



The Architectural  
Conservancy  
of Ontario  
www.arconserv.ca

403 -10 Adelaide St East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
416-367-8075  
toll free 877-264-8937  
fax 416-367-8630  
info@arconserv.ca

Registered Charity 10807  
1556 RR0001

Brighton  
Chatham-Kent  
Clarington  
Cobourg  
Collingwood  
Credit and Humber  
Watershed  
Guelph-Wellington  
Hamilton Region  
Heritage Cambridge  
Georgian Bluffs  
Meaford  
London Region  
Muskoka  
North Waterloo Region  
Peterborough  
Port Hope  
Provincial Office  
Quinte Region  
Simcoe County  
South Bruce-Grey  
St. Catharines  
St. Thomas-Elgin  
Stratford-Perth County  
Toronto  
Windsor Region

Incorporated in 1933 to  
preserve buildings and  
structures of architectural  
merit and places of  
natural beauty and  
interest

Monday, February 8, 2010

The Honourable Michael Chan  
Minister of Tourism and Culture  
Hearst Block, 9th Floor  
900 Bay St  
Toronto ON M7A 2E1

**Re: Demolition Plan for South Side of Colborne Street and North Side of Water Street, Brantford, Ontario**

Dear Minister Chan:

Further to our previous correspondence, in which the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario requested a Stop Work Order, we are pleased to provide some additional information. We understand that in the Heritage Act, two criteria must be met:

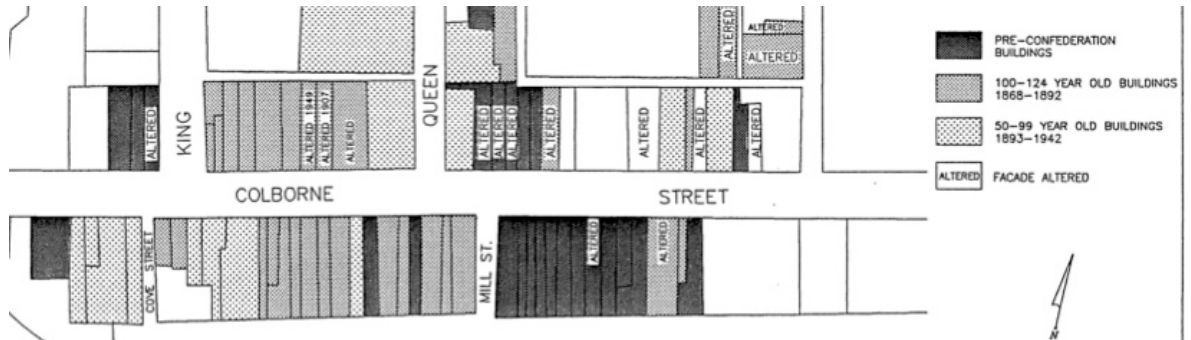
*a) the property may be property of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance; and*

*(b) the property is likely to be altered or damaged or a building or structure located on the property is likely to be removed or demolished. 2005, c. 6, s. 27.*

Many of the buildings on Colborne Street have significant interest of provincial significance, architectural interest and historical interest.

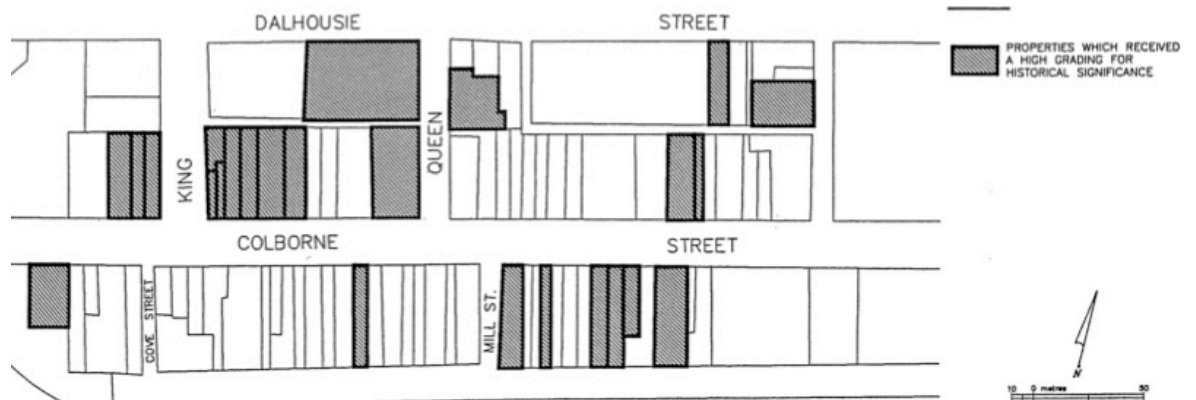
**1. Provincial Significance**

Brantford was an important industrial centre, and the Colborne Street buildings are an important part of our industrial archaeological heritage. The buildings used to back onto a canal, so that goods manufactured there could be easily shipped out the back. This also accounts for their unique built form with the lower levels at the rear.



A significant number of the buildings on the street predate confederation; another significant subset predate the turn of the 20th century.

## 2. Significant Historical Interest



Many have ratings of high historical interest; more are of moderate historical interest

### **111 – 103 Colborne – Arunah Huntington Block 1870**

### **39-35 Colborne – Huntington Block 1867**

Both are structures of high historical significance as they speak to Brantford's first major industry – shoemaking – and the establishment of Brantford as a major manufacturing centre in Canada.

### **129-127 Colborne**

John Agnew opened shoe store in 1876 and by 1928 had 20 stores in Western Ontario. In 1928 amalgamated to form Agnew-Surpass Shoe Stores, one of the largest shoe chains in Canada.

### **101 Colborne St. – Matthews Building**

William Matthews was an important pre-Confederation political figure. Involved in 1837 rebellion and had to flee to US. He was later granted amnesty, and was part of forming what was later to be known as The Liberal Party of Canada.

### **115 Colborne –James Moore Building 1850**

Jasper Tough Gilkison, had offices in the upper floors of this building. Son of William an early founder of the area. He was superintendent of Six Nations from 1861-1891. His father William was first cousin to John Galt who of course founded Galt and played a major role in provincial history. William was also founder of Elora.



The Architectural  
Conservancy  
of Ontario  
www.arconserv.ca

403-10 Adelaide St East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
416-367-8075  
toll free 877-264-8937  
fax 416-367-8630  
info@arconserv.ca

Registered Charity 10807  
1556 RR0001

*Brighton  
Chatham-Kent  
Clarington  
Cobourg  
Collingwood*

*Credit and Humber  
Watershed  
Guelph-Wellington  
Hamilton Region*

*Heritage Cambridge*

*Georgian Bluffs  
Meaford*

*London Region*

*Muskoka*

*North Waterloo Region*

*Peterborough*

*Port Hope*

*Provincial Office*

*Quinte Region*

*Simcoe County*

*South Bruce-Grey*

*St. Catharines*

*St. Thomas-Elgin*

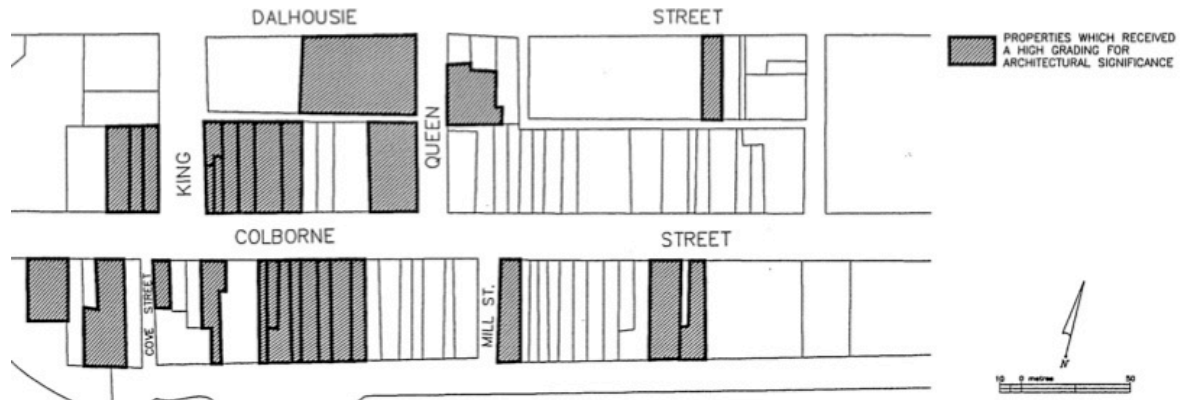
*Stratford-Perth County*

*Toronto*

*Windsor Region*

*Incorporated in 1933 to  
preserve buildings and  
structures of architectural  
merit and places of  
natural beauty and  
interest*

### 3. Architectural Interest



**35 Colborne** is a seven bay four storey brick building with a plain cornice and brick frieze and dentil motif with brick string course, dating from 1852.

**45 Colborne** is a virtually intact example of a two storey brick store with dwellings above, and has intact panelled woodwork, original entry and leaded glass transom.

**53 Colborne** is described in the Heritage Building Inventory as “an impressive building”, a four-bay masonry building with a decorated brick parapet with corbelled frieze, moulded brick brackets and limestone quoins.

**63 Colborne** has distinctive Flemish bond brickwork, corbelled string courses above the second and third floor windows and a corbelled cornice treatment.

**71-77 Colborne** is “a finely detailed row of shops which was constructed in 1870. Early recessed shopfronts are largely intact; the original 6 over 6 sash are still in place.

**115 Colborne** is a “very significant early building built prior to 1850.” The Mayor of Brantford, James Moore, rented the upstairs to Jaspar Gilkison, an important historical figure discussed previously.

**143 Colborne** is a good example of early modern construction methods dating from 1870. It is a “very important property” where the Ogilvie chain of 22 stores started, and was Brantford’s biggest store.

**151 Colborne** is a “fine structure,” dating from 1867. The second storey windows have round headed arches with brick voussoirs and pressed brick decorated keystones.



In summary, The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario submits that the south side of Colborne Street is not a consistent, intact preconfederation block of buildings, but a series that ranges from preconfederation through the turn of the 20th century. Not all are of historical interest, not all are of architectural interest, and they do not necessarily overlap.

But the Heritage Building Inventory from 1992, and evidence provided by others, clearly indicate that the site contains *property of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance*. Furthermore, the industrial archaeology of the site does not appear to have been investigated at all, the relationship of the buildings to the canal that once ran behind, the intersection of commerce and water. This may be its most important feature; it is not an elegant, ceremonial street but a working commercial centre built to operate between two worlds, the public road to the front and the water transport to the rear. This was an industrial city and Colborne Street was its commercial heart.

Once again, we urge the Minister to issue a Stop Work Order to ensure that these buildings are protected until a proper study of their current state, their cultural heritage value and interest of provincial significance can be confirmed.

Regards,

Lloyd Alter *B.Arch, OAA, TSA*  
President,  
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

CC: The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State, FedDev Ontario  
Natalie Bull, Heritage Canada Foundation  
Richard Moorhouse, Ontario Heritage Trust  
Paul King, Ministry of Culture