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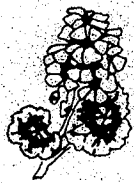
HERITAGE SOUTH ASKIN AMBLES

Geranium Walk V

*Sunday, June 4, 1978
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Sponsored by

**The Architectural
Conservancy of
Ontario
London Region Branch**



A GERANIUM INDICATES ENTRY
TO A BUILDING

1 "Woodlawn" Col. F.B. Leys House
[1877] 111 Elmwood Avenue

2 Robt. D. Millar House
c. 1894
70 Elmwood Avenue

3 Wortley Cottage [c. 1851]
99 Euclid Avenue

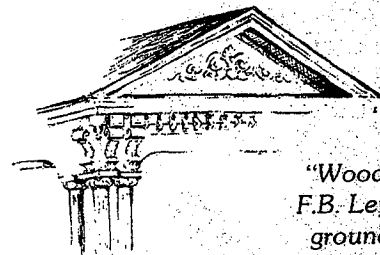
4 St. James' [Westminster]
Anglican Church
115 Askin Street [1876]
Tea at the Parish Hall

5 Number Forty-Four
Forty-Four Marley Place
[c. 1865]

6 "Waverley" [1877]
10 Grand Avenue

See map on Page 9

Lieut. Gov. John Graves Simcoe reserved on paper, for London, some 3,850 acres at the forks of the Thames River of which some was located in Westminster Township. Today's Walk is in the southerly area of London, and it includes what was known as Askin Village. The name was brought to the area by Col. J. B. Askin in 1828 when he moved here from Vittoria to become the Clerk of the Court. London South was annexed to the City of London on May 1, 1890 and this report appeared — when London South joined the City: "It is admittedly the prettiest part of the city."



111 ELMWOOD AVENUE [1877]

"Woodlawn": Built by Col. F.B. Leys in once extensive grounds, used as a private residence until 1925, now serves as a Sunday School—Meeting House for Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. With its two—two-storey bays, on the north and west, and a one-storey bay on the east, with its strong vertical lines and two handsome porches, Woodlawn is a distinctive building. The outer entrance arch is repeated in the vestibule arch; the ceiling moulding is intact, here, but lowered ceilings within hide the original appearance of the ceiling-wall juncture. Long, deep-silled windows of the vestibule and living-room have shutters, with decorative knobs, that fold back into the window casing. Both fireplaces on the ground floor have wooden frames with tile surround—the living-room tile has an unusual wreath design. Pass through the "Nursery Door" to see a two newel-posted staircase with spindles and stringer ornamentation in typical 1870's design.



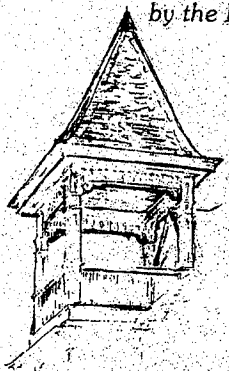
Proceed west along Elmwood Avenue

No. 108 has a verandah, side porch and gable infill of interest.

No. 103 [1886] has been stripped of much decorative trim, but because of the balance of design achieved through the two identical gable portions, extreme verticality and present appearance, the house has pronounced dignity. Sharply peaked gables, with a

sunburst pattern infill, terminate the two-storey bays.

While walking westerly under the fine, large trees of the Avenue, notice: the doorway, brackets and oriel window of No. 90; the window treatment, coloured glass and oval window in No. 77; the distinctive three exposure verandah and trim, the barge-boards, and brackets of No. 63—a well-maintained 1870 building, and, at No. 64 [c. 1880] the stone window headings, two-storey bay window, arched window with tracery and square oriel window. The decorative brick string course provides a needed horizontal line in this last house - the boyhood home of novelist-poet, Arthur Stringer, 1874-1950: [A plaque has been mounted by the Board of the London Public Library].



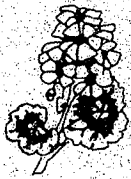
70 ELMWOOD AVENUE

[c. 1894-95] The Robt. D. Millar House [Secretary Treasurer of the London Advertiser Newspaper].

Three of the many exterior features are: the long shingled projection on the east wall partially containing the staircase; the delight-

ful open-porch termination of the square tower; the two-exposure ornamented verandah; the exterior treatment of the enclosed entrance. Late Victorian features are the wide-arched window [coloured glass was once contained within the upper section, as is evident in the second floor windows], and the double door entrance. Fireplace columns are Ionic-style in the living-room, Doric-style in the den; tile surround is used in

II both. The staircase has landings instead of the full sweep of the staircases of the 1870 homes; spindles, too, are different from the earlier style, with alternating squared sections. Note the high ceilings and above-door-and-window-trimming.



Proceed north on Edward Street.

Mansard-roofed No. 16 has polychrome brick; No.'s 13, 15, and 17 of similar size and style with fish-scale shingle gable infill, form a mini-streetscape.

Turn right onto Bruce Street - the family name of the Earl of Elgin. No. 79 - The entrance is noteworthy. Wide double doors are framed by cable-like trim.

Turn left onto Teresa Street. This street and Cynthia Street are believed to have been named for Col. Askin's daughters.

Walk north toward Wesley Knox United Church at 91 Askin Street. The name resulted from the union of Wesley and Knox United Churches in 1972. White with red brick, Gothic shaped openings, and a square tower are features of the 1880 building. The spire was lost in 1918.

No. 88 - Row housing, recently refurbished, adds charm to the corner. Each unit has a bay window, the end units' having an additional one in their end walls. A high, two-storey white brick house is the focal point for the Walker proceeding **north on to Byron Avenue.**

No. 88 is an appealing white brick cottage with a single gable and an ornate front door.

No. 97 [1881], the Thomas Westcott House, has vitality and grace with its decorative detail in barge-boards, brackets, entrance, bay window and the round arched window on the west wall.



Cross to the north side of Byron Avenue to enter "Wortley Cottage", 99

Euclid Avenue. Built by Samuel Sexton Pomroy in 1851 and originally a one-storey frame dwelling, it is thought to have been converted to a two-storey building in the 1870's. It has a

centre-hall plan with the drawing room to the left—the full depth of the house; on the right are the dining-room and study with their fireplaces back to back. The panelling in the study is original. The present owners, Professor and Mrs. Vernon B. Brooks, have had an account of the history of Wortley Cottage prepared by historian Daniel J. Brock.

III

No. 99 - 101 Byron Avenue is a well-proportioned double house of early design, as indicated by the parapet roof and its pitch, and the proportions of the building.

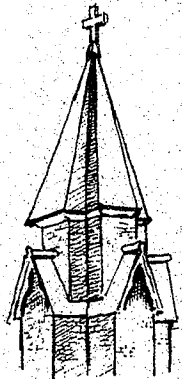


Upon **turning right on to Wortley Road**, the houses, ending with No. 123, are attractively sited with angled set-back.

Cottages on the east side present a harmonious streetscape.

The south-west corner of Askin Street and Wortley Road shows imaginative use of what was once a home, and later a service station, before its present use. A delightful study can be made of the sympa-

thetic renovations. The steeply pitched [slate] roof, the gables' barge boards, finials and pendants suggest the influence of Andrew Jackson Downing's "The Architecture of Country Houses", 1850.



At Askin Street walk west to St. James' [Westminster] Church [1876], the first Anglican Church in London South.

Robinson and Tracey, Architects, designed it in the Gothic style. The profile is enriched with a high-spired tower, and roof turrets of

sufficient number to represent the Twelve Apostles. Upon entering, note the memorial windows, the reredos, and the hangings. The latter were designed by Connie Jefferess to represent the World of Man and World of the Spirit, and were worked on

by seventeen Parish women to commemorate the Church Centennial in 1973.

Tea will be served at St. James' [Westminster] Parish Hall

Walk back to Wortley Road.

Note at the south-east corner of Wortley Road and Craig Street the dated Shaw Building [1872] which was originally the Askin Post Office for the area — known then as Askin Village.

Visual richness is added to the view to the south-east by the large old Normal School Tower — now the Education Centre.

Proceeding South on Wortley Road you will find that HEXTER'S ANTIQUES at No. 147 is open; LAMONT and PERKINS, No. 156, has arranged an apothecary display for the occasion of Geranium Tour. V.

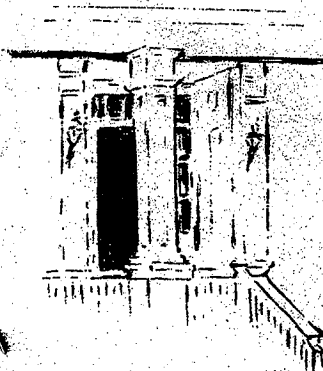
No. 141 has an above-verandah window with iron cresting and inside shutters.

Proceed east on Bruce Street. Fire Station No. 3, [c. 1880] of polychrome brickwork, has round-arched paired windows. A wooden tower on the east was used for hose-drying.

Turn right at Marley Place. No. 10 [1878] is impressive in size and setting; little ornamentation is present except for window keystones.

15½ is reputedly the narrowest house in London; the façade with its gable and barge-board is noteworthy. A bay window is on the west side. No. 16 [c. 1880] the William Moore House; Careful maintenance over the years results in our being able to enjoy its gables, barge-boards, bay windows with cresting, and the verandah fretwork. Part of the verandah has been enclosed, but fortunately the treillage has not been removed. No. 23 and No. 25 are worthy of study. The former is the Abraham Puddicombe House [c. 1880].

Upon crossing Elmwood Avenue take pleasure in the richness of design and dignity of the splendid Education Centre — built in 1899 for a Normal School; its style is Richardsonian Romanesque. A study of the details is an enjoyable experience; viewing its dynamic mass from whatever position in the well-treed park is rewarding and exciting. The park trees are labelled. Houses around the park were the homes of many of the Masters of the then Normal School. Dr. John Dearness lived at No. 30.

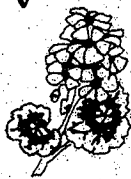


Number forty-four thought to be c. 1865, and originally a frame building, is now stuccoed. The doorway is outstanding. Originally the cottage was sited further back and was accessible only from Wortley Road. The long line of stately trees in the park carry the eye along the former approach.

The formality and elegance of larger homes are present in this cottage as in other cottages of the period. The panelled ceiling of the long centre hall is a striking feature of this home. Ceilings are eleven feet.

The living-room fireplace was moved from the Jarvis Street [Toronto] home of J.S.

Woodsworth, the founder of the C.C.F. Party. Its neo-classical elements are complimented by the egg and dart coving added by the present owners. A bright, spacious dining-room, with a square bay, is to the right.



**RETURN TO Elmwood Avenue and walk east to
Ridout Street**

No. 194 has a tower and oriels with shingle facing, that, along with the round arched entrance porch result in an interesting design.

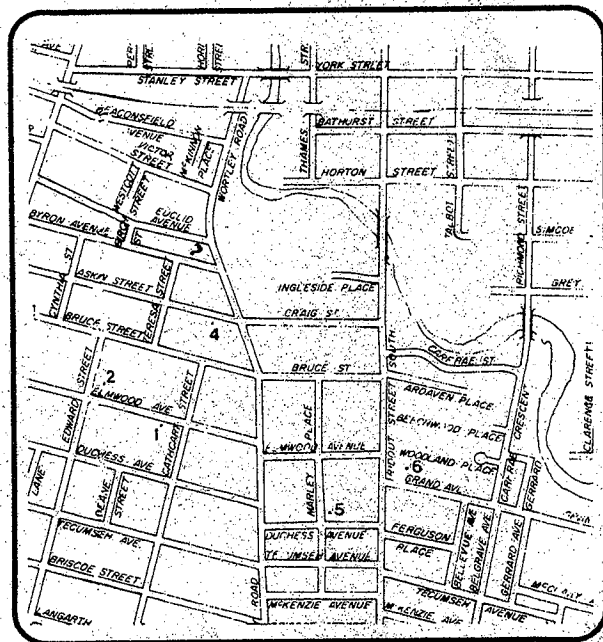
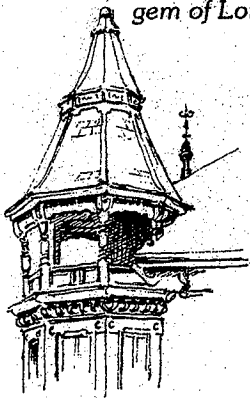
Note No. 195 - built by George F. Durand, Architect.

Many details of interest include the window key-stones, the gable, the decorative brick work below the eaves, the large window in the west side.

No. 198 Elmwood [1850's]. In 1905, while of frame, it was turned from facing Ridout Street. The entrance is especially fine; the long windows are an asset and in keeping with the classical design.

Cross Ridout Street and proceed east on Grand Avenue to No. 10. "Waverley" [1877] is one of the villas of London South. Built by Charles Goodhue, son of London's first millionaire, it was subsequently owned by Thomas Smallman and lived in by Mrs. Claude K. Morgan, the daughter of Mr. Smallman, until her death in 1948. Its present use is as a centre for the study of cardiovascular disease and is known as the Shute Institute. Fortunate indeed it is that an active use was found for one of London's most valuable - irreplaceable - heritage homes, and that no structural changes have been made.

The exterior presents a magnificent silhouette with its wealth of gables, towers, balconies and great chimneys. Within are forty rooms, with the main downstairs rooms with wood-panelled ceilings; that of the Blue Room is of carved cherry. The fireplaces are of interest and of a variety of designs. The glass, as in the entrance, at the west door to the ground floor balcony, and on the stair landings, with motto therein [MY WORD IS MY BOND], is of rare value. "Waverley" can be pronounced an **irreplaceable** gem of London's heritage "crown".



London Region Branch
Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario
c/o Postal Box 22
Station B.
London, Ontario





No matter what my birth may be
No matter where my lot is cast,
I see the heir in equity
Of all the precious Past
from The Heritage
A. F. Brown



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PD

phone



Askin
Village

Corner Askin Street
& Wortley Road

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is
"A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation
of the best existing examples of the early architecture
of the province, and for the protection of its places
of natural beauty."

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