



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre 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**.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ORANGEVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 8-99

**A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE
LAWRENCE/REID HOUSE SITUATED AT 8 JOHN STREET,
ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO, AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

(Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 138)

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

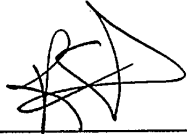
AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville has caused to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid real property and to The Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville as follows:

1. There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest, the land and building located on the real property described as Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 138, known municipally as 8 John Street, Town of Orangeville.
2. The reasons for designation of the land and building located on the real property located at 8 John Street, Town of Orangeville, are more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described as Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 138, known municipally as 8 John Street in the Land Titles Division of Dufferin (No. 7).
4. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid real property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED IN OPEN COUNCIL

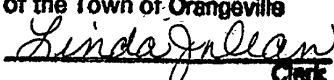
THIS 25th DAY OF January, 1999.



Robert S. Adams, Mayor



Linda J. Dean, Clerk

Certified a true copy of By-law
No. 8-99 of The Corporation
of the Town of Orangeville


Clerk

✓

Town of Orangeville
Criteria for Designation

Lawrence/Reid House

Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 138

#8 John Street, Orangeville

Summary

The significance of this structure is in its connection with one of the town's founding families and the man after whom Orangeville was named. The house, although somewhat altered, is one of the few remaining pre-Confederation structures in Orangeville.

Historical & Biographical note:

The man who gave Orangeville its name was not its first settler, but one of the most influential early residents.

According to a family questionnaire filled out in the 1930s, Orange Lawrence was born in England and moved to the United States with his parents. He married Sarah House, daughter of a United Empire Loyalist and they came to Canada about 1830. The Lawrences purchased land in near the hamlet of Sheridan, straddling the border between Peel and Halton County. Lawrence was a captain in the militia but a William Lyon Mackenzie sympathizer. At some point in the rebel Mackenzie's flight from York, he supposedly encountered Captain Lawrence who let him pass after engaging in some supportive conversation.¹

By most accounts, the Lawrences arrived in Orangeville in 1844. The town at that time was little more than a clearing in the forest. James Griggs was operating a sawmill and a grist mill on a tributary of the Credit River now known as Mill Creek, and the fledgling settlement was unofficially known as Grigg's Mills. Lawrence bought out Griggs in 1844. The fact that Sarah was eligible, as the daughter of an United Empire Loyalist, for Crown Land grants may have given Orange a financial edge; or perhaps he had sold his Peel holdings for considerable profit. In any event, according to one source "*he had a grist mill, a saw mill, a store, blacksmith shop and hotel.. he advertised for people to come and occupy them and that is the way the town was built up*".²

There are several versions of Orangeville's "naming story", none of which can be substantiated but all of which involve Orange Lawrence. According to the memoirs of Abiathar Wilcox, who was present at the time, the naming of Orangeville occurred as the building foreman climbed to the top plate of the newly framed Lawrence mill with a bottle of whiskey and asked the assembled crowd what the building should be named. Wilcox attributes the suggestion of Orangeville to a Mary Ann Newton, whose husband William was Lawrence's mill

¹ Region of Peel Archives Wm. Perkins Bull family file "Lawrence" 1991.045.

² Ibid

manager.³ Whether she said Orangeville or Orange's Mill is unrecorded. In any event, by the time a post office was established in 1847, and Orange Lawrence appointed post master, the name Orangeville had become affixed to the growing community.

In 1851 the first plan of subdivision for Orangeville was registered, surveyed by Chisholm Miller for Orange Lawrence. The area included in this survey was bounded by the Townline with Caledon to the south, the Credit Valley Railway to the east, Ann St. (later Bythia) to the west and Broadway to the north. Lawrence lived in a home, now demolished, near the bend in Amanda Street, where he would have had a clear view of Mill Creek. He also retained lot 1, block 10 (corner of John and York St.). The 1861 census for Garafraxa Township which included this part of the village of Orangeville indicates that the house was built in 1854⁴

In 1857 Lawrence sold a mill site to his sons-in-law Thomas Jull and John W. Reid who built the town's first flour mill. Later the same year they advertised on the Tremaine Map of Peel County as "*Reid & Jull, proprietors of the Orangeville Grist and Flouring Mills*". Orange Lawrence is styled on the same map as a "*farmer and dealer in real estate*".

The Lawrences had a family of eight, not all of whom lived with them in Orangeville. In 1858 Orange and Sarah sold lot 1 block 10 to John Reid, husband of their daughter Rhoda. Daughter Mary and her husband Thomas Jull lived just across John St. on Little York Street.

In 1861 Lawrence considered a foray into politics and announced that he would be a candidate for the north riding of Wellington in the next election. In July of that year he sold his remaining land interest in Caledon (w 1/2 lot 31, conc. 1 WHS) to the Edinburgh Life Assurance Co. for 270 pounds sterling. His political aspirations were not to be, however, as he was dead before year's end. One report claimed he hanged himself with a clothesline leaving "considerable property,...widow and grown family".⁵ Other accounts have him meeting his end accidentally in a well on his property. In any event, he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

³ If these walls could talk, pg. 22

⁴ Ibid, pg. 10

⁵ Guelph Herald, Dec. 27, 1861

Architectural Evaluation

The Lawrence/Reid house was built as a residence and is still used as same and is on the original lot. It is a single detached unit, built on a rectangular long facade and is a storey and a half in height. The building is clad in horizontal vinyl siding. The original cladding was probably wooden clapboards.

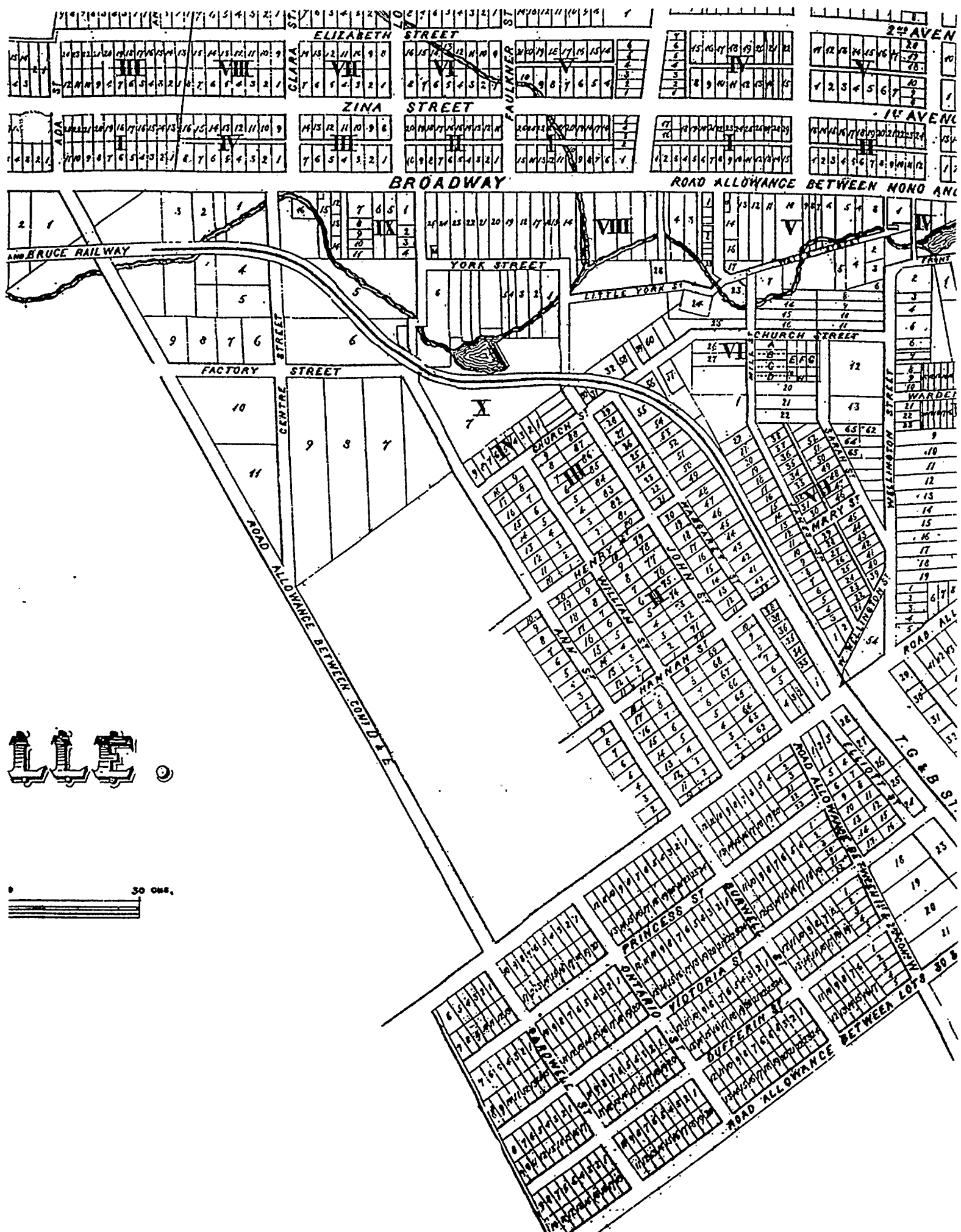
The main facade has three bays; a centre door flanked by two windows. The windows are modern double glazed units. The structural opening shape of the windows is flat. The age of the building suggests that the original windows were double sash multi-pane windows, probably in a 6 pane over 6 pane arrangement. The designation does not cover the existing windows in order that they could be replaced with something appropriate to the age of the building at a later date.

A gable window exists on the main facade, offset from the centre. It has flush eaves and a modern window. Roof trim at the eaves consists of plain soffits; at the verges plain soffits are finished with return eaves.

The main entrance is centred on the main facade, with a flat structural opening and flat moulded trim. There are no stairs to the door. The main porch runs across the main facade and is supported by four brick piers and half capitals in the Doric style. One end of the porch is glazed with 15 small glass panes.

No chimneys are visible on the main facade. An addition to the south of the main building would appear to have been added at a later date.

The size and massing of this house attests to its age. With the demolition of Orange Lawrence's first home and all of the mills he was associated with, this home becomes an important link to the man whose name is now part of history.



Criteria for Designation – *Lawrence/Reid House*

Upper: Lawrence/Reid House, looking south west from John St., 1998
Lower: Lawrence/Reid House, main facade, 1998



Criteria for Designation -- *Lawrence/Reid House*

Illustrations:

Town of Orangeville. *Walker and Miles Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County, 1877*. Region of Peel Archives.

Lawrence/Reid House photos taken in 1998 by Heritage Orangeville members.

I, [REDACTED], owner of the property located at 8 John Street, Town of Orangeville, described as Part of Lot 1, Block 10, Plan 138, have received the "Criteria for Designation" report and authorize the Council of the Town of Orangeville to proceed with designation.

Dated at Orangeville, Ontario this 11 day of Nov - , 1998.

