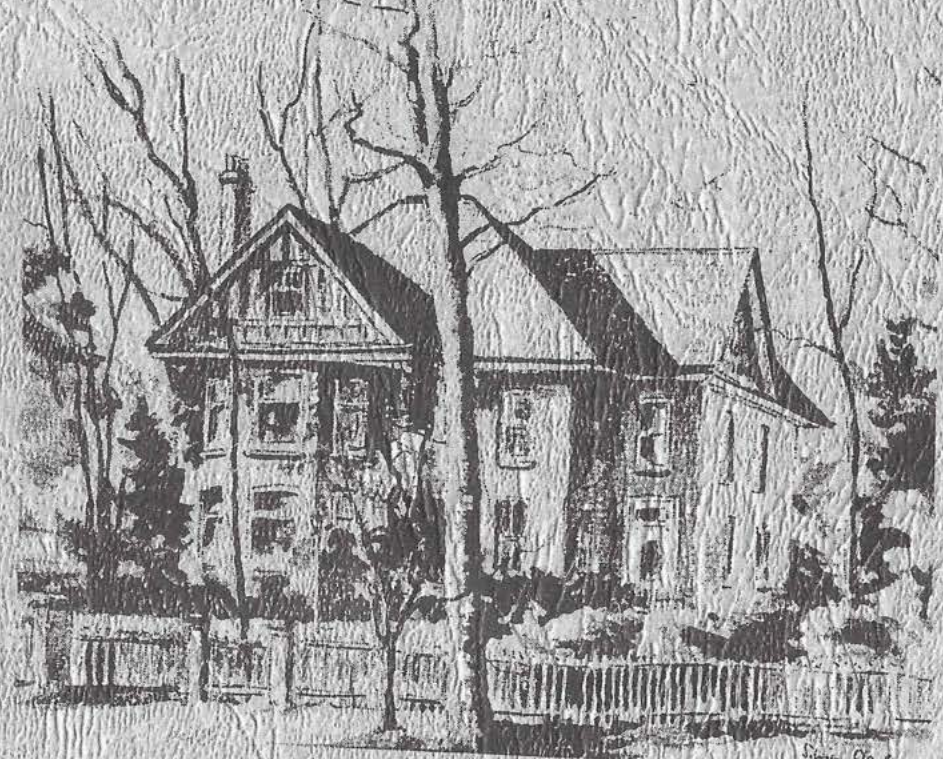


# Southern Exposure

Geranium Walk XIV



385 Ridout Street

Sunday, June 7, 1987  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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

AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION  
OF OUR  
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE HOMES AND BUILDINGS

# Southern Exposure

The area of South London featured in this Geranium Walk XIV may appear to have developed earlier than other parts of the city. In fact, its history begins in 1810 when Simon Zelotes Watson, surveyor, "ran his base line" across the northern portion of Westminster Township. By 1831 the London Sun was pleased to describe it as "thickly populated." It was not until 1890 that an expanding city annexed the portion south of the river as far as Chester Street, and only as recently as 1961 was Baseline Road included in a subsequent annexation. During those seventy years, gradual urbanization offered residents proximity to the city in a somewhat rural atmosphere.

The legacy of early settlement and less regulated development is an unusual mixture of lot sizes and a range of architectural styles from the nineteenth century to the present.



## 1 Calvary United Church

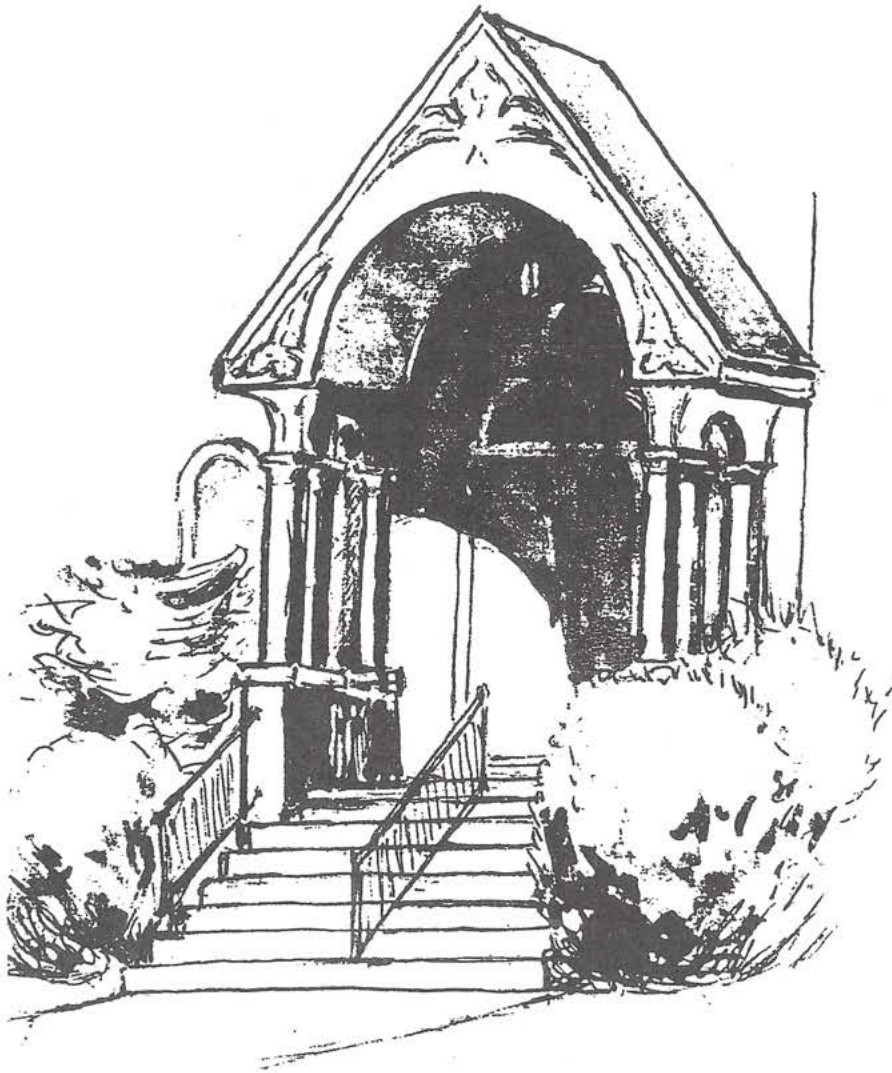
This year's "Geranium Walk" commences at Calvary United Church, situated at the south-east corner of Ridout and Garfield Streets. The development of this parish illustrates the growth of a community of gracious homes set among orchards, wood, and meadows with its own village post-office (at Tambling's Corners) to a suburban sub-division and incorporation in the large city. The need of the Methodist worshippers were met about 1892 by the erection of the High Street Mission, a frame building just north of Emery, under the care of the established Wellington Street Church. With the growth of population along Ridout Street to the south, it became necessary to move the Mission Church building to a new location at the corner of Ridout and Garfield where it was known as Ridout Street Methodist Church. After 22 years the old frame structure was replaced by the present brick auditorium which was opened for worship in September, 1915. With Union in 1925 the Ridout Street Methodist Church became known as Calvary United Church.

Apart from the addition of the new Christian Education wing, changes to the church auditorium have included the addition of a balcony, and extension eastward to provide for the chancel.

Visitors to this handsome church will find the stained glass windows particularly interesting. With few exceptions they represent the work of Edwards Glass of London and are remarkable for the individual treatment of the material within a general uniformity of style. Attention is directed to the groupings of Moses and the Prophets and the four Evangelists. Some other windows of note are tributes to the Boy Scouts and the young people's musical contribution.



- Homes to be visited (marked with geraniums)
  - Homes of interest
1. CALVARY UNITED CHURCH  
TEA OR COLD DRINK AVAILABLE 230-500 WASHROOMS
  2. MALT MILL MORRIS DANCERS
  3. 385 WORTLEY RD.
  4. 222 BASELINE RD.
  5. 169 BASELINE RD.
  6. 157 BASELINE RD.
  7. 119 BASELINE RD.
  8. 385 RIDOUT ST.

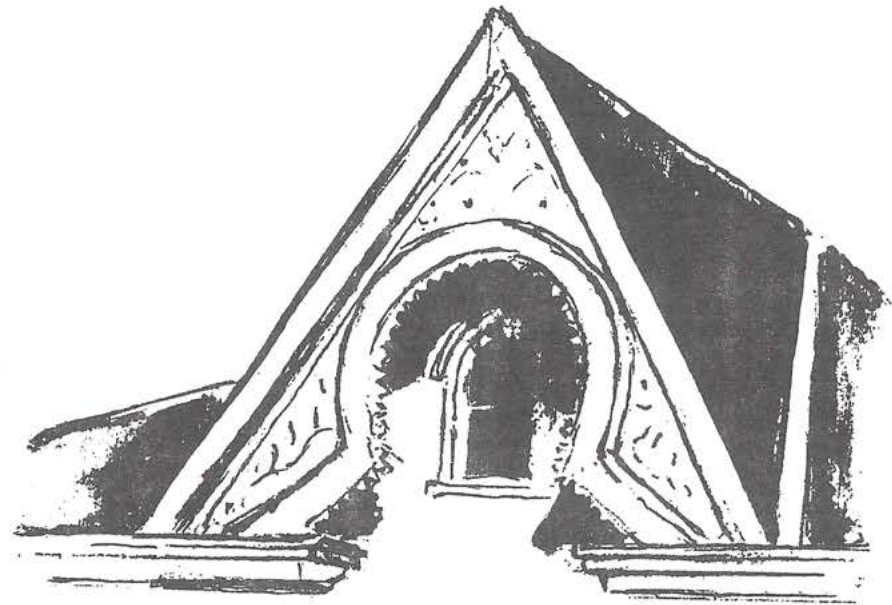


**Porch of Calvary United Church**

**Leave by the South door at the west end and cross Ridout Street.**

Upon leaving Cavalry United Church, notice **307 Ridout** across the street, where the gable end of the Victorian style farm house is of particular interest. The elaborate verge or barge boards with the decorative cross bracing and centre post is worth noticing.

**Proceed south on Ridout.**



**340 Ridout Street**

**340 Ridout Street** on the east side of the street is a lovely stucco cottage. The interesting rope moulding above the front door, the acid etched glass in the side and top lights, the dentil work and brackets, show an Italianate influence. Different from the usual on this type of house are the two symmetrical windows below the gable peak over the ground floor.

**Proceed to Rosel and turn right curving around Croxton.**

Here you will see the Malt Mill Morris Dancers of London performing on the Green, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Tom Griffiths is the bag man and John Gillett the squire. The dance group is named after Malt Mill Lane England. The dances come from the Cotswold England villages of Adderbury, Bampton, Heddington, Quarry and Sherbourne.

**Now proceed to Wortley Road and notice No. 379 Wortley Road.** The oak storm front door with bevelled glass, the low red tiled roof of the veranda, and the different textured building material make a lovely home, set in beautiful grounds with graceful trees.

**2**



**385 Wortley Road**

The deep setback of this house, screened by many towering fir trees, is reminiscent of an earlier period, and sets one back in time.

The approach to the home enhances the gracious ambience that is reaffirmed by the welcoming entrance with its sidelights and transom of

bevelled leaded glass. The style itself suggests an Italianate house of the late 1860s and 1870s, with some later changes made from 1900 to 1920.



**385 Wortley Road**

Before entering the house, take time to study the Greek detail of the veranda, especially the brackets which are a repeat of those on the eaves. The entrance reflects the atmosphere of the home - hospitable, welcoming and gracious. On entering the side hall, note the oak trim of the staircase. The doorway detail leading into the double parlour matches the main entrance. The window to the enclosed porch is arched rather than the square style of the other windows and door frames. There is a combination of period styles within the house. The bevelled leaded glass of the doorways and side lights are probably of a later period, as is the staircase and fireplace in the second parlour.

After viewing the two rooms to the right, go through to the lovely bright dining room, with its bay window. Proceed into the butler's pantry, a room which is experiencing a resurgence of popularity in new houses. Continue on through the kitchen and **exit through the rear door** into the spacious garden. The building at the rear was used by the second resident, the Dobbyn family (Dobbyn Printers).

Circle around the exterior of this well built home and notice the three foot thick rubble foundation of the front portion. This deep lot is all that remains of one of the original Lawson farms. There have been 3 owners of this home. The present residents, the Lewis family have lived here since 1948.

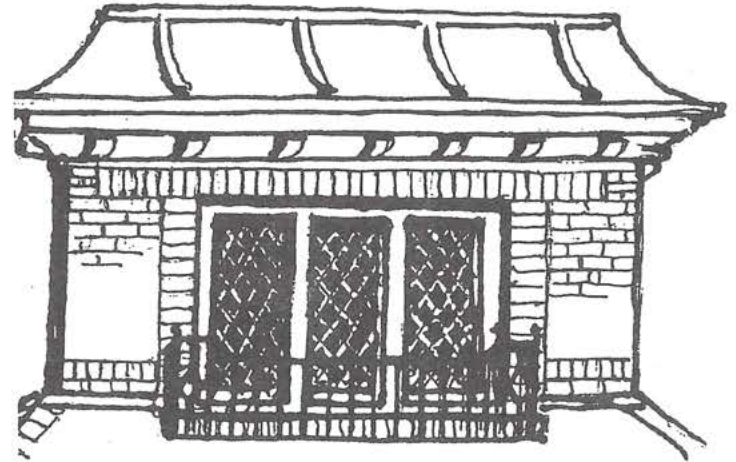
From this very interesting home, **turn south onto Wortley Road**, and observe 400 and 404 on the east side of the street.

**400 Wortley Rd.** Built in 1928, this house is in imitation Tudor Style with an attempt to give the impression of an English thatched cottage roof. The shingles on the gable end and the front eaves are rolled under to imitate a thick bulky thatched roof. The turned chimneys are in the Elizabethan style with the S shaped decoration.

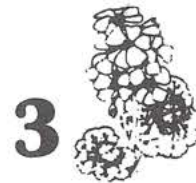
**404 Wortley Rd.** Built in 1927, this is an excellent example of fine homes architecturally designed and built in the pre-war period. The solid workmanship and attention to detail show a desire by the owner to have an above average home. In this house lived A.N. Knowles who with his brother established the London Winery.

**Now turn right on Baseline Road** and observe number 244.

**244 Baseline Road** is a good example of Tudor Revival, with its broken roof line, gable ends, and leaded mullion windows. Notice the interesting brick work around the windows and gable louvers.



**222 Baseline Road**



**3**

**222 Baseline Road**

This large three story rug brick house was built in 1929 for Edward Parnell, then manager of the Parnell-Dean Steam Baking Comapry located at 75-77 Bruce Street. Formerly numbered 116 Baseline, the house was occupied by Edward and Ethel Parnell until 1961, when it was bought by

William F. Floyd of the Campbell Insurance Company. The present owners, The Shepherds, bought the house in 1974.

The Parnell Bread Company manufactured "Butternut Bread" until 1957 when the business evolved into Coffee Time Services and subsequently Parnell Foods, owners of many of the food vending machines in London.

The house presents an unusual facade, taller than most houses and might be termed pseudo Elizabethan in style. A most unusual feature is the semicircular front window.

Inside, the house shows evidence of excellent building and materials, with oak trim and wide plain baseboards. In the living room, to the left of the oversized front door, is a limestone fireplace, again plain, but elegant in design. Off this living room is a tile-floored glassed-in porch now used as a music room. An oak staircase leads up to the ornate casement windows above the front door. The railing curves gently at the bottom of the stair. The dark blue walls of the dining room contrast with the shining white of the newly converted European kitchen. Off the back hall, the former garage has been converted to a spacious family room with a fireplace. Sliding doors open onto a terrace, pool area and large back yard.

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#### 169 Baseline Road

A white brick farmhouse with a typical line of old trees in front built c. 1890. It has many gables with supporting brackets at the ends, rows of small brackets, dentil moulding and fishscale shingles. At the front, the window headings alternate stone and brick, the mortar between the bricks



#### 169 Baseline Road

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is red. The veranda roof is supported by paired columns and trimmed with brackets and dentil moulding.

At the front door, note the decorated hinge plates and the stained glass transoms above the door. The living room window and the upper window are similar in design and colour, and probably original. In the large hall, the door frames show the typical mouldings and corner blocks of the period. The doors with bevelled glass panels, the two stained glass windows on the stairway, and the ceiling mouldings of the living room and dining room are typical of c. 1930.

In the living room, the elaborate fireplace insert for burning coal, and wooden mantel, are notable. The sunroom off the dining room is an addition. Upstairs, another generous hallway has transoms above the bedroom doors for light and air. The bathroom shows arches above the tub and the separate shower with side-spray nozzles. Beyond the original back wall (note thickness) is an addition with the back hall and stairs, two small rooms upstairs and the kitchen on the ground floor. The Heveys really enjoy this older home. **Proceed west to 157 Baseline Road.**

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#### 157 Baseline Road

A compact stucco two-bedroom bungalow was built in 1910. The exterior front facade, porch and upper three windows in a gable remain the same today. Formerly Dr. and Mrs. Charles Morris, in semi-retirement years, used the left-side interior as a tiny front parlour, and next to it, a complete separate doctor's office with patients' access by an outside east door.

The present owners, the Kellys, bought the property at an auction sale, between 1954-56, and made extensive alterations. They eliminated a partition, the side entry, and a small corner bricked fireplace. By adding flat-topped dormers with a pair of windows each, the attic space was converted to three family bedrooms with closets and full bathroom. Because the original windows had an upper sash of six small panes above a single large pane in the lower sash, the new windows followed this style. This combination style of multiple small panes above one large lower pane can also be seen in a few other houses in this area. One wonders if it was a compromise to please the owners, or a means of unobstructed view when seated, plus the cozy look of small panes in the exterior facade.

Twenty-three years ago, the owners extended the back for a family room and patio. Five years ago the swimming pool and pool-house were added. Recently, they decided that an entire rear addition of 10 or 12 feet would enhance the main floor bedroom, including a triple bay window. They also enlarged the bathroom, and added the family room. A stone fireplace and a five-panel patio door were also included.

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Viewed from the outside, the rear addition blends with the older building by having the same stucco finish, and the same roof pitch to the eaves. Even the exposed rafter tails under the eaves display the same ornamental cutouts as the original.

These owners, with their talent for alterations, continue to enjoy No. 157, with its space for visiting grandchildren. They recall that in 1955 the Westminster Township taxes amounted to \$157. equalling the street number of the little house that grew.

### **We then proceed to 119 Baseline Road.**



### **119 Baseline Road**

This house was built in 1920 by the well known art dealer James Colerick, in whose Dundas Street store Paul Peel's "After the Bath" received its first London showing.

Best described as a "period house" it exhibits some features that derive from the Tudor Revival style. Among these are an asymmetrical facade with a dominant, steeply pitched front gable. The arched entrance way may be noted along with the gambrel roof, incorporating second story windows on the west front.

A variety of materials adds texture and suggests comfortable informality. Stucco wall cladding, a common procedure before brick and stone veneering techniques were adopted, contrasts with wooden shingles and cut stone window sills (now painted).

Inside, the generous use of wood trim is especially evident in the staircase with its wide bannister, heavy posts and spindles.

In the living room, French doors, at one time duplicated on the north side of the chimney section, open on to a side veranda. Casement windows, found in almost every room, create a pleasant airy effect. In the dining room, a grouping of three small windows with diamond shaped muntin bars brighten a shallow alcove.

Mr. Park Manross, Conservative M.P. for London, 1945 - 1949, lived here. Mr. John White the present owner was also a Conservative M.P.P. for London South from 1959 - 1975. The Whites purchased the property in 1961.

**Leave by way of the kitchen.** As you return along Baseline Road, to 385 Ridout Street imagine yourself in the early 1900s boarding the Traction Line (which had its London Terminal on Horton Street at the present site of the Salvation Army Hostel) on Baseline Road, to go to a picnic in Port Stanley, via Lambeth and St. Thomas. This line operated

from 1907 - 1918, when it was demolished, leaving no trace today.

Historically there was a farm in this area established in the early 1800s by the Stephens family, known as "Lapworth". The following poem was written by a Stephens' descendant:

"But know through handclasp warm and true,  
The welcome which is meant for you.  
You wander through the spacious rooms  
Which give no hint of age,  
Yet five score years have now passed by,  
Years which mere brick and wood defy.  
But man cannot assuage,  
A strong memorial Lapworth stands  
To the name of Stephens true.  
May generations still revere  
And hold in memory long and clear,  
A name to many held most dear,  
Which time cannot undo."



### **385 Ridout Street South**

A forty acre lot including this address north of Baseline Road and east of Wortley Road, was deeded by the Crown to William Dyer, in 1836. This was sold to David Main in 1840, and the house built on the property was affectionately called "Brooklands" by the Main family who lived here.

Mr Tom Main and his brother-in-law, Mr. Gerald Collyer, ran a successful market garden business with many green houses on part of the property which extended past Mountsfield School and included the Hyland Golf Course. They supplied fresh flowers and fresh vegetables (tomatoes and lettuce) all year for railroad hotels and ocean going vessels.

Plans drawn up by Moore & Henry, Architects, in 1899, show a "brick addition" to the front part of the present house. The back part was built in 1904. The garage was added in 1952. The 1899 specifications include "lamp hooks in ceilings where required". The original brick walk leads to the front door, with its decorative handle, lockplate and doorbell, bevelled glass and wooden fan shapes.

**Enter by the front door.** All the stained glass in the house has been installed by the current owners, the Walkers. Mr. Gordon Walker was the M.P.P. for London South for 8 years and London North for 4 years in the 70's and 80's. The transom with the number was specially made for the house. Note the graceful, delicate stair railing and posts. The arch to the living room originally had no doors. It led to the "Parlour" which was separated from the "Sitting Room" beyond by an archway with sliding doors. An oak mantel, coal grate and tiles were specified by the architects.

The woodwork throughout has corner blocks for the door and window frames, fine panel doors, china doorknobs and ornamental hinges. An early bedroom was extended in 1971 as a sunroom. Through the arch, note the thickness of the brick wall, as you enter the 1904 addition. The window to the deck was enlarged from the original high "piano window".

The kitchen was also remodelled in 1971. The location of the exterior door was changed, and a pantry and dumbwaiter (to the cool cellar) removed. The door with coloured glass, leading to the dining room, is from an old building at 76 Dundas Street. **Leaving by way of the sunroom,** walk along the original sidewalk past a large hackberry tree, to the original driveway, and down Ridout Street.

**350 Ridout Street.** It is interesting to know that the white brick building at 350 Ridout Street, at the corner of Chester and Ridout, had a varied history. In the early 1900s it was a way station and stage coach stop known as "Tamblings Corners." Through the years, the barns were taken down and stores added. It then became known as Jupp's store and members of the Main family still remember getting an ice cream cone or a bottle of ginger ale for a nickel there.

This completes Geranium Walk XIV. In keeping with former traditions, you are invited to enjoy a refreshing cup of tea or a cold drink and cookies prepared by the Calvary United Church ladies and served in the Church Hall.