

BANNING HOUSE, Clayton, Ontario

Location: Lot 22, Concession 2, Ramsay, Lanark County, Ontario.

Present owner: Jennifer and Michael Doyle

Present occupants: Same

Present use: Dwelling house

Statement of Significance:

rural

This building is an example of a/frame home of the mid-1800's that has been maintained in its original style with many of the original materials, such as the windows and the shiplap, remaining. It was the home of a well known Clayton citizen Ozias Banning, merchant and postmaster for over forty years, and his children for seventy-nine years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A.1. The original land patent for 150 acres of Lot 22 was awarded to Samuel J. Bellamy in 1837. He sold this land to Hiram Bellamy in 1856 for \$4,000. In the summer of 1864, Ozias Banning bought a small parcel of this land, measuring just over one acre, for \$500. He built a house and general store here. Upon the death of Ozias Banning in 1908, the property was willed to his wife Catherine and daughter Annie Bertha Banning. In 1925, Catherine Banning died leaving Annie the sole owner, but she too died just five months later. By will, Alice Eva Catherine Bowland, a sister to Annie, was granted the property. When Alice Eva Catherine Bowland died in 1943, the land passed to her brother, William Banning. In the following year he sold to Kathleen Halpenny and Mary Lansdowne for \$1500. In the spring of 1963, Joseph and Kathleen Carroll became owners of the property, but they sold to Paul R. Racicot in 1971. The present owners, Jennifer and Michael Doyle, bought the property in 1974.
- A.2. Date of erection: c. 1865
- A.3. Architect: Unknown
- A.4. Alterations and additions: According to an inscription in the wood frame, a kitchen wing was added in 1922 during the period in which Catherine and Annie Bertha Banning lived here. The original paint was white with green trim and shutters.

After 1974, cedar shingles were replaced with metal roofing and the stone foundation of the main part was parged.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Ozias Banning, who had the house constructed, was a well known citizen of Clayton, running the general store next to his house and acting as postmaster from 1865 to the early 1900's. Ozias Banning and then his children resided in this home for seventy-nine years.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: The building exemplifies the Classical Revival style in a simple rural home. This style is indicated by the medium pitched gable roof with a large center gable, rectangular transom and sidelights at the door, and returned eaves.
2. Condition: with recent foundation work and repair to the roof, the house is in good condition.

B. 1. Description of exterior:

This one and a half storey home, three bays wide by two bays deep, has a large center gable. At the back there is an almost square kitchen wing.

2. The rubblestone foundation contains a full below ground basement. Within the last eight years, the foundation of the main part has been parged and a metalflashing added at the sill.
3. Blue-gray horizontal shiplap and vertical corner boards cover the exterior walls.
4. Wood framing supports the structural load. All wood trim such as that of the doors, windows and eaves, is painted white.
5. There is a plain concrete porch with a shed roof at the back of the kitchen wing.
6. The single brick chimney is located at the back edge of the main part, off centered to the right (south east).
7. a. The main entrance, located in the central bay of the long facade, has a wood surround which forms a slight ledge at the head and is footed at the base of the sides. A flat transom with multiple lights (three) and sidelights (1) which do not extent to the floor, covers interior multiple lights. A plain wood panel is below each sidelight. The outer door has a screen and a single panel; the inner door has sixpanels.

Shape, covering:

8. Roof: a. The main part has a gable roof with a large center gable and plain boxed, returned eaves and projecting verges with a moulded frieze. The kitchen wing has a gable roof and a shed dormer which takes up most of the south east side. Metal roofing replaces earlier cedar shingles.

b. Dormers:

As described on the kitchen wing.

C. DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR: Not done.

D. SITE:

a. General setting and orientation:

Located in the Village of Clayton, the house faces northwest to the Clayton Road.

b. Outbuildings: There are two barns at the back of the property.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

The North Lanark Registry Office.

"Clayton Village in the Nineties: Lest we Forget," by J. H. McFarlane, The Almonte Gazette, 1930's

"The Clayton Post Office" by Earl Munro, The Almonte Gazette, March 20, 1969.

PART IV. COMPILED AND RESEARCHED ^{BY} BT J. Jane Tosh, Almonte, August, 1982.