



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**.



April 7, 2025

RECEIVED
2025/04/10
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

Provincial Heritage Registrar,
Ontario Heritage Trust,
10 Adelaide Street East,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5C 1J3

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate

Enclosed for your information is a "Notice of Intention to Designate" for 45 Parliament Street, Colborne, ON, commonly known as the octagon house.

The property owner has requested this designation in writing, per section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The Notice will be published in the local newspaper on April 9th, 2025 for 30 days.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Heffernan,
Manager of Planning and Development
Township of Cramahe,
vheffernan@cramahe.ca
905-355-2821 Ext. 242

CC: Heritage Cramahe Committee
Holly Grant, CAO, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cramahe



**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
45 Parliament Street
Colborne, ON K0K 1S0**

'The Octagon House'

Take Notice that Cramahe Township Council, on March 25th, 2025 resolved to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate PLAN 58 PT LOT 26 PT BLK G, municipally known as 45 Parliament Street, Colborne ON, under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, as a property of cultural heritage value and interest.

The property known as The Octagonal House meets numerous criteria required for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The site is culturally significant because of design and physical value, and historical and associative value.

Design and Physical Value:

Description of Property - 45 Parliament Street, Colborne Ontario K0K 1S0

45 Parliament Street is an eight-sided octagonal structure. The property is located on Parliament Street in the village of Colborne, in the Township of Cramahe, in the County of Northumberland.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: Design or Physical Value

No. 45 Parliament Street in Colborne carries some fame in the Province of Ontario as it is one of the very few eight-sided octagonal houses in existence.

The octagon design, championed by the eccentric Mr. Fowler, an American amateur architect known for his prowess in phrenology, was said to deliver 20% more space than a standard square footprint, by copying the shape of the human head.

According to Fowler, an octagon house was cheaper to build, allowed for additional living space, received more natural light, was easier to heat, and remained cooler in the summer. These benefits all derive from the geometry of an octagon: the shape encloses space efficiently, minimizing external surface area and consequently heat loss and gain, building costs etc.

A circle is the most efficient shape, but difficult to build and awkward to furnish, so an octagon is a sensible approximation. Victorian builders were used to building 135 corners, as in the typical bay window, and that could easily be adapted to an octagonal plan.

45 Parliament has a roof lantern, another common feature of an octagonal house. Like a "belvedere", architectural lanterns are atop a larger roof and provide natural air circulation and light into the room below. In contemporary use it is an architectural skylight structure, and, in this case, it is decorative, without windows.

The original brick and 4 x 4 multi pane windows of the Scott octagon house have been replaced by white stucco and two over two paned windows.

There is a small porch over the front door, not present in the original house (it had a small vestibule) and gone is the picket fence and central chimney that once graced the octagon house.

Historical or Associative Value:

Reuben Bartlett Scott on the occasion of his marriage to Maria Huyck in 1850 built this Octagon home. He was an industrious young man who operated a grist mill, soap factory, iron foundry and evaporator, and clearly, he espoused the theories of Ogden Squire Fowler, the American eccentric who touted the virtues of an 8-sided house versus a square house which had corners that were "intrinsically evil". Reuben and Marie had 12 children, and their descendants still live in the area.

The Reuben Bartlett Scott family occupied the property for [REDACTED]

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than May 9th, 2025.

Any objections and/or requests for further information should be directed to:

Victoria Heffernan,
Manager of Planning and Development
Township of Cramahe

CC Heritage Cramahe Board Chair, Trish O'Brien
Ms. Marie Prins
Mr. Ed Hagedorn