

TOWN HALL FORT ERIE:::

The first meeting for municipal purposes was held at the home of Andrew Miller which stood on the, south side of Miller's Creek close to the river road. circa 1808.

Meetings were at times held in the old mill by the foot of Erie St. where the electrical tower stands to-day. When Fort Erie got it's Charter and elected Alexander Douglas as it's first Reeve, the meeting was held in the old frame school house that stood on the south west corner of Waterloo and Forsyth.

THE FORT ERIE TOWN HALL ::: QUEEN ST.

On the lower end of Queen St. on the south side stood a small frame building that was used for town meetings. It is now still standing as a car garage on the west side of High St. The new town hall replaced it in 1892. It was built by Joseph Miles Sabine at a total cost of \$8, 200. The architects were A.L. Nicholsan & Mitchell. Charles Harris installed the service pipes, John Carter supplied the brick and Ed Baxter supplied the lime. The building was heated and lit by gas.

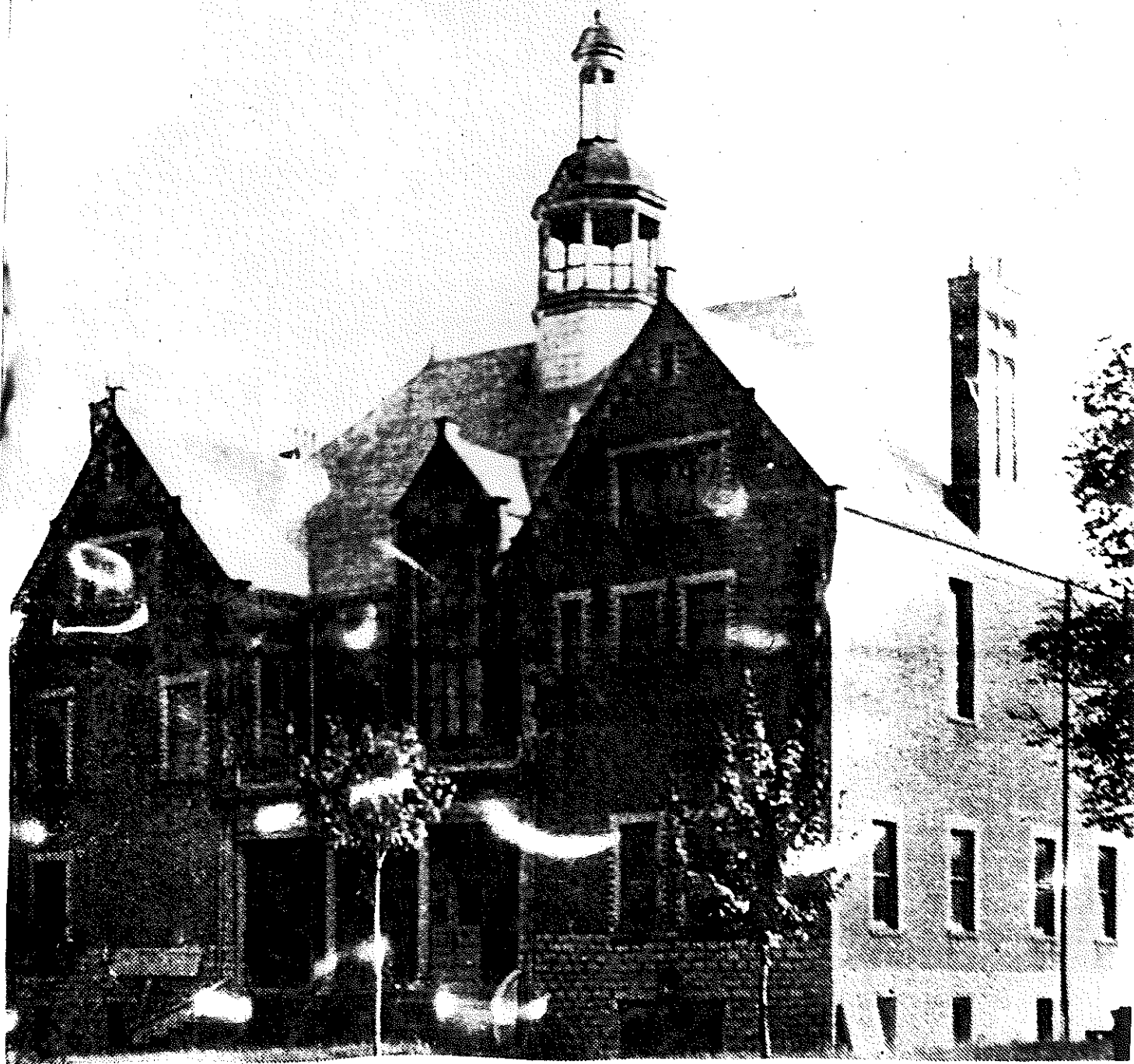
In 1893 the Fort Erie Library, which went by the name Mechanic's Institute moved here from a small building on the S.W. Cr. of Niagara and Forsyth Streets. They had been formed by Richard Griffin in 1891, and originally were housed in the old Alley School on John St.

In 1946 the members of the Canadian Legion on Bertie street started a drive to purchase and remodel the Queen St. Town Hall. Cost of the alterations \$30,000. When the Legion moved to Queen St. the Fort Erie Library in turn moved into their original building on Bertie.

Dec. 18, 1985 Branch 71 decided to move again to a piece of property on the lower end of Central Ave, to erect a new building there and to demolish their old home on Queen St. They moved in Apr. 17, 89 and the Queen St. Town Hall was completely demolished 89: 5; 6.

The Town Hall was the social centre of the village. It was frequently used by the men of the 44th. Regt. under Maj. Laur, for meetings, and also for the Fort Erie Fire Comp. #1, whose building was next door. The history of the building would not be complete without mention of its travelling bell. When the old Alley School on John St. was built in 1863 it had a bellfry and a bell. When the school house was vacated for the new place built on Douglas Hill, the bell went with them. It was later moved to the Town Hall where it was used to signal fire alarms. When the Fort Erie frigate was commissioned at Quebec Oct. 27, 1944, the town sent the bell along for use on the ship. The frigate was recommissioned after the war, but finally dismantled in Italy in 1956. The bell was returned to Fort Erie and given to the Royal Canadian Legion who proudly hung it in their bar. It will begin its travels again when the Legion moves to the Garrison Rd.

The old alley School was eventually converted to an apartment building, Douglas School was demolished and a Seniors building and recreation Hall stands in its place. Now nothing remains of the old Town Hall except memories of its past glories.



The Fort Erie Town Hall