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*(Northumberland)*  
**The Corporation of the Village of Colborne**

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*Nancy Smith*

**PURSUANT TO THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 PART IV CHAPTER 0.18 SECTION 29, AS AMENDED**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS KNOWN AS  
9 CHURCH STREET EAST IN THE VILLAGE OF COLBORNE  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

**TO: ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
77 BLOOR STREET  
2ND FLOOR  
TORONTO ONTARIO M7A 2R9**



**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Colborne intends to designate the real property, including all buildings thereon, known as 9 CHURCH STREET EAST, Village of Colborne as a property of historical and architectural value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990, R.S.O., Part IV, Chapter 0.18, Section 29, as amended.

**REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION:**

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

1. The name "Keeler" denotes a craftsman able to build the keel for ships, an important function in the days when people depended on wooden ships for travel and commerce.
2. The Owner of Keeler Home on Church Street East was Joseph Abbot Keeler (1788-1855), the fifth Joseph in the eldest son succession in the Keeler Family. He was born on July 26, 1788 in Portland, Vermont to Joseph Keeler the IV and Olive (Scripture) Keeler. His family moved to the Lockeport area in the late 1790's and are credited with settling this area.
3. Joseph V married Nancy Day before 1812 and they had a family of one son and three daughters. He is acknowledged as the founder of Colborne where he started a shop and post office in the centre of Colborne in 1815. He is also credited with building a flour mill in what was first called Piper's Corners and is now the hamlet of Castleton. The milling business was purchased SL. Pury in 1870. The Mill building still stands and is known as Pury Mill and is the last mill in the area still containing milling equipment.
4. A list of militiamen in the British Military and Naval Records of the War of 1812-1815 includes the name of "Ensign Joseph Abbott Keeler" of the first Northumberland Militia (RG8,c,1717,P 41) Reel C-3840.
5. The land at 9 Church Street East was purchased from George Palmer in 1812. By around 1820, the Keeler Home at the wharf on Lake Ontario was not really a suitable or convenient setting for a prosperous family. During this year Joseph V built a large house patterned after Grafton's Barnum House. It was located a block behind his store in Colborne and is widely known as the "Keeler" house. In it remain a few family artefacts including a pair of photo portraits of Joseph V and his wife Nancy (Day) Keeler, a lectern once belonging to a Keeler descendent Tom Brown, and roll top desk. The desk was used by Joseph V in the post office. It was later given to the "Grand Truck Railway Station", by his grand-daughter Mrs. George L. Merriman. When the station was demolished in 1972, it was purchased by [REDACTED] and returned to the Church Street Home.

## ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

1. Keeler House Circa 1820 is a Neo-classical large timber framed home, with two storey centre block and one storey wings extending to the side, and a large utility wing to the rear. The gabled roof forms a pediment crowning the facade over flush board siding. The rest of the house is clapboard covered. The side wings with verandas and delicate treillage is in the Regency manner. The door in the three bay block is round headed with carved pilasters and is placed at the left in an American Stylist adaptation. Some Victorian updates are most obvious, the glazed arched panels on the front door, veranda treillage, uncharacteristic 2 over 2 window.
2. Descriptions of doors, mouldings, trims and mantels see attachments of Architectural Drawings.
3. Descriptions and Scale of interior rooms see attachments of Architectural Drawings.
4. The visitor is greeted into the large entrance Hall by the open staircase on the left with walnut newel post and railing, and triple door opening with a delicate Regency treillage to the Living Room to the right. The six panel door at the foot of the stairs opens to the West Wing Library Room with its panelled bookcases and centred with a beautiful neo-classic mantel, there is an elaborate cast iron firebox with beautiful mosaic floral tiles and floor inset ceramic hearth tiles. The East Wing Room is echoed but is minus the fireplace.
5. The formal Dining Room is entered through the Living Room by the door left of the Neo-Classic fireplace, or by the door at the rear of the front Hall, it is a beautiful bright and cheery room. The eat in working Kitchen is to the left. There is a large beamed ceiling Family Room and Utility Rooms at the rear of the main block of the house, this is a single story and originally would be the drive shed.
6. The second story of the main block contains two large bedrooms. The main front room originally held a fireplace, with a bathroom and a smaller bedroom at the rear. The original back staircase leading to the rear of the house is now enclosed in the wall.

Any person may, before July 23, 1999, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Village of Colborne notice of their objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and report.

Dated at Colborne this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1999.



Michele Herley Tremblay,  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer