

ERIE ST.::: south east side , early 1800's.

Thomas Burns home::: lot 20, being part of the Mill site.

4 21 house
A small two story frame home, with an attached kitchen on one end. No doubt built in 1856 when Thomas Burns took over the property. It remained on Erie St. till 1939, when the Parks committee took over the area. It was purchased by Mr. Alexander and moved to the west side of Archange, next to the old Wolbert no. 54.

Burns sold to Orange Schryer ¹⁸⁵³ who worked for the Customs and the secret service. Simon Schryer sold to Joseph Campbell in 1895, and the last owner before it was acquired by the Niagara Park was Hannah Ferguson.

The Rough Cast:::

LOT 22.

A very old home of frame with rough cast covering, had two rooms added to the central part with a fire place in each of the ends. Although this home has been said to have been a headquarters during the war of 1812, the land was not deeded till 1817 when it went from the Crown to Wm. Dunbar.

John Garner however a private in the Butlers Rangers , was granted along with other property lot no. 1. Dunbar built his Mill in 1795 , so it is possible the old home could have been built shortly after.

In 1826 Wm. Dunbar sold to Grant & Kerby and in 1832 James Kerby sold lot 21 & 22 to Dr. Benjamin Prescott Hall , and it is a known fact that he occupied the house.

In the early 1900 a family by the name of Colman lived in the house; then in 1920 it was sold to Hannah Ferguson, and also was lived in by R.F. Ferguson. In 1939 it was sold to Niagara Parks, and they in turn sold to Charles Bingleman who had it moved to the south side of the Garrison road at the edge of town: no. 851.

(The Ferguson Home)

This home stood east of the rough cast, however had been moved from across the road at the time the Bridge was being built. it is marked on Fort Erie Map 1852.

THE AMERICAN CONSULATE

At the foot of Erie St., it's back facing the Mill Race stood the large frame home, no doubt built by the Mill owner Dunbar shortly after the construction of his Mill. In 1820 Grant & Kerby took over the Mill , and in 1831 Kerby took over and moved to Fort Erie and this home, remaining till 1843. Thompson operated the Mill from 1850-1852 and the home was called the Thom son house.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20408



DATE: May 10, 1976

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NNFD

SUBJECT: The American Consulate at Fort Erie, Ontario (Your letter of April 27, 1976).

Mrs. Louis McDermott
108 High Street
Fort Erie, Ontario, CANADA

The General Records of the Department of State (Record Group 59) include four inspection reports on this particular foreign service post dated 1907, 1908, 1910 and 1914, when Mr. Horace J. Harvey was consul. George Messersmith was instructed to close it in May 1916.

A sketch of the 1914 establishment is located in the inspection report of that year. Several photographs of the building's exterior are also available. Xerox copies of these items can be furnished for \$2.20. 8 x 10 photographs are \$5.40 each. To order, please send an international money order or a check drawn in United States dollars on a bank in the United States, payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNFD), to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408.

The earliest consular returns from Fort Erie are dated 1865 when Freeman N. Blake served as Vice Consul. We are unable to undertake the extensive research necessary to locate the information you need. Despatches from the consulate, dated 1865 - 1906, are available as National Archives Microfilm Publication T465 (3 rolls). The cost of these rolls is \$36. To order follow the same procedure as above but substitute NEPS for NNFD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald E. Swerczek".

RONALD E. SWERCZEK
Diplomatic Branch
Civil Archives Division

