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**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS**

**BY-LAW NO. 10407-2023**

**A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE HERITAGE DESIGNATING BY-LAW UNDER PART IV  
OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT RESPECTING 11 OLD SLYS ROAD**

**WHEREAS** Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990, as amended, authorizes the Council of the municipality to designate a property as having cultural heritage value or interest where prescribed criteria is met and the prescribed process is conducted;

**WHEREAS** Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990, as amended, was further amended in accordance with Bill 108, More Homes More Choices Act, with changes in effect as of July 1, 2021;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls finds it desirable to amend existing heritage designating by-laws to be consistent with the amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990, as amended;

**WHEREAS** Section 30.1(2) of the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990, as amended, exempts amendments which update the heritage designating by-law to make it consistent with the requirements of the Act, including amendments to the Act in accordance with Bill 108, More Homes More Choices Act, from providing the statutory notification for amendments to an existing heritage designating by-law prescribed by Section 29 of the Act;

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls provided the property owner with non-statutory, written notification of the intended changes to the existing heritage designating by-law;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls enacts as follows:

1. THAT By-law 4513-79 in accordance with Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act RSO 1990, as amended, shall be amended in its entirety as follows:

## 1.1. HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM

### AUTHORIZATION

That Bylaw 4330-77 & 4513-79 be amended in its entirety and replaced with the following:

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY NAME	Heritage House Museum
ADDRESS	11 Old Slys Rd
ORIGINAL OWNER	Joshua Bates
PRESENT OWNER	Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls
DATE BUILT	1862
ARCHITECT / CONTRACTOR	Joshua Bates
ORIGINAL USE	Residence
PRESENT USE	Museum
DESIGNATION	Canadian Register of Historic Places (1997/08/15), Part IV of the OHA, Bylaw 4330-77 & 4513-79



### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Heritage House Museum, also known as the Ward House, is a two-and-a-half-storey Georgian clapboard structure with a one-and-a-half storey board-and-batten side wing. Constructed circa 1862, it was originally the home of Joshua Bates and was located close to the Old Slys lock station on the Rideau Canal waterway and the Brockville-Ottawa Railway line.

The Heritage House Museum was originally recognized for its heritage value by the Town of Smiths Falls, Bylaw 4330-77.

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

**Location (Contextual Value):** The building is located south of the Old Slys lock station on the Rideau Canal and immediately west of the Brockville-Ottawa Railway line. The house was built by Joshua Bates, who also constructed nearby grist and wool carding mills at Old Slys. Bates was an enthusiastic railway promoter, who invested heavily promoting the Brockville and Ottawa Railway through Smiths Falls and past his mills and home. His investment, however, was unsuccessful and led to a downturn in his fortunes. As a result, Bates built his house on his mill property, to avoid paying rent.

**Architectural Detailing (Design/Physical Value):** The house is a two-and-a-half-storey Georgian clapboard structure with a red ochre 2-storey board and batten addition, built as a privy. The building's elegant features for the time include perfectly balanced façades on the east and west fronts, with tall Palladian windows over the entrances. Window treatments with horizontal divisions exactly one pane and a half are carried on into the west front of the carriage house. Unique architectural features include the 2-storey privy, an indoor brick oven, and the mirror image façade. Bates felt it important to have the façade of his house that fronted the railway equally as impressive as the one facing the road. The 2-storey privy is one of the last remaining of its kind in Eastern Ontario.

After purchase by the Town of Smiths Falls in 1977, the property underwent a significant restoration process to bring the building back to ca. 1867 appearance.

**Initial Use/Conversions (Historical/Associative Value):** This building is associated with both Joshua Bates, and Truman Russell Ward – two of Smiths Falls' foundational residents, and economic rivals. Joshua Bates, born in 1801, was a prominent citizen of neighbouring Farmesville, now Athens, Ontario. He relocated to Smiths Falls with growing interest around the Rideau Canal and railroad construction. He obtained permission from the Crown to build his grist mill and wool carding mills at Old Slys, which included workers' accommodation, and eventually his own residence. Bates invested heavily in the Ottawa-Brockville Railroad, in the hopes of it drawing greater business and access to his mills. The railroad, however, went bankrupt in 1856, with Bates losing his considerable investment. Bates died shortly after completion of his residence, in 1862, and the property was sold at auction to Russell Ward, son of rival businessman and founding settler of Smiths Falls, Abel Russell Ward, to pay off Bates' debts. From that point on, the building was known as the Ward House. The family left the house in 1893 when Truman Ward died, and it was taken over by the Smiths Falls Electric Power Company. It then changed hands several other times until 1977, when it was purchased by the Town of Smiths Falls with the intention of opening a museum. In 1981 the Heritage House Museum, Smiths Falls' first museum, was established.

## HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES (CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS)

- Excellent example of Georgian architecture, popular in Canada during the 19th century, with some architectural features that denote French American architectural style, such as casement windows;
- Symmetrical mirror image façade, facing both the Brockville-Ottawa Railway and Old Slys Road;
- Extension off of the summer kitchen containing a rare 2-storey indoor privy;
- Italianate gable and arched window on each of the two mirrored façades;
- Rectangular floor plan is symmetrical in nature, consisting of the central entryway and hall, a high gable roof, a centred gable façade with three bays and a double chimney on either side of the building;
- Traditional North American steep gable roof line;
- Front entrance with transom windows and sidelights on each of the two mirrored façades;
- Above the main door is a triparti window with arched toppers;

- Location close to the mills, reflecting an earlier tradition of having home and business in proximity to one another; and
- Building as representative of the history of Joshua Bates, early local miller in Slys Rapids.

## **INTERIOR ATTRIBUTES**

- Two simple brick fireplaces, one with a decorative wooden mantle on the second floor;
- One wood fired brick oven with a cast-iron door and metal vent on the ground floor;
- Decorative, painted wooden window casing and sills in ground floor, second floor and attic;
- Operable, double pane, wooden casement windows with original bronze/brass hardware on ground floor and second floor;
- Simple, painted wooden baseboards in ground floor and second floor;
- Four panel painted wooden doors with simple wooden casing and original bronze/brass hardware in ground floor and second floor;
- Four panel painted wooden door with decorative wooden and glass transom and sidelights at the ground floor main entrance;
- Exposed and painted hardwood flooring in ground floor and second floor;
- Simple wooden stairs with smooth wooden handrails from ground floor to second floor;
- Painted, simple wooden wainscotting on the ground floor;
- Decorative ceiling mounted circular plaster medallion carvings on the ground floor;
- Original fixtures such as built-in wooden toilet seats, light fixtures, metal vent coverings, and metal fireplace screen throughout; and
- Clear hierarchy of spaces with more public spaces on ground floor and more private spaces on floors above.

## **LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- 103 Old Slys Road
- PART OF BLOCK BN, PLAN 13884

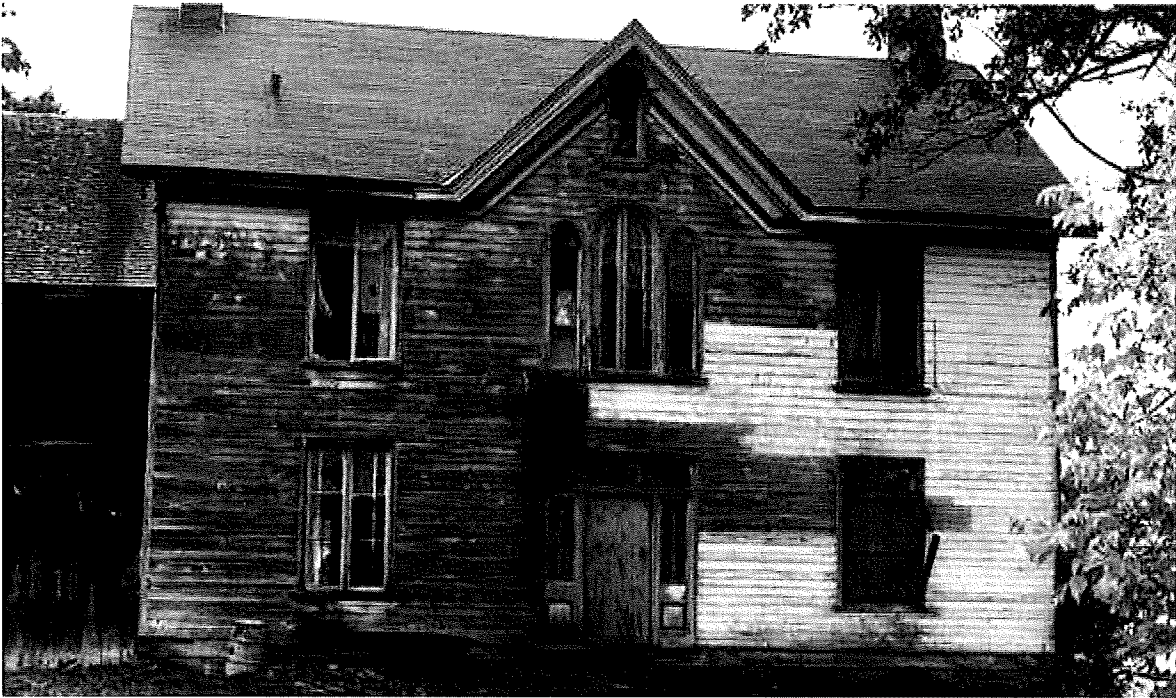
## **REFERENCES**

- Heritage | Smiths Falls - Protected Properties ([heritagesmithsfalls.ca](http://heritagesmithsfalls.ca))
- Town of Smiths Falls Bylaw 4330-77; Smiths Falls LACAC Files
- Canada's Historic Places [HistoricPlaces.ca](http://HistoricPlaces.ca) - [HistoricPlaces.ca](http://HistoricPlaces.ca)
- Lockwood, Glenn J.: Smiths Falls: A Social History of the Men and Women in a Rideau Canal Community, 1794-1994.

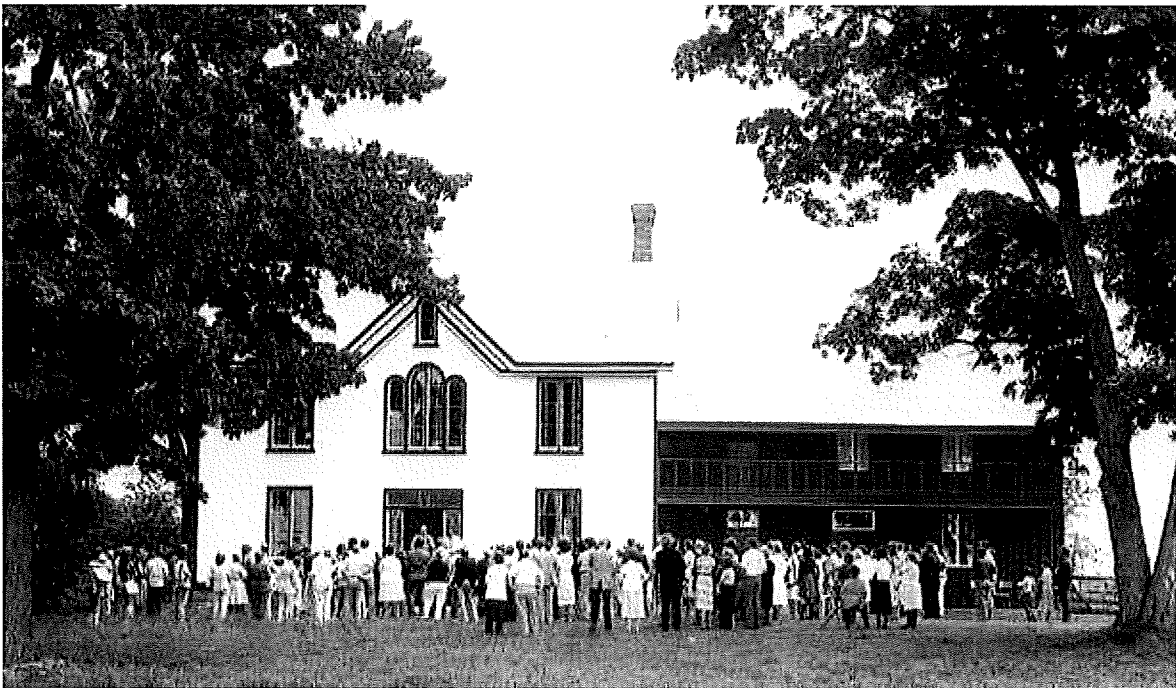




## IMAGES



1 Old Slys prior to use as Heritage House Museum, circa 1977. *Heritage House Museum.*



2 Old Slys Heritage House Museum post restoration, circa 1980s. *Heritage House Museum.*

2. THAT this By-law shall come into effect upon its passing.

Read a first and second time this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

Read a third time and passed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

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Mayor

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Clerk