

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ALMONTE

BY-LAW NO. 10-1990

BEING a By-law to designate the premises known municipally as 77 and 77A Little Bridge Street, as being of architectural and historical value and interest.

WHEREAS the Ontario Heritage Foundation Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, authorizes the Council of a Municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon to be of architectural value or interest; and

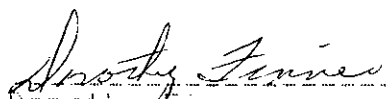
WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Almonte has caused to be served on the owner of the building situated on Part Lot E Part Lot F Plan 6262, Town of Almonte and upon The Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and have caused such notice of intention to so designate, to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality, once a week for three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Almonte enacts as follows:

1. There is designate as being of architectural and historical value and interest, the real property known as 77 and 77A Little Bridge Street, Town of Almonte.
2. The municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described, in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on The Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality, once a week for three consecutive weeks.
4. That Schedule "A" hereto attached shall form part of this By-law.

READ a first, second and third time and finally passed this 10th day of April, 1990.


Dorothy Finner
Mayor


J.B. Houston
Clerk Treasurer

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ALMONTE

BY-LAW NO. 10-1990

SCHEDULE "A"

SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION

This building is a fine example of the Italianate style of architecture, and enhances Little Bridge Street. It was constructed some time between 1883 and 1886. Considering its small scale, the architect incorporated with skill such features as arched windows with squared and rounded heads, large eave brackets, a verandah, and a variation in setback. The foundation is of rough-cut white limestone, and the walls of red brick laid in stretcher bond. The brickwork at the windowheads reveals a high level of craftsmanship.

TOWNHOMES

Location: 77 & 77A Little Bridge St.
Lot 7, parts E & F, McIntosh Surbey

Present Owner: Lois Bond
Box 63
Lanark, Ontario

Present Occupants: 4 residential rental tenants:
Kathie Sonnenburg
Robertta Rodger
Bonnie Cavanagh/Percy Greene
Edith H. Dawson

Statement Of Significance:

There are only two buildings in the core area of Almonte (defined for these purposes as Mill St. and Little Bidge St.) that are used entirely as residences. This is one and the other is 81-83 Mill St. While the latter was once used as an office for dentist T.W. Raines, 77 Little Bridge seems to have always been purely residential.

For its small scale, this building is amazingly well handled with reference to style. Its inspiration is Italianite, the fashion which gives us heavy eaves brackets, round-headed windows, and wide use of verandahs. All of these are incorporated into the design of the structure, though it remains simple and uncluttered by opposing stylistic trends.

PART I HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Original & subsequent owners:

In 1881, James Sneddon is assessed for part E at \$300. In 1883 Christina Sneddon sold to Robert Burns for \$550; the same year he purchased part F for \$300. In 1886, Burns (along with eight children and two horses) is assessed at \$2300. This suggests construction of a building on the site. In 1902 Lucia Maria Burns (widow of Robert) sold the two lots to John King Kelley for \$3750. Maureen Goss purchased in 1976 for \$49,000, and Lois Bond is the present owner.

2. Date of Erection: 1883-1886 (source: spectacular rise in assessment over this period)

3. Architect: unknown

4. Alterations & Additions: At the rear there is a small single-storey frame addition with a shed roof. Its date is not known.

Sources:

Town of Almonte Assessment Rolls

North Lanark County Registry Office- Deeds etc.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character:

This very modest little ~~urban home~~ has a quiete and inviting Italianite nature. It is not visible from many points along the roadway, nor is it dramatically situated. The placement so near to the sidewalk makes it easily accessible. ~~Thus there is no pretense; it is a simple regular village home.~~ It is, however, very well ordered, according to the stylistic tastes of the day. Typical to this style are arched windows (here with a pleasing rhythmic alternation of squared and rounded heads), large eave brackets (fig.1) flat roof, variation in setbacks, and verandah. The verandah serves a double purpose: it provides shelter to the entranceway it encloses and it is a place to sit, relax, and enjoy the passing street activity. As the latter it enhances the freindly air of the entire facade.

2. Condition: structure is sound while cosmetics (window sills verandah posts, and paint) are in need of repair.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The combined frontage of lot 7, parts E & F is 56'; the depth is 100'. The building is two storeys high. Its principal massing is square, about 40' x 40', but it projects eastward to form another wing.

2. Foundations: rough-cut white limestone

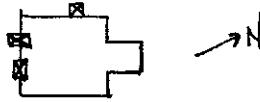
3. Wall construction, finish, and colour: red brick, laid in stretcher bond...woodwork is painted dark green to contrast.

4. Structural System & Framing: masonry (brick) load-bearing

walls.

5. Porches: There is an open porch which shelters and serves the main entrance (77). It is of wood construction, with characteristic Italianite turned posts under the rail. The porch roof is flat, with slopes on three sides (toward the eaves) and is supported by wood columns.

6. Chimneys: There are three single unit chimneys placed this way:



The two on the west side appear to be shared by the adjoining building (Sears catalogue outlet).

7. Openings:

- a) Doors and doorways: There are two front entrances. A single door serves 77A, is located in that part of the building which is further set back than the principal mass, and gives identity to that part as a separate unit. The other entrance contains a double door, located at the centre of the facade belonging to the large mass. All doors are panelled (the large upper pane is glass) and have glass transom lights above. The surrounds are very lightly detailed, and both sills are wood.
- b) Windows: The alignment of first and second storey windows adds a visual impression of verticality which the building needs to balance its dwarfed appearance (neighbours are taller). Their surrounds and sills are wood (stone would be expected). The brickwork at the window heads is impressive (see fig. 2). Some are hand cut to fit into place: a time-consuming job which requires the care and skill of a dedicated craftsman.

8. Roof: The flat roof is covered with tar and gravel. The cornice moulding is a notable feature: heavy brackets "support" the eaves while the cornice and freize trim are scaled to complement the brackets. That is, the facing boards which are placed on the brick (freize) are shaped around the brackets. This way, they are not too bulky, and the detail is pleasing (fig. 1).

C. Description of Interior not done

D. Site:

a) General Setting and Orientation:

The building reacts very well to its neighbours.

It shares its exact height with 75

It shares its exact height with 75 Little Bridge St. (adjoining to the west) and the second storey window openings in 75 and 77 are aligned. Since they are situated on a slope, and since this common eave height is respected and maintained along the row (as far as the Gazette Offices), the easterly buildings are shorter than the westerly ones. Visually, this effect is de-emphasized by the long narrow windows, whose first and second storey structural openings are aligned. The building appears taller than it is, as vertical lines are stressed and horizontal lines are not. The structure, then, blends with the natural slope and irregular rise in cornice line are avoided.

b) Outbuildings: none.

PART III. PROJECT RESEARCH

Prepared by Barbara Ross, under the auspices of the Almonte Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Culture and REcreation, July, 1978.

Appended material: line drawings, photograph

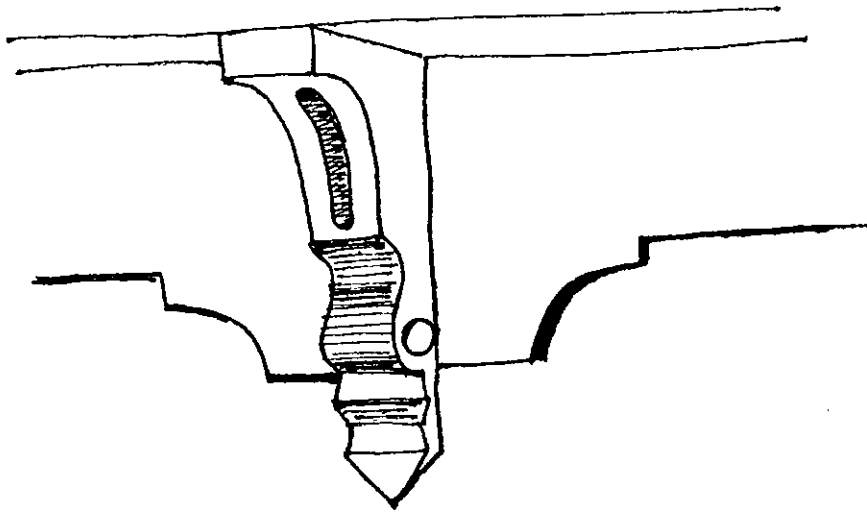
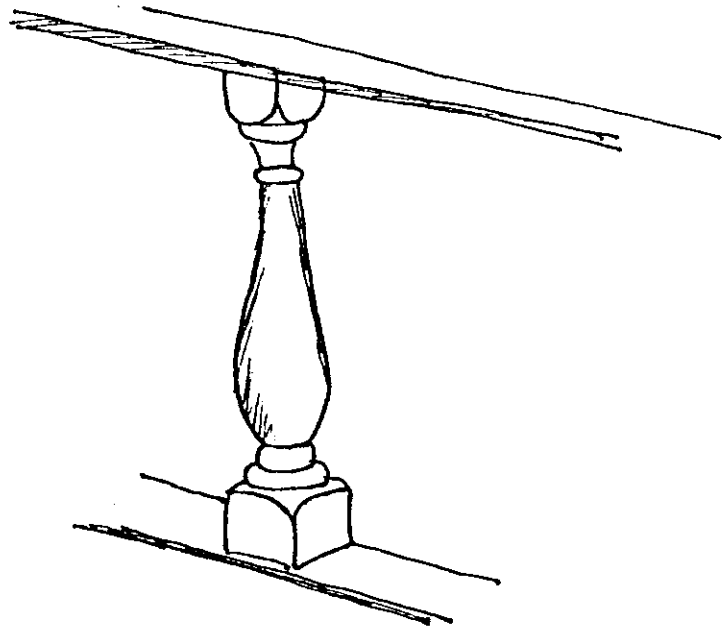


fig. 1 Italianite details: Above, a grooved wooden eave bracket and fascia board, nearly tracing the depth of each bracket. Below, vase-like wooden support under verandah rail.



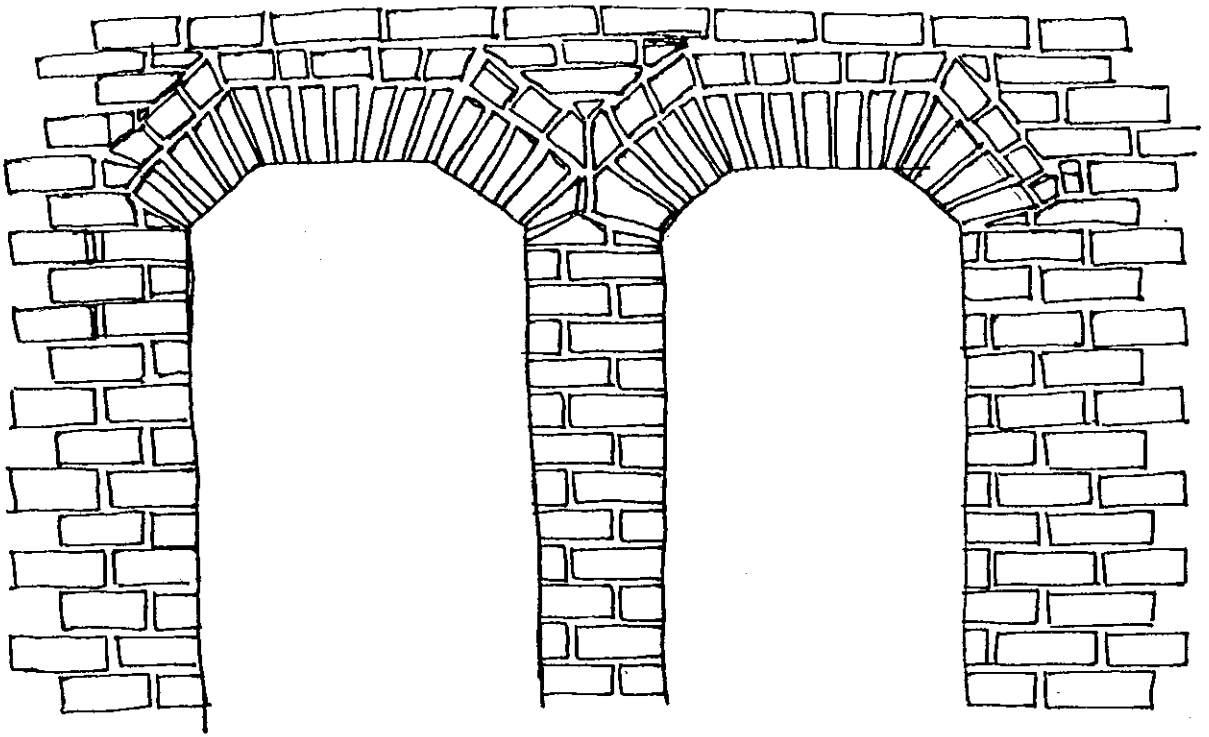


fig. 2 Impressive detail in hand-cut bricks above paired square- and arch- headed windows.

