

## PRESENTATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FOR A MASONIC TEMPLE DESIGNED IN 1938

We have received plans completed on July 25, 1938 by John Arnold Thomson, Belleville architect, for the "Proposed Masonic Temple, Belleville, Ontario".

Thomson's daughter, Mary Vose Smith and his grandson, Eric Smith, have been very thoughtful in passing on to us this valuable memento of our history.

These plans were prepared for the lot at the north east corner of Pinnacle and Victoria. The main entrance is on Victoria Avenue. The building is designed with the hill modified so that the west side of the building has a lower floor with 2 side entrances at the Pinnacle Street level so that the building is three storeys high as it faces Pinnacle Street. Directly north of the building, along Pinnacle, are terraced retaining walls to accommodate the hill. These plans may have been modified by W. A. Watson, Belleville architect, when the present Temple was built in 1950 on Foster Avenue.

J. Arnold Thomson came to Belleville in 1924. He was the architect of many beautiful Belleville buildings including BCIVS. Prior to Belleville, he resided in Ottawa and was Chief Draftsman in the Architectural Branch of the Public Works Dept. He was born in Ayr, Ontario, son of Rev. Dr. John Thomson. He was a member of St. Andrew's Church in Belleville and a member of Civil Service Lodge A.F. & A.M. Ottawa. The family resided at 93 Dundas East for many years. He died in 1949.

Presented at the regular meeting of Moira Lodge on June 2, 1999