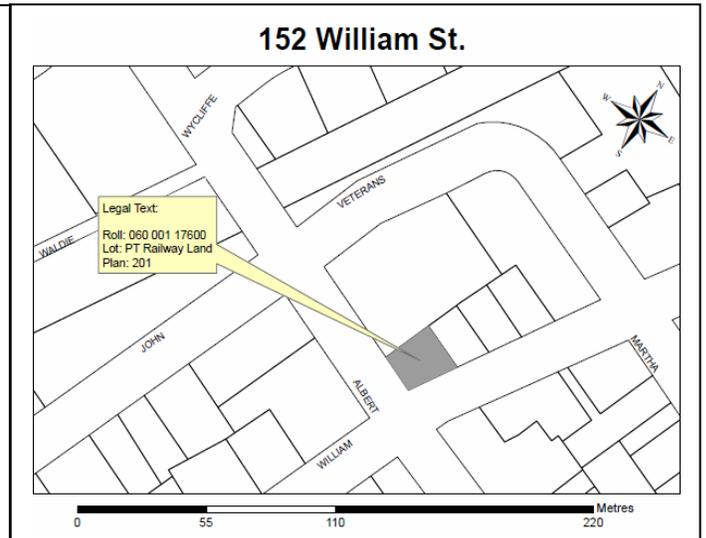




TAY
HERITAGE

Village Library

152 William Street Victoria Harbour



Built: 1914-1916
Built By: John Waldie
Structure: Wood Building
Exterior Wall: Wood Siding
Style: English Renaissance Revival

Current Owner: Riina Makk
Present Use: Commercial
Original Use: Library
Address: 152 William St.

Architectural:

The building sits on its original high stone foundation, at its original location. The style is reminiscent of the English renaissance revival, and crafted from pine and cedar. The front door has been replaced and the stairs have been removed, however the decorative transom windows and wood work remain in place (Fig. 1). The windows are of the same style and shape as the originals. (Fig. 2). The original colour scheme remains. The interior of the building has seen some renovation as the building has been used as a library, photography studio, municipal offices, private residence, and commercial site.

Figure 1: The front door and windows, 2007



Figure 2: The Victoria Harbour Library c. 1920.



Historical:

The library was said to have been promised to the villagers of Victoria Harbour by John Waldie, owner of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Company. As the story goes, Mr. Waldie promised to build a library for the community, if they in turn voted for alcohol prohibition in the village. After prohibition passed the building was completed and opened in 1916. It served the community as a library until 1927, when the last Company mill closed and the Company left the village. Subsequently the building has been used as a library, photography studio, municipal offices, private residence, and as a commercial site. The building was designated as a heritage building in 1982 and is protected against demolition and changes that would destroy the heritage value of this local landmark.

Sources:

Land Registry Office
Simcoe County Archives
Tay Township Office

Location:

Barrie
Midhurst
Victoria Harbour

Figure 3: Front windows of the building in original style, 2007

