



Heritage Property – Carnegie Library



40 Albert St.

Built 1903; designed by Charles Moogk

Designated Jan. 7, 1985: bylaw 85-5, “The Carnegie Library”

The Carnegie Library is the first building in Waterloo wholly dedicated to its function as a library. Prior to the building’s construction between 1903 and 1905, the Mechanics library had occupied and outgrown rooms in the old town hall a block away at the end of Albert Street. The American industrialist Andrew Carnegie granted funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the construction of a free library upon the request of Mayor David Bean and the town council. His philanthropic gift, one of many such for libraries, is recognized in the inscriptions “Carnegie” and “1903” on the southeast cornerstone. The library was situated on the point of land which was formerly home to the original village hall and fire station.

With rough ashlar sandstone from the Credit River valley as a foundation and red pressed-bricks from Milton, this tall two-storey building was designed by the town’s engineer, Charles Moogk, in the classical revival style. From the semicircular arch over its entrance and over the second-storey windows, to the deep overhang of the eaves which are carried on a regular succession of horizontal rafters along the soffit with smaller dentils on a cornice, to the triangular pediment that caps the central portion of the main façade, the aggregate of the design elements is harmonious and handsome.



Each section of that symmetrical, tripartite façade, as well as of the other elevations, is enclosed in pilasters which spring from clearly molded bases and are topped by suggestions of Corinthian capitals. Windows in the semicircular fanlight over the door and on either side of it are of stained glass, the one to the left being recently restored. A wrought-iron balustrade originally rimmed the whole of the roof.