



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique, tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

Northumberland

# The Corporation of the Township of Hamilton

Office of the  
ADMINISTRATOR, CLERK-TREASURER  
P.O. BOX 1060,  
COBOURG, ONTARIO,  
K9A 4W5  
PHONE 905-342-2810  
FAX 905-342-2818

May 2, 1995

MAY 2 1995

Heritage Administration Branch  
Ministry of Citizenship and Culture  
77 Bloor Street West  
7th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam;

RE: Passing of By-Laws for Designations

Enclosed, please find reasons for designation and a certified copy of By-Law Numbers 95-11 and 95-12, passed by the Hamilton Township Council regarding the The Rowan/ [REDACTED] House and The Harstone/ [REDACTED] House, Lot 15 Concession 9 and Lot 3, Concession 2 respectively, in the Township of Hamilton.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

*for Robin Thomas*  
Peggy Cramp, A.M.C.T.(A)  
Chief Administrative Officer

PC/rt  
encl.

✓

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 95-11

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A LAND AND PREMISES  
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
FOR [REDACTED], ROWAN/[REDACTED] HOUSE  
LOT 15, CONCESSION 9, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, authorizes Council of a municipality to enact By-Laws to designate real property, including all buildings and/or structures thereon, to be of architectural or historic value or interest, and;

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Hamilton has caused to be served on the owners of lands and premises below, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and/or buildings and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the Cobourg Star having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks, and;

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Township of Hamilton Council ENACTS as follows:

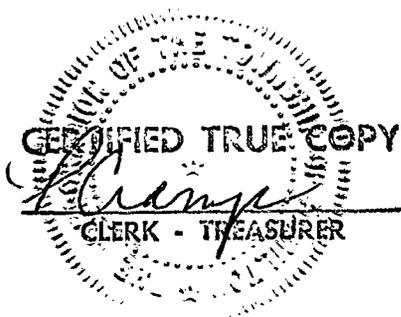
1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property as follows:
  - a) The Rowan/[REDACTED] House  
[REDACTED]  
P.O. Box 124  
Gores Landing, Ontario  
K0K 2E0  
Lot 15, Concession 9

- Good example of an Ontario Classic style with Georgian symmetry and is one of the earliest original houses remaining in Gores Landing.
2. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of the By-Law to be registered against the property described above 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 owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this By-Law to be published in the Cobourg Star having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

This By-Law given a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD READING and FINALLY PASSED this 4th day of April, 1995.

*Charlotte Clay Ireland*  
REEVE

*Peggy Cramp*  
CLERK



LILAC LODGE

ROWAN/ [REDACTED] HOUSE

Present Owners: [REDACTED]

Address: Box 124, Gore's Landing, Ont  
Lot 15, concession 9

Original Owner/Builder: Dr. Thomas Rowan

Date: original part 1848, addition c. 1899

Historical analysis, June 1994

The house known as Lilac Lodge was one of the earliest built in Gore's Landing and has had a chequered history of sales, defaulted mortgages, litigation, foreclosures and periodic rentals very difficult to sort out.

Thomas Gore, the founder of the village, purchased the 60 acres of lot 15, concession 9, in 1844. In 1848, just after the plank road from Cobourg was completed, he made his first three sales, all on the lakeshore. One of these was "Mavis Bank" (designated May 1988), another was the property now known as "Plank Road Cottages", where the oldest building in Gore's Landing stands (John Bennett's ferry house built c. 1838 and moved from Burrison's Bay), the third was the 7 1/2 acres sold to Dr. Thomas Rowan and fifty years later named "Lilac Lodge".

A Cobourg Star account of a regatta held in August, 1848, states there were several "elegant and picturesque cottages" built along the Rice Lake shoreline. One of these, an Ontario Classic, storey and a half frame house was owned by Dr. Thomas Rowan who practised medicine for a short time in the fledgling village. Previously he had practised in Sully (Harwood) and Otonabee. Rowan left for Cobourg in 1849, as his advertisements in the Cobourg Star attest, and mortgaged his property.

For the next ten years the property went from one mortgage holder to another and was probably rented. In 1858 it was purchased by William Pratt, father of Fred Pratt who established the Rice Lake Boat Works (designated 1988). Mortgaged again Lilac Lodge fell into the hands of Alfred Harris, the hotel owner, who ended up with most of the property in the village, because his creditors were unable to pay their tavern bills.

The Harrises rented the property and sold part to Trevor Owen. The Owens moved to Gore's Landing in 1887, were active in the Anglican Church and Trevor was on the committee that established the school in the village in 1890. It is said their son, Derwyn, who later became the Anglican Primate of all Canada 1934-7, carved his initials under the front porch of Lilac Lodge. After the Owens left in 1893 Alfred Harris's heirs sold the property to Walter Shoenberger, a wealthy American. The Shoenbergers were among the Pittsburg steel families who were prominent in Cobourg and owned some of the mansions in the east end. According to Bessie Philp, a village resident who kept a diary, the Shoenbergers had the house "fixed" and were quite sociable but left "bag and baggage " after a year or so.

In 1895 Walter Bonbright was the next owner of the property and he started two guest houses on "Island View Estate". One guest house was on the land where the old Barron private school "Glenavy" had operated. The school was renamed "Glenavon" and the other house was called "Lilac Lodge". Bonbright's ad in the Cobourg World April 1899 deems his Island View Estate "the most beautiful spot on the loveliest lake in Canada" with 700 feet of lakefront. The terms were \$7 to \$10 per week. He also says "extensive improvements have recently been completed including wide verandahs, large airy rooms fronting the lake with bathrooms, hot and cold water and other city conveniences". No doubt this is when the two-storey addition with fireplace was put on Lilac Lodge, which tradition says was named by the manager Charles McBride. McBride was the only son of the first boat builder in the village and lived in the house north of present Gore's Landing store. His turn-of-the-century register shows many distinguished guests. McBride left the area around 1906 to operate an hotel in Lakefield.

In 1910 Glenavon burned and Lilac Lodge was sold to Sarah Osborne. In 1921 she sold to a lawyer from Toronto, [REDACTED]. It remained the [REDACTED]'s summer home until his death in 1994. The property was recently sold to [REDACTED].