

**The Keeler-Campbell House (c1806) Designated
150 County Road 31, Colborne (Lakeport Sector)
Cramahe Township Ontario**



Cape Cod (built during the Georgian era) 1806

The Keeler-Campbell house is a true three bay Cape Cod, native to the early Canadian Maritimes and the New England States, but a rare find in Ontario.

The house is post and beam construction with hand hewn timbers. It is thought to have been built in three stages with the initial 20 x 24 "cabin" in place between 1795 and 1800. The house is no later than 1810 when it appeared in a formal assessment notice, as "a frame house" on its current site. It was enlarged perhaps 10 years later and much later a 44 foot "tail" was added.

Among its most notable features is the massive "Rumford" back-to-back brick fireplace that dominates the main floor. Along with the efficiency of its tall, shallow firebox, the Rumford has a massive stone hearth, enhancing

the distribution of heat. And there is a bake-oven.

Many of the wide plank floorboards, some of which are 22", have been painted the era appropriate colour of carmine.

While most of the windows have been replaced since the early 19th century, they are nonetheless fine examples of very early multi-paned windows. The front facade windows are 12 over 12 and they are 8 and 9 over 6 elsewhere in the house. The transom window over the front door is thought to be original.

The original knob and latch hardware is in place throughout

the house and there is a hand forged Suffolk door latch.

An extensive and faithful

HISTORY OR ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

Joseph Keeler's (1763-1839) ancestors date back to 1560 in Scotland. In 1795, he left the American colonies and landed on Lake Ontario shores with 40 United Empire Loyalist families at "Cat Hollow" now Lakeport. He built saw and grist mills and established the economic foundations of the area. He built significant homes and ran a tavern. The Keeler dynasty was carried on by Joseph II and III and via judicial land grants, these pioneers were the first developers of Lakeport, Colborne, Castleton and Norwood.

restoration that took place in the 1980-1990 period is responsible for the restoration of many of the original features, structural integrity and charming aesthetics in this historic property.