

ALMONTE/RAMSAY LACAC

Proposal for designation to Township of Ramsay

Tuesday, September 25, 1990

re: Johnny Bolton house, W.pt. lot 3, conc. 10, RP 26R 1418, Pt. 2
Presently owned by Ursula Beddoes and Robert McPherson.

This property is recommended for designation because of its architectural and historic interest. The house retains its basic form as a mid-19th Century log house, to which was added a turn-of-the century exterior highlighted by a fine decorative porch. In its early years it was the home of several families of local mill-workers and, in 1925, became the home of a significant village inhabitant Johny Bolton.

John Polton lived in the home in the village of Appleton from 1925 until his death in 1946. He was a typical village eccentric; every village or small town had one. The village of Appleton would not have been the same without John Bolton. Born in Flower Station, John was a bachelor all of his life. He was never very friendly, had very few friends and was the butt of many practical jokes. Quite intelligent, he was very inventive and had many practical inventions about the house. Johnny was most noted for playing the bagpipes but, because of deafness, was an awful player. He often paced his verandah or in front of the house, playing away. He concocted a bicycle with a side cart and would peddle to Carleton Place with his pipes to play in Nov. 11th parades and to pipe the troops away on the trains or upon their return from war.

The Johny Bolton house is one-and-one-half stories with a recent addition to the rear. Built of hand-hewn squared logs with dove-tail corners, the roof is of medium/low pitch with butted sawn rafters. Its exterior is covered with turn-of-the-century cove siding and the porch is highlighted by turned columns and elaborate fretwork. The present windows are also turn-of-the-century two over two sashes and the door has two clear lites and one transverse upper lite of red glass. Evidence shows two late nineteenth century brick chimneys at each gable end.

The house sits close to the front property line, typical of early village homes, with gardens to the rear. A fine hand-hewn log barn remains in its original rear location, sitting on rubble stone foundations.

At its September 1990 meeting, it was moved and duly seconded the Almonte/Ramsay LACAC recommend to Council the designation of this property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Submitted by

Cliff Bennett, CHM.