

Designated Heritage Properties



Baptist Parsonage

46249 Sparta Line, Sparta

CON 3 PT LOT 21 PLAN 48 PT LOTS 7 AND B RP 11R2354 PART 1

By-law 1087

Description

The Baptist Parsonage was built circa 1855, and served as a residence for the ministers of Sparta Baptist Church until the mid-twentieth century. The Parsonage is constructed in the Greek Revival Architectural Style (with its returned eaves and pilastered entrance with Doric capitals and entablature). The structure sits on a fieldstone foundation topped by several courses of brick and laid with bottom row headers and stretchers.



Bostwick House

216 Cornell Drive, Port Stanley

PLAN 177 LOT 40 R O W

By-law 435

Description

The Bostwick house was erected in 1827. The property was owned by Colonel John Bostwick and passed to his son Joseph in 1849. The house was originally framed like a barn using one foot square oak beams pinned in place with wooden pegs. Within the framing, strawberry handmade clay bricks were laid, a treatment called brick nogging. There is only one other house in Ontario which is known to display this form of construction.



Cork Kiln

183 Main Street, Port Stanley

PLAN 49 PT LOTS 9 & 1 0 LOT 10 RP 11R4561 PART 4

Village of Port Stanley By-law 2306

Description

Built circa 1915 during the boom of the fishing industry, the cork kiln was important for the drying of the cork used for floating fish nets. The kiln was built into the side of the hill as a natural way to maintain dry heat.

Brayside Log Cabins

191 Brayside Street, Port Stanley
PORT STANLEY CON 1 PT LOT 2 PLAN 224 LOT 1 PT LOTS 2 AND 3 PT MERVILLE
ST RP 11R2108 PARTS 1 TO 3

By-law 2546

Description



These 2 buildings from the early 1800s demonstrate the architectural styles and materials of the early buildings in this region. Teskey Smith purchased the Tavistock log cabin and moved it to this site. The cabin was about to be torn down and had the outer cladding removed. Seeing the log walls of the building about to be torn down, he offered to purchase them and paid \$100 for the building and having it disassembled and moved to the current site. All the logs were marked so they could be reassembled exactly as before. The Smiths held a cabin raising bee and invited friends and neighbours to help reconstruct the cabin. Teskey and his son prepared the footings and installed the foundation row prior to the elevating. They also put in the floor joists and the subfloor for the main floor. On September 29, 1962, the raising took place. By the evening, all of the walls had been completed, and the roof had been installed following supper. In the summer of 1963, a chinking bee was held. Teskey and his wife built this two-story cabin as their home, leaving the mill to their children and grandkids. The New Dundee Cabin was bought in 1972, during the construction of a new Dunees Golf Course. The log cottage was uncovered after the siding of the farmhouse was removed. Teskey was contacted and bought the building for \$500 but this time he had to dismantle and move it himself. Being a three story building made the reconstruction more difficult but the logs were very well preserved. It was result to the west of the Tavistock cabin and connected with an addition. The addition was replaced in 1993 due to leaking rooves.

Davey House

45922 Sparta Line, Sparta
CON 4 S PT LOT 19

By-law 1803

Description



The Davey House was constructed at some point between 1845 and 1855. The simplicity of the building epitomizes the Provincial Greek Revival style in which it was built. It also has pilastered doorways with entablatures, and a solid frieze, similar to other houses in Sparta that date back to the 1850s. The property on which the Davey House sits was originally deeded by the Crown to the Honourable James Baby. Baby sold the property to the Jonathan Doan in 1813, who then sold it to his son, Israel Doan in 1843. Wade and Vera Davey purchased the house in 1990 and have made considerable effort to restore it.



Fishleigh House

47017 Roberts Line, Sparta

CON 2 PT LOT 24 RP 11R2030 PART 1

By-law 1088

Description

The Fishleigh House was built in the late nineteenth century, by a member of the Fishleigh family. The house was originally constructed as a single dwelling farm house, and continues to be used as a private home. The structure sits on a fieldstone foundation and has a full basement. It is a two storey building and has an extension on the east side. It is made of yellow brick and supported by a wooden frame. The brick at the corner of the exterior walls includes quoins, and the base of the walls project in the form of a plinth. The main section is roofed by a medium gable. The building has projecting eaves, moulded soffits, moulded fascia, and wooded verges.



Forge and Anvil Museum

46316 Sparta Line, Sparta

PLAN 48 PT LOT 3

Township of Yarmouth By-law 2483

Description

Forge and Anvil Museum was built about 1827 of clay and straw by a Mr. Kellar from England. It served as the village blacksmith shop until 1944. Note the thickness of the walls, the protruding rafters, and the tiny window panes. The roof is supported by one central beam using mortise and tenon construction. When the shop closed, Edgar A. Smith purchased it and gave it to the Sparta Sorosis Women's Institute as a meeting place and museum. In 1995 it was turned over to the Sparta and District Historical Society.



Harbour House

194 Main Street, Port Stanley

PLAN 49 LOTS 6 AND 7 PT LOT 5 PT CREEK BED MAIN ST W/S

By-law 2126

Description

The building was constructed circa 1917 by the East Side Fish Company, although it was not completed until after the fishing industry began to decline. It was never used as a fishery but served for net mending and storage. The symmetrical design and the number of windows provide east, south and west exposure to both natural light and the sun's heat in a large structure that was originally heated only by small coal stoves.



Hiram B. Smith House

46211 Sparta Line, Sparta
CON 3 PT LOTS 20,21 AND RP 11R1439 PT PARTS 1,2
By-law 2234

Description

The H. B. Smith (Martyn) house was completed in 1865. The house is a three bay Georgian style building with a centre hall and balanced rooms on either side. It features a centre door with three paned sidelights and a five paned Roman arched transom light above. The walls are three layers of strawberry handmade brick thick with a 6 layer pattern, 5 layers with the sides facing outward and one with the ends facing outward. The windows are 6 over 6 paned with Roman arches above in brick. The details are of the Regency period with the original door recessed. It has stayed with the family to this day.



Hiram Burley Smith Tailor Shop

6137 Hiram Smith Lane, Sparta
PLAN 7 PT LOT 5

By-law 1520

Description

Hiram Smith's Tailoring business began in the 1830s. The 1846 brick store is made of small handmade bricks and features a scooped awning to keep rain away from the foundation. The counter, brass yard measure, shelves, cash drawer and pressed metal ceiling are original and designated as well as the exterior. Hiram was a prominent citizen who came as a Quaker but later helped establish the Methodist church.



Kettle Creek Inn

216 Joseph Street, Port Stanley
CON 1 PT LOT 1 & PLAN 117 LOT 1, PT LOT 2 PLAN 49 PT LOT 19
By-law 1184

Description

Built as a summer home for the local Port Stanley Justice of the Peace in 1849, the main building first became an inn in 1918. The buildings was significantly restored in 1983 and 1990 by the present owners. English style gardens, a folksy gazebo, and the two cozy dining rooms all provide old world charm.



Livery Stables

215 Main Street, Port Stanley
PLAN 49 PT LOT 19 E/S MAIN

By-law 2595

Description

This whimsical building may be the oldest structure in the village, and has been a livery, a confectionary shop, a retail store, and temporarily the Village Hall. Its large display windows in the front, distinctive features, and main location has always kept the Livery Stable at the hub of village life.



Martin House

6188 Quaker Road, Sparta

PLAN 48 LOTS 1 AND 2 PT LOTS 3 & 4 E/S KING PT LOT 8 N/S MAIN
RP11R7385 PART 1

By-law 1521

Description

The Martin House was built in 1855 and epitomizes the Provincial Greek Revival style. It has pilastered doorways with entablatures, side lights, and a solid frieze, similar to other houses in the village. The building is a clapboard frame house with corner board detailing. The roof is a simple, medium gable with projecting eaves and moulded fascia and soffit. Very few alterations to the exterior have been made. It was originally built by Israel Doan, son of the original settler Jonathan Doan.



Morrow House

232 Colborne Street, Port Stanley

PLAN 49 PT LOT 6 W/S COLBORN

By-law 1521

Description

The Morrow house in Port Stanley has been designated for both cultural and architectural reasons. It is a fine example of a Regency Cottage style with the central doorway with pilasters on either side. The windows are balanced and features typical sashes of the 1840s. The building was originally the first library in Port and later the offices of Dr. Jackson and then Dr. Clinton Bell. It had been neglected for many years but a few years ago, John and Cathy Morrow purchased the home and restored much of its heritage features.



Port Stanley Breakwater Lighthouse

Port Stanley

By-law 1990

Description

The Port Stanley Breakwater Lighthouse was designated a heritage lighthouse in 2016 under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act. The lighthouse is an iconic structure in the Port Stanley community, and represents the close economic ties we have to Lake Erie. It has served mariners in the region for over a century.



Russel House

211 Main Street, Port Stanley
PLAN 49 PT LOT 18 E/S MAIN
Port Stanley By-law 2152

Description

The Russell house was built in the early 1870s of locally made strawberry bricks by a newly arrived settler, John Sweeney. It was one of the first hotels in Port Stanley, and one of a number of similar inns required in the early days of lake, rail and stagecoach travel. Over the years it has served as butcher and plumbing shops, and doctor's, lawyer's and insurance agent's offices. The building later became the Sterling Bank, and several staff members lived in rooms on the second floor. One of these staff included a young banker named Mitchell Hepburn, who later became Premier of Ontario.



Sanderson House

46083 Sparta Line, Sparta
CON 3 PT LOT 20 RP 11R4125 PARTS 1,2,3
By-law 2222

Description

The Sanderson House was built between 1818 and 1820 by John Kipp, an early Quaker. The home was used for Quaker meetings before the first meeting house was built. The house was purchased by Dr. R.L. Sanderson in 1859, and expanded to include his doctor's office. The house is one-and-a-half storeys high, with a full basement. It sits on a fieldstone foundation and measures 18.5m long by 11m deep. The building is a clapboard frame house with corner board detailing. The doorway features Doric pillasters and sidelights.



Selbourne Mill

181 Brayside Street, Port Stanley
CON 1 PT LOTS 2 & 3 RP 11R2108 PARTS 4,5,6 & RP 11R2894 PART 1
By-law 243

Description

The magnificently restored mill on this property is one of Port Stanley's historical treasures. It was built as a grist mill in the very early 1800s in the settlement of Selbourne. In 1949 the mill was purchased by the Smith family and moved to an area east of Orchard Beach. Threatened by lake erosion, in 1955 it was moved to its present location and has been preserved ever since by the Smith family.

Seminary Burying Ground

6150 Centennial Road, South Yarmouth
CON 4 S PT LOT 11 N/S UNION - SPARTA RD

By-law 243

Description

Ezekiel Dennis purchased the lot on which this cemetery stands in 1816 from Jonathan Doan. The earliest grave marker here dates to 1810 but there were few internments until the 1820s. Marked burials continued until at least 1951, although some remember one in 1962. Members of the Johnson, Minor, Page, Vansickle and Zavitz families are among the Yarmouth pioneers resting here. This is also the final resting place of veterans of the War of 1812 including Richard Lanning, Jesse Page and Seth Preffer. George Lawton who was influential in the Rebellion of 1837 is buried here. Dennis officially transferred the cemetery land to the trustees of the Seminary Cemetery in 1866. It is now closed and is maintained by the Municipality of Central Elgin. The cemetery is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In 1856 the trustees of common school section 8 obtained the land to the east of the cemetery, also from Ezekiel Dennis. The first Seminary school was erected about 1860 immediately east of the cemetery. This structure was replaced in 1910 burned in 1932. It was replaced in 1933 by the existing building.

The school closed in 1968 along with other local schools and was replaced by Sparta Public School. The building is now in private hands. There has never been a church associated with this cemetery though the adjacent school was used as a Methodist meeting house in the 1860s.



Solomon V Willson House

6289 Sunset Road, Union
CON 4 S PT LOT 3 RP 11R5355 PT 1

By-law 242

Description

The Solomon V Willson Home is a stately yellow brick home constructed in the late Victorian period, circa 1890. It has fine bays and verandah, a steep roof, and gingerbread trim. It has been well maintained by a succession of responsible owners; it retains its charm. It is located at 6289 Sunset Road, just north of Union Pond. This dwelling was constructed by Solomon Van Willson (1836-1922). He was the owner of grist and woolen mills which obtained their power from the harnessing of Beaver Creek, a main tributary of the Union Pond. Solomon married Hannah Haight (1861- 1905). They had two children, Hannah Marguerite and Charles Edward. Upon Solomon's death, the property that Solomon owned was divided between the two children. Hannah (1870- 1939) (nicknamed "Etta") married a distant cousin, Edgar Freeman Willson, in 1909.





Sparta House

46342 Sparta Line, Sparta

PLAN 48 LOT 1 PT LOT 6 RP 11R2237 PART 3

By-law 723

Description

When the Sparta House was constructed in 1838-1840 by David Mills, it was considered to be a grand structure with its double decked verandah and colonial trappings. The building was first used as a hotel, then an undertaking and hardware store business. The Sparta House has been restored to its former glory and is ready to once again welcome its local customers as a tea room.

St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital Complex

467 Sunset Drive, Lyndale

CON 6 PT LOTS 4 TO 7

By-law 2356

Description

In August of 1937 construction began on what was then known as the Ontario Hospital, St. Thomas. Built on the land of six area farm families, for the purpose of treating people with psychiatric illness, the hospital accepted its first 32 patients in April of 1939. By August of the same year, almost 1100 patients had come to reside at the hospital. Its greatest capacity with over 2,400 patients. Even before construction was complete, the hospital was known as the finest mental health hospital in the country because of its modern design. The site included 460 acres of land for the facility's food and produce needs. Shortly after the declaration of World War II in September of 1939, Premier Mitchell Hepburn and the Province of Ontario negotiated to lease the hospital buildings to the Department of National Defense in support of the war effort. By late October 1939, patients were relocated to other facilities across the province and hospital grounds became a training base for more than 60,000 air force personnel in the service, repair and maintenance of RCAF aircraft. At the end of the war the facility was returned to the Ontario Department of Health and restored to a fully functioning psychiatric hospital. In January 2001, St. Joseph's took over governance of the former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital. In 2013 the building officially closed.



Telegraph House

205 Main Street

PLAN 49 LOT 15 S PT LOT 16 E/S MAIN

Port Stanley By-law 2304

Description

The Payne House was built in 1873 by Manuel Payne on the site of Col. John Bostwick's residence, and encompasses its original foundation. Built of yellow brick in the early Victorian style, it mixes the gables of Gothic Revival and the bay windows and quoining of the Italianate style. Manuel Payne was a railway agent, telegraph and telephone operator, customs officer, express agent, issuer of marriage licenses, and the first postmaster of the village.





Temperance House

46349 Sparta Line

PLAN 48 PT LOT 1

By-law 724

Description

The Elgin Hotel, was built because of the demise of the Sparta Hotel / Mills Hotel. In 1851 it was known as the Elgin House. In 1872, it was purchased by Freeborn Taylor and named the Ontario House. In 1901, the religious groups in Sparta, led by Rev. J. J. Baker, Rev. W. H. Graham and Dr. G. A. Shannon organized a successful temperance drive. Eventually the Spartan Hotel was bought out and it became the Temperance House. It later served as an ice cream parlour, dance hall, apartment house, factory, artist studio, spa and store.



The Abbey

46324 Sparta Line, Sparta

PLAN 48 PT LOTS 2 & 6 RP 11R2237 PARTS 1, 4

By-law 1494

Description

The Abbey has been designated for cultural reasons. It was originally a girls' finishing school and where the first newspaper was published in the 1840s. It was later the home of Louis Moedinger, a prominent furniture maker and undertaker. It was moved from its original site one lot west.



Windjammer Inn

324 Smith Street, Port Stanley

PLAN 117 PT LOT 6

Village of Port Stanley By-law 2305

Description

Situated in the heart of Port Stanley, the Shepard House (circa 1854) was built by Samuel Shepard, a prominent business man and grain merchant. The house has been tastefully restored to become the Windjammer Inn featuring relaxed, comfortable rooms, with award winning cuisine.



Alma Villa

201 Lakeview Drive, Port Stanley

By-law 2846

Description

James C. Duffield and Charles S Hyman had purchased a steam powered yacht, the BethAlma in 1910 which they enjoyed travelling the Great Lakes on. But when the First World War broke out it was surrendered to the government. As a result the two friends and prominent business men purchased properties on Orchard Beach and built elegant summer homes near each other. This Neo-Georgian home was built in 1916 by James C. Duffield as a summer retreat. It has 7000 square feet of floor space. It features 3 equal bays with an addition on the west end that was originally an open porch on both the west side and south side.



Liberty Hill Club

190 Cornell Street, Port Stanley

By-law 2847

Description

This unique structure was built in 1896 by J. A. Robinson of St. Thomas. It was designed by renowned St. Thomas architect J. Z. Long as a club house for a development on Hillcrest. Hillcrest was also known as Liberty Hill and this development was one of the earliest resort developments in Port Stanley. The building has a hip roof that is shingled with cedar shakes. It also features two gables facing east and west with a dormer window in their centre. It is a one and a half story structure with a full basement accessible from a ramp on the north side and has a garage style opening that would accommodate large deliveries and vehicles.



Rustico

445 Front Street, Port Stanley

Plan 73, lots 6 and 7

By-law 2667

Description

This substantial home was built in 1870 or 71 by William Fraser as a summer retreat. It features a long gallery all the way across the front and part way down each side, that was originally open but is now closed in by glass. William Fraser was one of the first conductors on the London and Port Stanley Railway and was instrumental in the development of Invererie Heights, where Rustico is situated.



Quaker Meetinghouse

6387 Quaker Road

This American Colonial Style meetinghouse was built in 1865 by the Yarmouth Preparative Meeting of Lobo Monthly Meeting, a Hicksite branch of the Society of Friends (Quakers). This meetinghouse has remained in use since 1865 and is still an active Quaker Meeting.



Cole/Fish House

7435 Quaker Road

A large Italianate farmhouse built in 1880 for William B. Cole and his wife Almira (Mills) Cole and is associated with two families who made significant contributions to the Township of Yarmouth (now Central Elgin) in the 19th Century. The house exhibits typical features of the Italianate including bracketed eaves with a decorative fascia board, a projecting bay window, an extensive veranda with decorative woodwork, narrow paired windows on the second floor of the front elevation and a series of sloped roof sections with a flat centre section.