
SAULT STE MARIE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATION
to the
CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE MARIE**

**that the
MACHINE SHOP LOCATED AT 83 HURON STREET,
SAULT STE MARIE
BE DESIGNATED AS A PROPERTY OF
HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**



Machine Shop - North-West Elevation

Introduction

The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee is comprised of members interested in heritage conservation with expertise in a number of related fields such as local history and architecture. The members are appointed by Council and recommend to Council significant properties of cultural heritage value or interest for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee having examined the property known as the Machine Shop, located at 83 Huron Street, Sault Ste Marie and recommends to Council that this structure be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.



The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee has consulted with the Owner of this building (1188004 Ontario Ltd) and the Owner has indicated that it has no objection to the designation of this structure.

Description of Property

Built on the site of the former Hudson Bay trading post and constructed by 1900 the Machine Shop is a rectangular building constructed of red sandstone, excavated from the adjacent power canal and lock.

The external plan size is 167' 9" (51.13m) by 87' 3" (26.59m) measured at the base which tapers slightly, buttress like, to a height of +/- 6' 0" (1.83m). Internally the dimensions of the actual Machine Shop portion are 80' 1" (24.39m) wide by 119' 10" (36.51m) in length.

(Cont.)

The Machine Shop is single storey with an overall interior height of 43' 4" (13.20m), but contains an interior mezzanine floor at 18' 6" (5.62m) to the underside. At the same time as the original construction a Blacksmith's Shop, also of single storey construction but much lower in height was constructed at the south east corner. This latter structure has been partially demolished and much altered over the years but the majority of the interior remains relatively intact.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest:

- 1) The Machine Shop is constructed of local red sandstone excavated from the adjacent power canal and lock.
- 2) The Machine Shop formed a portion of the turn of the century industrial empire developed on the site by Francis Hector Clergue. This included the Tagona Water & Light Company, Algoma Iron Works, the Algoma Central & Hudson Bay Railroad, the Lake Superior Paper Company, the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company, The Algoma Steel Corporation, the Algoma Tube Works Ltd, the International Transit Company, and the Helen & Gertrude Mines in Wawa,
- 3 Francis Hector Clergue is designated as a National Historic Person by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for his contribution to the industrial growth of the city of Sault Ste. Marie.
- 4) It is also additionally significant that the internal cast iron support columns of the mezzanine floor were cast on site at the Algoma Iron Works (Embossed AIW 1900).

The key exterior features that embody the heritage value of the Machine Shop include:

- 1) The Machine Shop is one of the finest Ontario examples of Romanesque Revival architecture popularized in the style of Henry Hobson Richardson. i.e. 'Richardson Romanesque' incorporating heavy massing, symmetrical composition and rusticated stonework in squared random rubble. Each corner consists of a slightly projecting tower which extends a little higher than the main exterior walls which are corbeled out to the parapet. The overall impression of this landmark building is one of considerable strength.
- 2) The decorative and distinctive elements of the Machine Shop are repeated in other buildings in the complex resulting in a harmony and attractiveness that was unusual in industrial architecture of this time period.
- 3) The building, excluding the Blacksmith's Shop is of rectangular plan, of single storey slab on grade construction, but with an internal mezzanine floor running around the building exterior perimeter.
- 4) Window openings are generally grouped in threes. The ground floor sets are rectangular but the mezzanine groupings have semi-circular arched heads.
- 5) A Blacksmiths Shop, built at approximately the same time, was attached to the south-east corner and the south side of the Machine Shop. Much of the exterior of this Shop has been demolished at the west end but a significant portion remains towards the south east corner. The remaining interiors in heavy timber post and beam construction are considered to be of significance and to be incorporated within this designation report.

The key interior features of the Machine Shop include:

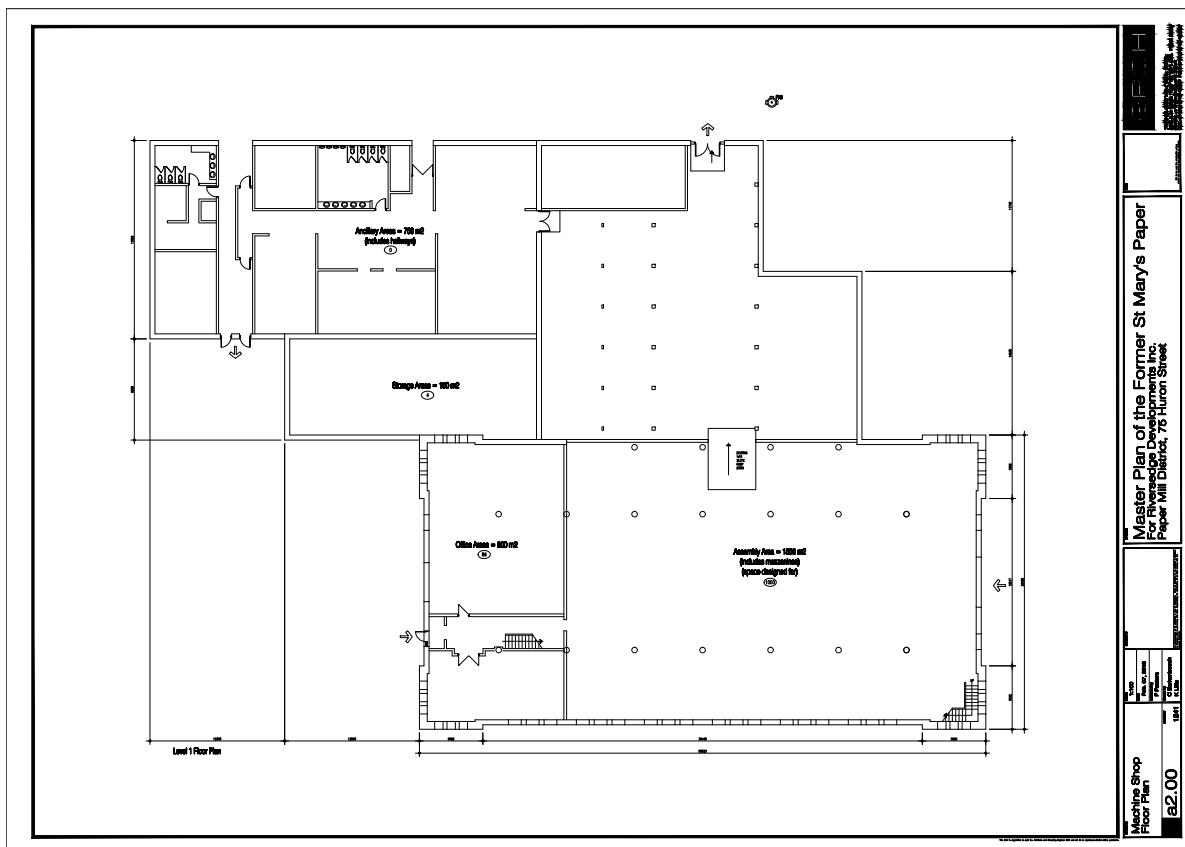
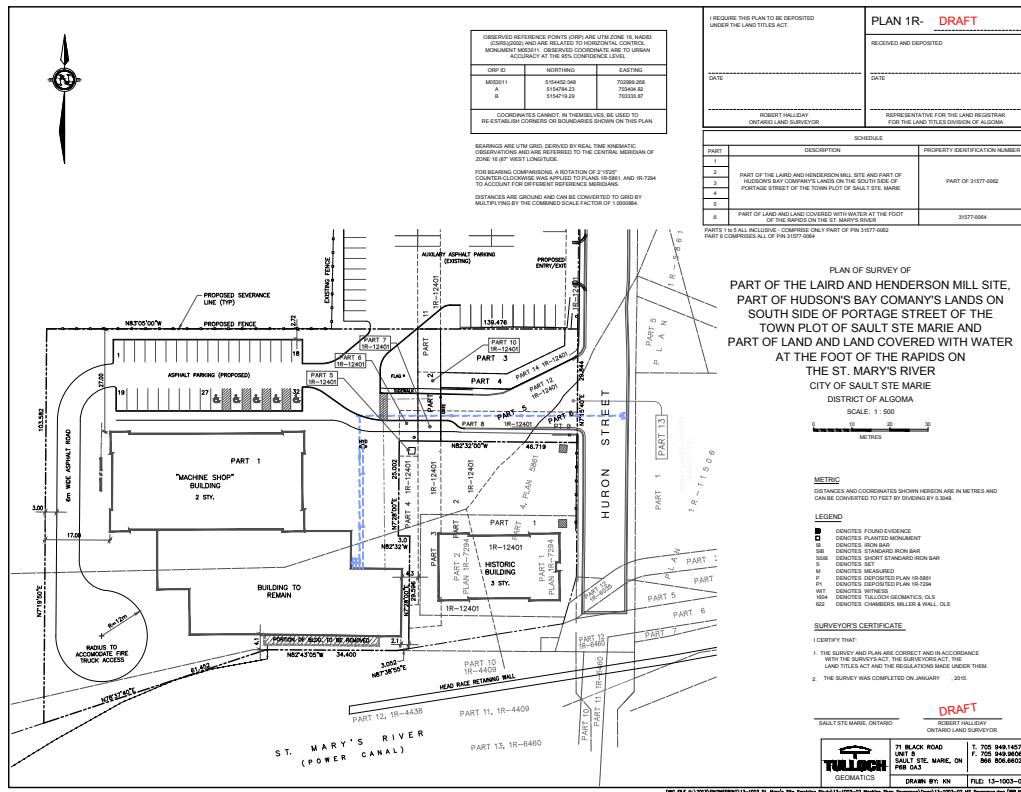
- 1) Significant internal features are the cast iron columns supporting the exterior perimeter of the mezzanine with embossed "AIW (Algoma Iron Works) 1900" on the outer face. Jib cranes are attached to certain columns and clear span roof trusses are composed of riveted angle iron.

The Sault Ste Marie Municipal Heritage Committee uses the following criteria when evaluating a property:

- * A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it is associated with the life of an outstanding member of the community or has played a role in an important historical event.
- * A building may be of architectural significance if it is a good example of a particular building type, architectural style or period, or if it is the work of an important architect or early builder.
- * A building may also have contextual significance if it forms an integral part of the surrounding streetscape.
- * A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it possesses unique aesthetic or picturesque qualities.
- * A property may be of cultural heritage value or significance if it incorporated the use of local sandstone in the building construction, particularly from the Sault Ste. Marie Canal excavation.



It is the opinion of the Sault Ste Marie Municipal Heritage Committee that the Machine Shop meets all of the criteria listed above

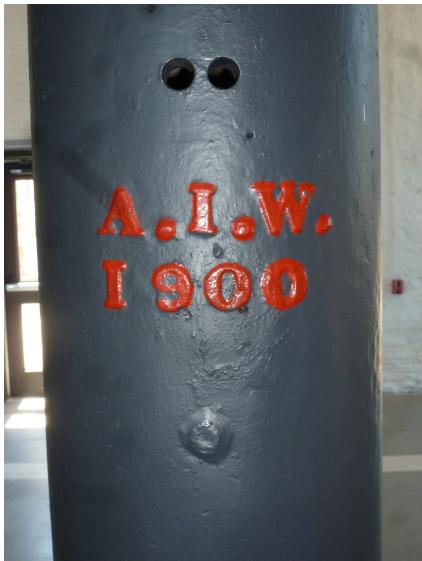


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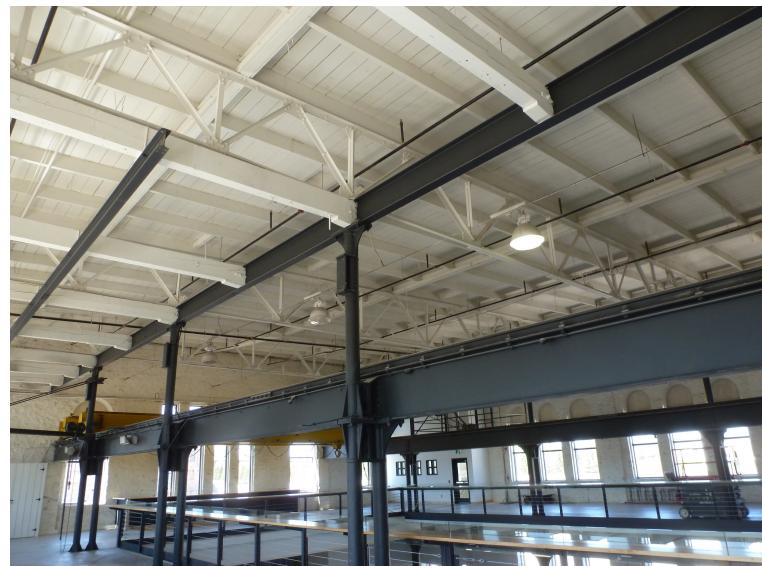


ELEVATIONS

Plan & Elevations, have been provided courtesy of EPOH Inc. Architects, Engineers and Interior Designers



Cast Iron Interior Column



Mezzanine Level Floor

MACHINE SHOP - DESIGN

At the time of the preparation of this report the architect/designer of the Machine Shop has not been established. Neither have the original design drawings been located.

The (Toronto) Globe of June 24, 1899 and the (Toronto) Evening Star of June 19, 1899 both indicate that the Machine Shop had been completed. There is a photo of the Machine Shop which appears complete published in an article entitled 'The Clergue Industries in Canada' contained in the May 4, 1900 edition of the "Canadian Manufacturer".

Architects known to be working for Clergue's Lake Superior Power Company in and around that time were:

- * **E. Francis Head 1899-1902** - refer to his entry in the Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950. Robert Hill ed. In 1988 the initials **EFH** were found on a drawing of the Blacksmiths Shop, which is attached to the Machine Shop. At this time Francis Head would appear to be the most likely designer.
- *
- * **Harry J. Powell 1900-1901** - (given these dates Harry Powell would probably not have had an involvement). - refer to his entry in the Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950. Robert Hill ed.
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- * **James Calloway Teague 1898-1905(?)**.
- * Teague had an architectural practice in Sault Ste Marie MI. and also as being a draftsman for Clergue's Lake Superior Power Company. He is noted for the (revised) design of the (Union Carbide) generating station on the south (Michigan) side of the St Marys River and of 'Montfermier' a house for Francis Clergue and his family at Moffley Hill, Sault Ste Marie Ontario. - refer to his entry in the Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950. Robert Hill ed.

NOTE

Historically this building has always been referred the 'Machine Shop' and that is the term used throughout this Report.

It is our understanding that the building has now been renamed 'Millworks.'

Respectfully Submitted

November 1, 2015 (Revised and updated for new Owner - April 28, 2016)

Prepared for Municipal Heritage Committee review

By

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