

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRAMAHE

BY-LAW NO. BL-2025-36

Being a By-law to designate the property at 45 Parliament Street, Colborne, Cramahe Township, Concession 2, Part Lot 27 and 28, PLAN 58 PT LOT 26 PT BLK G, as having cultural heritage value and interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990. c., O. 18 as amended authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property including all buildings or structures thereon under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act to be of cultural heritage value and interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Cramahe deems it desirable to designate the building at 45 Parliament Street, Colborne and has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Township; and

WHEREAS the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest and the Description of Heritage attributes are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law; and

WHEREAS no notification of objections to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Cramahe hereby enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** the property described in Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this by-law, known as 45 Parliament Street, Colborne, is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest and is recognized as being an important built heritage asset in the Municipality of the Township of Cramahe; and
2. **THAT** the Clerk of the Township of Cramahe is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and to cause notice of passing of this By-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Township, and to cause a copy of the By-law to be registered at the proper Land Registry Office in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act. R.S.O. 1990 as amended; and
3. **THAT** this by-law shall become effective on the date it is passed by the Council of the Corporation of the township of Cramahe.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 27th day of May, 2025.



Mandy Martin, Mayor



Holly Grant, Clerk

Schedule "A"
to By-law No. 2025-36

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

45 Parliament Street, Colborne, Cramahe Township, Concession 2, Part Lot 27 and 28,
PLAN 58 PT LOT 26 PT BLK G

Schedule "B"
To By-law No. 2025-36

Description of Property:

45 Parliament Street, Colborne Ontario K0K 1S0

45 Parliament Street is an eight-sided octagonal structure. The property is located on Parliament Street in the village of Colborne, in the Township of Cramahe, in the County of Northumberland.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, Design or Physical Value:

No. 45 Parliament Street in Colborne carries some fame in the Province of Ontario as it is one of the very few eight-sided octagonal houses in existence.

The octagon design, championed by the eccentric Mr. Fowler, an American amateur architect known for his prowess in phrenology, was said to deliver 20% more space than a standard square footprint, by copying the shape of the human head.

According to Fowler, an octagon house was cheaper to build, allowed for additional living space, received more natural light, was easier to heat, and remained cooler in the summer. These benefits all derive from the geometry of an octagon: the shape encloses space efficiently, minimizing external surface area and consequently heat loss and gain, building costs etc.

A circle is the most efficient shape, but difficult to build and awkward to furnish, so an octagon is a sensible approximation. Victorian builders were used to building 135 corners, as in the typical bay window, and that could easily be adapted to an octagonal plan.

45 Parliament has a roof lantern, another common feature of an octagonal house. Like a "belvedere", architectural lanterns are atop a larger roof and provide natural air circulation and light into the room below. In contemporary use it is an architectural skylight structure, and, in this case, it is decorative, without windows.

The original brick and 4 x 4 multi pane windows of the Scott octagon house have been replaced by white stucco and two over two paned windows.

There is a small porch over the front door, not present in the original house (it had a small vestibule) and gone is the picket fence and central chimney that once graced the octagon house.

Historical or Associative Value:

Reuben Bartlett Scott on the occasion of his marriage to Maria Huyck in 1850 built this Octagon home. He was an industrious young man who operated a grist mill, soap factory, iron foundry and evaporator, and clearly, he espoused the theories of Ogden Squire Fowler, the American eccentric who touted the virtues of an 8-sided house versus a square house which had corners that were "intrinsically evil". Reuben and Marie had 12 children, and their descendants still live in the area.

The Reuben Bartlett Scott family occupied the property for 139 years (1850-1989).