

THE LACAC OF BROCKVILLE

4 November 1988

DESIGNATION REPORT

Designation Recommendation
and Description for:

John Lawrence House

301 North Augusta Road
Brockville, Ontario

Part Lot 8, Conc.1





a. Reasons for Designation

The stone and frame dwelling located on an oversize lot at 301 North Augusta Road is being recommended for designation for its architectural significance. The building is a fine example of the typical early rural centre gable farm house and it is one of the very few within the confines of the present limits of the City of Brockville. The building is located on an oversize lot which enhances its visual character.

b. Architectural Description

The building is facing southeast and is of a centre-hall design. The northerly section of the building was constructed at a different time as indicated by the jagged cut in the foundation wall between the two sections, and the difference in floor levels between the front and rear sections, apparent in all stories.

The building is constructed of coursed limestone common to the area, with interesting two piece stone arches and keystones over the second storey double hung windows on the west and south elevations. On the east elevation the windows have stone voussoirs. The windows originally had six over six double hung sash, the muntin bars having been cut out and single sheets of glass installed. The sills are tooled stone. The front gable has a multi-paned round headed casement window.

The front door surround is panelled, with three lights on each side and transom lights overhead.

Brick has been used to replace the chimney stones on the west elevation.

The sun deck on the easterly side of the building, and the enclosed porch on the westerly side of the building are not original but may have been rebuilt to replace the originals. The enclosed porch on the westerly side of the building was possibly at one time, an open verandah, since closed in with windows. The southeast end of this enclosed porch has a covered over window, once leading into the westerly section of the main house. The old window encasement was made into a china cabinet on the inside of the original house. The grey-blue asphalt shingle roofing material is also not original, but the roof structure itself does not appear to have been altered.

c. Historical Background

The stone dwelling known as 301 North Augusta Road is located on part of Lot 8 in the First Concession of the Township of Elizabethtown, now within the confines of the City of Brockville.

By a deed³ registered September 5, 1864, John Lawrence and his wife acquired the parcels where the dwelling is now situated, together with other lands from George Crawford, a member of the Legislative Council of Canada. Crawford had acquired, with other lands, this property from the Honourable Jonas Jones on August 20, 1854⁴.

By a deed registered February 5, 1857², John Lawrence had acquired a small portion of the east half of Lot 8 from James Crawford and wife Susan. This deed mentions a street running across Lot 8 called Lawrence Street and it may well have been named after John Lawrence.

Lowell's Directory of Brockville (1858)¹ lists John Lawrence a florist, etc., on the Augusta Plank Road, which indicated that he did live on the Augusta Plank Road (North Augusta Road) prior to acquiring the parcel where the dwelling is situated, from George Crawford in 1864.

Unfortunately, the available evidence cannot tell us if John Lawrence actually built the subject house or in what year it was constructed.

d. Recommendation

The John Lawrence House and surrounding property, being a fine example of a typical mid 1800's farm house setting and one of the very few within the confines of the City of Brockville, should be recognized and preserved by designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

LACAC wishes to have input on any alterations or repairs affecting the exterior of the building or the property.

References:

- ¹ Lovell's Directory, 1858.
- ² A Memorial (Instrument No. ACD 198) registered February 5, 1857;
Leeds Land Registry Office.
- ³ A Memorial (Instrument No. ACG 160) registered September 5, 1864;
Leeds Land Registry Office.
- ⁴ A Memorial (Instrument No. T 275) registered August 20, 1845;
Leeds Land Registry Office.
- ⁵ Various other documents from the Land Registry Office of Leeds.