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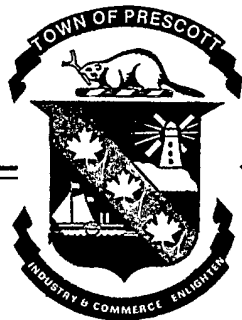
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CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT

P.O. BOX 160 / 360 DIBBLE ST. W.,  
PRESCOTT, ONTARIO K0E 1T0

TEL.: (613) 925-2812

September 4, 1986

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto, Ont.  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir:

Re: Designation of Municipal Properties in Prescott

Pursuant to Section 29(6) of the Ontario Heritage Act, enclosed are certified copies of By-Laws No. 45-86 and 46-86 of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott.

By-Law 45-86 designates the Portre-Purkis House, 256 James St. W., while By-Law 46-86 designates the Ebenezer Bacon House at 385 Park St. West.

Yours very truly

Arie Hoogenboom, A.M.C.T.  
Clerk Administrator  
AH/mp  
Encls.



I certify this to be  
an exact and true copy

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT  
BY-LAW NO. 45-86

.....  
Clerk  
Town of Prescott

BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS  
THE PORTRE-PURKIS HOUSE  
256 JAMES STREET WEST  
AS BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 337 R.S.O.  
1980 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 Prescott has  
caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as  
The Portre-Purkis House  
256 James Street West, Prescott

and upon 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  
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;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott enacts  
as follows:

- 1) There is designated as being of Architectural and Historical value  
or interest the real property known as the Portre-Purkis House, 256 James  
Street, Prescott, more particularly described in Schedule A hereto.
- 2) That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-Law  
together with the reasons for designation as detailed in Appendix A to  
be registered against the property described in Schedule A hereto in the  
local Land Registry Office,
- 3) That 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 this By-Law to be published  
in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Prescott.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1986.

.....  
*Sandra S. Lawn*  
MAYOR

.....  
*[Signature]*  
CLERK

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1986.

.....  
*Sandra S. Lawn*  
MAYOR

.....  
*[Signature]*  
CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 45-86

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Prescott, in the County of Grenville and Province of Ontario and being composed to Town lots Numbers Eighteen and Nineteen on the North side of James Street in Block Two of the said Town according to Chipman's plan of said Town, saving and excepting thereout and therefrom the lands heretofore conveyed by Carrie Elizabeth Purkis to William Charles Brown by Deed dated the 11th day of July 1918, and registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division for the County of Grenville on the 20th day of July 1918 as Number 5650 more particularly described

as follows: ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Prescott in the County of Grenville, Province of Ontario and being composed of the Westerly 63 feet from front to rear of Lot Number 19 on the North side of James Street in Block Two of the said Town of Prescott according to said Chipman's plan.

APPENDIX A TO BY-LAW NO. 45-86

DESIGNATION REPORT OF PRESCOTT LACAC

BUILDING - The Portre-Purkis House.

LOCATION - 256 James Street West. Town Lot No. 18 and part of Lot No. 19 on the north side of James Street West.

DATE OF REPORT - July 2nd, 1986.

PREPARED BY - Shirley Hodgins and Mary McVicar.

A. REASONS FOR DESIGNATION -

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee recommends that the Portre-Purkis House be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (1974), for the following historical and architectural reasons:

1. The house was built by Francis Portre, a joiner (carpenter) as his own residence. Mr. Portre and his family lived here until the house was sold in 1867 to Isaac D. Purkis, a well-known forwarder.<sup>1</sup>

2. The house, which was built around 1850, has the prominent Classical Revival features which were popular in Upper Canada from 1825 to 1855.

B. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND -

The Registry Office records show that Francis Portre purchased the property in 1836 for 35 Pounds and then apparently proceeded with the erection of his home.<sup>2</sup> The 1851 Census shows that he and his wife, along with their eight children, were living in the stone house on James Street. Francis Portre worked many fine details into his home, which are still impressive 140 years later!

In 1867 the property was sold to Isaac D. Purkis for \$2,800. and<sup>3</sup> it remained in the Purkis family until it was sold to Gordon Halliday in 1942.

Isaac Purkis was a successful wharfinger<sup>4</sup>, who owned a great deal of property in Prescott, along with several wharf lots on Water Street, according to the 1869 Assessment Rolls. About 1870 the Plumb family sold him the steamer "Baptiste" which had been used as a ferry to Ogdensburg. Prominent in the community, his son, I.D. Purkis was Chairman of the Board of Education in 1892. That same year, after the Presbyterian Church was destroyed by fire, he was chosen Chairman of the Church Building Committee.<sup>5</sup>

C. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION -

The Portre-Purkis House is a fine example of a single-detached, 2½ story square stone building, built in the mid-19th century. The first story at the front is of stone rubble, which was once stuccoed. The 2nd story is of cut stone. A long porch stretches across the front, and it is supported by 4 Doric columns which are thought to be original. The porch with its pillars is very prominent, since the doorway itself is square-headed, and the trim on the roof, windows and cornice is plain. Most of the exterior of the house remains as originally built, with the exception of a bay-window to the west, which was added later.

This is a well-preserved building which has retained most of its original features.

1 - Grenville County Registry Office

2 - same

3 - same

4 - wharfinger - "One who keeps a wharf for landing purposes and collects wharfage fees." - Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary, 1956.

5 - "Prescott 1810-1967", by J.A. Morris, pages 143 and 185.