

Description of Property – 1824 Farwel Street, Vars

1824 Farwel Street is a two-storey building, constructed as a bank, located on the south side of Farwel Street east of Buckland Road and west of Suprenant Walk.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

1824 Farwel Street has architectural value as a good example of a village commercial bank building of the early 20th century. The building was constructed in 1910 by the Traders Bank of Canada and is the only remaining brick commercial building in the village. Architectural features characteristic of the type include its side hall plan, balanced façade featuring large main-floor windows, brick cladding and flat, sloping roof. The Traders Bank of Canada constructed a number of similar detached branch buildings across the province during a period of expansion in the early 20th century.

1824 Farwel Street has historical value for its associations with the Traders Bank of Canada, the Royal Bank of Canada and with the history of Vars as a railway village that prospered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Traders Bank primarily served agricultural communities in southern Ontario, though a few branches were located in villages around Ottawa. Vars developed in the late 19th century around the Canada Atlantic Railway line between Ottawa and Montreal, and, by the time the bank was constructed, was a thriving community with several stores, a hotel, sawmill and cheese factory. The Traders Bank of Canada was acquired by the Royal Bank of Canada in 1912, and the Vars branch operated until the late 1950s. By this time, the cancellation of regular passenger rail service to and from Ottawa, improvements to roads and increasing automobile ownership allowed greater access to shops and services in Ottawa and signaled the decline of the village's commercial centre.

The building's contextual value lies in its location on a secondary commercial street adjacent to the village's main street and reflects the prosperity of the village at the time of its construction.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior elements that contribute to the heritage value of the former Traders Bank as an early 20th century village commercial building include its:

- Rectangular, side hall plan;
- Red brick cladding;
- Raised foundation;
- Symmetrical fenestration pattern;
- Segmental arch window and door openings with brick voussoirs;
- Wide entry with transom;

- Projecting metal cornice;
- Flat, sloping roof; and
- Concrete porch with iron railings

The interior of the building is not included in this designation.