

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CORNWALL

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By-law #134-2001

A by-law to Designate in its entirety the property known municipally as 20 Pitt Street and commonly referred to as The United Counties Courthouse, Jail and Encompassing lands as of architectural, historical and contextual value and interest.

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WHEREAS, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a Municipality to enact Bylaws 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 City of Cornwall has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises located at the northwest corner of Pitt and Water Streets, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CORNWALL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. There is designated as being of architectural, historical or contextual value or interest the real property known Municipally as 20 Pitt Street, being the United Counties Courthouse, Jail and encompassing grounds, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto; and
2. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this Bylaw to be served on the owner and registered against the deed of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Also, to cause notice of the passing of this Bylaw to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality.

READ a First and Second Time, in Open Council this 13th day of August , 2001.

Handwritten signature of Denise Sabelli-Lucina, Clerk

Handwritten signature of Brian Sylvester, Mayor

READ a Third and Final Time, Signed and Sealed in Open Council this 13th day of August , A.D., 2001

Handwritten signature of Denise Sabelli-Lucina, Clerk

Handwritten signature of Brian Sylvester, Mayor

**SCHEDULE 'A'**  
**TO BYLAW 134-2001**

Part of Lot 16 and Lot 17, north side of Water Street, lying at the northwest corner of Pitt and Water Streets, consisting of approximately 1.41 acres ( $\pm 262$  ft. frontage along Pitt Street and  $\pm 235$  ft. frontage along Water Street) and having municipal address 20 Pitt Street, City of Cornwall, in the County of Stormont, in the Province of Ontario.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 (AS AMENDED), CHAPTER 337**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN AS THE UNITED  
COUNTIES COURTHOUSE, JAIL AND REAL PROPERTY, PITT AND WATER  
STREETS, IN THE CITY OF CORNWALL, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.**

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL / REAL PROPERTY**

- The existing footprint and configuration of the building with projecting central bay, recessed wings and hipped roof;
- The front facade with its central pediment and balanced window openings;
- Hammer dressed, exterior masonry finish;
- Surviving interior wood panelling, staircases, baseboards and decorative plaster elements from the original construction or nineteenth century modifications;
- The fire proof safe located in the vault;
- The exterior grounds at the front entrance with an unimpeded view to the river together with the "fixtures" such as the canon, period stocks, signage and pathways/plantings which are of an historic/period nature.

**HISTORICAL / NARRATIVE**

The United Counties Courthouse is a building of local architectural and historic significance. Constructed in 1834/1835, the building is a fine example of Palladian architecture style, widely used in the nineteenth century for institutional buildings. The projecting central section, surmounted by a triangular pediment is balanced by two slightly recessed flanking wings, capped by a hip roof. The exterior finish of hammer dressed limestone imparts an austere and imposing character to the structure, symbolic of its judicial and administrative function.

Subsequent additions and renovations to the courthouse have modified but not changed the essential character of this historic structure.

Meetings of the Courts of Quarter Session and later County Council were held here until 1853 when county officials purchased the former town hall of Cornwall, located adjacent to the courthouse and converted it to administrative offices and meeting rooms. In 1885 the counties moved their administrative offices back to the courthouse, adding a new wing to the east facade to house these facilities. Additional office space was provided in 1958-1959 with the construction of a new wing to the north east.

The original gaoler's residence and prisoners' cells on the main floor have been substantially modified. In 1858 the gaol keeper was provided with a new residence immediately to the west of the courthouse while the cells were reconfigured to provide separate quarters for men and women prisoners. Since 1968 the jailer's residence has been converted to office space, the entry from the centre main floor lobby has been modified and additional changes made to the layout of the jail.

The second floor court room has experienced some alterations. A new judge's bench was added in 1985, and new ceiling and lighting fixtures added in the 1960's. The windows were changed in the 1980's.

Despite these changes, the building retains a remarkable degree of integrity while performing functions it was originally designed to carry out more than one hundred and seventy years ago. It is for these reasons, the United Counties Courthouse/jail and real property is being recommended for designation.