

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION BUILDING,
Almonte, Ontario

Location: 28 Mill Street, Almonte, Lanark County,
Ontario
part of Lot F or Lot 12, Mill Street, Shipman
Survey

Present Owner: Corporation of the Town of Almonte

Present Occupant: Public Utilities Commission of Almonte,
two second storey tenants

Present Use: Ground floor office : second floor, two
apartments

Statement of
Significance:

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The property was sold to Norman Shipman in 1859 for \$2620.00, as part of the larger Lot Letter F. He, or his estate, retained possession until 1883 when his widow, Sylvia Shipman, sold the particular property in question to Mr. Thomas White of Almonte, Hardware Merchant, for the sum of \$2275.00. In 1902 an agreement with regard to party wall was made between Mr. White and Mr. Holland Cole at which time it appears that Mr. White was using a building on Lot 12 as a store. Five years later, in 1907, Thomas White, coal dealer, leased the property to The Sterling Bank of Canada for \$500 per annum. Finally it was bought from the estate of Mr. White in 1943 by the Corporation of the Town of Almonte for \$1800 and has ^{since} been used continuously by the Public Utilities Commission as offices.
2. Date of erection: 1883-1893
3. Architect: unknown
4. Alterations and additions: Although it cannot be documented at the present time, I believe that the stone facade was added circa 1907 with the installation of the Sterling Bank in the building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure

The Almonte branch of the now defunct Sterling Bank was

housed in this building during the early years of the 20th C..

C. Sources of Information

1. Old Views:

North Lanark Historical Society Photograph Collection

- i) Main St. (Mill St.) from the top of the Shoddy Mill c. 1915
- ii) Marching Band on Mill St. c. 1910

2. North Lanark Registry Office

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is an example of a small turn-of-the-century commercial structure. Regardless of whether it was built as a banking house, it can be compared to that style of construction; as, for example, the Bank of Montreal Building at the intersection of Mill and Brea Streets, Almonte.
2. Condition: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is 3 bays wide by 2 storeys tall with partial basement. It shares party walls on both sides with commercial buildings of comparable dimensions.
2. Foundations: The foundations are rubble stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and colour: The Mill St. elevation is of coursed cut stone while the party walls and rear elevation are of brick.
4. Structural system and framing:
5. Porches: There is a small, enclosed second-storey porch on the rear elevation.
6. Chimneys: There is one chimney toward the rear and rising through the eastern party wall.
7. Openings:
 - a) Doorways and doors: There are two doorways on the Mill St. elevation, one in each of the end bays on the ground floor. The major entranceway, through which one enters the offices, has an architrave decorated with an ogee moulding. The door itself is glazed in the upper half with

7. Openings (cont'd):

- a) Doorways and doors(cont'd):
two horizontal panels on the lower half.
There is a transom, now boarded over, above the door. The second doorway, through which one may enter the front apartment on the second storey is plain with a similarly boarded-in transom.
- b) Windows: On the ground floor in the central bay there is a wide arched window with transom. On the second floor, there are three tall, double sash, one-over-one light windows

8. Roof:

- a) Shape, covering: There is a 'shed' roof with a very shallow slope covered in corrugated iron. On the Mill St. elevation, the roof comes to an end in a parapetted and bracketted entablature which is topped by a small central pediment.
- b) Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

There appear to be very few structural changes inside.

D. Site:

- a) General setting and orientation: The building faces north-east on the south-west side of lower Mill St..
- b) Outbuildings: None.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Compiled by M. Christine Castle, architectural researcher, under the auspices of The Almonte Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Council and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, July, 1976.

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Experience 74

ADDRESS: 30 MILL ST., ALMONTE

DATE: c. 1872

ORIGINAL USE: ROSAMOND'S BANK

PRESENT NAME: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMM. OF ALMONTE

PRESENT OWNER: (same)

ORIGINAL OWNER: BENNETT ROSAMOND

SLIDE: 7

Architectural

Again one of the few limestone buildings in the total of the town.

The main floor contains modern office facilities with paneled walls, linoleum and fluorescent lights. The second floor is apartments.

Public Utilities Commission Office

Hist. Signif.

The falls at Almonte still provide adequate power for the town. Only occasionally is it necessary to use the Ontario Hydro link for auxiliary power. The Almonte Commission Office is on Mill St., in an old stone building. From registry office records it appears that the building may have been erected around 1872 by Bennett Rosamond. One source thought that Rosamond established a private bank in the building. This seems justifiable by the design, but I cannot verify this use from records, or other sources.