

Town of Renfrew Heritage Register

Last Updated: January 6, 2026

The Town's heritage register is updated periodically. Please contact Town Staff directly regarding recent designations, notices of intention to designate, and to obtain designation by-laws.

Municipal Address	Known As	Property Roll Number	Legal Description	Ontario Heritage Act Status	Municipal By-law	Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest	Description of Heritage Attributes	Estimated Date of Construction
65 Arthur Avenue	McDougall Mill Museum		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and pre-mises situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew in the County of Renfrew, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, being composed of Water Lot Number One (1) in Block "T" on the south side of Arthur Street in the Hincks Section of the Town of Renfrew and forming part of Lot Number Thirteen (13) in the First Concession (1) of the Township of Horton (now Town of Renfrew) as shown on Registered Plan No. 8 and described in Instrument No. 9522 dated the 31st day of March, 1931.	Part IV designated	By-law 2-79	The McDougall Mill Museum, on Arthur Avenue, was built in the late 1850's by John Lorn McDougall one of the pioneer developers of Renfrew. For many years it operated as a grist mill and flour mill under a succession of owners. The structure was presented to the Town by M.J. Murray in the 1960's for use as a museum after having been used for a number of years as a storage building by Renfrew Woolen Mills owned by M.J. O'Brien. The McDougall Mill Museum is an attractive, well preserved example of Mill architecture. Its simple, massive, rectangular shape is accented through the use of stone quoins, a moulded cornice and a low pitched roof. The contrast of the large, stippled quoins on the corners of the museum against the roughly coursed stones cladding the building is especially attractive and the contrast is continued around the openings of the windows. Other notable features of the structure include the lintels above the windows and doors, the flume arches, the two capped chimneys, and the initials stamped on the facade. The building is said to be an example of dry stone masonry construction.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1855
301 Barnett Boulevard	Airth House		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario and being all that portion of Block "B" registered Plan No. 200 in the said Town of Renfrew, designated as Part 2 on a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Renfrew as Plan 49R-517.	Part IV designated	By-law 7-79, Amended by By-law 43-79	The Airth House, 301 Barnett Blvd, is a fine old stone building that belonged to a succession of Airths, one of the pioneer families of the village. With the coming of the railway and subsequent development of the Town, the Airth family was subdivided and numerous buildings disappeared but the farm house remained and now serves as a reminder of settlement days. The house is of architectural importance due to its well balanced design. This quality is noticeable in the repeated arrangement of the facade. The symmetrical placement of the windows to either side of the facade door with its transom and side lights is repeated in the returned eaves of the roof on both gable ends. The pattern is continued in the two chimneys crowning the gables. Of further interest are the returned eaves of the addition and the stonework of the walls. The heritage elements on the interior include: wood flooring, 9 1/2 foot high plaster ceilings, medallions and mouldings, a stone fireplace and deep windowsills.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1847
152 Plaunt Street	Renfrew Fire Hall		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Town of Renfrew in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario and being composed of a part of Lot 93 in the Red Circle on the East side of Raglan Street in the Plaunt Section of the said Town of Renfrew as marked out, numbered and laid down on a plan prepared by J. L. Morris O.L.S. and registered in the Registry Office for the County of Renfrew on the 16th day of April, 1892 as Plan No. 109, being a subdivision of part of Lot number Eleven in the Second Concession of the Township of Horton.	Part IV designated	By-law 3-79	The Fire Hall, 152 Plaunt Street, was built after World War 1 to provide space for the larger modern fire equipment which could not be accommodated in the former fire hall on Duke Street. Combining with the Public Library, the architectural features of the structure create a pleasant courtyard atmosphere in Low's Square. The Fire Hall has a tall tower with elegantly proportioned round headed windows which contrast effectively against the distinctive red brick. The tower, originally used to dry out fire hoses, now serves as a landmark in the low profile development of the Town's core. Other significant features of the Fire Hall include the unique weather vane, the twelve-paned window frames, decorative roof brackets, and fire bell.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1920
154 Quarry Avenue	Fraser House		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being Lots 75 and 76 on Plan 35 in the Town of Renfrew, County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario.	Part IV designated	By-law 52-82	The Fraser House at Quarry Avenue and Barr Street is worthy of both historical and architectural significance. The house, probably designed by a noted Ottawa architect Werner E. Noffke, was built by M.J. O'Brien circa 1913. Circa 1930 it was sold to Alex Fraser, a Renfrew merchant. Currently, the Fraser family continues to own the house. The building itself has an unusual appearance which is emphasized by the existing colour scheme. Accordingly, the lively and dramatic exterior and interior features should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Most windows of the house are deeply set containing patterned or stained glass panes, the most unusual of which is facing Quarry Avenue from the living room. Other features such as the entranceway, two different two storey porches, the panelled frieze, the rafters, brackets, dormers and a rare poured concrete capped chimney all contribute to the uniqueness of this house. Further unusual interior features include the two-tiered paneling in the vestibule and hallway, a detailed living room mantelpiece, a dining room mantelpiece, moulded baseboards and also pilasters with capitals and plinths between the living and dining room. In the apartments, the mantel-pieces and two curved attic doors are also worthy of preservation. Finally, Alex Fraser designed and constructed a newel post and stair details and a cupboard built into a wall.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1913
249 Raglan Street South	MacKay Building		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew in the County of Renfrew as follows: Being part of Lot 3 in Block "B" in the Saddler Section of the said Town of Renfrew, as shown on Plan registered as No. four (4) and now shown on registered Plan of the Town of Renfrew No. four (4) in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Renfrew.	Part IV designated	By-law 61-80	The building is of historical and architectural significance being built in 1896 by the MacKay Brothers who established a general merchants store on the corner. The store was no doubt patronized by the railway crews and lumbermen of L.R. Booth. In 1917 the structure became the well known Renfrew Confectionary Palace operated by the Haramis Brothers. Architecturally the building is significant for the original features retained on the front and Renfrew Avenue facades, which are similar to other 19th century commercial structures on the main street. These features include the heavily bracketed cornice with a pediment, the squared and rounded surrounds of the second and third floor windows with floral patterned keystones, brick detailing below the cornice and elaborately decorated chimney.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1896
249 Raglan Street South	Renfrew Post Office	Lot 15 & 16, Plan 3, Town of Renfrew	Lot 15 & 16, Plan 3, Town of Renfrew, also identified as Property Parcel #474800003510400	Part IV designated	By-law 71-2017	The property located at 249 Raglan Street South (Lot 15 & 16, Plan 3, Town of Renfrew), also known as the Renfrew Post Office, has cultural heritage value or interest. The property is located midblock on the east side of Raglan Street South between Renfrew Avenue East and Prince Avenue East. It has physical/design value because it is a representative example of the Romanesque Revival Post Offices constructed by the Federal Office of Public Works under Chief Architect David Ewart. It is unique in its use of stone as a cladding material. The 1956 addition, using the language of the International Moderne Style, is both sympathetic and secondary to the 1908 original structure in terms of its massing and the use of materials on its fa-ade. The property has historical/associative value because it is as direct associations with people and institution that are significant to the community. This includes: the Federal Office of Public Works under Chief Architect David Ewart, with Aaron Abel Wright, the Customs Service, and the Post Office (which has been a continuous tenant since the building's opening in 1908). The property, notably the Post Office Building proper, demonstrates or reflects the work of several key architects and builders including: The Department of Public Works under Chief Architect David Ewart, Joseph Bourque and Co. from Hull Quebec; architect John McNichol of Renfrew, M. Sullivan and Son Ltd of Amport; and Belcour and Blair Architects (supported by J. Klassen Consulting Engineer and Raymond C. Gauthier). The property has contextual value because the Renfrew Post Office Building is important in defining and maintaining the streetscape character of Raglan Street South. It is linked physically to Renfrew's historic main street (Raglan Street South). It is visually a key part of the streetscape, and is historically linked to its surroundings. Its site was specifically chosen to serve as a terminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Romanesque Revival Design of the 1908 section of the building including the central projecting frontispiece; The different types of stone cladding (on the 1908, 1938, and 1956 sections); The 1923 clock tower with its weather vane; The mansard roof with dormers covered in steel roof (which is copper on the clock tower but copper coloured on other parts of the roof) on the 1908 section of the building; The symmetrical arrangement of the window and door openings on the facade including the twinned entrances on the 1908 buildings with their dressed stone pilasters and pediments (which over one door states Post Office and the other Customs); The front entrance steps; Surviving stone chimney's on the building; The 1908 date stone; The window lintels; The metal cornice, the base stringcourse, roof profile, and surviving access door opening (located on the north elevation) of the 1908 section of the building; and, The metal coat of arms and facade of the 1956 International Moderne style addition. 	1908

254 Raglan Street South	Fraser's Men's Apparel		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario, being composed of part of lot Three in Block "B" as shown on the plan of the Saddler Section of the Village of Renfrew, registered as number 4, and now shown on registered plan of the Town of Renfrew, number 109, in the Registry Office for	Part IV designated	By-law 44-81	The building is of architectural significance, in part due to its huge second floor facade window with fan transom, round-headed shape with a label having a terracotta egg and dart band and a striated vousoir. Other distinctive features include its unique cornice which is animated with garland patterns, dentilwork, corner blocks and a broken pediment decorated with shell patterns and the numerals 1901. Historically, the building formed part of the McKay Brothers large general store. Fraser's have occupied the store since 1920.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1901
262-268 Raglan Street South	Fraser's Holdings		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the Registry Division of Renfrew (49) and Province of Ontario, and being composed of part of Lot No. 2 in Block "B" in the Saddler Section of the said Town of Renfrew as laid down on a Plan thereof registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Renfrew as No. 4.	Part IV designated	By-law 49-83	PROPERTIES FROM RHONDA ANN FASHIONS TO BEST REGARDS, 260 TO 276 RAGLAN STREET SOUTH This row of buildings is of architectural significance due to their relationship with the Barnet and Mackay Buildings. All bearing dates of construction from 1897 to 1901 the buildings maintain architectural continuity for the block which typifies that period of prosperity for the Town. They all have the same general height, similar elaborate cornices and prominent pediments ornamental towers.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1897
270 Raglan Street South	TD Bank		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew, and being composed of two parts of Lot Two (2), Block "B" according to a plan filed in the Registry Office for the registry division of the County of Renfrew as No. 4.	Part IV designated	By-law 52-81	The property is one in a row of buildings of architectural significance due to their relationship with the Barnet Block and MacKay Building at 278 and 248 Raglan Street South respectively. Bearing a construction date of 1901, the front facade above the first storey maintains the architectural continuity of the block and typifies that period of prosperity for the Town. They all have the same general height, elaborate cornice, and prominent pediment are of particular architectural significance for that reason.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1901
274 Raglan Street South	Sidney's Discount		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew, and Province of Ontario, and being composed of a part of Lot Two (2) in Block "B" shown on a plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Renfrew as Plan Number 4 in the Saddler Section of the said Town of Renfrew.	Part IV designated	By-law 58-80	PROPERTIES FROM RHONDA ANN FASHIONS TO BEST REGARDS, 260 TO 276 RAGLAN STREET SOUTH This row of buildings is of architectural significance due to their relationship with the Barnet and Mackay Buildings. All bearing dates of construction from 1897 to 1901 the buildings maintain architectural continuity for the block which typifies that period of prosperity for the Town. They all have the same general height, similar elaborate cornices and prominent pediments or ornamental towers.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1897
276 Raglan Street South	Rhonda Ann Fashions		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario, and Being Composed of that part of Lot No. 2 in Block B of the Saddler Section of the said Town of Renfrew as laid down on the Plan thereof drawn by J. S. Harper, P.L.S. and registered and filed in the Registry Office for the County of Renfrew on the 29th day of August, A.D. 1854 as No. 4.	Part IV designated	By-law 60-80	PROPERTIES FROM RHONDA ANN FASHIONS TO BEST REGARDS, 260 TO 276 RAGLAN STREET SOUTH This row of buildings is of architectural significance due to their relationship with the Barnet and Mackay Buildings. All bearing dates of construction from 1897 to 1901 the buildings maintain architectural continuity for the block which typifies that period of prosperity for the Town. They all have the same general height, similar elaborate cornices and prominent pediments or ornamental towers.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1897
278 Raglan Street South	Barnet Block		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario and BEING COMPOSED of Lot No. 1 in Block "B" in the Saddler Section of the Town of Renfrew according to a plan of said Section drawn by J.S. Harper O.L.S. and registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Renfrew as Plan No. 4 and part of Lot No. 2 in Block "B" aforesaid.	Part IV designated	By-law 53-81	The property is of both architectural and historical significance having been built in 1894 by Alexander Barnet, a prominent lumber baron, to house his offices and the Merchants Bank of which he was a director. After his death in 1917 the building had a variety of uses, including the W.B. Clark Drug Store, a Library Hall, and A.J. Freiman Limited department store. The Barnet Block is architecturally similar to the other 19th century commercial buildings on Raglan Street. Both front (Raglan Street) and side (Prince Avenue) facades are distinctive with the former being characterized by a metal cornice and unusual windows with semi-elliptical window transoms.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1984
301 Raglan Street South	Chown Building		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario and being composed of: (1) Part of Lots Numbers 8 and 9 in the First Range of the Plaintiff Section of the said Town of Renfrew.	Part IV designated	By-law 51-82	The Chown Building, an example of a late 19th Century commercial building, is worthy of architectural designation. The second floor windows are decorated with unusual terra cotta surrounds, composed of fine details such as coffered reveals, a sill, plinths, pilasters, ionic capitals, and cornices, while those of the third floor are made of the same components with the exception of columns and floral capitals. Furthermore, bands of guilloche decorate the surface of the surrounds. Of note are the floral patterned plaques, a detailed cornice, the balustrades, and a parapet that crown the structure. Another interesting feature is the old stone wall that forms a part of the existing wall on the southern side and eastern end of the building. This wall may well date back to Robert McIntyre's store in the 1840's. Also double hung windows surmounted by a segmental arch, are located on the southern and northern walls. Finally, there is a semi-circular arched door at the centre of the first floor facing Raglan Street	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1877
340 Raglan Street South	O'Brien Apartments		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Renfrew, in the County of Renfrew, and Province of Ontario, composed of part of Lot Eleven (11), in the First Concession of the Township of Horton, now within the limits of the Town of Renfrew, lying between Lot One, Block "A", Plan 4, and Opango Street in the said Town, which said area is now described as part of Lot Twenty (20) in the Red Circle as shown on Plan registered as No. 109.	Part IV designated	By-law 5-79, amended by By-law 42-79	The O'Brien Apartments, 340 Raglan Street South, are recommended for designation as being of both architectural and historical interest. Built in 1909 by M.J. O'Brien as an Opera House, the structure became a centre of Social and Political activity. With the advent of talking motion pictures a new theatre was built and the Opera House was converted into an apartment building and lodge hall. The four-storied, flat roofed structure with its imposing facade is a dominant feature on the Town's main street and typifies the architecture of the period. The building has a neatly framed facade as a result of the slightly elevated pilasters that occur at the outermost facade edges. Some other notable features of the building include the round headed labels over the windows, the bracketed cornice, the pediment and finials crowning the cornice and the unusual umbrage of the apartments. The floor is clad with tiles in which the name "O'Brien" and the date "1909" appear, the doors and windows are of panelled wood, and the ceiling is clad with floral patterned metal plates.	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1909

Raglan Street North	Swinging Bridge			Part IV designated	By-law 14-83	<p>In the year 1895 at the Second Chute of the Bonnechere River and at the foot of the Town's mainstreet a bridge was constructed of page woven coil spring wire. That bridge being the predecessor of the "swinging bridge". The swinging bridge is historically significant as a reminder of the Town's early development, particularly that adjacent to and north of the river. It is evidence of the early history of the town when the economy was based upon those riverside industries constructed under the progressive policies of Sir Francis Hincks. In the period 1850 to 1860 in close proximity to the bridge J.L. McDougall built his fine stone grist mill, John McRae built the wooden grist mill, William Logan built his woolen factory, Samuel Francis built his axe factory and Sir Francis (through his agent William McKay) constructed a saw mill as well as a number of other large buildings.</p> <p>The old wire bridge was constructed by a few of the townfolk at their own expense to serve the workers of the waterfront industries as well as the area residents. Residential development north of the river could also be attributed to Sir Francis, as he had laid down a plan for that part of the former village.</p> <p>With the old wire bridge in a state of disrepair and the tragic loss of a life in 1913 the wire bridge was replaced by the swinging bridge designed by the Town Engineer Mr. J.R. Stewart and constructed by Mr. James McNicol. This historic swinging bridge, although altered slightly over the years, is certainly a unique reminder of our past.</p>	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1895
13 Railway Avenue	Renfrew Library		ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Town of Renfrew in the County of Renfrew and Province of Ontario, and being composed of a part of Lot 93 in the Red Circle as marked out, numbered and laid down on a Plan prepared by J. L. Morris, O.L.S. and registered in the Registry Office for the County of Renfrew on the 16th day of April, 1892, as Plan number 109, being a subdivision of part of Lot number Eleven (11) in the Second Concession of the Township of Horton.	Part IV designated	By-law 4-79	<p>The Public Library, 13 Railway Avenue, was built after World War 1 with the assistance of the Carnegie Foundation on a site formerly occupied by Stone Stables used in connection with the old Albion Hotel. The Library, complimented by the architecture of the adjacent Fire Hall, create the pleasant courtyard atmosphere of Low's Square. Characterized by a distinctive red brick exterior the building should be noted for the fancy, louvered cupola surmounting roof, and the impressive entrance created by large stone brackets and plaque.</p>	See Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.	1915