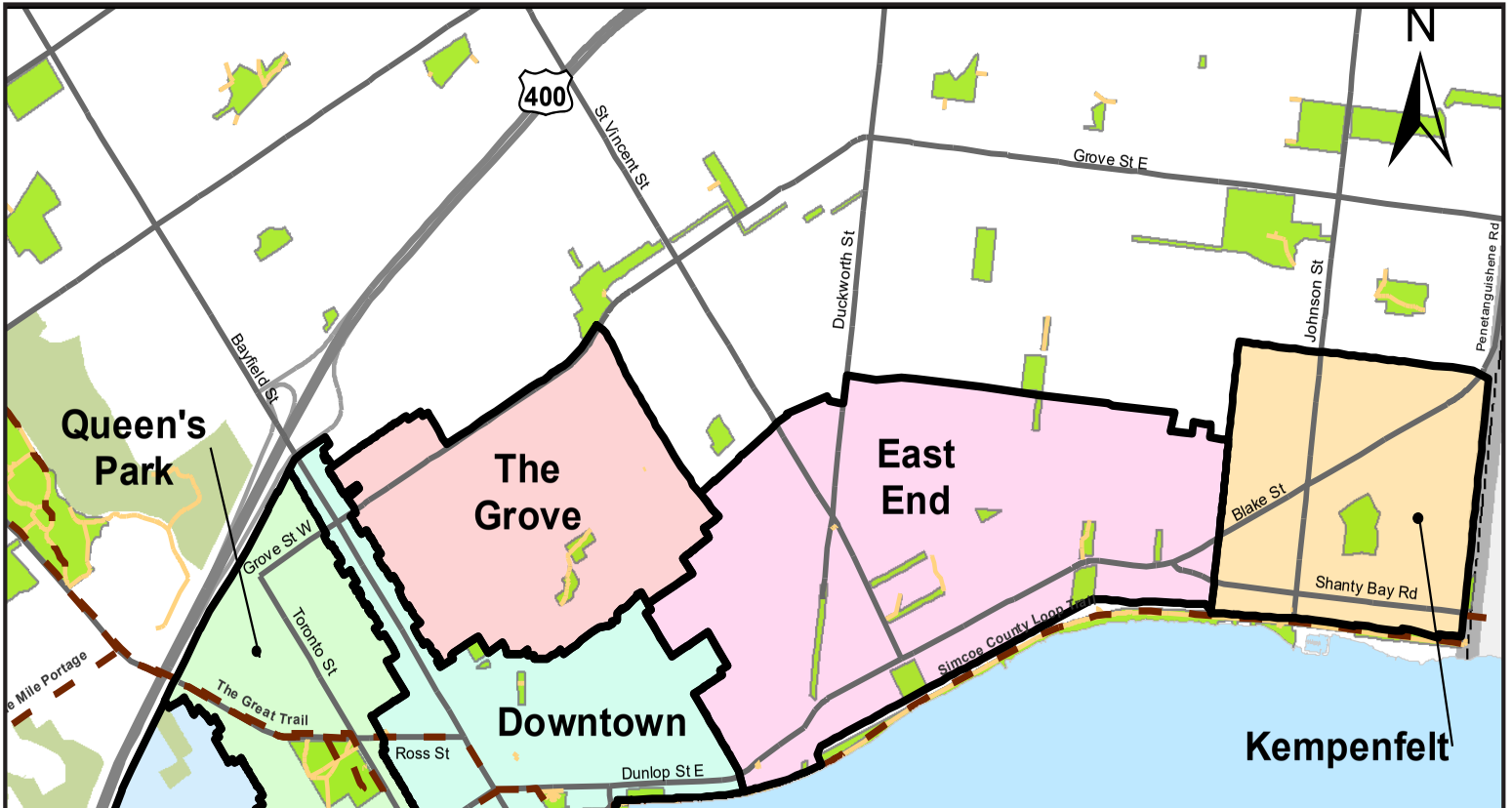
Heritage BARRIE

Historic Neighbourhood Guide



Historic Neighbourhood Areas




West Village
Brock Park
Allandale
Kempenfelt Bay
Simcoe St
Dunlop St W
Waterfront Trail
Bradford St
Anne St S
Tiffin St
Essa Rd
Burton Ave
The Great Trail
Lakeshore Dr
Minets Point Rd
Yonge St
Little Ave
Hurst
3



The Historic Neighbourhood Guide

Barrie's historic neighbourhoods are unique and reflect Barrie's natural and cultural heritage. These neighbourhoods each have their own distinctive sense of place, rich history and defining attributes and characteristics. Aspects of each neighbourhood's location, geography, amenities and housing types and tenure contribute to the overall story of Barrie's past.

Heritage Barrie encourages citizens and visitors to explore the history of Barrie, and discover more about the places and people.

The Neighbourhoods

Allandale
Brock Park
West Village
Sunnidale Road
Queen's Park
Downtown
The Grove
East End
Kempenfelt Village

What is Heritage Barrie?

Heritage Barrie is an advisory committee appointed by Barrie City Council. The committee works with the community to build awareness of local heritage matters, provide heritage information, and encourage preservation of heritage buildings and landscapes.



What is a Heritage Designation?

Designated cultural heritage properties are those which have been evaluated for and found to have cultural heritage value or interest, as defined in the *Ontario Heritage Act*. These designated properties are recognized as such through a municipal by-law that is passed by City Council and registered on title.

Municipal Heritage Register

Listed cultural heritage properties are those which have potential cultural heritage value or interest but have yet to be formally evaluated as per the process prescribed in the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Listed properties are labelled as 'listed' in the City's Municipal Heritage Register, which identifies all municipally recognized cultural heritage resources.

Barrie Heritage Awards

The Heritage Committee also leads the annual Heritage Awards program, reviewing nominations from property owners, individuals and groups who have made strides in fostering local identity through heritage preservation and awareness in Barrie.

Guide Legend

Below are the icons distinguishing Designated, Listed and Award-winning properties in this guide:

Designated (*Ontario Heritage Act*)

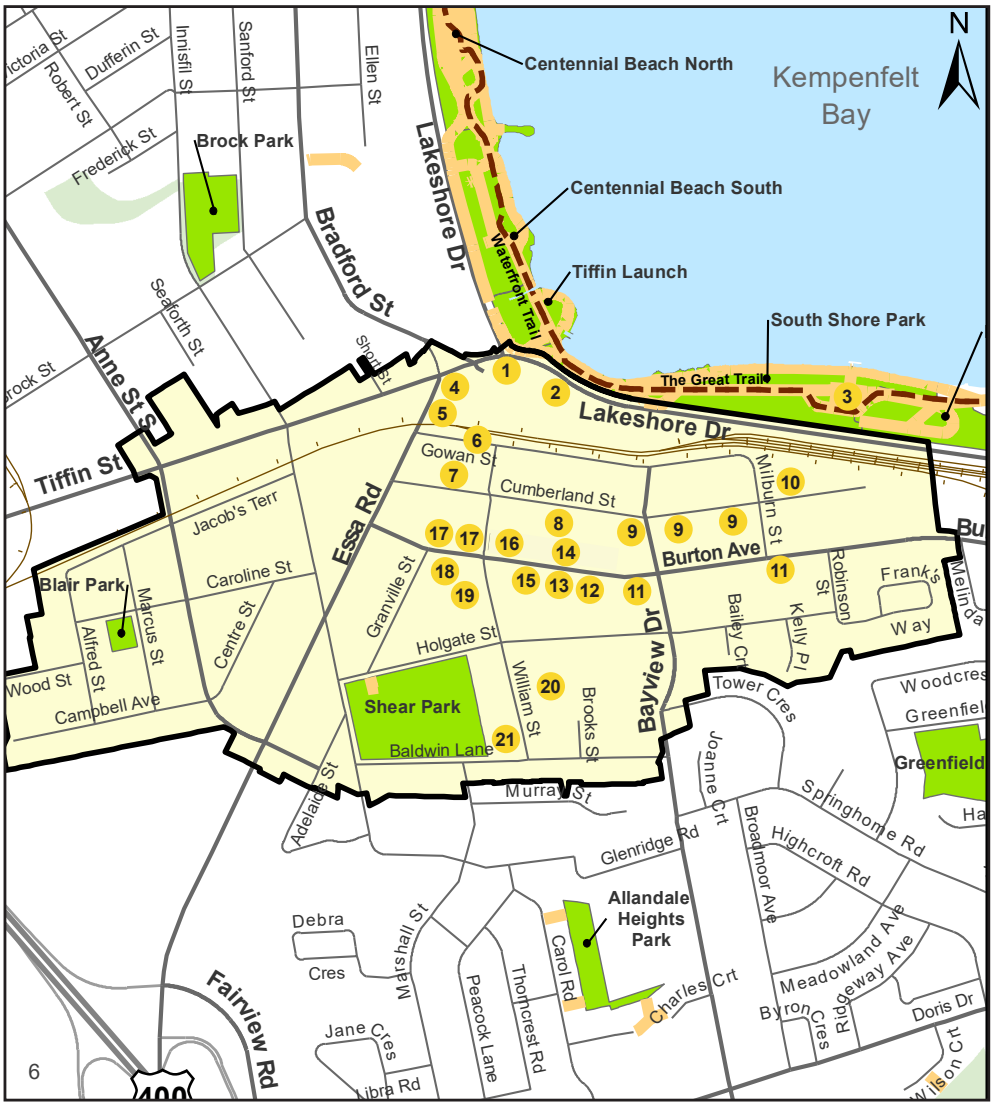
Listed (City of Barrie's *Municipal Heritage Register*)

Heritage Award Recipient (*Heritage Barrie*)

Information contained in this guide was deemed accurate upon publication.

Allandale Heritage Neighbourhood

Located on the southern shore of Kempenfelt Bay, the Allandale neighbourhood has a history rooted in the railway. Annexed by the City of Barrie in the 1890s, the Village of Allandale ended at Tiffin Street, which formed the border between the village and the city. The neighbourhood expanded to the west, to join with Barrie at Tiffin Street, when the Grand Truck Railway expansion took place at the Allandale yard at the turn of the 19th century. Parts of the Master Mechanics building remain today, incorporated into the design and functionality of the General John Hayter Southshore Community Centre. The rail yard remains a key part of the neighbourhood's identity, with the magnificent Allandale Station as its centrepiece.





268 Bradford Street

In May 1906, New York architect George F. Schaeder began building the Railroad YMCA. This structure would provide accommodations for railroad workers as well as a recreational area for young men. The building operated as a YMCA after the railroad ended their use, becoming a men's residence. In the 1980s, it was restored and converted to restaurant use. With its distinctive mansard roof with iron cresting, elaborate paneled cornice, fine woodwork and contrasting shutters, this late Victorian building makes a striking impression.





Allandale Station 285 Bradford Street

In 1853, Allandale welcomed its first train. In 1888, the Allandale station became the Grand Trunk Railway's (GTR) national line flagship. The GTR built the current station in 1905, incorporating the pre-existing administrative building into the design. Following the curve of the shoreline, the Italianate/Prairie School style station had many grand features: stately columns, distinctive windows, wide eaves, breezeways, and a striking coronet-ringed waiting room. Inside the station was a luxurious mahogany-paneled dining room.



205 Lakeshore Drive – Master Mechanics Building

On the south shore of Kempenfelt Bay stood other structures supporting the railroad system. The Grand Trunk Railway's Master Mechanic office and stores was constructed in 1903 to house administrative personnel and the parts departments. Next to the building was a massive roundhouse with a 70' turntable. To the west stood the coal chute to fill the tenders or coal-cars. Only the railway office and stores building remains, enlarged and re-purposed as the General John Hayter Southshore Community Centre.



4 Essa Road

This is one of the last buildings of Allandale's old downtown and an example of a structure built to fit an irregular lot. George Dean 'Doc' Patterson established a drug store in 1896 on the site of the former Fisher Brothers Brewery. His son, Arthur Ernest Patterson, also became a druggist and in 1914, constructed this building in the Edwardian Classicism style featuring a cornice, stone and brick quoin trim, and many windows including a pair of shingled oriel windows.



8 Essa Road

Wesley Beynon Webb, born in Stroud, Ontario in 1869, was a graduate of the Ontario Horological Institute in Toronto. In 1893, he opened his watchmaking and jeweler business at his location, adding the family residence to the rear about ten years later. For decades, Webb was the official watch inspector for the Canadian National Railway when the accuracy of railway men's timepieces was crucial. The brick store has a centre gable, uncommon in commercial buildings of that time, with contrasting buff brick trim above and between the windows.



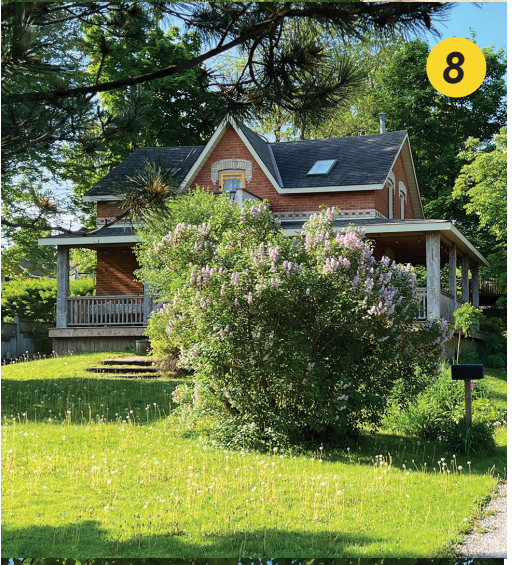
27 Gowan Street

Many of the homes in Allandale housed railway workers, including that of engineer William James, who once owned this 1870s Ontario Gothic Revival home. The buff brick voussoirs over the windows and the deep coloured bargeboard trim in the gables make a striking contrast to the traditional red brick. The veranda, which is typical for this style of home, is missing. This house design, as seen in plans advertised in publications such as *The Canadian Farmer*, was very popular and found across Ontario.



19 Cumberland Street

The family of George Cowie, Station Master at the Allandale GTR station, lived in this home from approximately 1896 to 1935. In his early days at Allandale, Mr. Cowie saw locomotive engines that burned wood and cars that were coupled together with a simple link and pin. His home, which features what might have been a half circle vent in the attic, offers orange-red brick, tall windows, finely detailed bargeboard and brackets in the gables, a wide front porch with floral design in the portico, and extravagant woodwork.



56 Cumberland Street

In 1879-80, John and Isabella Brunton, built this house on a quarter acre lot for their family of eight children. The house was constructed of earth-orange tone brick with buff brick accents and a centre gable which was popular at the time. John was a weaver and kept his looms in sheds located just to the west of the house. Their son, John S. Brunton, later lived at 39 Burton Avenue.



88 Cumberland Street
96 & 122 Cumberland Street

These Cumberland Street houses demonstrate the late Victorian hybrid architecture style. Built in 1887 by James Brunton, 88 Cumberland (bottom left) features contrasting buff brick detailing over the windows and in the gable.
96 Cumberland (bottom right) has decorative cresting above the bay window, daring bargeboard in the gable, and nice woodwork enhancing the veranda.
122 Cumberland (top) features a splendid veranda with abundant spindles, elaborate brackets and fish scale shingles. Its half circle attic windows and classic bargeboard trim under the eaves make this a fine home.



129 Cumberland Street

Built in the 1880s or earlier, this Second Empire-style stucco home was built on land once owned by Samuel John Milburn, son of Thomas Milburn, for whom Milburn Street was named. The detailing of this home, including the mansard roof cornice, dormer windows with their small pediments and shaped surrounds, a bracketed and paneled frieze under the eaves, a bay window with brackets and window trim and an entrance pediment, make it a remarkable property.



96 & 136 Burton Avenue

Frederick Gosney Jr., son of an Englishman who made Allandale home in 1901, worked for the railway and raised his family in the charming late Victorian home at 96 Burton Avenue. 136 Burton Avenue (inset) was home to George Leonard Gibson (b. 1887) and his family. George worked as an electrician with the railway, and this home is an example of another late Victorian design with dominant stacked bay windows, decorative bargeboard and fanciful woodwork on the front porch.





72 Burton Avenue

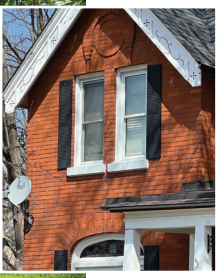
This was the long-time home of CNR train engineer Harry Tomlin and his family. Harry set off for Canada at age 18 to work on the railway and support his widowed mother. The year after his arrival, Caroline Whitney, and her children, also left England for a better life in Allandale. In 1920, Harry Tomlin married Mrs. Whitney's daughter, Emily. This lovely red brick home with its wraparound veranda and fine woodwork invokes all the grace and charm of a bygone era.



60 Burton Avenue

This eccentric Queen Anne style home was built for Dr. Patrick C. Armstrong in approximately 1891. The land itself was once part of lumberman James L. Burton's farm, Springbank. The sombre house has many unique features including turned, cross-shaped corner eaves brackets and gables marked by stone mosaics containing crushed glass. The protruding Tudoresque third floor dormer has stone inserts and panels of diagonal wood trim.





59 Burton Avenue
55 Burton Avenue (inset)

Built for Joseph and Isabel Holmes in 1903, 59 Burton Avenue, and most of the land on Burton Avenue, was owned by the Brunton family. The orange-red brick, wraparound porch, bay window and decorative brickwork over the windows and in the gable make this a handsome home. Next door at 55 Burton Avenue, the creative masonry design in the gable and graceful scrolling design in the fascia create interest on this red brick home.



50 Burton Avenue
52 Burton Avenue (inset)

50 Burton Avenue was built on former Burton lands and is in the Ontario farmhouse/Gothic Revival style with a wide bay window and narrow upper windows all with arched brickwork. The stylish bargeboard trim, double leaf doors and large veranda complete this home. 52 Burton Avenue features detailed woodwork over the veranda and carved and scalloped bargeboard trim in the gables. Both homes show the high standard of craftsmanship found in houses of the late nineteenth century.



39 Burton Avenue

39 Burton Avenue offers Queen Anne characteristics with its distinctive gambrel roof featuring an ox eye window, intricate diamond-shaped shingles, and the small leather-encased oriel window. The Brunton family hailed from Edinburgh, Scotland, originally settling in Innisfil running a woolen mill before working with the Northern Railway.



25 & 37 Burton Avenue ★★

South Ward schoolhouse at 25 Burton Avenue (left) opened on January 3, 1907. In late 1920, all four Barrie elementary schools were renamed following a visit to Barrie by the Prince of Wales and the South Ward School became King Edward School. A Palladian window flanked by angled walls highlights the pedimented central bay of the orange brick building. The Burton Avenue Methodist Church (right) was built in 1895. Despite two serious fires in 1933 and 1966, the church, with intricate brickwork under the tower eaves and over the many arched windows, is prominant on Burton Avenue.





24 Burton Avenue ★

Architects Holgate and Lennox designed this English Gothic church which opened in 1893 with the first service led by Reverend William Reiner. Reiner's father had been the private tutor to Queen Victoria's four eldest children, including the future King of England, Edward VII. The quaint church was constructed at grade level, with small arched windows, the broad expanse of the roof resting on low walls. The belfry and spire rise directly over the main door of this unique church. The parish hall was built in 1918.



50 William Street

For many years, this was the home of locomotive engineer William Henry Park. In 1906, William married Mina Jane Wilson, daughter of railroad inspector Timothy Wilson of Allandale. This lovely Queen Anne-influenced house is so inviting with its elegant wraparound porch, stained glass transom, shingled gables and arched brickwork over the windows. A truly gracious home set on a large, beautifully landscaped lot with the original carriage house still standing at the back of the property.



71 William Street

This was once the home of two descendants of some of the oldest pioneering families of Innisfil Township. William Wellington Cullen was the son of Samuel Cullen who had farmed at Big Bay Point. In 1898, Cullen married Lena Wice at the bride's family residence, Eden Home. In 1908, the couple came to Allandale when Cullen began working for the railway and bought this house from Albert Webb. The boxy, mostly unadorned style is representative of architecture of the early 1900s.

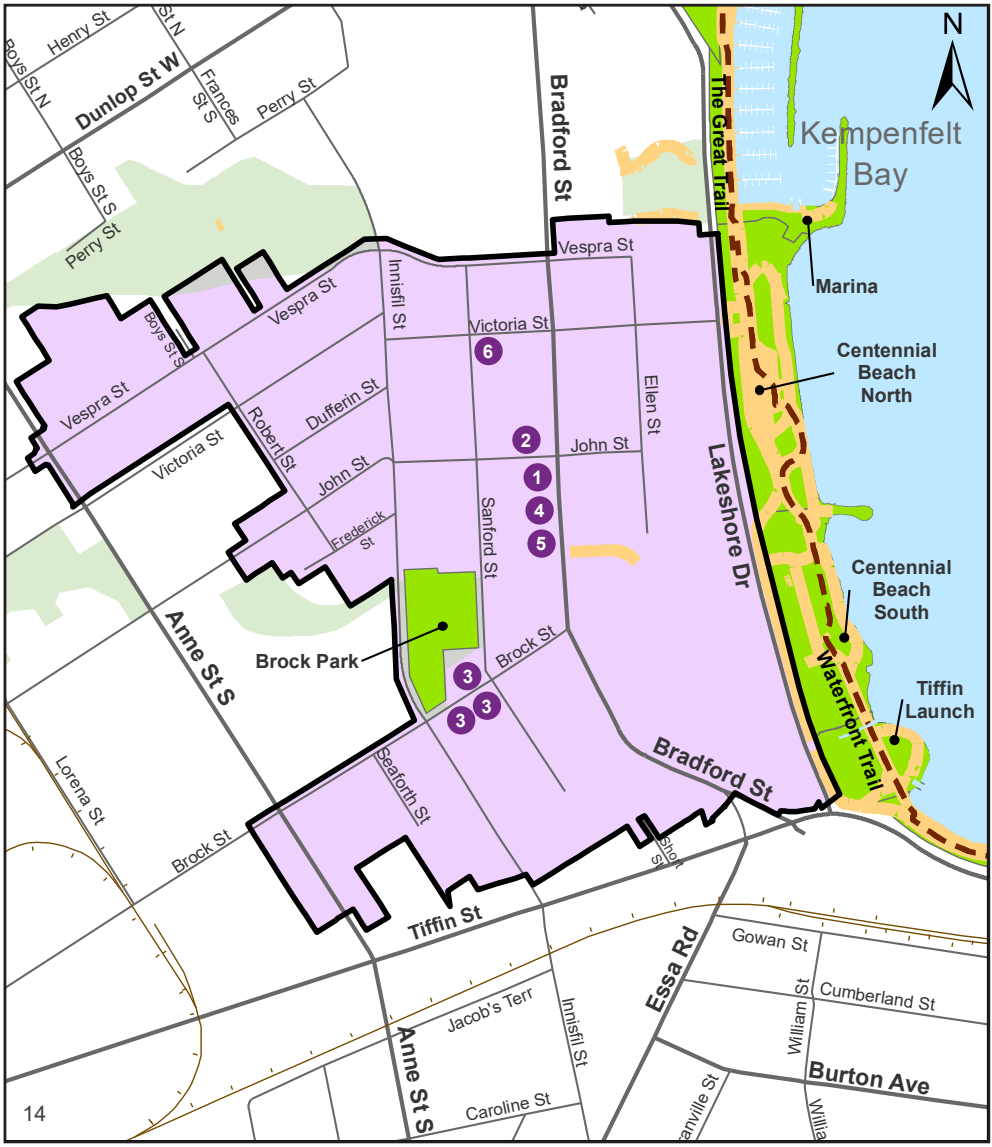


90 William Street

This remarkable home is the birthplace of Group of Seven artist, Edwin Holgate. The property was purchased in 1888 by Henry Holgate and the house was constructed not long after. The north side of the house, facing the garden, has a symmetrical design, yet differing-shaped stained-glass treatments over the centre bay windows. The front doorway features a small cross gable and half circle transom. The house is further enhanced by a striking veranda with intricate, geometric woodwork on the east side facing William Street.

Brock Park Heritage Neighbourhood

Located directly west of Kempenfelt Bay, Brock Park is named for the local park that is a central feature of the neighbourhood. This was once a thriving hub of heavy industrial employment and manufacturing. The Barrie Tannery Co. operated on the south side of Bradford Street at Vespra Street from the early 1900s to the late 1970s and the Barrie Carriage Company operated at Ellen Street and John Street from the early 1900s to the early 1920s. Many residents of Brock Park were railway employees in nearby Allandale. The General Electric Plant on Bradford and Vespra streets opened in the 1940s and remained operational until its closure in the late 1980s.







152 Bradford Street

This house was built about 1905 for Wesley Cline, the respected contractor who built the Elizabeth Street Methodist Church. Bert and Edith Jennett would later convert the stately dwelling into the well-regarded funeral home, which still operates today. A fire in 1986 destroyed the top floor of the building but fortunately the beautiful stained-glass window, fireplace and staircase in the gracious home were saved, along with important records dating from 1936.



50 John Street

Retired locomotive engineer Robert Scott Buchanan Jack lived in this house for a short time with his wife, Mary Eliza Dollery. Robert came to Canada from Ireland when he was 12 years old, working as a telegraph messenger before joining the railroad in 1883 as a fireman with the Northern and North-Western Railway. The solid-looking home has wide two-storey bay windows and fish-scale shingles in the gable. The front porch has had modifications, and like several houses in the neighbourhood, the balcony is enclosed with shingles.



Brock Street

A wide range of architectural styles can be found in the houses of Brock Street. The home at 56 Brock Street is an example of a square structure, with plain Edwardian-inspired features. Number 61 Brock Street is a classic L-shaped design, with traditional brickwork and decorative bargeboard in the gable. Early semi-detached homes, like those at 128–130 Sanford Street, can be found along Brock Street and on the dead-end section of Sanford Street.





160 Bradford Street ★

This Ontario Gothic Revival style home of traditional red brick has stylish buff and red brick accents over the doors and windows, intricately designed bargeboard on the main gable and decorative cresting over the bay window. Traces remain of an earlier veranda over the side entrance, which appears to still have its period doors. Possibly built by George Ball in 1896 for Michael O'Connor, an engineer born in 1850 in Collingwood who began his career with the Northern Railway and eventually transferred to the Allandale terminal in 1890.



164 Bradford Street

This striking home once belonged to Ben Rhinehart. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ben became dean of the Simcoe County printing fraternity and was a printer with both the Advance and the Barrie Examiner. He is also remembered for organizing the first American Baseball Club in Barrie. The house has several attractive features that are reminiscent of both Queen Anne and Edwardian Classicism. The home has lovely detailing in the gables, brackets and front porch woodworking.

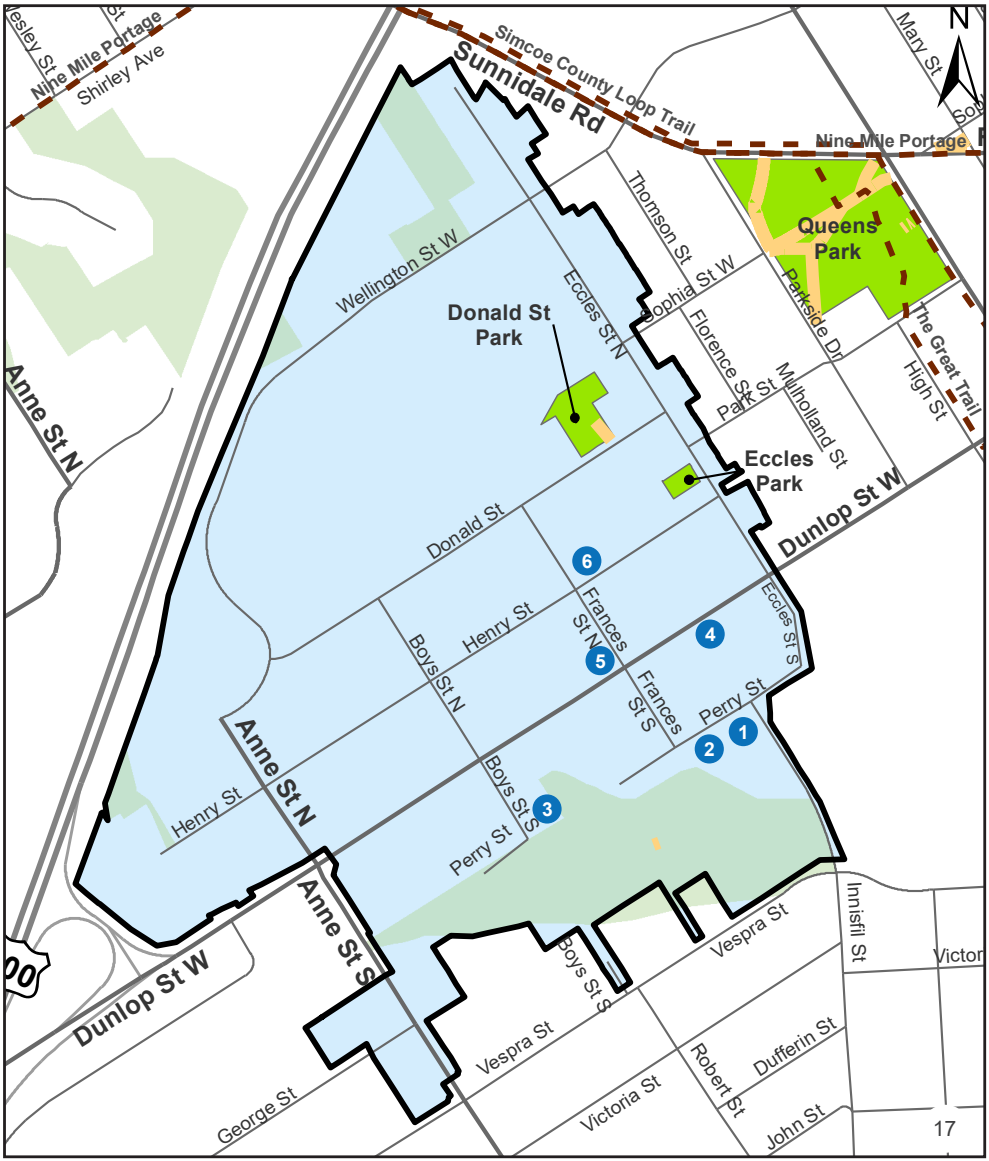


37 Sanford Street

This tidy late-Victorian style house once belonged to locomotive engineer George Arthur Overs and his wife Agnes Greatrix. Both the Overs and the Greatrix families came from England and settled in Simcoe County. George and Agnes had been friends and neighbours in childhood before marrying in 1889. The home has many attractive features: a rooftop finial, decorative shingles in the gable, gingerbread trim on the eaves, iron cresting over the bay window, two-toned brick voussoirs over the windows and elaborate woodworking on the front porch.

West Village Heritage Neighbourhood

West Village traditionally served as a residential area for workers who moved here to find employment during the industrial expansion in the early-to-mid-20th century. At that time, there were plenty of employment opportunities in the area to the south and southwest and the north end of West Village. This legacy is abundantly clear today with traditional war-time bungalows and 1½-storey homes from the mid-20th century interspersed among late 19th and early 20th century homes.





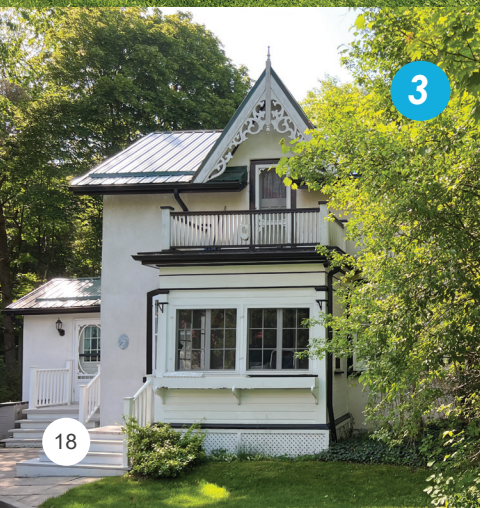
2 & 4 Innisfil Street

Under the red brick exterior of this handsome 2.5-storey Victorian semi-detached home is a post and beam construction with a poured rubble foundation. Wood siding under the brickwork hints at a smaller original building. The shady porch with its lovely vergeboard trim offers a comfortable view. One of the earliest owners of the property was James Durham, who operated the first steam powered saw mill, which was located on nearby Bradford Street.



35 Perry Street

This little bungalow on the former Perry estate was once the home of bricklayer Thomas George Villiers and his wife Mary. The stucco-clad house has a curved veranda detailed with dentil moulding and supported by Tuscan columns. The front entrance is flanked by stained glass sidelights. The house sits next to a piece of property purchased by Bert Young in about 1940. Over the years, Young, with the help of Derek Jones, cleaned up the area and created a wildlife pond.



3 Boys Street

Given the orientation of this small Gothic Cottage style house, it was likely once situated on Perry Street when that roadway once extended from Eccles Street to Anne Street. The home belonged to Audrey Milligan, a teacher at the Victoria School (Central School). Miss Milligan willed her property on the west side of Milligan's Pond to the City of Barrie for parkland and the area was named Audrey Milligan Park. Today, there are trails surrounding the Perry Street ponds and wetland area.



191 Dunlop Street West

This Ontario Cottage style house, prominent from about 1830 until 1900, had a simplified Gothic Revival influence. This house, possibly built in the 1880s, still retains its sash 6-over-6 windows, Tuscan columns supporting the full width porch, and until recently, the original green tin roof. This was once the residence of Henry Penton the town pound keeper and sanitation inspector.



214 Dunlop Street West ★

This graceful home with its picturesque turret and fanciful rooftop cresting was built around 1899 for George R. Warnica and his wife Mary. When first built, the plainness of the side of the house facing Dunlop Street would suggest an Edwardian style, but the turret and 2-storey bay windows on the Frances Street side suggests a Queen Anne influence. The original front porch was open with chunky columns supporting the second floor balcony. The risers on the front steps once had decorative carving, resembling ornamental bargeboard.

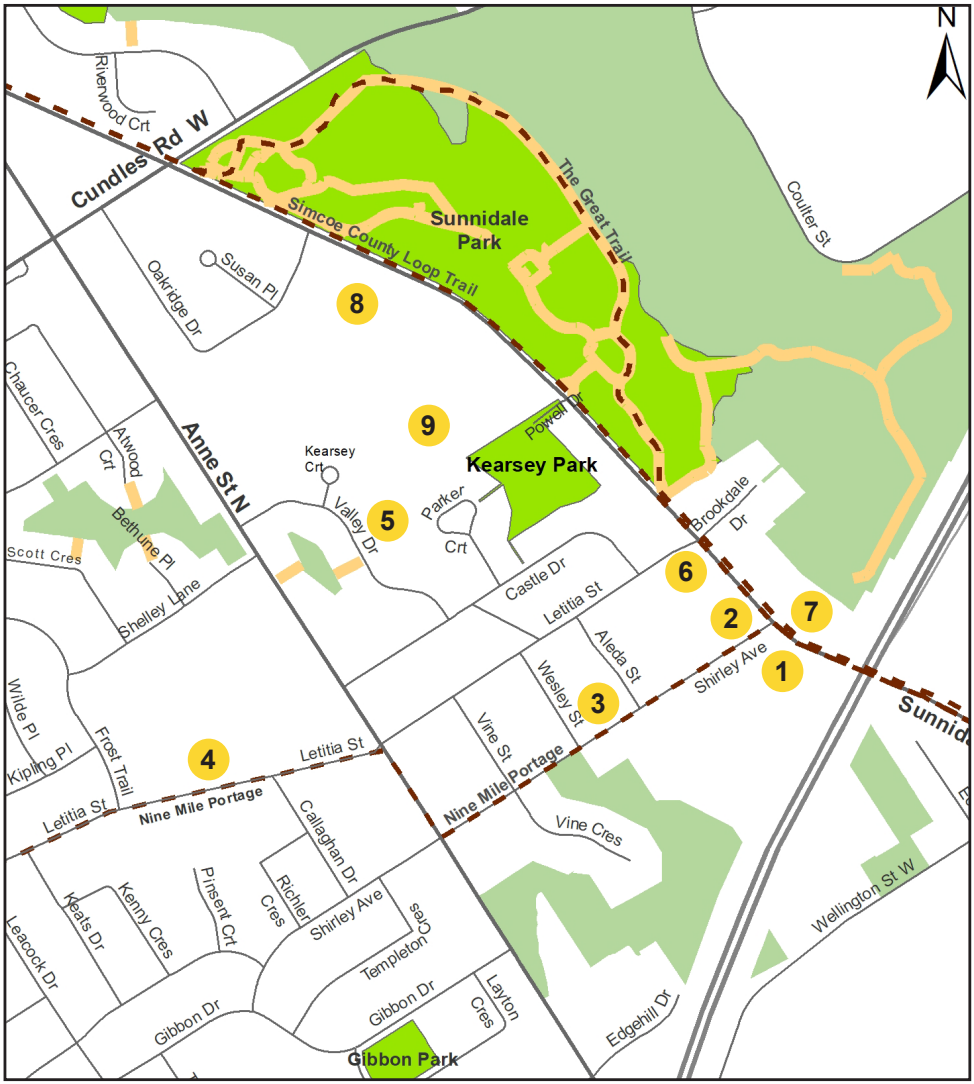


17 Frances Street

Originally part of the Perry Estate, this L-shaped red brick Ontario farmhouse was once the home of Dr. Frank Ernest Maxwell and his wife, Gertrude Kearns. Frank was a veterinarian and an insurance man. While this home may seem unadorned at first glance, a closer look reveals subtle embellishments: stained glass over the front window, a decorative round hall or staircase window, semi-circular brick arches over the windows and graceful veranda, all creating a very pleasing look.

Sunnidale Road Neighbourhood

Sunnidale Road is one of the oldest streets in Barrie and part of the historic Nine Mile Portage. It first opened in 1833 and the southern end of the street actually used the old portage trail. Along Sunnidale Road are areas of gracious homes, beautiful park lands that were once a golf course, and two historic cemeteries. The Sunnidale Road area has four grand heritage homes, whose estates were later divided into lots which helped form the lovely Sunnidale neighbourhood.





96 Sunnidale Road – Woodlawn

The Woodlawn estate was built on acreage purchased from Dr. Llewellyn Oliver in 1873 by Duncan J. Murchison. Oliver came to Barrie with his family in 1853 and was the surgeon at the jail, Barrie's medical officer, and coroner of Simcoe County. Murchison moved to Barrie in 1854 and owned a dry goods store on Mulcaster Street. Exhibiting all the best features of traditional Gothic Revival architecture, the steep roof, lavish verandas, fetching balconies and extravagant woodwork, Woodlawn is a truly grand home.



110 Sunnidale Road – Bellevoir

Bellevoir was once the home of Frederick M. Smith, appointed Deputy Sheriff of Simcoe County in 1874. The Smith home was built in 1883 on two acres, and filled with lawns, gardens and a paddock all surrounded by a border of trees around the property. The Queen Anne inspired brick villa was constructed from plans designed by an American architect and features a square bay window, balconies, stylish woodwork in the gables, and decorative painted brickwork above the windows and in bands encircling the home.



62 Shirley Avenue – The Rev. Robert Boyle House

In 1873, 3.5 acres in the Oliver Block were sold to Rev. Robert Boyle, a minister of the Elizabeth Street (now Dunlop Street West) Methodist Church. His Gothic Revival house was built around 1875. While the stucco finish on the exterior is not original, other period features such as the twin windows, double leaf doors, interior woodwork, fireplace and hardware remain.



126 Letitia – 3 Oaks

Alexander McKenzie, Lieut-Colonel of the 35th Battalion of the Simcoe Foresters, built this home around 1876. It is a magnificent late Victorian building. This classic L-shaped Ontario Farmhouse features superb woodwork in the steeply pitched gable and distinctive veranda, a handsome double leaf front door and windows, and bay. Inside, many of the original characteristics of the house have been restored and preserved. A barn, which presumably housed the cow and horse that were noted in an 1876 assessment, still stands on the property.



25 Valley Drive – The Oaks

This grand home is more commonly referred to as Lount's Castle, built for Judge William Lount around 1877 by George Ball. The overall design is considered Second Empire and is impressive with its mansard roof, striking tower over the 2-storey bay windows, and elegant hooded windows. In its original form, the front entrance had beautifully carved oak doors set with delicate cut glass lights. Inside, the handsome staircase to the upper floors passes the only stained glass window in the house and led to a third floor ballroom.



11 Letitia Street – First Place

George Plaxton settled in Barrie in 1849 and operated a tinsmith and plumbing business from 1859 until 1872. He was also chief engineer of the fire brigade and his crew experienced some of the greatest challenges faced by the department when fire swept through Dunlop Street in 1871 and 1874. In 1874, Plaxton built this Gothic Revival home 'First Place'. The lovely brick home still has its fanciful 2-storey front porch, decorative bargeboard and attractive brickwork.





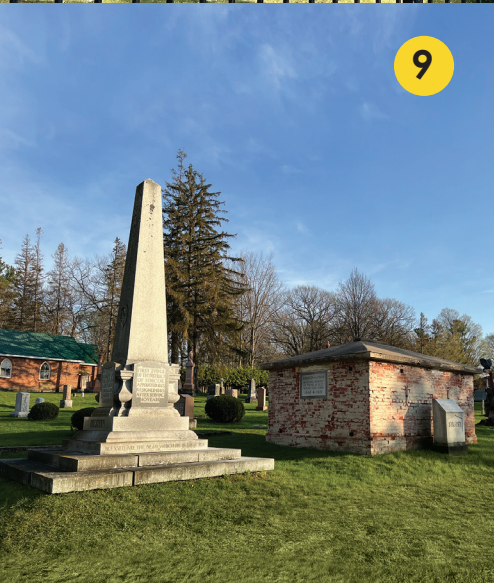
105 Sunnidale Road

This farmhouse was built in the mid 1870s for early Barrie settler and first Town constable, James Carson. Always a working farm, it was Sunnidale Orchards from 1925 until the early 1950s. While the original red brick exterior is now covered, inside, the original flooring, woodwork, doors and hardware remain. A few of the ancient apple trees have even survived.



208 Sunnidale Road – St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

In the 1860s the Roman Catholics acquired 50 acres near Sunnidale Road for a new cemetery, consecrated in 1867, as part of their existing burial site was needed for their new church on Mulcaster St. These peaceful grounds across from Sunnidale Park contain the graves of some of Barrie's earliest settlers and prominent citizens.



338 Sunnidale Road – Barrie Union Cemetery

Church graveyards and small burial grounds within the Town limits were not uncommon in the 1850s. The Barrie Union Cemetery, a private company, opened in 1879. An 1880 bylaw allowed no further burials in town, and as the old cemeteries closed, families were urged to have loved ones reinterred in one of the two Sunnidale Road cemeteries, though many remains were never moved. Several historic and notable Barrie residents have been laid to rest in this cemetery.

Queen's Park Heritage Neighbourhood

One of Barrie's original parks, Queen's Park is the central feature in this neighbourhood. The park was established in 1867 when Archibald 'Arch' Thomson (lumberman, landowner, councilman and one of Barrie's first families) donated 6 acres to the Town of Barrie for municipal use and as a location for a military drill shed. It is bordered by elegant tree-line streets and several grand homes overlook or are nearby the park. The Barrie General Hospital (later the original Royal Victoria Hospital) were at one time important buildings in this neighbourhood. The original military structure burned in 1886 and was rebuilt on Mulcaster Street. The present day armouries was built in 1914.





92 Parkside Drive ★

Once owned by Andrew Carson and his wife Sarah Amelia Cross, this red brick building has extensive use of contrasting buff brick accents at the corners of the house, over windows, in bands encircling the first and second floors. As well, there is decorative design within the small gable and in a pleasing arch over the charming 3-section window on the third floor. The bay window has a cornice topped with wrought iron cresting.



68-70 Parkside Drive

This 1875 duplex is a vernacular style featuring end gables with three window openings on the upper level instead of the usual two. On the front façade are two gables not centered over a lower opening, but at the third points in the length of the structure. This technique gives a visual unity to the double house. Number 68 was the home of Andrew F. Hunter, editor of the Barrie Examiner newspaper, noted historian, and author of *A History of Simcoe County.*



32 Parkside Drive

This is an example of the L-shape Gothic Revival dwelling popular in Ontario from the mid-nineteenth century. Built around 1890 by mason Charles Lightfoot, it features a bow window, steep gables, segmental window openings, and the desirable element of working shutters. The original veranda has been removed and a classical doorcase added to the home.



26 Parkside Drive

William Cleaver 'W.C.' Boadway married Mary Taylor in 1899. In 1921, W.C. opened the Barrie Fuel & Supply Co. on the site of the former brewery on Victoria Street. It wasn't until 1933 that the Boadway family moved into town and began living here. Their home is another example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse plan, this one featuring a sunburst gable ornament.



48 High Street

This large home was built in the early 1900s for John Dyment, grandnephew of Nathaniel Dyment, who built Maplehurst. John Dyment was a horse trainer for the family's Brookdale Stables. Horses from Brookdale Stables won the 1903 and 1904 King's Plate, the 1904 Toronto Cup and the King's Plate again in 1912 and 1921, before the Dyment farm was sold to William Wright in 1925. The original wooden house has since been bricked and otherwise modernized.



60 High Street

Shoe factory owner, Ross H. Underhill, built this home in 1929 in a pleasing English Tudor or Romanesque style popular for substantial dwellings. The rustic stone base has a classic Tudor-arch doorway. The upper floor contains imitation half timbering and the windows are a casement design with multiple panes. Tiny Romanesque windows flank the chimney. This style is sometimes referred to as Stockbrokers' Tudor as it was the choice of many financial brokers interested in expressing their success.



62-64 High Street – Glenholme

Lawyer George Willet Lount had his dwelling, Glenholme, built in 1872, an unusual form of the Gothic Revival style. George was brother to lawyer and high court justice William Lount, who built the Second Empire style dwelling known as Lount's Castle (The Oaks - see page 22). This romantic house has several steeply pitched gables, tall windowed turrets, and pointed arch windows. When owned by Judge Marjorie Hamilton, Barrie mayor from 1951 to 1952, it was divided into a duplex and the brick was covered in stone veneer.



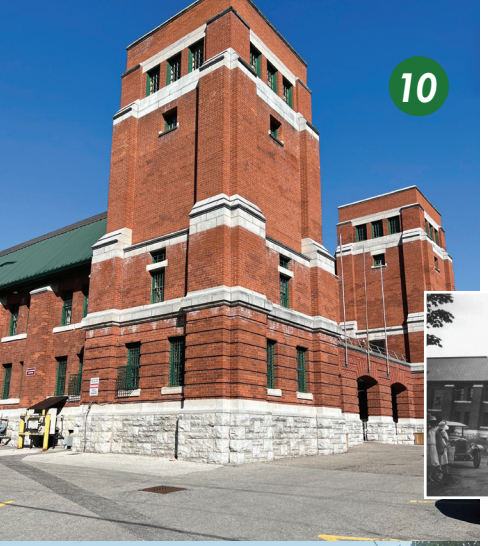
72 High Street – Maplehurst

Maplehurst was built in 1883 by Nathanial Dyment for his son Simon and daughter-in-law Annie. Although Simon's endeavour into manufacturing the Barrie Bell automobile ended in his financial ruin, the family owned this residence until 1967. This fashionable dwelling has impressive bracketing at the eaves, a semi-circular ornament capping the stacked bow window, a sunburst gable decoration, attractive bargeboard and a sweeping veranda with second story. Originally red brick with contrasting buff accents, the exterior of the home is now painted.



74 High Street

This house and its neighbour at 72 High Street were associated with Simon Dyment, son of the lumber magnate and industrialist Nathaniel Dyment. Simon had this house built in 1907 as a wedding gift for his son, Harold, and Harold's bride, Agnes Campbell. This stylish dwelling with its impression of Tudor sports a second level shingled bow window or oriel on its north facade, a five-sided bay facing High Street, a large veranda, and parapeted gables. It has been reclad using matching brick and extended to the west.





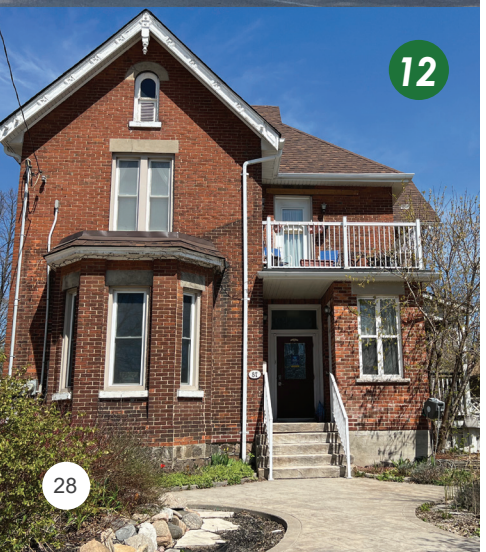
37 Parkside Drive – Armoury ★

The baronial armoury in Queen's Park was built at the beginning of the First World War to replace the undersized armoury that stands at 36 Mulcaster Street. Construction on this large, red brick structure began in 1911 and lasted through 1913. It features a fortress motif with a three arch entrance, projecting towers and a large drill hall. It is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations as well as its architectural and environmental value.



80 Toronto Street

This remarkable house is believed to have been built in 1876 by John Palmer for William F. A. Boys, a barrister, judge, and mayor of Barrie. Designed by Boys, it reveals several stylistic influences that might best be described as Italianate. It is a frame structure, clad in plaster, and fronted by a relatively plain veranda. The zigzag frieze encircling the eaves contrasts with the soft round of the window mouldings.



87 Toronto Street

This stately home was designed by renowned architect Eustace Bird for Michael Shanacy, proprietor of the Simcoe House hotel. After operating the Simcoe Hotel, Shanacy became deputy collector of inland revenue as well as gas inspector - positions he held until he retired in the early 1920s. The house has seen some renovations but retains original bargeboard and a dropped finial on the eaves, lintels, and subtle protruding and tapering brick sections between the bay windows.



91 Toronto Street

Who else but a skilled carpenter would build such a fine Gothic Revival style house for himself? In 1873, John Laidlaw built this home for his wife Elizabeth and their young children. Its high centre gable with vine-like bargeboard trim frames a pointed arch window typical of the style. These elements, along with the segmental window openings with contrasting brick voussoirs above, and the doorcase with sidelights and a transom, are also traits of this style. An added feature is the bay window.



105 Toronto Street

The Second Empire style of architecture has no better example in Barrie than this graceful Toronto Street home. Credit for this fine house goes to architect George Brown and builder George Ball. The trademark mansard roof, pierced by elaborate bent-corniced window openings, is missing its patterned slate shingles and cast iron cresting. The dwelling has lost its landscaped gardens, complete with a fountain, but continues to enjoy a view of Queen's Park from the generous front veranda. The original coach house still remains on the property (inset).



147 Toronto Street – Maple Hill

Maple Hill was built in 1868-69 for Charles Hammond Ross and his wife Mary Gowan George. Of sturdy Georgian style, the home was originally graced with a three-sided veranda. The brown-red with contrasting buff brick, square window openings with shutters, classical doorcase entrance, and eaves brackets are typical of the period. The square plan with its low-pitched hip roof and iron cresting is believed to be the result of early renovations that changed the house from an L-plan. The bay windows are additions.



214 Toronto Street

The property has been associated with Walter Urry the well-known founder of the Simcoe Bicycle Works. In 1891 Urry began manufacturing his own Simcoe brand bicycle. The late Victorian home has a square bay with a beautiful curved stained glass transom and dentil moulding over the front window. In the gable, vines conceal the fish scale shingles and detailed bargeboard on the eaves. The muted green shutters complement the traditional red brick.



38 Wellington Street West

For more than 20 years, this was the home of Postmaster Thompson Crew who was appointed the role in 1917. The centre windows in the stacked bay of this home are accented with stained glass and decorative curved brickwork with a unique masonry effect at the corners. The remaining windows are topped with lintels. The large veranda with its wide cornice supported by ionic-style columns completes this gracious home.



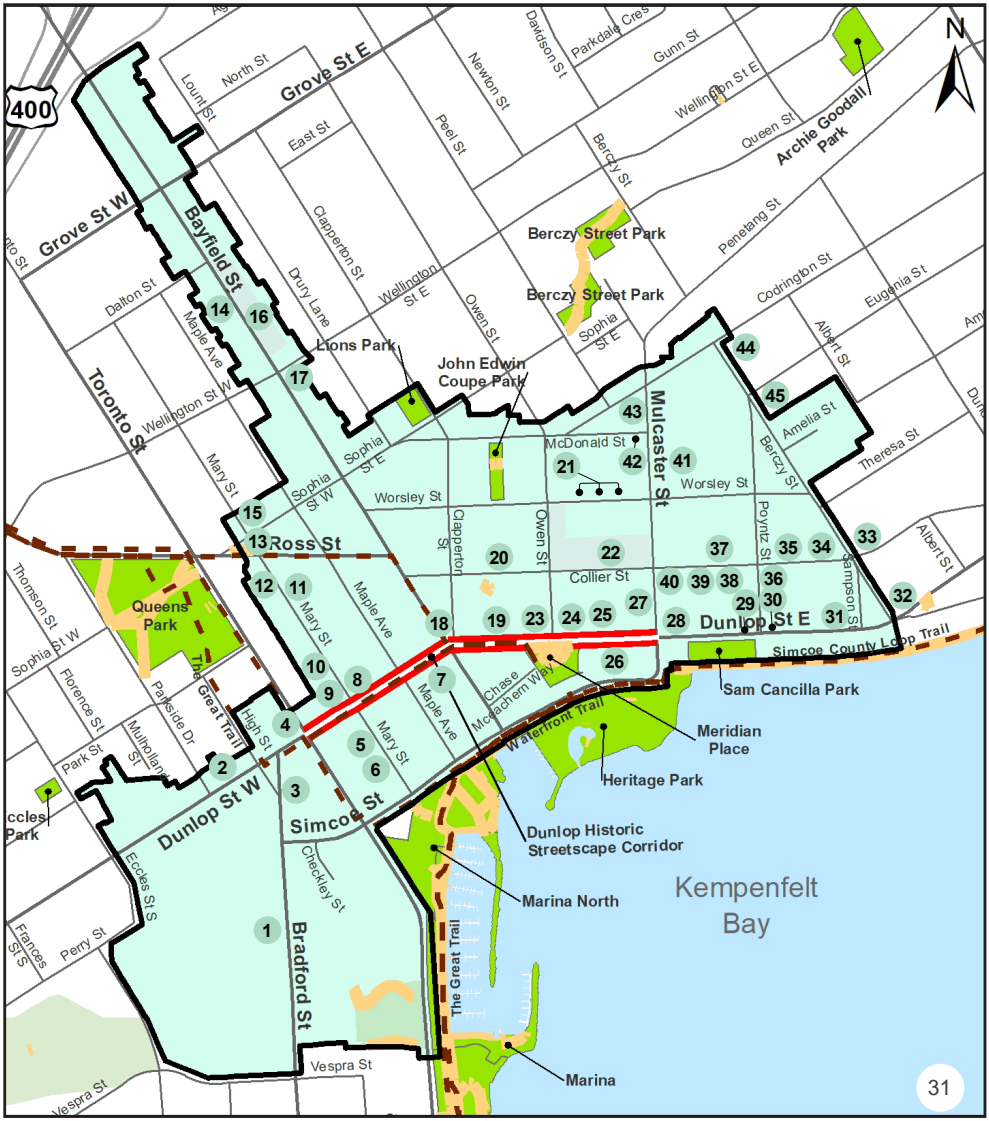
18 Wellington Street West
144 Maple Avenue (inset) ★

18 Wellington Street West was once the home of Walter Sarjeant. The Sarjeant name has a very long history in the town of Barrie, one that is still present today. This vernacular style home exhibits many attractive features, particularly the generous and inviting veranda. Around the corner at 144 Maple Avenue is another style of home that was popular in the early 1900s. Although the home has seen some modernization, it still retains the large veranda characteristic of the period.



Downtown Heritage Neighbourhood

Being part of the original settlement, Downtown Barrie contains a rich variety of original historic homes and buildings. A large number of multi-use buildings and multi-residential dwellings are located in heritage buildings, many of which were historic residential dwellings. Divided by Bayfield Street into east and west, the Downtown neighbourhood contains the original settlement area of the former town of Barrie. This legacy has generated an inventory of buildings and sites that serve as reminders of the community's past.





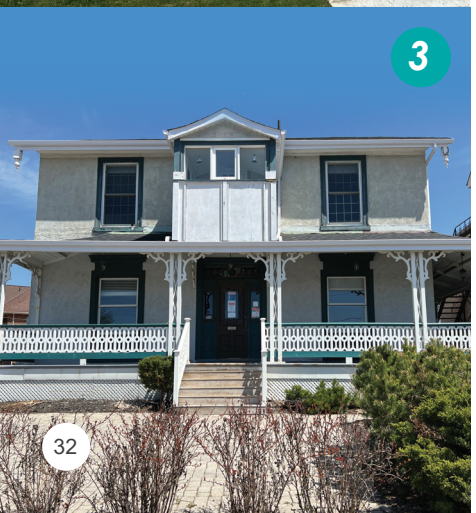
50 Bradford Street – The West Ward School

Prince of Wales School (known as the West Ward School until 1920) was built by the Loan and Strong Company, as a six-room schoolhouse, for the sum of $6,000 in 1876. Mandatory and free schooling for children under 12 had been introduced in Upper Canada five years earlier and became immediately popular. Prince of Wales School received additions in 1919 and 1949 as enrollment grew. All but the oldest part of the school, the part facing Bradford Street, was demolished in 2018.



124 Dunlop Street West

In 1864, William Manly Nicholson established the Barrie Examiner newspaper. After his death in 1871, his son Byron took it over and became Editor. In 1872, Byron had this handsomely detailed Classic Revival style dwelling built. Originally, the exterior was light-colored plaster with a dark colour highlighting the heavy cornice supported by large brackets, neatly integrated with the window frames and decorated gables. Renovations covered the exterior plaster with siding and what may have been the original open veranda is enclosed.



9 Bradford Street – Roselawn

Roselawn was built around 1865 by Major Joseph Rogers and his wife Ann Whitebread. Rogers joined the militia at 19 and was a lieutenant with the Queen's Own Rifles until he transitioned to the 35th Battalion Simcoe Foresters. Roselawn features proportioned symmetry, a veranda with a bell-cast roof on the second-floor balcony and decorative railing, classical door case, and drop finials, much of which is a sensitive reproduction of the original. Major Rogers was a horticulturist, specializing in roses (hence the property name).



94 Dunlop Street West

Known as the Royal Hotel, the local newspaper described this business as “excellent and well established” when bought by James Johnson in 1870. This unassuming building shows traces of its former self through the hip roof, outline of the original window openings, and closed-in veranda. In its heyday, the hotel laid claim to a well-stocked bar and excellent stables, rented pleasure boats and fishing tackle, and offered vehicles for summer guests and tourists to travel to nearby steamboat wharves.



30 Mary Street – Dutton House

This example of a vernacular style popular in the Victorian period was built in 1874 for Robert Simpson. Simpson’s earlier Georgian style house was a few doors south, nearer to his brewery business. The L-shaped plan stacked bay window, segmental window openings, eave brackets, gable treatment, and complex roof are typical of the style. Robert Simpson was the first mayor of Barrie. Merchant Robert Austin ‘R.A.’ Dutton purchased this elegant residence in 1890.



16-18 Mary Street – Pearson House

This symmetrical Georgian with Regency influence style house is one of the oldest in Barrie. It was built in the early 1840s as a residence for John Pearson, an English-trained builder who constructed several buildings during Barrie’s early history. Sections to the rear and north of the original building were added around 1900 and other changes have taken place since. The house features nine fireplaces, a rare basement bake oven, classical door case, low-pitched roof, eave brackets, multi-paned sash windows, and attractive double stack chimneys. A glance into the front hall reveals paneled doors, molded trim, and a curved staircase.



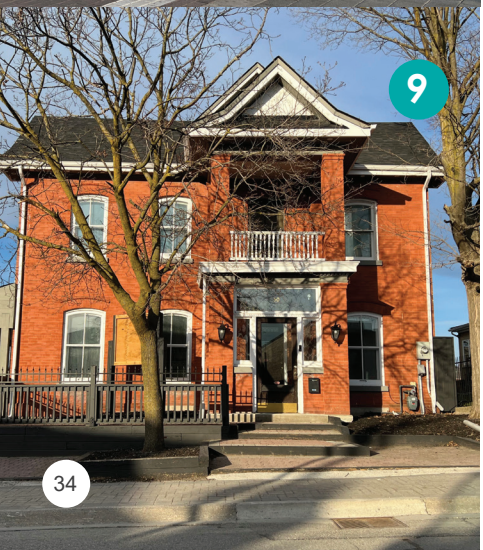
19 Dunlop Street West

Once the Bell Telephone office, this building was constructed in 1917. Edwardian styled, the original building represented the westerly end of the current structure. The upper floor centre windows had simple lintels with keystones over the flanking windows. The windows on the east side of the offices were covered with awnings. When the building was extended on the east side, the front entrance, complete with its classical, scrolling embellishment, was moved from the west end to the east end of the office.



42 Maple Avenue and 46 Dunlop Street

Known as the Saso Block, for Barrie Fruit Market owner John Saso, this building was said to have been built in 1899. In 1930, Saso retained Collingwood architect John Wilson to design “a wonder screen palace” and the following spring construction began on the Art Deco theatre with Moorish accents. In 1931, Saso’s dream, the Roxy Theatre, opened. The fruitier reportedly kept his shop open until midnight to sell fruit to the after-movie crowd.



50 Mary Street

Located a short walk from the former site of Royal Victoria Hospital, this house was the ideal place for a doctor and their family to reside. Born in 1860, Dr. Henry Wallwin’s practice spanned 35 years. The physician passed away in 1926 and was succeeded by Dr. Norman W. Rogers who took over both the practice and the residence. The home was built in the 1870s by Charles Clark. Originally a white roughcast structure, the home was later bricked.



54 Mary Street

For a number of years, this home was the parsonage for Central Methodist Church which was located on the corner of Toronto Street and Dunlop Street West until 1957 when it was demolished. Methodist pastors were regularly moved from parish to parish and several called this stately residence home. This lovely house still boasts original woodwork throughout the interior, two-storey bay windows, decorative bargeboard and brackets surrounding the shingled gable. The low iron fencing, a more recent addition, complements this beautiful building.



77 Mary Street

In 1896, Alfred J. Carson, a grocer specializing in teas, had this Tudoresque house built under the supervision of local architect Eustace Bird. Originally, this Queen Anne influenced design had leaded art glass windows, a sculptured chimney, and a Romanesque-arched entry. The open side porch has been bricked closed and the typical imitation half-timbered second floor detailing on the home and coach house have recently been clad in stucco. In 1911, this was the home of retired druggist Charles Ambrose Sheppard, and his wife Emma Lount.



82 Mary Street

Francis Charles Coleman moved to this house around 1900 from his birthplace, Cookstown, Ontario, after retiring from farming at the unusually young age of 40. During his time on Mary Street, he was employed variously as a labourer, driver, machinery salesman, and a shipper at the nearby Ontario Bakeries plant. This modest Georgian style building with an uncharacteristic but charming leaf-bracketed veranda, side gable roof, 6-over-6 sash windows, enclosed entrance, and its pretty yellow siding distinguishes this house from its neighbours.



32 – 34 Ross Street

This stunning duplex was likely built between 1891 and 1897 and has a pleasant mix of Queen Anne and Edwardian features. The striking semi-circular veranda and gallery make this home quite grand. Thomas Beecroft was possibly the builder and lived in the eastern half. In both 1910 and 1911, Beecroft was the Mayor of Barrie. Peter Bremner Jr. started out as a cooper with the London & Petrolia Barrel Co. and lived in the west half. By 1921, Peter managed a fancy goods store, Parson's Fair, located at 44 Dunlop Street East.



178 Bayfield Street ★

In September 1889, Toronto architects Edwards and Webster published a design for a Queen Anne dwelling in Canadian Architects and Builders. In 1895, the firm erected a similar house at 178 Bayfield Street for John H. Bennett. This refined and stylish building features design elements not commonly seen in Barrie. Bennett was President of the Ontario Horticultural Association, was inspired by gardening and had a greenhouse attached to the garage behind his home. This was Bennett's home until 1941.



30 Sophia Street

The Barrie Planing Mill is a turn of the century factory built by Thomas Rogers, a builder and contractor. His 8,000 square foot manufacturing plant, with its massive support beams, two-storey hot air blast kiln and 'Rock Surface' galvanized iron siding was an impressive building. The Rogers mill, equipped with the most modern equipment of its time, manufactured supplies for the building trade.



169 Bayfield Street

Hampden Batson Joyner considered Barrie to be such a beautiful town that he made it his home in 1900, settling in this lovely home. The stone-panelled gables have Tudor looking insets and underneath each gable are curved cornices topped with dentil moulding. The bargeboard design is replicated in the gables and dormer. Over the three-panel window on the second floor is a surprising diagonal patterned frame. A sunburst design appears in the elaborate front porch woodwork and again on the side veranda, now enclosed.



149 Bayfield Street ★

W.A. “Pro” Boys sold this property to barrister John McCosh in 1908, who had this house built the same year. In 1916, he sold the property to athlete William J. Moore, sculler, football player, and member of the Dominion lacrosse team in 1892. The house is in the style of Edwardian Classicism, which had French doors opening onto a generous, classically columned veranda looking down to the bay and sporting pediment-like gables. Inside was a panelled stair hall of oak with lavish wood trim and art glass.



31 Bayfield Street

The Simcoe Hotel, through a string of name changes and almost 17 decades, has been the iconic centre of old downtown Barrie. The flatiron structure that we see today was built for Michael Shanacy to replace an earlier hotel destroyed by fire in 1876. Local builder George Brown is credited with the Second Empire style design and George Ball is believed to have been the builder. For much of its existence, the Simcoe Hotel was a symbol of the town’s rough and rowdy frontier days.













North Side of Dunlop Street East (Clapperton to Owen Streets)

This block on the north side of Dunlop Street East from Five Points to the northwest corner of Owen Street has no particular name, although part of it was known as the Ontario Block. The foundations predate the 1875 buildings by several decades. A fire that year destroyed the entire original wood and roughcast business block. The nineteenth century businesses in this block seem to have had especially creative names including the Porcupine Saloon, Golden Beaver, Wildcat Store and the Unicorn.

24 Collier Street ★

The first Episcopal or Anglican church in Barrie was erected in 1835 near Poyntz and Worsley Streets. When that frame building proved too small (and cold) for the growing congregation, a new church was built in 1864. Trinity Anglican church has occupied its hilltop site since that date. Its Gothic Revival style possesses a traditional tower-nave-chancel plan. In 1934, lightning ignited a fire that destroyed the spire and caused extensive damage to the interior. The tower was never replaced, but instead was topped by a castellated parapet.

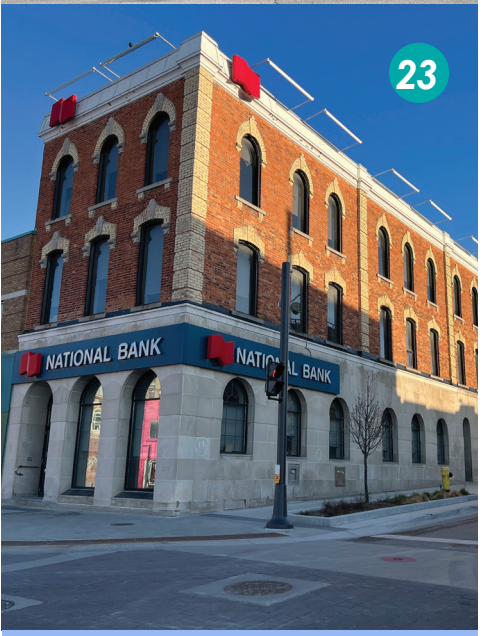
Worsley Street

Many of the homes on Worsley Street were built in the late 19th and early 20th century. Located near the court house and downtown, these residences on the north side of the street remain a part of the city's historic core.
Top left: 80 Worsley Street;
Top Right: 84 Worsley Street;
Bottom: 88 and 90 Worsley Street.



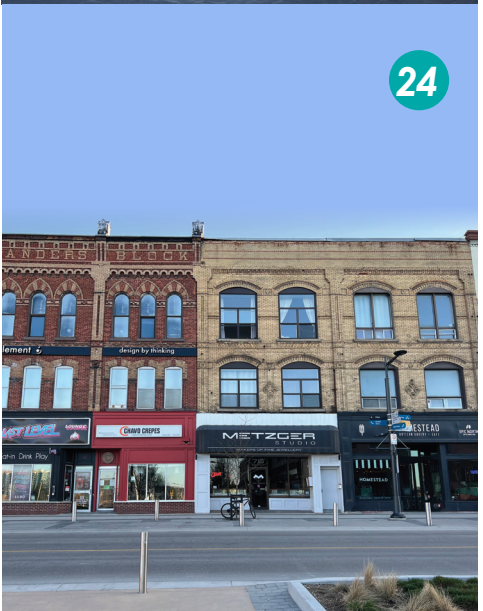
58 Collier Street

In 1845, John Weir bought a lot on the north side of Collier and had this elegant townhouse built as his residence. In the Georgian style, the house has an unusual four-bay front façade. An 1870s photograph reveals decorative brackets along the eaves, three roof dormers, and a two-storey veranda with handrails, columns, and bargeboard. There is evidence in the attic of fire damage to the roof structure. This dwelling dates from Barrie's early history and, although altered, is still characteristic of the period.



64 Dunlop Street East

Barrie's first merchant, Sidney M. Sanford, built a store at the northwest corner of Dunlop and Owen Streets in 1833. An 1875 fire levelled the entire block between Owen, Dunlop, Clapperton and Collier Streets. It was then that Johnathan Henderson built his brick hardware store on the former site of Sanford's store. The attractive orange-red brick was a local product that contrasts nicely with accents of buff brick. It once featured a wood veranda over the sidewalk.



74 Dunlop Street East – Sanders Block and Bothwell Block

Sanders Block and Bothwell Block were designed by architect Thomas Kennedy after a devastating 1880 fire destroyed almost everything on this block. Kennedy designed the Sanders Block for jeweller Leander Sanders and the Bothwell Block for J.M. Bothwell, grocer and seed dealer. The Sanders Block shows an imaginative treatment of the windows and playful manipulation of proportion and decoration, making this one of Barrie's finest facades. The metal clad finials at the roof are still intact. The Bothwell Block once had painted brick accents and an elaborate, heavily-bracketed and ornate cornice at the top of the building.



25

94 Dunlop Street East – Queens Hotel

The Queens is Barrie's oldest hotel. Called the Barrie Hotel until 1924, this Georgian style building was opened by Edward Marks in 1850. In a village filled with frame and log structures, Marks made a bold decision to use buff coloured brick for his hotel. A passage on the west, bridged by an addition in 1866, led to the rear stable yard. A slight setback from the street still draws attention to the location. The Queens is an important part of Barrie's heritage.



26

South Side of Dunlop Street East – Boys Block

The area known as the Boys Block burned in 1873. Henry R. Boys then sold the land to several owners who agreed in 1876 to build one block of nine stores. The first three from Mulcaster had one owner, Samuel Wright, who instructed mason Robert Orr to create matching street facades for each of his three units. The various owners of the other stores hired mason William Macey to design a grouping of six facades, each with minor variations. Numbers 123 and 125 have unique terracotta keystones in the form of scowling human heads looking out from between the window openings. The Block was supported by Corinthian style iron columns that were cast locally at the Sewrey Foundry.



27

36 Mulcaster Street

The unusually shaped building was erected in 1888-89 as a military drill hall, company armoury, orderly room, quartermaster's stores, and band room. It was the headquarters of the 35th Battalion Simcoe Foresters until 1914 when it became auxiliary to the new Queen's Park armoury. In 1948, it was transformed into a farmer's market location. Later revitalized by a committee of Barrie City Council, it is now the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum.



130 Dunlop Street East

Originally built as a dry goods store in 1871 for merchant Thomas McConkey, this building was a hotel for most of its existence. The first proprietor of the hotel was Joshua Clarkson. The former Clarkson House Hotel is a plain frame and roughcast structure in a Georgian style, one of the few of this construction remaining in downtown Barrie. A two-storey veranda added in 1872 would have been both decorative and useful for watching regattas on the bay.



158 Dunlop Street East

Barrie's first medical doctor, Dr. Alexander Pass, had a frame house built on this site. In 1865, Dr. Edward D. Morton bought the property, had the Pass house demolished and built this bright buff brick residence. In 1934, Dr. Ernest Turnbull established his medical practice here with his son, Dr. A. Ross Turnbull, who eventually took over. The Turnbull family owned the house and the adjacent vacant lot until 1994. This stately and elegant residence blends Gothic Revival with Italianate style elements and features a traditional side veranda.



162 Dunlop Street East

This unusual Tudoresque-Queen Anne style house was built in 1898 for Dr. Richard Raikes. Raikes served in the Great War and as medical officer and Lieutenant Colonel with the Simcoe Foresters. The architectural design, which includes a third-floor lookout toward the bay, is attributed to the renowned Barrie architect Eustace Bird. Bird's training in London with a leading Edwardian architect and designer left him an adherent of the Edwardian and Tudor Revival styles.



190 Dunlop Street East

Albert John Sarjeant was born in Sutton, England in 1864. He lived in this home with his first wife, Lizzie King, who died in 1928, and his second wife, Ruby Cowie, who died in 1935. In 1892, Sarjeant formed a dry goods partnership called Hunter, Sarjeant and Co., which became Sarjeant & Smith in 1900, and Sarjeant & King Ltd. in 1909. While this home has seen many renovations, the tower still has its distinctive bell-cast roof and finial.



1 Berczy Street

Built around 1885 for the post office's Chief Clerk, John Forsythe, this large dwelling may have been two houses with the rear section (Berczy Street) being the oldest, possibly dating to the mid-1850s. The house is in the Gothic Revival style with arched windows, red with contrasting buff brickwork, and a complex roof with multiple chimney stacks, now removed. The irregular plan gives the impression that it is oriented to both street facades.



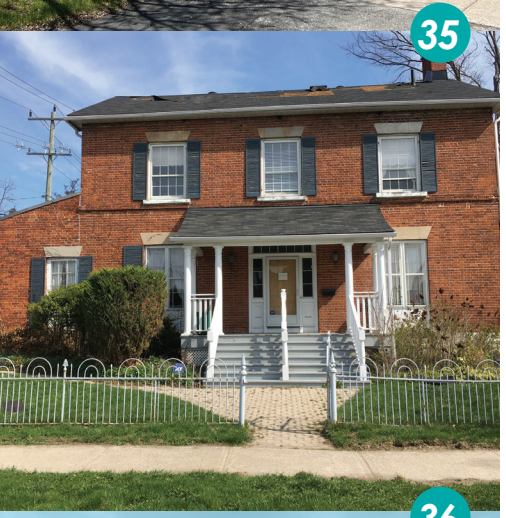
149 Collier Street

Built in 1865 for blacksmith William Caldwell and his wife Jane, this home is in the neoclassical style, rare for Barrie, with a dentil cornice at the eaves, a graceful door case with a fanlight transom, and paired and arched window openings over the entrance and in the gables. The gable roof has raised parapet ends, which, in a more tightly packed urban setting, offered some fire protection from abutting structures. The section at the rear of the house has a cistern in the cellar, suggesting it was built and lived in, as the main house was being constructed.



134 Collier Street

On or near this site, Thomas Ambler had a wagon shop. In 1846, he sold it to William Povey who went on to partner with the Whitebread brothers, George and Richard, who were wheelwrights from Kent, England. By 1871, the sole proprietor of a carriage and wagon maker shop was William Whitebread, son of George Whitebread. The building has a Georgian appearance to it and has changes to the façade.



118 Collier Street

This traditional Georgian style house was built for Edmund and Anne Lally around 1847. Edmund was an agent for the Bank of Upper Canada and an early treasurer for Simcoe County. The characteristic Georgian elements of a rectangular form with a balanced façade, medium pitched roof, central door-case with sidelights and a transom window, and generously sized multi-paned window sashes represent the best of this early Ontario style. The ground floor has casement or French doors designed to lead into a now vanished veranda.



13 Poyntz Street

Emma King was three years old when her parents Robert and Sarah King came to Canada from England. Starting as a substitute teacher at the Victoria School when she was 17, Emma ended up teaching hundreds of students during her 23-year tenure, before transferring to the West Ward School. Emma King was the first woman to become a member of the Barrie Public Library Board as the town's representative. Her home is in a popular style of that period and likely had a veranda and second-storey balcony.



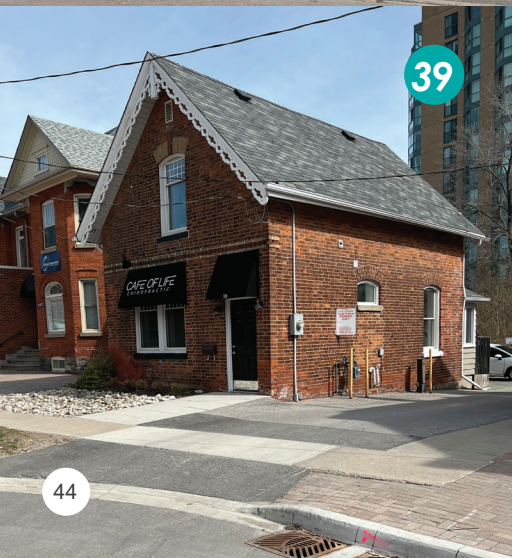
112 Collier Street

The spire of Collier Street United Church, embellished with tiny dormers and fleur de lis, is the lone survivor among the four church spires that once delineated Barrie's skyline. It tops a firmly buttressed tower centered in the plain but impressive Gothic Revival façade. This 1864 church, which replaced an 1841 frame building to the east, was later enlarged with shallow transepts. This changed the linear plan of the building and introduced the present collection of windows including two fine rose windows.



113 Collier Street

This striking dwelling on the south side of Collier, west of Poyntz, is believed to have been partially destroyed by fire around 1890 while owned by barrister and Barrie mayor, Francis Pepler. The reconstruction above the second floor introduced an expressive example of Gothic Revival style with sharp gables and an unusual three-storey bay window. The patterned stonework and pairs of pointed arch windows are particularly engaging.

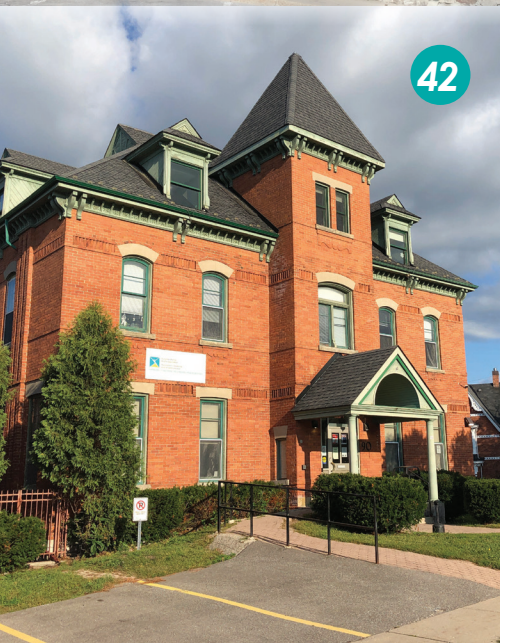


101 Collier Street

This charming gable-end cottage with lace-like bargeboard trim is thought to be the coachman's house at the rear of Judge John Ardagh's residence, Blythe Cottage, which fronted on Dunlop. Blythe Cottage was later converted to the Mayor's Motel, then replaced by the Bayshore Landing Motel. It was demolished around 1987 to build the Bayshore Landing condominium complex.







37 Mulcaster Street

This unique Beaux Arts Classicism style building was built as a public library in 1915 using a $15,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Designed by Toronto architect Alfred H. Chapman, the structure features large Romanesque style windows, a patterned frieze under the eaves, and glazed tile. The building was vacated in 1996 when a new library opened at Owen and Worsley. It reopened in 2001 with a modern addition as gallery and office space for the MacLaren Art Centre.

75 Mulcaster Street – Barrie Jail

In 1837, the magistrates of the Home District agreed to set Simcoe District apart from the Home District and made Barrie the new administrative centre. Barrie contractor Charles Thompson oversaw the project and began the slow process of hauling limestone from the quarry at Longford (east side of Lake Couchiching). The jail is Barrie's only remaining institutional building related to its origin as the County of Simcoe administrative centre. It is the focal point for the historic core and Court House Hill. It closed in 2001.

90 Mulcaster Street

Courthouse Hill, as the area was known, had several properties belonging to the Catholic church including Sacred Heart of Mary Church and burial ground, St. Mary's Church, and a school housed in a log building which was later replaced by a frame schoolhouse. The Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Barrie in 1857 to teach at St. Mary's School and in 1885 built a convent at this location in the somewhat Italianate style. In 1946, it became the Roman Catholic Separate High School, St. Joseph's.



77 McDonald Street

This two-storey house has a front entrance with remnants of a Classical design including sidelights and transom, and there are decorative brackets at the eaves. This is the 1860s house of an early Barrie merchant and politician, Andrew Miscampell. In the 1890s, Edward Michael Ludlow and his wife Martha McManus lived in the home.



93 Berczy Street – Belleview

This Victorian home is believed to have been built in 1877 for Jonathan Henderson, a local merchant. The heavy ornate woodwork in the gables and the cornice over the bay window is gone, but the red brick home still has contrasting buff accents over the doors and windows, decorative brick bands, a lozenge design in the gable, and insets under the front bay window.

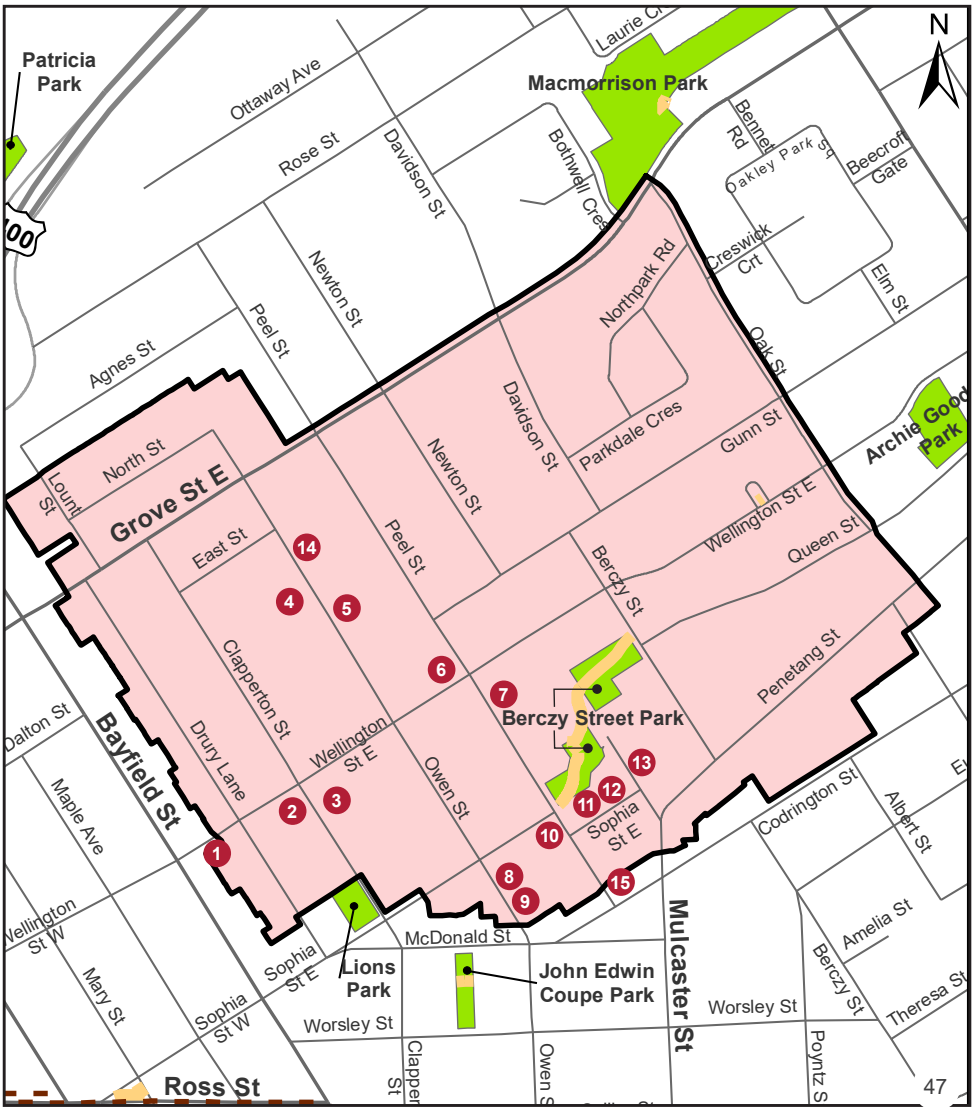


83 Berczy Street

This gracious estate once included the Eugenia Wesleyan Methodist Church burial ground on its property. A lovely Queen Anne influenced home once surrounded with beautiful gardens, it features wide eaves, an eyelid dormer in the roof, fine shingles in the front gable, and deep lintels over the windows. The unique second floor corner bay presents a turret effect, its round attic vent now converted to a window. The enormous wrap around veranda still has its dentil moulding although the pickets on the second-floor balcony have been replaced.

The Grove Heritage Neighbourhood

The Grove is one of the oldest residential neighbourhoods in the city of Barrie, home to many of the community's original streets and early houses. Its mid-to-late 19th and early 20th century homes display some of the most varied architecture in the city, featuring styles such as Gothic Revival, American, Edwardian, and Georgian. Many properties also blend elements from these traditional styles, giving the area a distinctive and historically rich character.





5 Wellington Street East

Built in 1863 to 1864, this large-scale house known as Carnoevar, was built by Toronto builder William Rolston for D'Alton McCarthy, Jr. The McCarthys had used Carnoevar as their summer residence while living in Toronto. Like the other Wellington Street mansions, Carnoevar faces the bay and was the focal point of a larger estate lot. Although none of its verandas, balconies, or decorative trim survived, the house is nonetheless of handsome shape. It retains many of the Tudor-arched window and door openings with cast label surrounds.



102 Clapperton Street

This fine house was once the home of Dalton Roderick Murchison, son of merchant Duncan John Murchison, and brother to barrister Duncan Charles Murchison. Murchison married Jane Ball. He was best known for the dry goods store he ran on Dunlop Street in partnership with Bernard Devlin. The large Queen Anne-influenced home has arched window along the staircase and over the front door, and a most impressive wrap around veranda.



101 Clapperton Street – Ardtrae

This splendid Gothic Revival style house was built for Thomas David McConkey in the mid 1870s as part of what was becoming a row of trendy Wellington Street ridge mansions. The tall windows, steep pitched roofs, scallop, wheel, star bargeboard, and spiky finials give the structure exaggerated verticality. The decorative brickwork of the chimney stacks is a tribute to the skill of nineteenth-century masons. The dwelling has been converted to apartment use.



168 Owen Street – Rockforest II

This large dwelling was built around 1900 for James L. R. Cotter. The Cotter's first home at 54 Peel Street, which has since been demolished, was known as Rockforest. Cotter sold in 1897 to the Plummers, and then built this large house at 168 Owen Street, Rockforest II. Still within the Gothic Revival form, the home features an arched entrance, stained glass, and red brick with contrasting trim. The interior was designed in the more streamlined form of the Craftsman period.



159 Owen Street

This gracious and stately home was built around 1893 for newlyweds William and Claudina (Hickling) Hunter. The Hunters lived in this lovely home their entire married life. Despite renovations, an abundance of original features remain. Extensive and wonderfully elaborate woodwork, particularly on the second floor balcony, leaded glass windows, dentil molding, and exceptionally wide buff and orange brick voussoirs continue to make this a visually stunning home.



84 Wellington Street East

Designed by Eustace Bird and built around 1874, this house was originally home to David Dougall, a cabinet maker and furniture factory owner who had a shop located at 16 Dunlop Street. It became the home of Captain Eustace Bird (the architect's uncle) and his wife until their deaths (1930s) but stayed in the Bird family until the 1970s. The home has many Gothic Revival features from its steep roof, gables with bargeboard and dropped finials, two end chimneys with a sawtooth brickwork pattern, and an oriel window over the lovely front entrance with its sidelights, stained glass, transom and rope design woodwork.



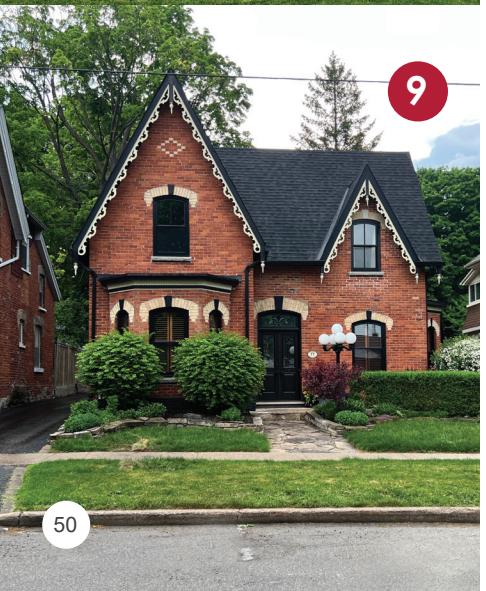
55 Peel Street – Statenborough

The previous owners of 55 Peel Street are as interesting as the house itself: the modestly Georgian eastern half having collided with a somewhat Italianate, slightly Gothic western half. The home was built in the 1860s by County Treasurer, Henry R.A. Boys who was succeeded in 1884 by the Assistant Treasurer, Sidney M. Sanford. Sidney's son Jim Sanford bought Statenborough in 1886 and added a ballroom in 1890. Subsequent occupants include geologist Henry Cecil, and founder of the Globe and Mail, William Wright.



87 Owen Street – Lilac Villa

This was the home of noted Barrie architect Thomas Kennedy. Examples of his designs survive throughout Barrie, Simcoe County, Toronto and New York. Kennedy owned this lot for about a decade before adding a second storey to the existing dwelling in 1882. The home's renovations over the years and a fire in 2017 have altered its appearance. The original stained-glass windows survived and Lilac Villa's personality is still quite recognizable today.



77 Owen Street

James and Susannah Kavanagh, both of Irish decent, farmed in Minesing Station before retiring around 1918 to live in this lovely home in town. This Owen Street Ontario farmhouse was likely built between 1875 and 1880 using the red-orange brick typical of Victorian structures. The verge board and finials, buff brick accents over the windows, lozenge design in the gable, and sawtooth pattern in the bay window cornice all add up to a very pleasing home.



22 Peel Street

This 1870s red brick house in a modified Georgian style is linked to George Arthur Radenhurst and his family. Radenhurst was a barrister when he arrived in Barrie around 1874, and later became a police magistrate and mayor. He was a descendant of Lieutenant Radenhurst who commanded the boats under Lieutenant-Colonel Worsley in the capture of the American warships Scorpion and Tigress during the War of 1812.



17 Peel Street - Sans Souci

This unique dwelling at 17 Peel Street was designed and owned by Lieutenant Shearman Godfrey Bird and his wife, Amy Laura. Bird designed the home in 1872 using a less typical form of the Gothic Revival style. Sans Souci is also known as the China Bird House for its pagodalike roof and finials, as well as the tea house that formerly graced the edge of the stream at the rear. The original colour of the roughcast plaster of the exterior walls was a dark red.



88 Sophia Street East

Early in the twentieth century when Shearman Bird's widow Amy found her home Sans Souci at 17 Peel Street too large for her comfort, her son Eustace designed this Tudoresque Queen Anne style house next door at 88 Sophia Street East. Eustace Bird was responsible for numerous buildings in Barrie, around Ontario and internationally. It was while he was working on a building for Canadian National Railway, that he made the provocative statement that Toronto would one day have a huge skyscraper district.



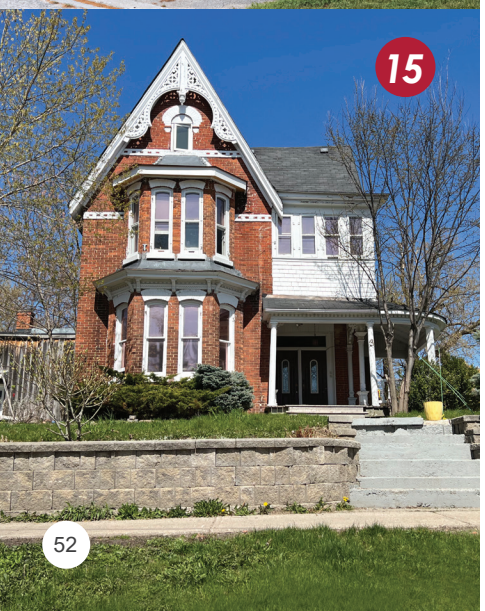
121 Mulcaster Street

William Hunter came to Innisfil Township around 1865 and was a farmer but also served as treasurer and reeve for the community. He died in 1883 and his widow, Mary Ann Sanderson, moved to Barrie residing in this home with her children. The family remained at this address until at least 1911. The late Victorian home has a cheerful bay window with brackets and molding in the panels and around the windows. Above the bay is a single window. In the gable are vertical boards with decorative piercings and cutouts. The balcony over the front entrance has been removed.



183 Owen Street

This beautiful Tuscan-styled villa, built around 1898, was commissioned for Margaret Lount Cotter—daughter of Crown Attorney James Cotter—and her husband, Richard Barwick, son of Col. John Barwick of Holland Landing. Originally finished in a striking red stucco, the gracious home showcased the refined Italianate influences popular at the time and quickly became a distinctive landmark in the area.

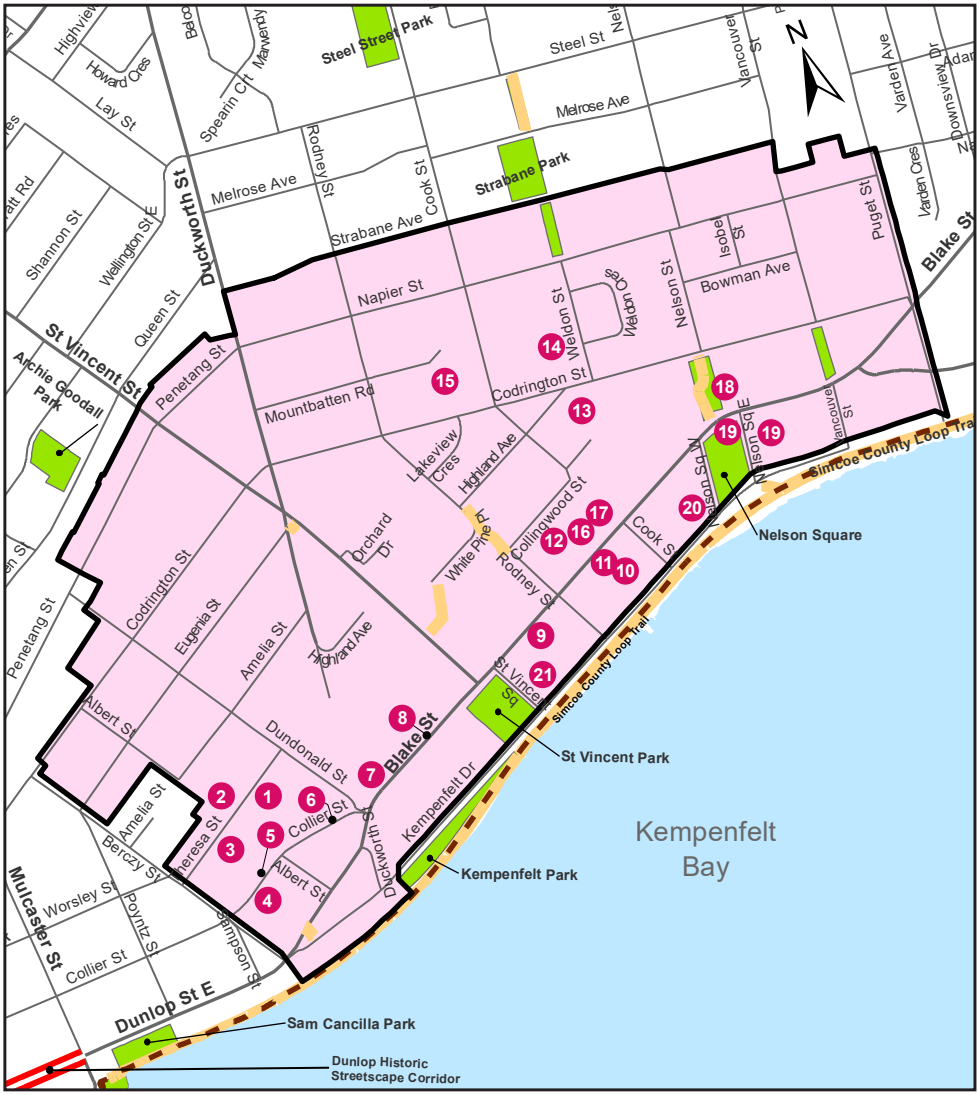


3 Peel Street

This large late Victorian period dwelling was built around 1880 by Samuel McCutcheon. It presents an assortment of Gothic Revival style elements including a steeply pitched roof, several gables adorned with carved bargeboard, bands of contrasting brick, stacked bay windows, and brackets. The curved porch is one of several added to existing dwellings in the 1920s. This one surrounds what may be the original portico at the entrance door.

East End Heritage Neighbourhood

As early as the 1840s, influential Barrie citizens felt there were not enough vacant building lots available to local residents. In an effort to accommodate this anticipated need, the Town of Barrie was extended to the east, creating park and town lots in adjacent Vespra Township. The East End became an area of several grand estates and stylish homes on large lots for the prominent and affluent.









33 Theresa Street –The Hill

William D. Ardagh opened a law practice in 1856 on Dunlop Street. In 1873, he began construction of his large dwelling known as The Hill designed by Barrie architects Gaviller and Thomson. Although Ardagh left Barrie in 1882, the family owned The Hill until 1968. Even without its expansive veranda, and with a modern kitchen addition, this is an extraordinary Gothic Revival style house. Built of earthy-orange brick, it has sophisticated window labels made of cast stone. The variety in gable ornamentation appears like elegant trusses.

30 Theresa Street

Early occupants of this home were Arthur Gowan Ardagh, son of Judge Ardagh, and his wife Violet, the daughter of Lewis W. Ord, formerly of H.M. 71st Highland Light Infantry. The 3-storey home has a gambrel roof, typically seen on Dutch Colonial styled houses. Symmetrical and orderly with its matching bay windows and 3-storey dormers, this home features a gracious 2-storey side veranda.



23 Teresa Street

This home was built around 1863 for Henry and Sara Creswicke. Henry was an engineer and surveyor for the County of Simcoe and a Barrie alderman. In 1950, the house was sold to Ralph and Valerie Snelgrove, the founders of Barrie's CKBB radio and CKVR television stations. Although wing sections and a garage have been added, which partially obscure the original design, the house features many classic Gothic Revival elements such as the steep pitched roof, bargeboard, finials, gables, and shaped window openings.





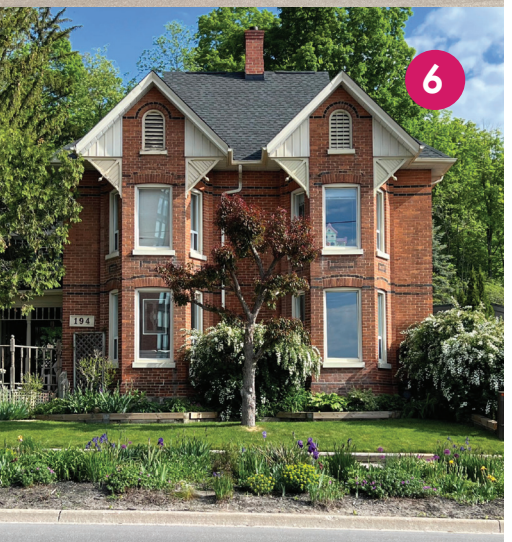
159 Collier Street

This very important looking home was built around 1855 for John McWatt, Barrie's first post master. McWatt arrived in the village of Kempenfelt in 1832, clerked in Sidney Sanford's store before purchasing it and succeeding Sanford as post master in 1841. In 1843 he was appointed County Clerk. The gracious home had shutters on the beautifully shaped windows and a second-storey balcony.



166 Collier Street

An early occupant of this large home was Robert Neill, born in Glasgow in 1827. In 1872, Neill manufactured and sold shoes and boots from his Dunlop Street shop. The Neill family owned the house until about 1895. The house no longer has its original front porch and second-storey balcony. Other features such as the missing cornice over the main-floor bay windows and modifications to the front entrance have changed the appearance, however it remains a handsome building.



194 Collier Street

In 1925, Gordon McLean Stevenson married Kathleen Monica Cotter Barwick and the couple moved into this home. The symmetry of the design makes it appear as a duplex. New siding has been added in the gables, but the brackets on either side of the twin stacked bay windows remain. Narrow bands of painted black brick above the windows encircle the home and appear again over the attic vents and in a square pattern beneath each of the second-floor windows. The veranda on the side porch entrance has delicate spindles and traditional Victorian woodwork.



16 Blake Street – Foxley

At first glance, this dwelling, coined Foxley, appears to be in the Georgian or Neoclassical style that was popular during the first half of the nineteenth century. Built in 1911, Foxley is categorized as a period revival and was likely designed for Emily Foster (Mrs. George Morton) by her brother-in-law Eustace Bird. The lovely large windows with interior shutters, attached gazebo, and portico are architectural achievements given the poured concrete construction of the dwelling.



42 Blake Street

On the north side of Blake Street, Sir James Robert Gowan built this cottage for his coachman. This red and black brick house with the decorative porch and dormers is all that remains of the once prominent Gowan properties.





99 & 103 Blake Street

The attractive residence at 99 Blake Street was built in the 1870s. One early occupant was a gardener, Edward Justice, whose greenhouse operation stood to the west of the house. Although modest in size, this house exhibits an ambitious example of decorative brickwork. A new porch was added in the 1990s.103 Blake Street is a lovely building believed to have been built in 1886 by Mr. H.B. Spotton, Principal of the Grammar School and Barrie Collegiate Institute from 1868 to 1891.







11 Rodney – Glen Ormond

Set back from the street is this Tudoresque Queen Anne style house once known as Glen Ormond. This stately residence was built in 1895 for John Dickinson who had a career as a civil engineer, surveyor and lawyer. For $3,500, Dickinson had George Ball construct the residence according to the design of local architect Eustace Bird. In 1910, T.D. Rees purchased Glen Ormond as a summer home. It was rumoured that during World War II, a gambling den was in operation in the basement.

113 Blake Street

Looking south to Kempenfelt Bay, it is easy to understand why the bay has always been the jewel of Lake Simcoe and Barrie. Properties such as Glen Ormond enjoyed an unrestricted view of the bay and boasted their own private bathing beaches. This house was built for the gardener at Glen Ormond.



47 Rodney Street

In 1849, Frederic Gore, headmaster for the Grammar School, built this Regency Cottage style residence. Gore resided there with his wife and sometimes as many as 25 out-of-town boarding students. In 1863, the building became the home of Benjamin Walker Smith, first Sheriff of Simcoe County.



The barn belongs to the Gore/Smith residence and replaced one which burned in 1915. Not original to its present location, the attractive wood fences adjoining the barn dates to about 1850.







142 Collingwood Street – Beverly Hall

At the top of a hill is the Second Empire style mansion built by dentist Charles Bosanko. Many of the finest homes in Barrie were built on natural ridges of land and faced south to command a sweeping view of Kempenfelt Bay. Dr. Bosanko built his residence, which once featured a centre tower with a mansard roof and iron cresting, in 1879. The Carriage stone on the lawn bears the name Beverly Hall, which is believed to be an early name for the Bosanko residence.



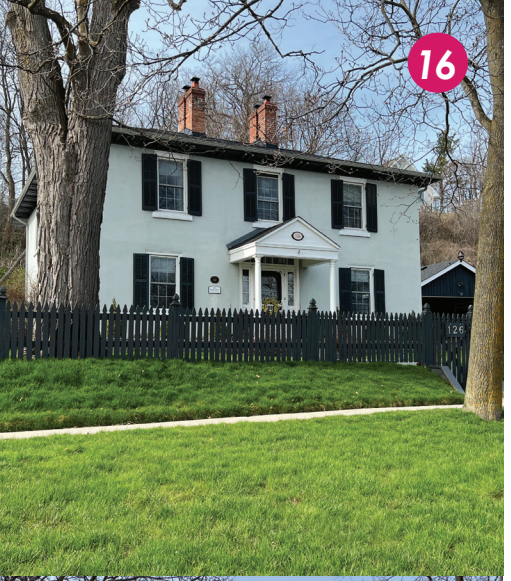
310 Codrington Street

This delightful structure was likely built in 1874 by local printer Alexander Laurie. Georgian styled, this red brick home has buff accents and decorative brickwork connecting the upper windows. Apart from the entrance, all the openings on the first and second floors at the front of the house appear to be double leaf doors. As you approach the decorative veranda, leaded glass sidelights and a transom frame the front door.



268 Codrington Street

Captain William Grubbe built this modest home around 1851. It was likely the first house built in the area known as “The Commons,” and is the only one placed at a considerable distance from the street. Captain Grubbe was born in England in 1812 and entered the service of the East India Company. In 1845, he was promoted to the rank of Captain for his bravery in storming a citadel in India. Two years later, he and his family settled in Barrie.



126 Blake Street

The first headmaster, Frederic Gore, financed an operation of schools through grants and fees. He supplemented his personal income by providing accommodation for boarding students. By 1856, Gore had constructed the outstanding Georgian style building at 126 Blake Street as a boarding house and office. On an upstairs window the words “M. Gaviller” (who inhabited this room in September 1858) are inscribed. “M.G” can still be seen today. Gaviller was a student who later became an architect and surveyor.



134 Blake Street

The first house on this property was built by a banker, William Holt. Holt sold the property in 1874. Sometime later the building was destroyed, likely by fire. Holt was found floating in Kempenfelt Bay in 1882, the apparent victim of an unsolved drowning accident. Two years later, James Pugh acquired the property and immediately built this attractive Gothic Revival style residence.



186 Blake Street

Stephen David Jamieson lived in this home with his wife Christina McRae. He was moulder by trade until 1809 when he moved to Cochrane to work as a carpenter. In the 1840s, Edwin Bonney lived here with his family. Mr. Bonney’s youngest son, John Bonney, married Mary Farquharson in 1879 and died in 1914. His widow continued to live in this house until her death in 1938. This Gothic Cottage style home has been painstakingly restored inside and out to be sensitive to the original design.



11 Nelson Square East & East Ward School

This building was constructed as the East Ward School in 1876. The original two-room schoolhouse was designed by A. Clifford Thomson which was expanded several times and renamed King George School in 1920. By 1948, plans were made to build Codrington Street Public School and move the pupils of King George School there. It now houses the Parkview Community Centre. Nearby is a little roughcast cottage at 11 Nelson Square East, built around 1870. This was the former home of Fanny Outram, the first female caretaker for the East Ward School.



230 Kempenfelt Drive ★

In 1879, construction of the Barrie Collegiate Institute (BCI) began at the corner of Blake and Rodney Streets. James Hunter joined the faculty in 1882 and was promoted to principal of BCI in 1892. This home was in the Hunter family until around 1981. The charming house with its unobstructed views of the bay from the front windows, pleasant veranda and exquisite ‘Lunenburg Bump’ over the front entrance, still has original fireplaces and other period architectural detail inside.



144 Kempenfelt Drive – Ernecliffe

Lulu Pearsall, a Kingston milliner, philosopher and religious writer, met Stanley Purvis who was studying civil engineering at Queen’s University and the couple married in 1910. In the 1920s, the couple and their four children moved into Ernecliffe. The expansions to this Gothic Revival dwelling have not diminished its personality and presence. The beautiful clover design in the gables, the decorative front veranda brackets, columns and pilasters, and the captivating glassed-in entrance all contrast nicely against the red brick with its buff accents.

Kempenfelt Village Heritage Neighbourhood

The historic Kempenfelt Village neighbourhood was bounded by Steel Street to the north, Hewson Street (now Puget Street) to the west, O'Brien Street to the east (now the Penetanguishene Road) and the north shore of Kempenfelt Bay to the south.

During the war of 1812, Penetanguishene Road was surveyed by Samuel Wilmot and built, under the supervision of 'Tiger' Dunlop, to connect Georgian Bay to Kempenfelt Bay, for military use. The government reserved 300 acres at the end of this road for settlement. The early Village of Kempenfelt had a boat landing, log barracks, stores, a tavern, brewery and brickworks. Petitioned in 1831 to be the County Town, the Village of Kempenfelt was passed over when the government purchased land at the head of the bay, establishing Barrie as the County Town in 1837.





36 Shanty Bay Road

This property and gracious 1870s dwelling was once the thriving Kempenfeldt Poultry Farm, home to farmer and successful butcher, George Coles, from about 1890 until his death in 1941. The large 2.5-storey red brick farmhouse with its black painted brick accents over the windows and encircling the structure, along with the contrasting shutters, has a very appealing look.



190 Shanty Bay Road – Ladd-Ball

Mr. Ladd built his timber and frame tavern in the village of Kempenfelt in 1833. He was partner in a ferry service with fellow tavern owner John Sibbald, whose tavern was across the bay in Tollendale. Sibbald's tavern was a rest stop for mail service. Sibbald would row mailmen over to Kempenfelt and Ladd would row them back to Tollendale on their return trip. After his passing in 1837, Ladd's widow sold the tavern to George Ball. The former tavern is known as the Ladd-Ball house.



Post Office Brick Inlay – Northwest side of Crestwood and Shanty Bay Road

The stone wall located at this corner has decorative stone inlays that once adorned the Federal Building (Post Office) at the foot of Owen Street in Memorial Square. The old post office building, designed by Barrie architect Thomas Kennedy, was built in 1884 and demolished in 1958. East of this wall is a plaque at the site of the village of Kempenfelt.

Barrie Heritage Awards

The annual Barrie Heritage Awards celebrate our heritage community, and are awarded to property owners, individuals and groups who've made strides in fostering local identity through heritage preservation and awareness in Barrie. Award recipients receive public recognition from the **Heritage Barrie Committee** and **City Council** and are presented an award during a City Council meeting.

Residents are invited to nominate a property, person, or organization in one of the following categories:

- **Residential Properties:** Private homes or residences of historical significance
- **Adaptive Reuse and/or Commercial Properties:** Businesses or commercial spaces that preserve original features while introducing new elements
- **Institutional Properties:** Churches, schools, or public facilities that reflect heritage values
- **Community, Group, or Individual:** Artisans, educators, volunteers, or professionals who champion heritage conservation

Nomination Criteria

Nominations for buildings with at least one (1) of the following attributes will be considered:

- Reflect a historic architectural style (e.g. Georgian, Victorian, Queen Anne, etc.)
- The property and buildings are well maintained
- Are sensitive to the heritage features of the property, especially if the property has been restored, rehabilitated or adaptively re-used
- Enhances the streetscape
- Assists in revitalizing the community through heritage conservation
- Has connection to a historical figure, time period, or specific event

Nominations for a Community, Group, or Individual with at least one of the following attributes will be considered:

- Demonstrate a commitment to heritage conservation
- Built awareness and understanding of local history and heritage
- Help revitalize the community through building local heritage awareness
- Works within the field of cultural heritage conservation

Other Barrie Heritage Resources

- *From Portage to Prosperity*: *A Brief History of Barrie* (available to view at the Barrie Public Library, downtown branch)
- *Discovering the Waterfront* (visit barrietourism.ca)
- Heritage Waterfront Trail (interpretive markers)
- Interpretive plaques
- Military Heritage Park
- Barrie Historical Archive/D. Exel
- Simcoe County Archives

Scan the QR code to find out more about Barrie's history and historic neighbourhoods.



Barrie

barrie.ca/heritage