to the collection, a Northwest Branch was established on South Pelham Street (1972) and a bookmobile service started (1973). Reference and Audio Visual Departments were created in 1974-75. The card catalogue was replaced by an Online Public Access Catalogue system in 1995 and Internet access was made available for patrons in 1998.^{xxxix} As the holdings and services available at the library grew more space was needed. In 1961 a 2800 square foot addition was built. A further addition was built in 1974-75 and in 1993-4 a new front entrance was created with elevator for disabled access (see ALTERATIONS below).^{xl}

ENVIRONMENT

CONTINUITY

This building is of importance in maintaining the character of the King, Young and Griffith Street area.

LANDMARK

This building is a conspicuous and familiar landmark in the city, visible from both sides of the canal.

INTEGRITY

SITE

The building occupies its original site and has not been moved.

ALTERATIONS

The building has undergone a number of alterations over the years. Additions were added to the north and east sides in 1961 and 1974-75 respectively (Figs. 13, 21-30). The original heating system was also replaced with a forced air system.^{xli} All the 12 over 12 windows in the original building have been replaced with replicas, including the lunette window over the original front door. The 1993-4 renovations included replacing the front

doors with a window (compare Figs. and) and creating a new entrance at the north end with disabled access (Figs. 26-27). The large mural on the north side of the building (Figs. 24-25) is entitled "Canal Construction" and was created in 1988 by artist Bas De Groot. The interior arrangement of the original building has likewise been completely changed since 1923. Despite these changes, however, the character of a "Carnegie Library" is still evident in exterior of the original building, as the front (west) facade facing King Street retains in its original form and has not lost its classical embellishments.

CONDITION

The building appears to be in good structural condition.

REFERENCES

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- ⁱ Margaret Beckman, Stephen Langmead and John Black. The Best Gift (Toronto, 1984), p. 117.
- ⁱⁱ “New Library Building Financed by the Carnegie Fund erected in 1923”, Welland Tribune, June 17, 1924.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Grant, 30 May 1922, reg. 23 June 1922, Alexander Griffiths and Fred H. Ingram, executors of Jas. C. Nixon to the The Welland Public Library Board of the City of Welland; reg. no. 4985.
- ^{iv} “Contracts Let for New Library”, newspaper clipping, source unknown, probably Welland Tribune, dated Dec. 11, 1922. Vertical file, “Libraries - Welland (city)”, Welland Public Library.
- ^v “Sod Turned For Library Addition”, Tribune, January 12, 1961.
- Plaque, entrance to Welland Public Library.
- ^{vi} A. E. Coombs, A History of the Niagara Peninsula and the New Welland Canal (1930), p. 344.
- ^{vii} “Sod Turned For Library Addition”, Tribune, January 12, 1961.
- “Library project architect’s final work”, Tribune, April 23, 1993, p.3.
- ^{viii} Advertisement, Welland Tribune and Telegraph, Welland Canal Centenary Issue, June 17, 1924, p. 32.
- ^{ix} Building account from the Welland Public Library Board Balance Sheet for 1923.
- ^x “Sod Turned For Library Addition”, Tribune, January 12, 1961
- ^{xi} See Appendix for copy sent to Welland.
- ^{xii} Beckman, The Best Gift, p. 94.
- ^{xiii} Letter from architect Norman Kearns to Mayor James Hughes, July 27, 1922; Welland Library File, Welland Public Library, Welland, Ontario.

^{xiv} Enclosure with letter from Jas. Bertram, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation of New York to Hon. John Goodwin, Mayor of Welland, December 8th, 1913.

“Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings”, Welland Library File, Welland Public Library.

^{xv} “New Library Building Financed by the Carnegie Fund erected in 1923”, Welland Tribune, June 17, 1924.

^{xvi} “Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings”

^{xvii} “New Library Building Financed by the Carnegie Fund erected in 1923”, Welland Tribune, June 17, 1924.

^{xviii} John K. Winkler, Incredible Carnegie. The Life of Andrew Carnegie (New York, 1931), p. 3.

^{xix} Winkler, Incredible Carnegie, p. 276.

^{xx} Information in this report on the life of Andrew Carnegie is obtained chiefly from two sources: Winkler’s Incredible Carnegie (passim) and the entry on Andrew Carnegie in The New American Encyclopedia edited by C. Ralph Taylor (Boston, 1938), p.p. 226-27.

^{xxi} Winkler, Incredible Carnegie, p. 279.

^{xxii} “Proceedings of the Welland Library from November 26th 1825”, copy of handwritten ms; Welland Library file, Welland Public Library.

^{xxiii} “Proceedings of the Welland Library from November 26th, 1825” cited in “Welland Public Library Only A Year Younger Than the Canal”, newspaper article, date unknown.

“Thriving Institution Today, Library Recorded Many Discouraging Years”, The Evening Tribune, Centennial Edition, July 19, 1958, section 5, p.p. 12-13.

^{xxiv} “Thriving Institution...”, Tribune, July 19, 1958, p. 13.

^{xxv} “Thriving Institution...”, Tribune, July 19, 1958, p. 13.

“History of the Welland Public Library” and “Highlights From Our History” in Welland Library File.

“Early Libraries Shy On Education Material” by George Sawle in Welland Centennial 1858-1958 souvenir booklet.

^{xxvi} “Burgar Property Town May Buy For Addition to Market and Sites for Carnegie Library and Central Fire Hall. Carnegie Library a Probability.”, newspaper clipping undated. “Hamilton Ahead of Welland”, Welland Telegraph May 9, 1911. Both found in vertical file, “Libraries - Welland (city), Welland Public Library.

^{xxvii} Letter, Jas. Bertram, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation of New York to Hon. John Goodwin, Mayor, Welland, Ontario, Canada, dated December 8th, 1913. Copy, Welland Public Library File, Welland Library. (For copy see Appendix).

^{xxviii} “Public Meeting Asks Council to Resubmit Library Bylaw”, Welland Tribune, April 29, 1915, p.1.

Beckman, “The Best Gift”, p. 93.

^{xxix} Letter, James Bertram to Mayor of Welland dated October 26, 1921, Welland Library File, Welland Public Library. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxx} Letter, W. O. Carson, Inspector of Public Libraries, Toronto, to A. W. Jackson, Secretary, Public Library, Welland, dated February 3rd, 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxi} Carbon copy, letter from A. W. Jackson to James Bertram Esq., Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation date 9th February 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxii} Letter, James Bertram, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation to A. W. Jackson, Esq., Treasurer, Welland, Ontario, dated February 14, 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxiii} Carbon copy, letter from A. W. Jackson to James Bertram dated March 2, 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxiv} Letter, Mayor James Hughes to James Bertram dated Apr. 26, 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxv} Letter, James Bertram to Hon. James Hughes dated April 28, 1922. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxvi} Letter, Geo Wells, Chairman, Library Board to James A. Hughes, Esq., Mayor of Welland dated May 10’22. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

^{xxxvii} Letter, W. E. Forster, City Clerk to Jas. A. Hughes, Mayor, dated June 21, 1922 noting copies of resolutions passed at the City Council meeting of June 20, 1922.

Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

.
xxxviii Letter, James A. Hughes, Mayor to R. A. Franks, Vice President and Chairman, Carnegie Corporation, New York dated Dec. 21, 1923. Welland Library File. (For copy see Appendix.)

xxxix The bookmobile service has since been discontinued.

“Thriving Institution...”, Tribune, July 19, 1958, p. 13.

“History of the Welland Public Library” and “Highlights From Our History” in Welland Library File.

xl “Sod Turned For Library Addition”

“History of the Welland Public Library”

xli “Sod Turned For Library Addition”

WELLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
140 King Street, Welland, Ontario

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

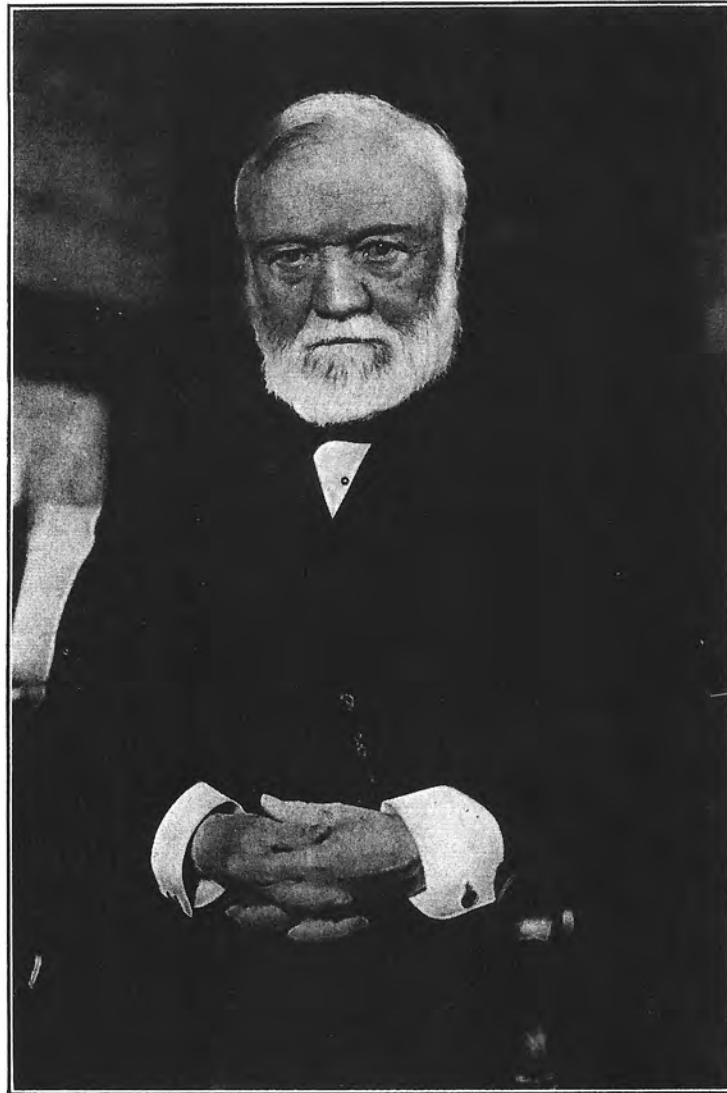
Formed at Brown's Bridge in November of 1824, the Welland Public Library is perhaps the oldest continuously operating institution in the city of Welland. Shareholder's names recorded in the earliest preserved minutes include many later memorialized in local street and place names such as Brown, O'Reilly, Page and Hellems. Among the first books purchased were four volumes of "Clarke's Travels". Shareholders paid to join the library and could borrow a book for four weeks (a week longer if they lived more than five miles away) and paid fines of a few pence for offences such as grease spots or torn leaves. For a century after its founding the library continued to grow. It amalgamated with the Mechanic's Institute library in 1858 and was housed in numerous locations, including J. H. Burgar's "Medical Hall" drug store, Tuckey's Jewellers and the Rose Block on West Main and the McCaw Block on East Main. The first librarian was Miss Bertha Hooker, hired in 1867. The library received its first municipal grant for \$25. from the town of Welland in 1885.

About 1910 the town became interested in obtaining a Carnegie Library Grant. Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland on November 25, 1835, the son of weaver William Carnegie and his wife Margaret Morrison. In 1848 the family emigrated to the United States and settled at Pittsburgh. Here Carnegie rose from a bobbin boy in a cotton mill to become the owner of Carnegie Steel and one of the richest men in the world. Called "...the most cruel task master American industry has ever known..." he was nevertheless a pioneer of large scale philanthropy. By the time of his death in 1919 he had given away all but \$25 million of a fortune well in excess of \$250 million. Carnegie and later his charitable foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, went on to build 2811 free public libraries throughout the English speaking world, including six in the Niagara region.

Welland received the offer of a Carnegie grant in 1913 but was unable to pass the necessary bylaw authorizing taxes for library maintenance. Threatened with the loss of their grant, City Council finally passed the bylaw in February of 1922 and in June approved the purchase of a lot on South Main (now King Street) for \$8000 from the James Nixon estate. Since the Carnegie Library was completed in 1923, the Welland Public Library has continued to expand its services, adding over the years a children's department, reference and audio visual departments and recently internet access.

Designed by well known local architect Norman Kearns, who was also responsible for the original Welland Market building, the Welland Public Library was constructed in the style of Beaux-Arts Classicism typical of most "Carnegie" libraries. A single story building with exposed basement, it is built of dark red Milton brick with ornamental details in contrasting buff Indiana limestone. These details include prominent corner quoins, window lintels and sills, a string course dividing the basement from the first floor and classical detailing on the prominent central "frontispiece" or vestibule. This has a doorcase surmounted by a semi circular tympanum window and flanked by two monumental stone pilasters whose capitals have volutes in Ionic style with egg and dart decoration. Above these is a wide stone entablature inscribed with the words "Public Library". Centrally located above the entablature is the City of Welland's crest, a lion rampant flanked by two ships. Inside, some of the original mahogany wood trim remains. Despite numerous alterations, including large additions in 1961 and 1974-5, the character of a "Carnegie Library" is still evident in exterior of the original building.

Prepared by Nora A. Reid, M.A.,
Researcher, Welland Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee



© Brown Brothers

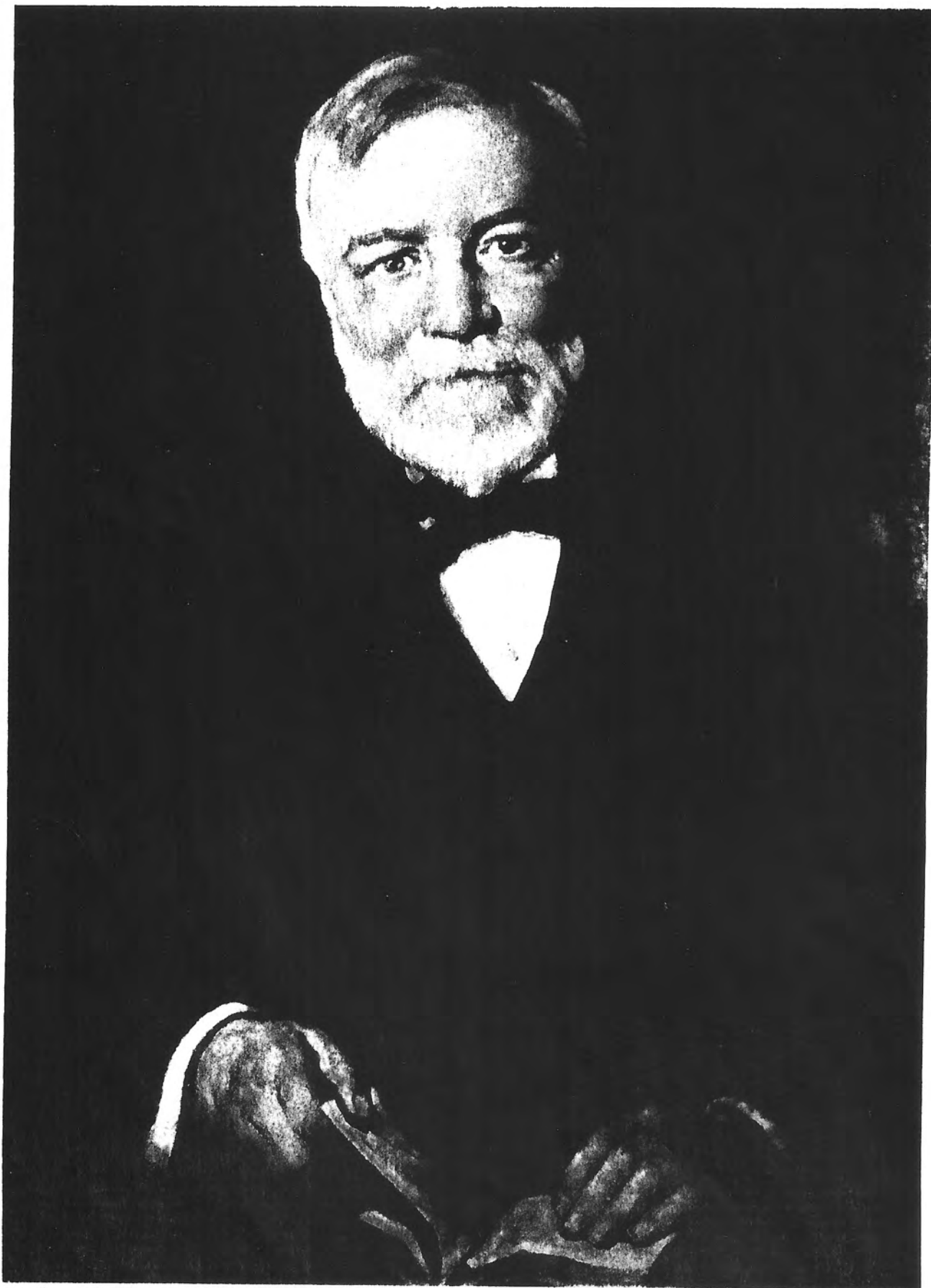
ANDREW CARNEGIE
1837-1919

Figure 1

Source: Winkler, Incredible Carnegie. The Life of Andrew Carnegie

Figure 2

Source: Beckman, Langmead and Black. The Best Gift



Andrew Carnegie, 1835-1919. A print of an Andrew Carnegie portrait was hung in a prominent position in most of the Ontario Carnegie libraries.

Figure 3

Source: Beckman, Langmead and Black. The Best Gift



James Bertram, 1872-1934. Bertram was secretary to Andrew Carnegie from 1897 to 1914, and served as secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1911 to 1934. He personally approved, on behalf of Carnegie, all the Ontario library grants, and after 1907 he insisted on approving the library building plans, as well.

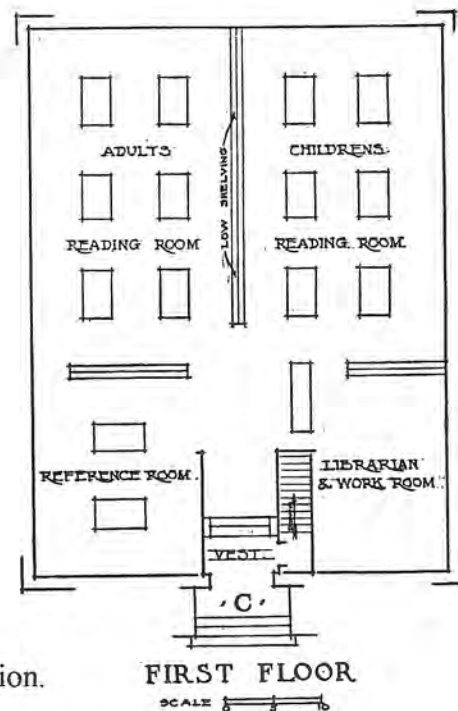
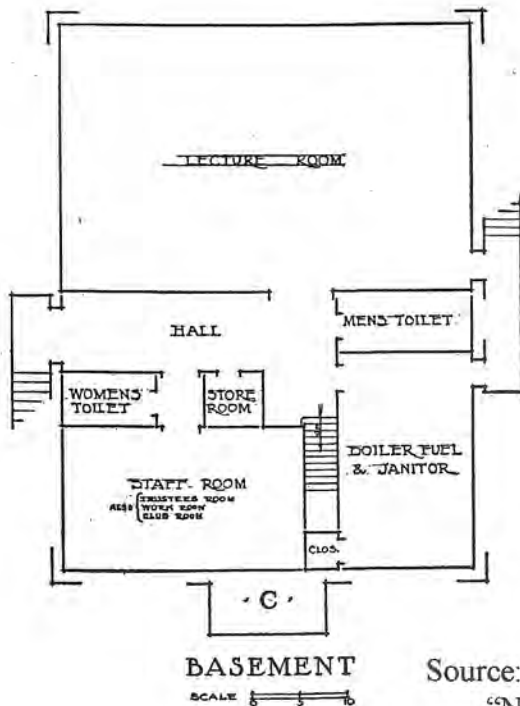
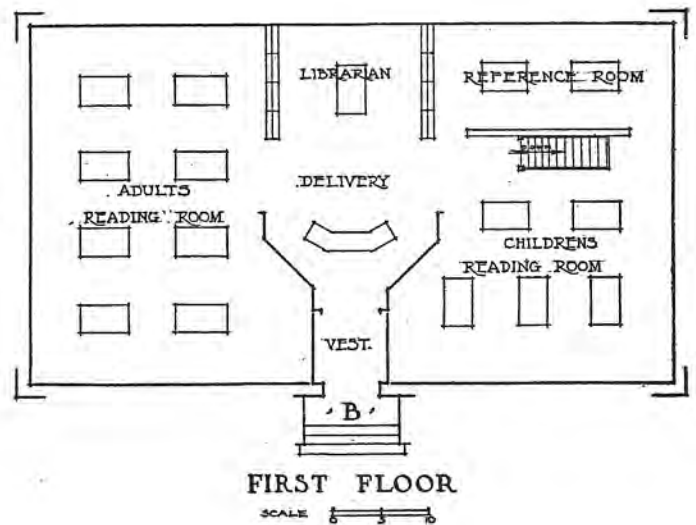
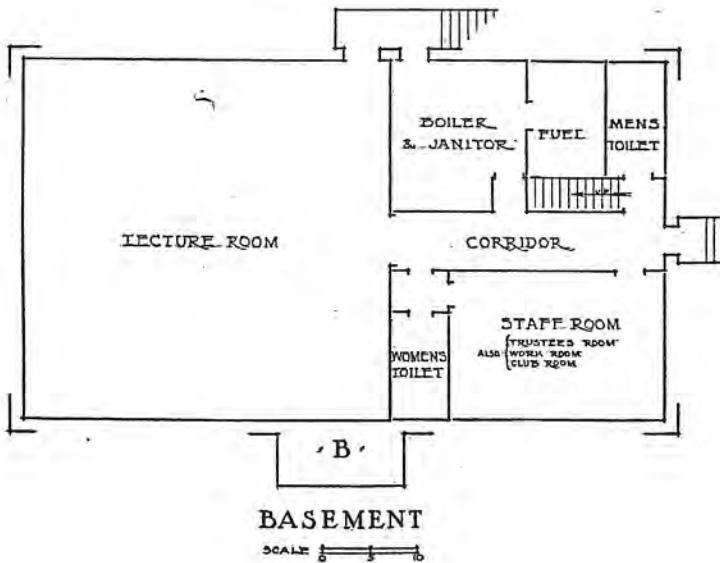
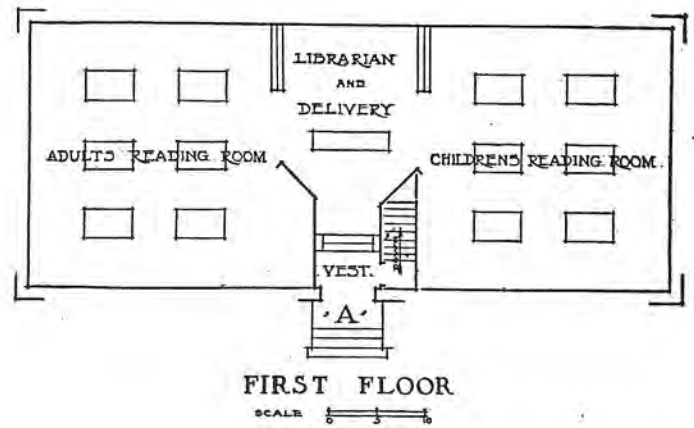
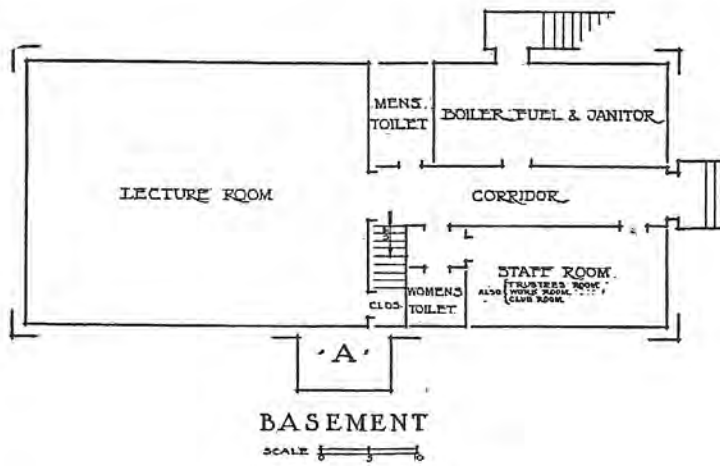
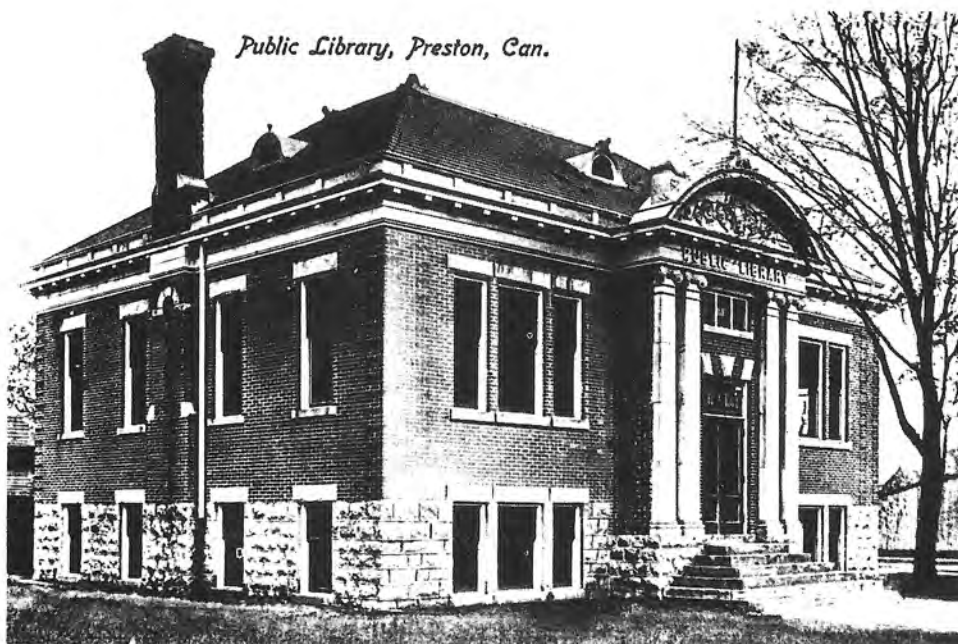


Figure 4
Source: Carnegie Corporation.
"Notes on the Erecton
of Library Bildings"



Preston Carnegie library. Picture post cards were frequently used to express a community's pride in its Carnegie library.

Figure 5

Source: Beckman, Langmead and Black, The Best Gift



Carnegie Portrait engraved in crystal.



Mount Forest Carnegie library entrance and portico. Columns and pilasters with Ionic capitals as well as brick quoins and bracketed cornice were often included in the Ontario Carnegie library ornamentation.

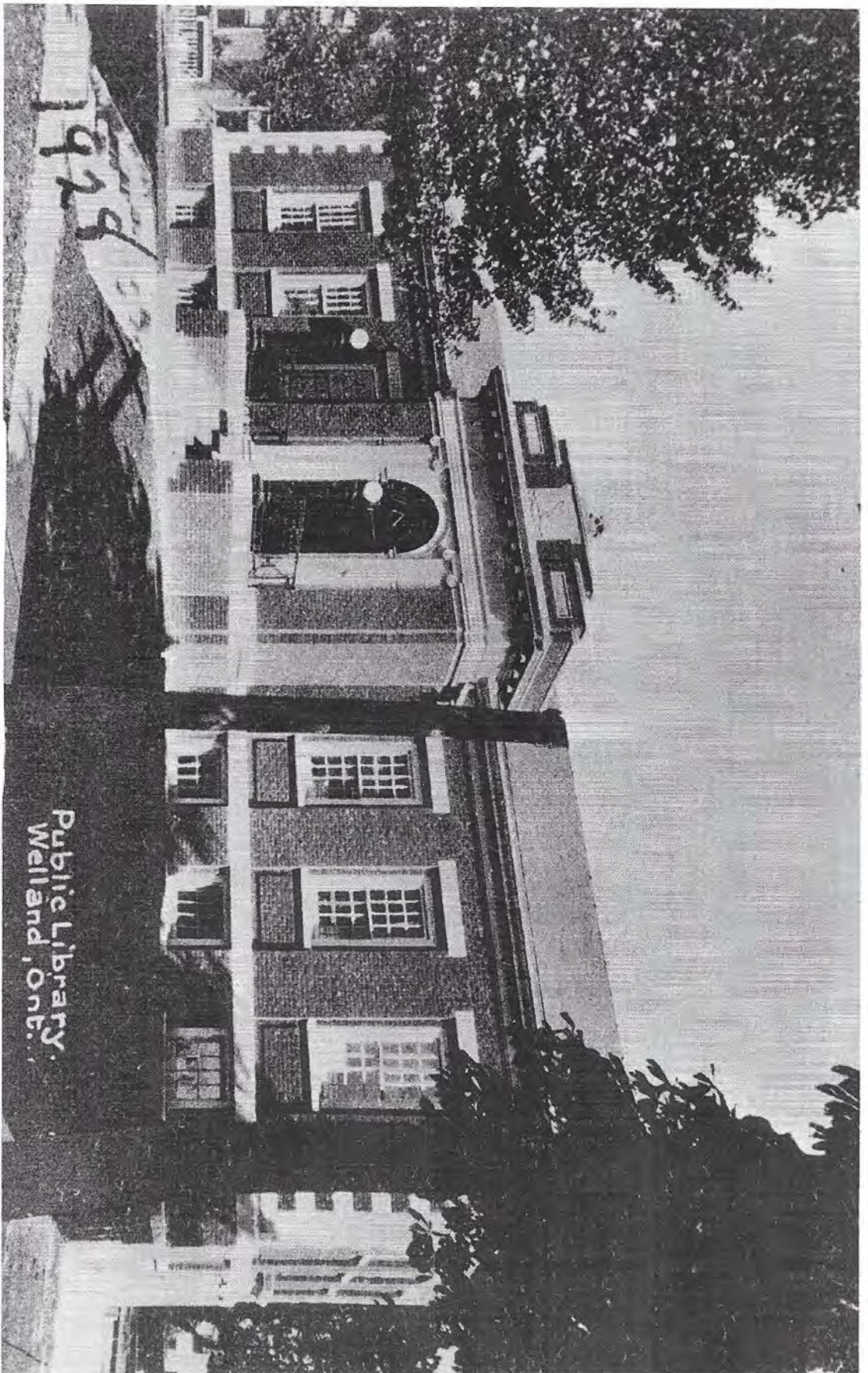


Figure 7

Welland Public Library, front (west) facade, 1928

Source: David Hanuschuk



Figure 8

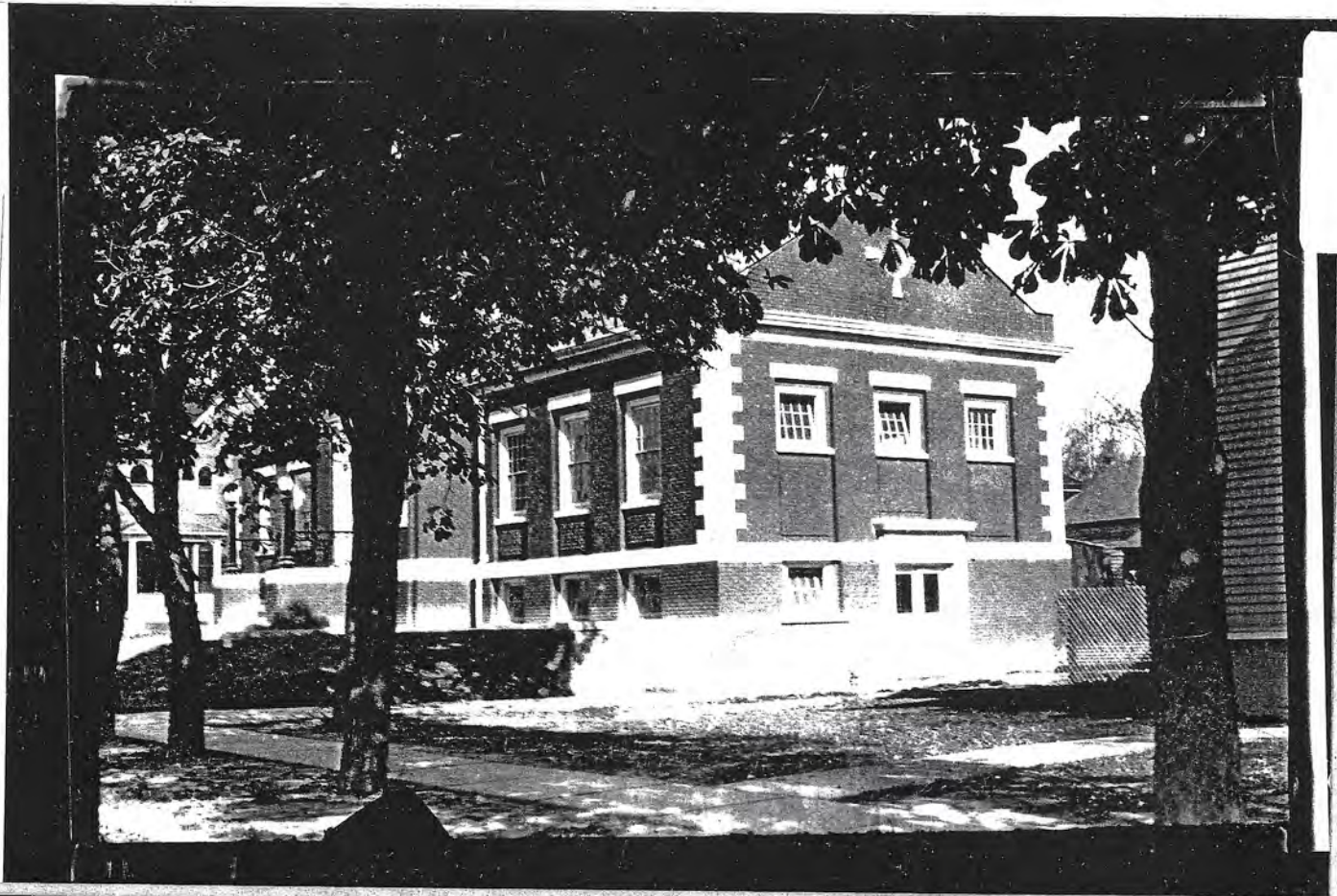
Welland Public Library, front facade, date unknown - prior to 1961

Source: Welland Public Library picture file

Figures 9 & 10

Two views of Welland Public Library front facade, date unknown - prior to 1961

Source: Welland Public Library picture file



1934



Figures 11 & 12

Welland Public Library children's department, 1934

Source: Welland Public Library picture file

Conservation

Libraries - Welland - city - U -

Figures 13

Welland Public Library front (west) facade
showing 1961 addition at north end, circa 1960's
Source: Welland Public Library picture file

LIBRARIES

74





Figures 14 & 15
Welland Public Library front (west) facade
Source for Figures 14 to 45: Nora Reid



Figures 16 & 17
Welland Public Library, front facade
Original front entrance with classical details





Figures 18 & 19
Welland Public Library, south facade
with auditorium entrance at basement level





Figure 20
Welland Public Library, south facade

Figure 21
Welland Public Library, south facade
with addition on east side





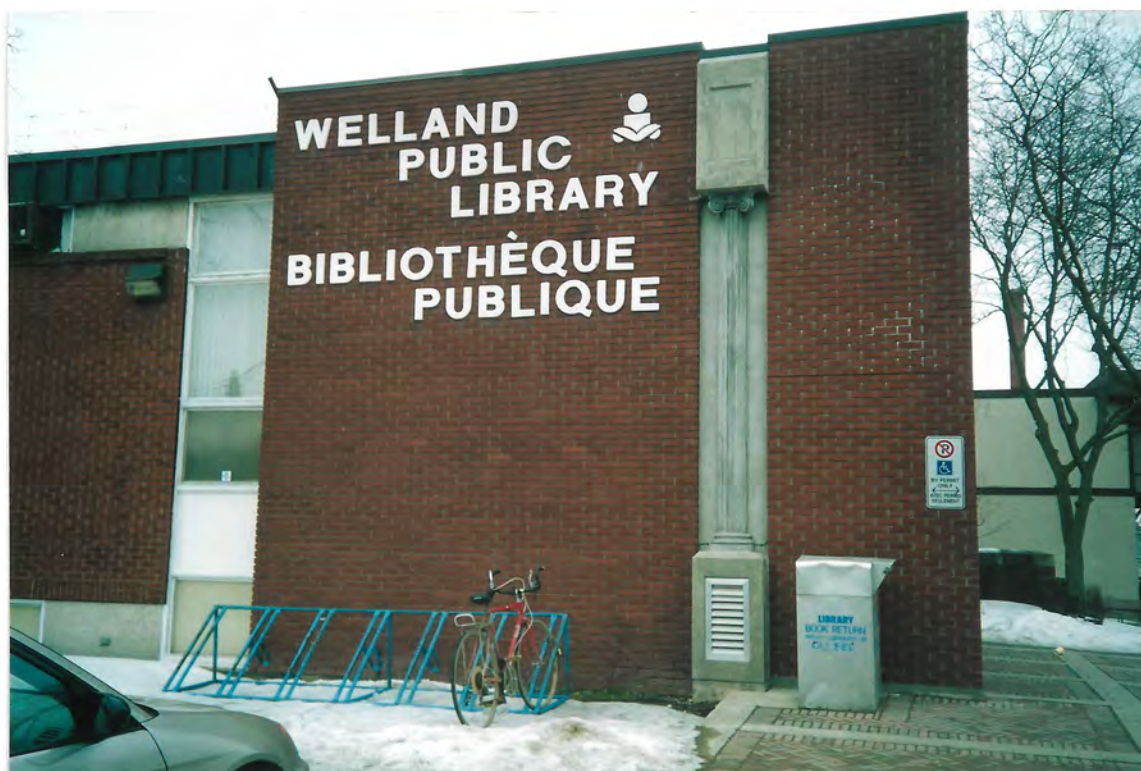
Figure 20
Welland Public Library, south facade

Figure 21
Welland Public Library, south facade
with addition on east side





Figures 22 & 23
Welland Public Library, north facade
1961 addition with 1993-4 renovations





Figures 24 & 25
Welland Public Library, north facade
Mural, "Canal Construction" by Bas De Groot, completed 1988



Figures 26 and 27
Welland Public Library, new entrance
at north end (1994) with elevator



Figure 28
Welland Public Library
Plaques at entrance



Figure 29
Welland Public Library
new entrance, lower level



Figure 30
Welland Public Library
Interior, 1961 addition

Figure 31
Welland Public Library
Ceiling, original library



Figure 28
Welland Public Library
Plaques at entrance



Figure 29
Welland Public Library
new entrance, lower level

Figure 32
Welland Public Library
Ceiling, original library;
detail of cornice and brackets



Figure 33
Welland Public Library
interior, original library





Figure 34
Welland Public Library
Interior, original front entrance



Figure 35
Welland Public Library
Interior, original library, south wall

Welland, Dec. 21, 1923.

Mr. R.A. Franks,
Vice Pres. and Chairman,
Carnegie Corporation,
522 Fifth Avenue,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

My dear Sir:

Enclosed please find final certificate in connection with the building of our Carnegie Library. Also a certified statement from J.F. Gross, City Solicitor; The search in connection with liens, etc., to protect ourselves, Mr. Gross reporting favorably.

The work which has been allotted to me in connection with the building of our Carnegie Library has been a great pleasure to all concerned. In connection with the communication of May 1st, 1923, which I received from Mr. James Bertram, requesting that unmounted photographs showing side and front elevations are completed, but the miniature plans referred to therein, we have as yet, not received. The work is being done through our architect in Toronto. I have expected to be in possession of these before now, but why the delay, it is something at present beyond my understanding. In speaking to Mr. Kearns, this morning in this connection, he advised me that he is expecting the plans any day and upon receipt of same, I promise you sincerely they will be forwarded to you forthwith.

I hardly expect that I will be Mayor of the City of Welland for the year 1924, and in asking you to give this matter your generous attention, I wish to state that my correspondence with you has been very engaging and of a most amicable nature. Trusting that, at some future date, I will be fortunate enough to have the pleasure of meeting you personally and wishing you the heartiest compliments of the season, I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

JAH/IF.

James A. Hughes... Mayor

Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings.

This memorandum is sent to anticipate frequent requests for such information, and should be taken as a guide, especially when the proposed architect has not had much library building experience. It should be noted that many of the buildings erected years ago, from plans tacitly permitted at the time, would not be allowed now.

Library committees, especially in small towns, are frequently composed of busy men who, having lacked time or opportunity to obtain a knowledge of library planning, are led to select a design which, if built, would yield an inadequate return of useful accommodation for the money invested, and would unwarrantably increase the expense of carrying on the library.

Some architects are liable, unconsciously, no doubt, to aim at architectural features and to subordinate useful accommodation. Some are also apt, on account of a lack of practical knowledge of the administration of a library, to plan interiors which are entirely unsuited for the purposes of a free public library. Small libraries should be planned so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.

The amount allowed by Carnegie Corporation of New York to cover the cost of a library building is according to a standard based on (a) the population which is to pay the tax for carrying on the library, and (b) a specified minimum revenue from such tax. The donation is sufficient only to provide needed accommodation and there will be either a shortage of accommodation or of money if this primary purpose is not kept in view, viz.:
TO OBTAIN FOR THE MONEY THE UTMOST AMOUNT OF EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATION, CONSISTENT WITH GOOD TASTE IN BUILDING.

The amount allowed is intended to cover cost of the building, complete and ready for use with indispensable furniture and fixtures, and including architect's fees.

In looking over hundreds of plans for small and medium-sized buildings, costing about \$10,000, more or less, we have noted some features leading to a wasting of space, especially in connection with the entrance feature, which, when not wisely planned, leads also to waste in halls, delivery room, etc.

The economical layout of the building is sacrificed or subordinated at times to minor accessories, such as too much or too valuable space allotted to cloak rooms, toilets and stairs.

The building should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accommodation for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff.

Experience seems to show that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of building, with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases. In cases where it is necessary, to secure quiet, glass partitions may be put above the bookcases. By a one-story and basement building is meant a building with the basement about four feet

below the natural grade, the basement being from say 9 to 10 feet and the main floor from say 12 to 15 feet high in the clear. Plans have at times been submitted for "one-story and basement" buildings, which differed from two-story buildings only by having stairs to the upper floor outside instead of inside!

The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to give continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library service during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit light on all sides, and be large enough to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The accompanying diagrams are offered as suggestions in planning the smaller library buildings most commonly required, and will be found to include a maximum of effective accommodation relative to total area.

While these diagrams are suggestive rather than mandatory, nevertheless, since they are the result of experience, those responsible for building projects should pause before aiming at radical departures, and see whether their alternative is to provide as much effective accommodation and have as little waste space.

An important cause of alleged inadequacy of accommodation in buildings erected years ago, when less supervision was exercised, has frequently been found to be uneconomical plan with bad layout. When applications (based on growth of population) have been received for aid in extending such buildings, it has often been impossible to entertain the idea of making a grant, owing to the prohibitive cost of demolition and re-erection relative to net gain of superficial area.

It may not be desirable to have library buildings planned from ready-made patterns, and yet a certain standardization of the main requirements of accommodation is as necessary for library buildings as for school buildings, which have been advantageously subjected to strict regulations both in plan and construction. Where architecture is best appreciated there are recognized types established for the various buildings of a public or semi-public character.

It will be noted that no elevations are given or suggestions made about the exteriors. These are features in which the community and architect may express their individuality, keeping to a plain, dignified structure and not aiming at such exterior effects as may make impossible an effective and economical layout of the interior.

These notes are of course written with the smaller buildings in mind; larger buildings require larger and more varied treatment, but no modification of the primary purpose.

Schedule of Hardware

for

New Public Library, Welland, Ontario.

N.C.Kearns, Architect.

June 7th, 1923.

1 pair main ent. doors 2'6" x 7'0" x 2 1/2" out ast. mould

- 3 prs. butts 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 241H
- 2 flush ext. bolts 275, 1-12", 1-18"
- 1 set Yale cyl. locks TS7500 FX80 M.K.
- 1 " dummy trim TS
- 1 Yale door closer 74 J.
- 1 " corner bracket 254J

1 pair vest. doors to main ent. 1 1/2" x 3'0" x 7'0"

- 3 prs. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
- 2 door pulls on plates 14" x 3" CU568 FX80
- 2 push plates 14 x 3 CU1730 FX80
- 2 Yale door closers 73 J
- 2 door holders 456H black

1 pair side ent. doors to basement 2 1/2" ast. mould

- 3 pair butts 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 241H
- 2 flush ext. bolts 275, 1-12", 1-18", black
- 1 set Yale cyl. locks TS7500 FX80 M.K.
- 1 " dummy trim T.S.
- 1 Yale door closer 74J
- 1 " corner bracket 254J

1 rear exterior door to basement

- 1 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
- 1 set locks CU8210 FX80
- 1 Yale night latch 44 M.K.

1 pair doors to children's reading room 2'6x7'0x1 1/2

- 3 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
- 2 flush ext. bolts 275, 2-12",
- 1 set Yale cyl. locks CU7500 M.K. FX80
- 2 door holders 456H
- 1 Yale door closer 73

3 doors to basement, reference lib. & vault

- 4 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
- 3 sets lock CU8210 FX80
- 2 door bumpers 9717 black

6 windows DH first floor

- 6 sash locks D746 FX80
- 12 bar sash lifts 02646 FX80
- 6 sash pull plates 9582 1/2 black
- 1 sash pull hook 9116 1/2 "
- 1 window pole 6'0"

BASEMENT

1 pair doors lecture room to hall 2'6x 7'0 x 1 1/2

- 3 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
- 2 flush ext. bolts 275, 2-12",
- 1 set Yale cyl. locks CU7500 MK FX80

2 push plates 14 x 3 CU1730 FX80
2 Yale door closers 73 J
2 door holders 456H black

1 pair side ent. doors to basement 2 1/2" ast. mould

3 pair butts 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 241H
2 flush ext. bolts 275, 1-12", 1-16", black
1 set Yale cyl. locks TS7500 FX80 M.K.
1 " dummy trim T.S.
1 Yale door closer 74J
1 " corner bracket 254J

1 rear exterior door to basement

1 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
1 set locks CU8210 FX80
1 Yale night latch 44 M.K.

1 pair doors to children's reading room 2'6x7'0x1 1/2

3 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
2 flush ext. bolts 275, 2-12",
1 set Yale cyl. locks CU7500 M.K. FX80
2 door holders 456H
1 Yale door closer 73

3 doors to basement, reference lib. & vault

4 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
3 sets lock CU8210 FX80
2 door bumpers 9717 black

6 windows DH first floor

6 sash locks D746 FX80
12 bar sash lifts 02646 FX80
6 sash pull plates 9582 black
1 sash pull hook 9116 " "
1 window pole 6'0"

BASEMENT

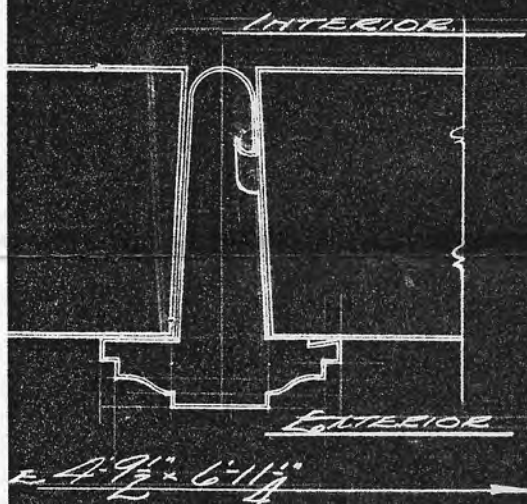
1 pair doors lecture room to hall 2'6x 7'0 x 1 1/2

3 pr. butts 4 x 4 x 241H
2 flush ext. bolts 275, 2-12",
1 set Yale cyl. locks CU7900 MK FX80
1 Yale door closer 73J
2 door holders 456H
1 door bumper 9717 black

Forward.--

1-PAIR COPPER COVERED DOORS REQ'D.
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 HARDWARE APPLIED " "
 GLAZING " "
 CLEAR WIRE GLASS " A.B.O.
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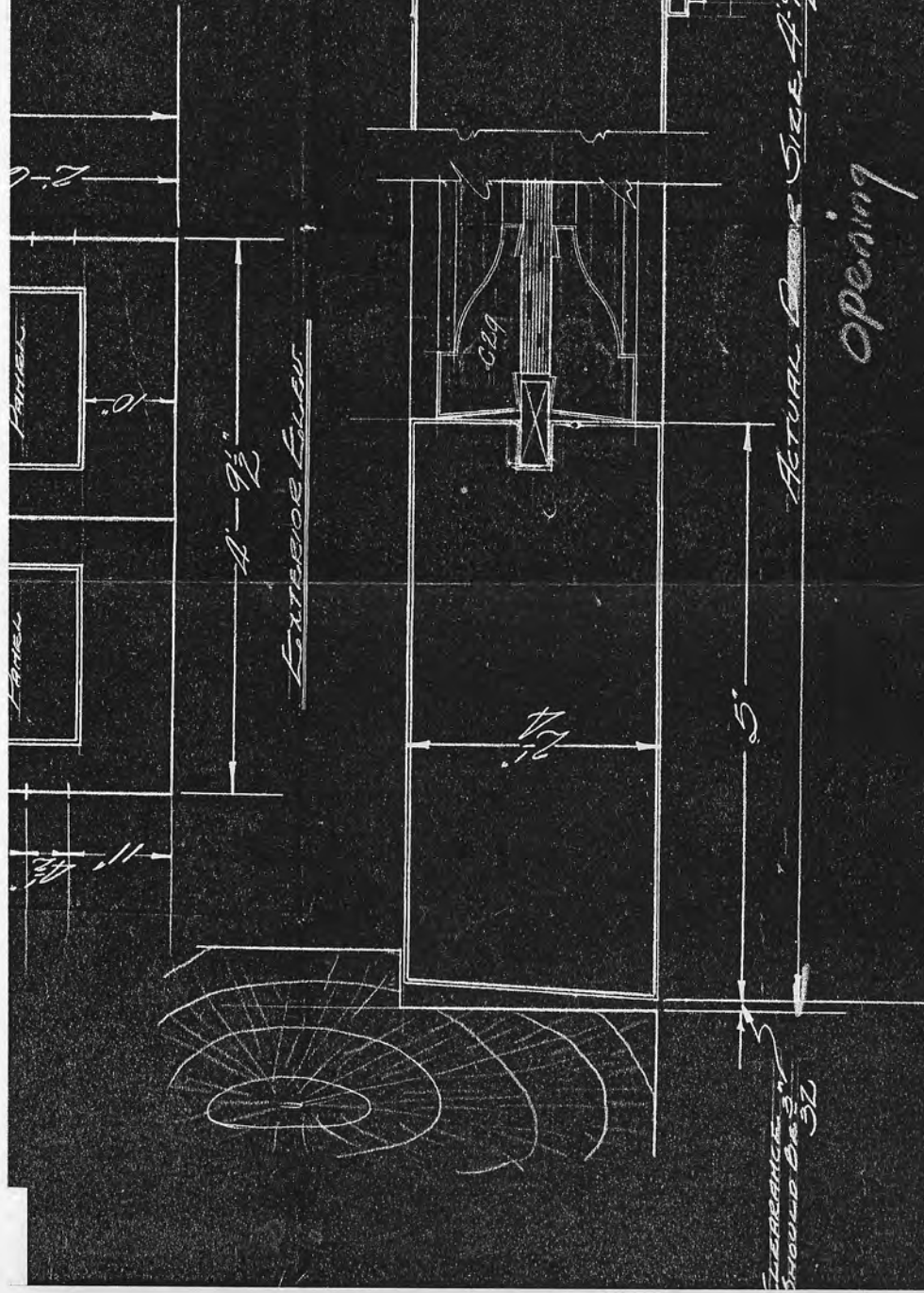


O.K.
 M. A. Keane

REV. AUG 22/57

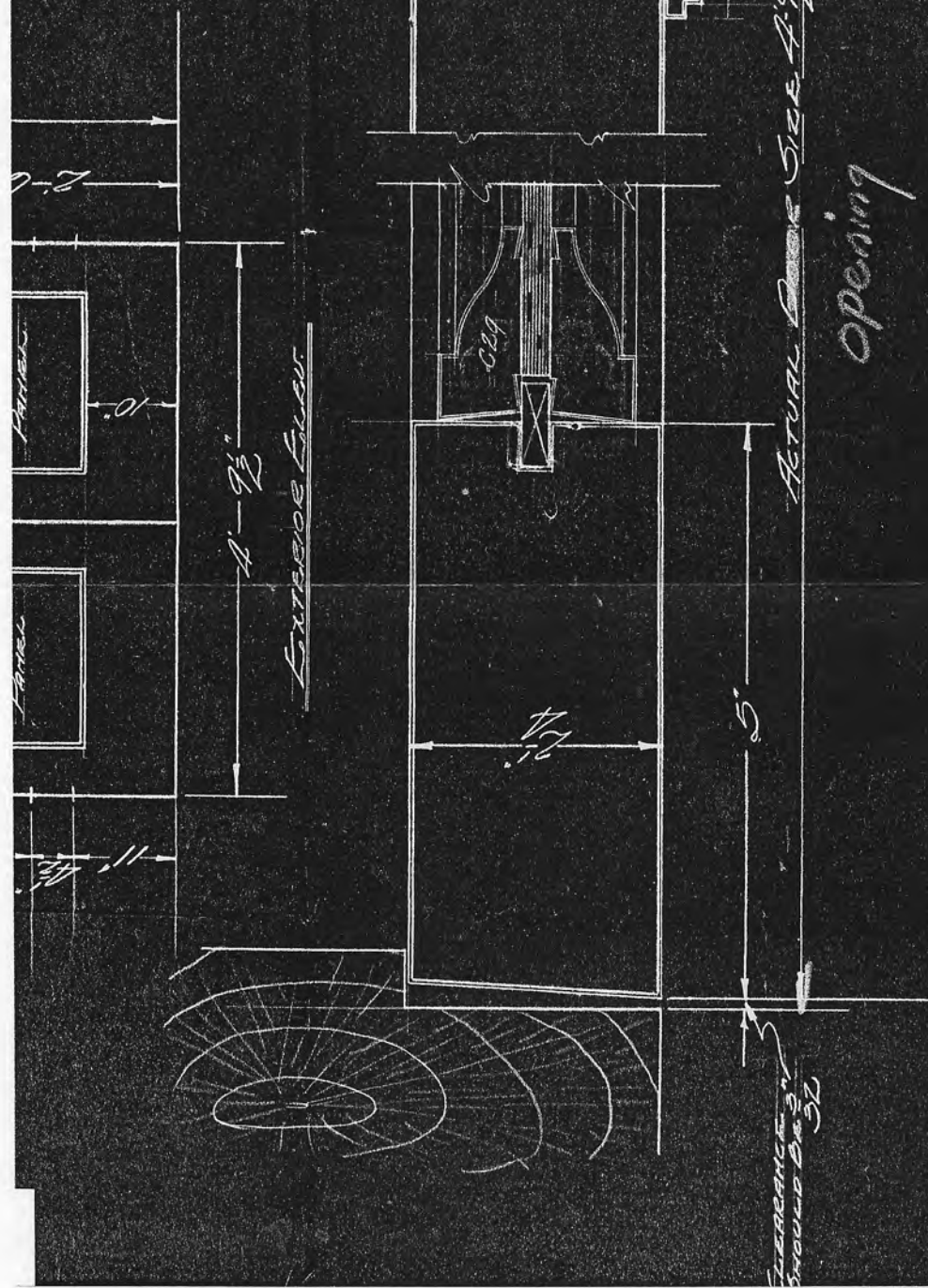
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TORONTO		
ASSOCIATED WITH		
THE METAL SHINGLE & SIDING COMPANY LIMITED, PRESTON & MONTREAL		
Title <u>PUBLIC LIBRARY.</u>		
<u>WELLAND, ONT.</u>		
Tender No. <u>149</u>	P.O. No. <u>1027</u>	Job No. <u>7525</u>
Drawn By <u>Frank</u>	Date <u>Aug 10/57</u>	Drawing No. <u>1</u>

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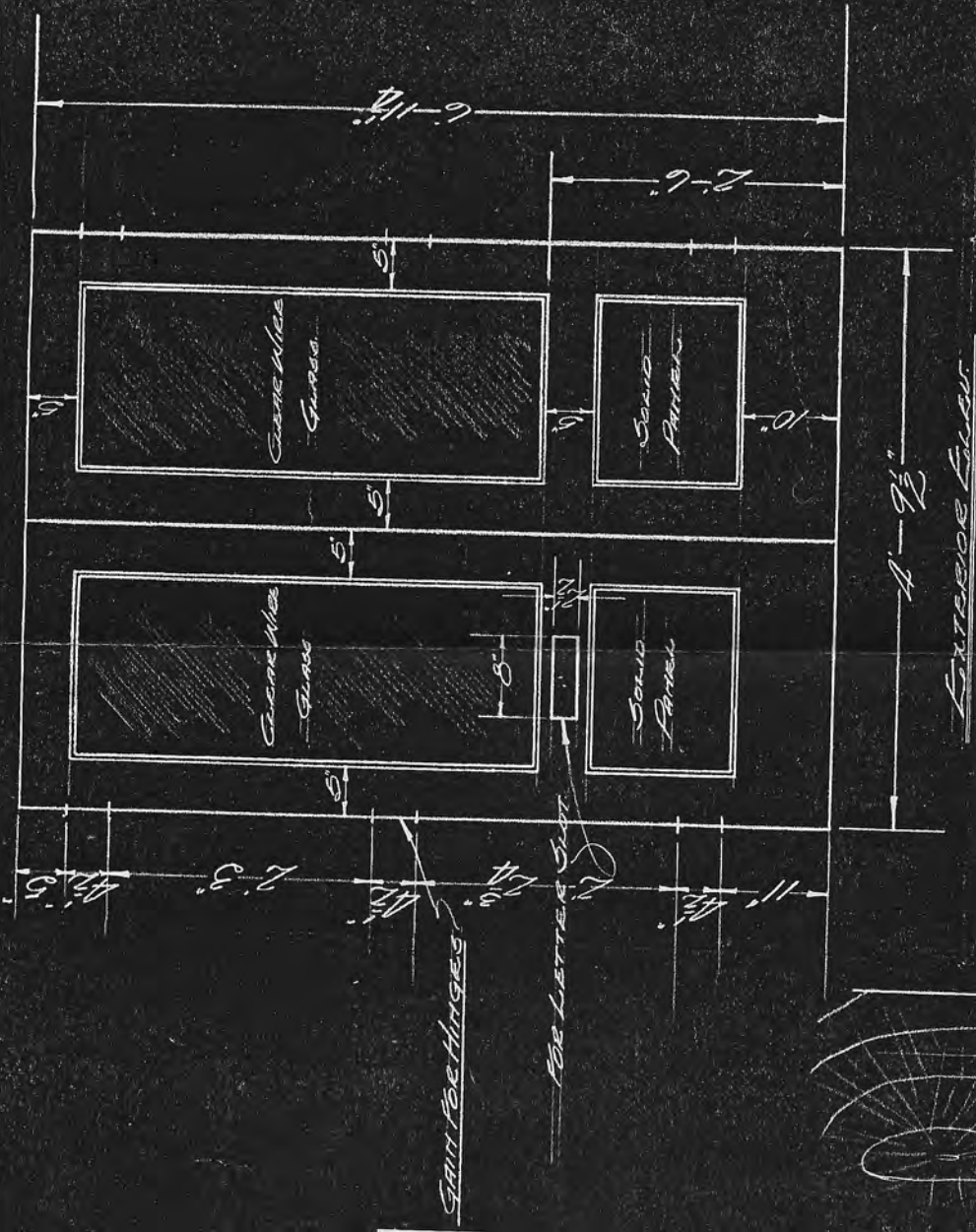
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For Lettering

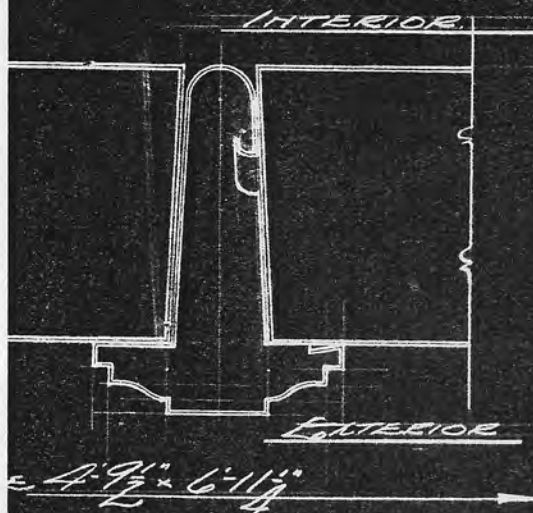
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LIMITED

1 PAIR COPPER COVERED DOORS REQ'D.
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 CLEAR WIRE GLASS " F.B.O.
 ERECTION " OTHERS.

NOTE: SAMPLE HINGE TO BE
FORWARDED TO F.B.O.



O.K.
 W.A. Keane

REV. AUG 22/27

THE A. B. ORMSBY COMPANY LIMITED		
TORONTO		
ASSOCIATED WITH		
THE METAL SHINGLE & SIDING COMPANY LIMITED, PRESTON & MONTREAL		
Title <u>PUBLIC LIBRARY</u>		
<u>WELLAND, ONT.</u>		
Tender No. <u>1</u>	P.O. No. <u>1</u>	Job No. <u>9535</u>
Drawn By <u>Frank</u>	Date <u>Aug 10/27</u>	Drawing No. <u>1</u>



Figure 36
Welland Public Library
Special collections

Figure 37
Welland Public Library
Children's department, Basement level





Figures 38 & 39
Welland Public Library,
Interior, 1974-5 addition, offices





Figures 40 & 41
Welland Public Library, original building
South entrance and hall, lower level





Figure 42
Welland Public Library, original library
Lower level, furnace room

Figure 43
Welland Public Library,
Original library, attic





Figures 44 & 45
Welland Public Library,
Original library, attic



APPENDIX

December 8th, 1913

Hon. John Goodwin, Mayor
Welland, Ontario
Canada

Dear Sir:-

Responding to your communications on behalf of Welland, Ontario, Canada, if the city agrees by resolution of council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) a year, and provides a suitable site for the building, Carnegie Corporation of New York will be glad to give Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000) to erect a Free Public Library Building for Welland, Ontario, Canada.

It should be noted that the amount indicated is to cover the cost of Library Building complete, ready for occupancy and for the purpose intended.

Before any expenditure on building or plans is incurred, the approval of proposed plans by Carnegie Corporation of New York should be secured, to obtain which please send sketch plans for inspection.

Very truly yours,

CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK,

By

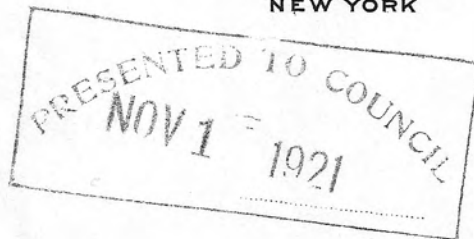
/s/ JAS. BERTRAM

Secretary.

Enclosure (Notes on Library Building).

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

JAMES BERTRAM
SECRETARY



October 26, 1921

His Honor, the Mayor
Welland
Ontario

Dear Sir:-

In response to an application from the City of Welland, through the Mayor, this Corporation in letter of December 8, 1913, promised a donation of \$20,000 to provide a Free Public Library Building on certain conditions specified in that letter of promise.

As it is manifestly not desirable that promises of this description should remain in force indefinitely, I am directed to ascertain from you whether construction is about to be undertaken.

Very truly yours,

James Bertram
Secretary.

AT a meeting of the members of the Library
Association of the City of Welland the following resolution
was passed:

Moved by *George Wells*

Seconded by *Mrs. Hardison*

It is hereby declared that it is the desire of the
members of the Library Association of the City of Welland that
the Library be transferred to a Board appointed under The
Public Libraries Act.

DATED November 23 , 1921.

Kathleen Johnson
(Secretary)

W. O. JARSON
INSPECTOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES



ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

T o r o n t o,
February 3rd, 1922.

Dear Mr. Jackson,

About the end of last October the Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York wrote to me in regard to thirteen places in Ontario that had been promised gifts for building libraries. The promises were all made between 1913 and the early part of 1917. Early in 1917 the Corporation discontinued giving promises of funds for library buildings and it is very doubtful if any further promises will be made. I understand that each place received a letter from the Secretary of the Corporation late in October, 1921, asking if building operations were to begin soon and, that if not, the promise would probably be considered as having lapsed. Each letter was probably addressed to the Mayor of the place concerned.

I met the Secretary, Mr. Bertram, in New York last week. He informed me that the promise would be withdrawn from each place that did not arrange to build at once. I inferred from what he said that the Corporation would go part way in meeting the extra cost of building although most of the libraries received the promises while costs were comparatively low and the libraries are entirely to blame for the delay.

Your community was evidently promised \$20,000 on December 8th, 1913.

I am not advising your Board as to what action should be taken. The Department is not officially concerned in Carnegie gifts.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. O. Jarson".

Inspector of Public Libraries.

Mr. A. W. Jackson,
Secretary, Public Library,
WELLAND, Ontario.

BY-LAW NO. 255
IN THE CITY OF WELLS.

WHEREAS the members of the Library Association of the City of Wells have by resolution declared their desire that the Library of the Association be transferred to a Board appointed under the Public Libraries Act, and

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the assets and property of the Association be taken over and a Public Library established;

BE IT ENACTED UNTO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WELLS:

1. THAT in case the assent of the electors is given to this By-Law a Public Library be established in this municipality in accordance with the provisions of the Public Library Act, and that the assets and property of the Wells Library Association be taken over for the purpose of a Public Library.

READ a first and second time this *second* day of December, 1921.

Read a third time this 7th day of February, 1922.

James A. G. Mayor.

9th February 1922

Dear Sir,

About the end of last October the Mayor received a letter from the Secretary of the Carnegie Foundation New York, enquiring into the Library situation in this City.

The City Council immediately asked the Associate Library Board as to their intentions in the matter, a meeting of the Associate Library Board was called, and a motion was unanimously carried, asking the City Council to submit a By-Law to the people, at the New Year elections thereby making the Library a Free Library.

The By-Law went before the people on January 2nd and was carried, and has just received its third reading, consequently the Library Board would like to know the attitude of the Carnegie Foundation towards it at this time.

The above explains the delay in writing you. Our present building is not at all suitable for Library purpose. The population of the City is about ten thousand, with suburban area with another ten thousand, as the Steel Mill and Pipe Mill are out side the City limits, although the people living in their immediate vicinity look to Welland for their recreation and instruction.

Possibly the above ^{gives} you a slight idea of our present position. We need a new building badly.

Yours very truly

James Bertram Esq
Secretary Carnegie Corporation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, U.S.A.

P.S. The writer is Treasurer of the Library Board as well as being City Treasurer.

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

JAMES BERTRAM
SECRETARY

February 14, 1922

A. W. Jackson, Esq.
Treasurer
Welland, Ontario

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of January 9th received, in which you would like to know "the attitude of the Carnegie Foundation towards it at this time." The attitude of the Corporation is shown in letter of October 26th. Whether the opportunity which has been so long before Welland is now available or not depends upon the promptitude with which effective steps are taken to take advantage of it.

Very truly yours,

James Bertram
Secretary.

P.S. We never heard that you have a library building now. The last advice we have shows you have two rooms in the Town Hall.

March 2-1922.

James Bertram, Esq.,
Secretary Carnegie Corporation,
Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Kindly pardon the delay in replying to your favour of February 14-1922, referring to your letter of October 26-1921. The delay was caused by waiting for final appointments from Council and Public School Board as required by Statute. As soon as this was arranged a meeting of the new board was held on February 28th at which it was decided to inform you in regard to our present position.

The present location of the Library is in a private residence which was bought by the Council, as the Library and the reading-room had to be moved from the Town Hall, they now occupy the three north rooms in this building and as I stated this building is, not at all suitable for such purposes, however, it was the best that could be done under the circumstances.

We are naturally very anxious to secure a proper Library building for this City and under the conditions we looked to the Carnegie Corporation for the necessary funds, especially as there are several splendid Library buildings in this District which were financed by your Corporation.

I understand that the Carnegie Corporation furnishes plans etc. which must be adhered to. This place has been growing rapidly and the people seem of late to be turning more towards the Library and the reading-room, consequently, we would like to have a building in keeping with our requirements, although we very much appreciate your generosity in this regard by approving our former request for twenty thousand dollars and we do not wish to unduly add to the burden, still we would like to know in the event of it being agreeable to all parties that we proceed under your instructions, would you be agreeable to meet the extra cost of present construction for a building such as you would consider suitable for our requirements at this time.

Yours very truly,

AWJ/T.

Treasurer Welland Library.

Welland, Ont. Apr. 26, 1922.

Jas. Bertram, Esq.,
Sec'y Carnegie Corp.,
522 Fifth Ave.,
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your communication of Mar. 22, as Mayor of the City, I am instructed to advise you that the City of Welland is very desirous of building a Library to cost approximately \$40,000. That is, if your offer of \$20,000, dating back to 1913, can be extended to meet those requirements. We have an excellent lot which is already paid for, very suitable for the said Library.

I am pleased to inform you that the citizens of Welland are taking advantage of our Library and more reading is done here than ever before. We are practising economy as far as possible in this City owing to a project which you have undoubtedly heard something about, known as the deepening of the Welland Canal which may interfere with certain of our Local Improvements, viz., sewers and water mains. Consequently you will readily understand why we are going cautious upon these lines. But, be it known that we are prepared to accept the \$20,000 if you cannot see your way to increasing it to \$40,000.

Hoping that this will be satisfactory to your request of Mar. 27th, and that you will give this your generous consideration, I am,

Yours respectfully,

JAH/IF.

James A. Hughes
MAYOR.

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

JAMES BERTRAM
SECRETARY

April 28, 1922

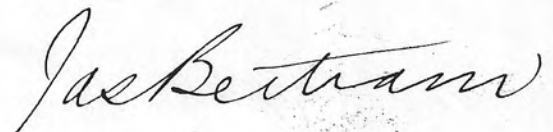
Hon. James A. Hughes
Mayor, Welland
Ontario

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of April 26th received. This Corporation does not see its way to double the amount made available December 8, 1913. It must be remembered that the opportunity has been before Welland for more than eight years and if the opportunity extended in 1913 had been acted upon promptly the building might have been erected on contracts made before the world war.

It may be fair to assume that \$20,000 would have gone far in erecting the building which would cost \$40,000 now. Be that as it may, any proposal from Welland now should carry with it an agreement on its part to provide the greater part, certainly not less than half, of the expenditure in excess of \$20,000. Permit me to emphasize the second paragraph of my letter of October 26th, together with the pertinent passages of my letters of February 14th and March 16th.

Very truly yours,



Secretary.

Welland Public Library
Welland, Ont.

May 10 '22

James A. Hughes Esqr.

Mayor of Welland.

Dear Sir

By resolution of the Library Board at a meeting held on May the tenth, the Board having carefully considered the offer of The Carnegie Corporation, beg to suggest that their offer be accepted with regard to a \$30,000 building (\$25,000 being from The Carnegie Corporation and \$5000 from The City of Welland, and that the lot to the south of the present building be acquired if possible.

Geo Wells

Chairman

Library Board

W. E. Forster,
City Clerk



City Clerk's Office

Welland, Ont., June 21, 1922.
Canada

Jas. A. Hughes, Mayor,
WELLAND, Ont.

Dear Sir:

The following are copies of resolutions passed
at the regular meeting of the City Council on June 20, 1922.

"That the Mayor and City Treasurer be instructed
to give a Treasury note and issue a cheque for \$8000.00 in
payment for Library site on South Main Street. This amount will
be taken care of later by debenture."

"That re application for connection to City
spur by Lackawanna Tubes Co., that City Council and City Engineer
be a committee and make a personal inspection of same at 4 o'clock
(standard time) Friday afternoon, meeting at City Hall."

Yours truly,

W. E. Forster

City Clerk.

WEF/IF.

NORMAN A. KEARNS
ARCHITECT
WELLAND, ONT.

July 27th-1922.

Mr. James A. Hughes, Mayor,
City of Welland.

Dear Sir: Re plans for Library.

Pursuant to the suggestion made by Mr. W. S. Learned, Assistant to the President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, I have prepared a new set of drawings for our proposed library, and while doing so have kept before me the memorandum of the Carnegie Corporation.

Before my plans were returned I had written to the Carnegie Corporation asking for criticisms of the drawings as submitted. However, after I had my opportunity of comparing them with the outline drawings shown in the memorandum I felt that I could discover why the preparation of a new design was necessary.

I have not spent a great deal of time in the rendering of these drawings because I anticipate that some changes may be suggested by the Carnegie Corporation and that such change may be shown on the more highly finished drawing which I shall prepare after the general scheme of this building has been approved or rejected by the Carnegie Corporation.

I am enclosing, herewith, a descriptive specification of this design.

Sincerely yours,

Norman A. Kearns

NAK M

Welland, Ont. July 28th, 1922

Mr. W. S. Learned, Asst. President,
Carnegie, Corporation,
522 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Learned:-

Pursuant to your suggestions re the proposed Carnegie Library I took the matter up with our Architect, Mr. Kerns immediately, and after giving the matter careful consideration Mr. Kerns found that there was room for improvement on the first plans submitted, consequently he deemed it advisable to draw a new set of tentative plans and specifications. I am enclosing same under separate cover. Hoping that they will meet with your approval.

Permit me again to remind you that Mr. Kerns is prepared to interview you if you deem it advisable. We are anxious to go on with this work as soon as possible.

Thanking you for past favors and awaiting your reply at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

JAH/SR.

James A. Hughes

MAYOR

Welland, Ont. August 3rd, 1922

W. S. Learned Esq., Vice-President,
Carnegie Corporation,
522 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Learned:-

In acknowledgment of receipt of our communication of July 28th. I wish to mention that I appreciate your recommendations very much. It is timely advice bearing much evidence of experience in the building of Libraries.

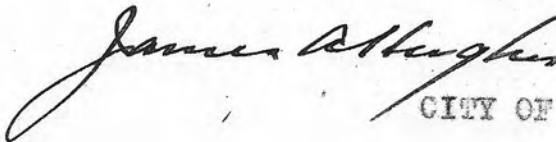
I took the matter up with our Architect, Mr. Kearns, and I can assure you that your recommendations will be complied with fully. The widening of the building to 34 feet instead of 28 feet, and the introduction of the movable partitions will be attended to.

Assuring you that everything pertaining to resolution from Mr. James Bertram of May 28th, will be satisfactorily complied with.

Thanking you for past favors and prompt reply,

Yours very truly,

JAH/Sr.

 MAYOR.
CITY OF WELLAND.

Mayor's Office



Welland, Ont.

June 14/23.

Mr. R. A. Franks,
Vice-President And Treasurer.
Carnegie Corporation.
552 Fifth Avenue.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir;

Accompanying this application you will find enclosed certificate No. 6. amounting to \$3259. 59.

You will also note in this certificate the names of Williams & Moore Electricals Contractors and Harrison & Philp Plumbers. We are progressing remarkable well with our Library. Our citizens are delighted with the architecture, considering it a creditable asset to our city.

Thanking you for your prompt and courteous attention during the past, I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully.

H./ J.A.H.

James A. Hughes. Mayor.

REGISTERED:
 ADDRESS: "VOONSEED, WELLAND"
 WESTERN UNION CODE AND PRIVATE CODE

The Vaughan Seed Company

Multipurpose Seed Merchants

BELL DAY PHONE 102 W
 " NIGHT " 102 J
 BRANCH WAREHOUSE AND CLEANING
 PLANT AT VAUGHAN STA., ONTARIO

WELLAND, CAN., Sept 28th. 1922.

SOLD TO Welland Park Board,

For Library Grounds

TERMS: NET CASH

ROUTE

SHIPPED TO Per Mr Seecord

MARKS	BAGS	SEED	GROSS	TARE	NET	PRICE		
		Special Grass Mixture.....			15 Lbs	25¢	3.75	
		Seed wheat.....			5 "	3¢	.15	

							\$3.90	
								\$3.90

Set 12 1/2
Seed Cost
The Vaughan Seed Co
Per J. J. Hecox
\$3.90

ORDER NO.

SHIP VIA

ALL SEEDS ARE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE SEED TRADE NON-WARRANTY CLAUSE

WE SHIP PROMPTLY

Librarians in charge of the Welland Public Library

There were paid librarians from 1884, but no one was named until

~~August 1891~~

~~Miss Annie E. Ross~~

September 1891

Miss Jeannie Ross

1891 - 1893

Miss Annie E. Ross

1893 - 1895

Mrs. Moore

October 1896 to 1914

Mr. Henry Boyd

1914-15

Mr. W. Miller

1915

Miss J. Brown

1916

Miss Lila Forster

1916 - 1941

Mrs. Edith A. Dickie

1941 to February 1950

Miss Mary Alvin, First qualified
librarian

February 1950 - August 1951

Robert M. Jamieson

September 1951 - 1959

John R. Adams

September 1959 - April 1960

Mr. David Housby

1960 September

Miss Shirley L. Jones

Children's Librarians

1927 Miss Morley, at first part-time in charge
 to of the Boys' and Girls' Library, doing
 time also in the Adult Library

1942 Later full time in charge of Boys' and Girls'

1942 - 1947 Miss Kathleen Hume (later Mrs. Bull)
 First qualified librarian

1947 - 1949 Mrs. A. G. Moffat (Mabel), temporary
 part-time. Stayed to 1949. Did a great
 deal to establish the good reputation
 of the library. Began the organised
 class visits.

1949 - 1952 Miss Beryl Reed. From the University
 of Toronto Library School.

1952 Miss M. Diaz (temporary)

1953 - 1959 Mrs. John Adams (Maureen) was children's
 librarian.
 Minutes contain no official appointment.
 She had been on the staff since 1952.

1959 - February 1961 Mrs. Althea Phillips (supervised the
 Boys' and Girls' Department together with
 being Film Librarian)

March 1961 - June 1974 Miss Ivy J. White
 (One year extra, to June 1975, as
 part-time consultant to the new
 librarian)

January 1975 Miss Janet Hodgkins

Chairmen

1906 - 1942	Mr. George Wells, gentleman (Printer at Tribune)
1942	Col. Cohoe, Lawyer
1943	Mrs. H. J. Foster, housewife
1944	Mrs. W. Morrissey, housewife
1945	Mr. A. P. Murphy, chemical engineer
1946	Dr. J. A. Meek, dentist
1947	Judge Fuller
1948	Mrs. H. J. Foster
1949	Mrs. W. Morrissey
1950	Mr. A. P. Murphy, engineer
1951	Dr. J. A. Meek
1952	Mr. F. C. Hoare
1953	Miss Bessie Cooke, teacher
1954	Mr. A. N. Conklin, engineer
1955	H. E. Stark, paymaster
1956	Miss S. E. Oille, teacher-retired
1957	Mrs. K. R. Clement, housewife
1958	Mr. A. N. Conklin
1959	Mrs. F. Gorbet
1960	Mr. J. T. Mavor
1961	Mr. J. T. Mavor
1962	Mr. Lou Ector
1963	Mr. Peter Comar
1964	Mrs. Evelyn Zavitz
1965	Mr. Rudy Sarchese
1966	Mr. Rudy Sarchese
1967	Rev. Robert Wright

1968	Mrs. Harry G. Lotteridge	
1969	Mrs. C. C. Arthurs	
1970	"	"
1971	"	"
1972	"	"
1973	"	"
1974	"	"
1975	"	"

CARNEGIE BUILDING (FORMER WELLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY)
140 King Street, Welland, Ontario

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Formed at Brown's Bridge in November of 1824, the Welland Public Library is perhaps the oldest continuously operating institution in the city of Welland. Shareholder's names recorded in the earliest preserved minutes include many later memorialized in local street and place names such as Brown, O'Reilly, Page and Hellems. Among the first books purchased were four volumes of "Clarke's Travels". Shareholders paid to join the library and could borrow a book for four weeks (a week longer if they lived more than five miles away) and paid fines of a few pence for offences such as grease spots or torn leaves. For almost two centuries after its founding the library has continued to grow. It amalgamated with the Mechanic's Institute library in 1858 and was housed in numerous locations, including J. H. Bugar's "Medical Hall" drug store, Tuckey's Jewellers, the Rose Block on West Main and the McCaw Block on East Main. The first librarian was Miss Bertha Hooker, hired in 1867. The library received its first municipal grant for \$25. from the town of Welland in 1885.

About 1910 the town became interested in obtaining a Carnegie Library Grant. Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland on November 25, 1835, the son of William Carnegie, a weaver and his wife Margaret Morrison. In 1848 the family emigrated to the United States and settled at Pittsburgh. Here Carnegie rose from his first position as a bobbin boy in a cotton mill to become the owner of Carnegie Steel and one of the richest men in the world. Called "...the most cruel task master American industry has ever known..." he was nevertheless a pioneer of large scale philanthropy. By the time of his death in 1919 he had given away all but \$25 million of a fortune well in excess of \$250 million. Carnegie and later his charitable foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, went on to build 2811 free public libraries throughout the English speaking world, including six in the Niagara region.

Welland received the offer of a Carnegie grant in 1913 but was unable to pass the necessary bylaw authorizing taxes for library maintenance. Threatened with the loss of the grant, City Council finally passed the bylaw in February of 1922 and in June of that year approved the purchase of a lot on South Main (now King Street) for \$8000 from the James Nixon estate. After the Carnegie Library was completed in 1923, the Welland Public Library continued to expand its services, adding over the years a children's department, reference and audio visual departments and internet access. The Welland Public library occupied the Carnegie Building until moving to its present location at Welland's Civic Square in 2005.

Designed by well known local architect Norman Kearns, who was also responsible for the original Welland Market building, the Welland Public Library was constructed in the style of Beaux-Arts Classicism typical of most "Carnegie" libraries. A single story building with exposed basement, it is built of dark red Milton brick with ornamental

details in contrasting buff Indiana limestone. These details include prominent corner quoins, window lintels and sills, a string course dividing the basement from the first floor and classical detailing on the prominent central "frontispiece" or vestibule. This vestibule has a door case (now converted to a window) surmounted by a semi circular tympanum window and flanked by two monumental stone pilasters whose capitals have volutes in Ionic style with egg and dart decoration. Above these is a wide stone entablature inscribed with the words "Public Library". Centrally located above the entablature is the City of Welland's crest, a lion rampant flanked by two ships. Inside, some of the original mahogany wood trim remains. Despite numerous alterations, including large additions in 1961 and 1974-5, the character of a "Carnegie Library" is still evident in exterior of the original building. In 1988 a large mural entitled "Canal Construction" was completed on the north side of the building by artist Bas De Groot.

Prepared by Nora A. Reid, M.A.,
Researcher, Heritage Welland (Local Architectural Conservation
Advisory Committee)