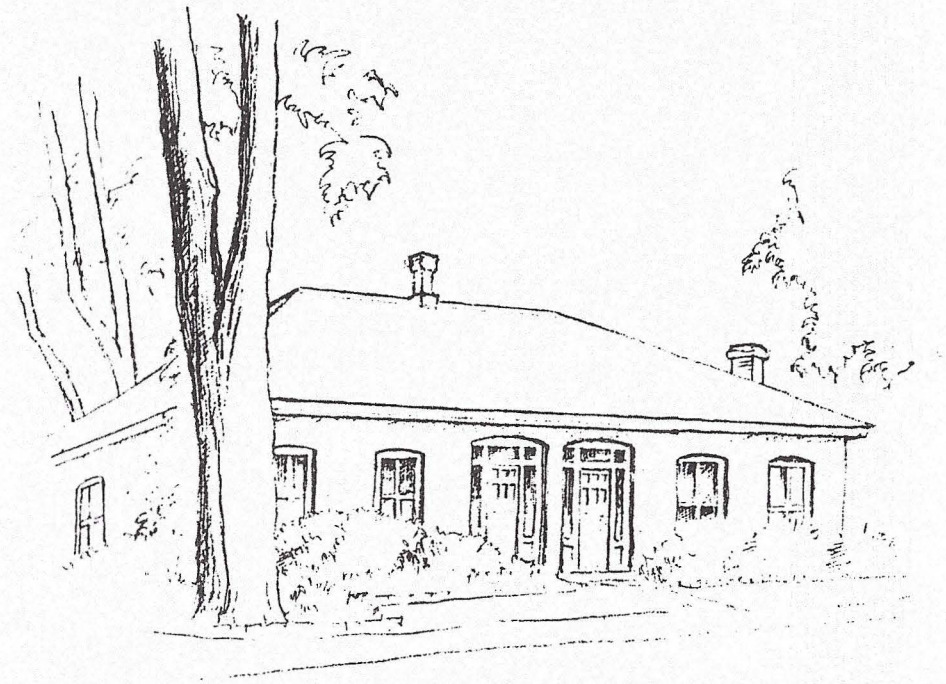


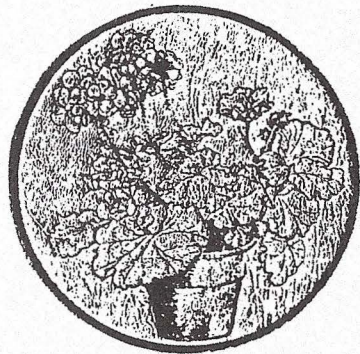
TALBOT TOUR II

Geranium Walk XV



Sunday June 5, 1988
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

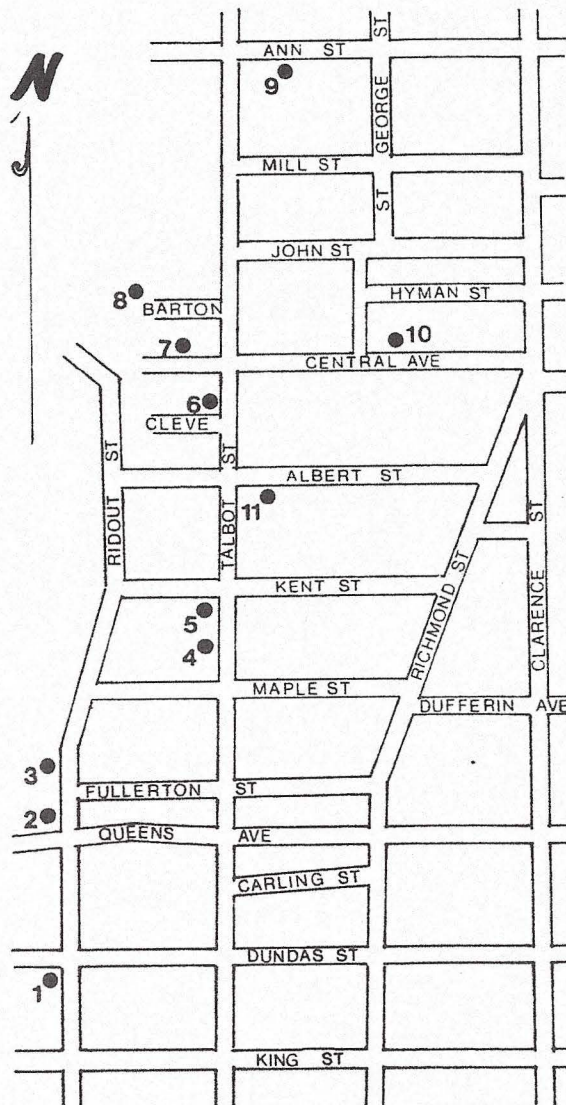
385 Ridout Street



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London Region Branch

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

The Talbot Area



- Houses with a geranium on the lawn are open for viewing.

Some of London's finest homes and largest industrial establishments were located side by side in the Talbot Street area throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Part of this area, south of today's Carling Street, was included in the original town plot surveyed in 1826. The remainder formed part of a large annexation made in 1840 which stretched north as far as Huron Street. Much of this land was originally owned by John Kent, a farmer, who was granted a 100 acre lot running east from Wharncliffe Road in 1824. Many of the present day lots are based on subdivisions made by him.

The earliest homes to appear in the area, beginning with John Harris' Eldon House in 1834, were built on a bluff overlooking the Thames River. Here, merchants, bankers, lawyers, and factory owners found a pleasant view and clean air a short distance from their places of business. As the residential character of the area slowly developed, two industrial areas appeared: one along Fullerton Street in the 1840s and one along Ann Street in the late 1860s.

The original foundry of George Jackson was located on Fullerton Street, Elijah Leonard Jr.'s on Ridout near one end of Fullerton, and Murray Anderson's was on Richmond near the other end of Fullerton. Later, in the 1860s, at least two other large industries, the Plummer and Pacey carriage factory and the Cousins pump and fanning mill factory, were established on or near Fullerton.

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, two breweries and two tanneries were built along Ann Street. The wastes produced at the Hyman and Arscott tanneries were probably carried into the Thames by a small stream then known as Carling's Creek. John Hamilton's brewery (the Kent Brewery) and the Carling Brewery likely obtained their water from other sources. Thomas H. Carling, Richard Arscott, and John Hamilton all lived within site of their factories as did many other owners and managers of factories in the nineteenth century.

The Hyman tannery and the Carling brewery were among the city's largest employers for many years. In 1915 they employed 250 and 85 respectively. Many of the homes in the vicinity of the factories were built to house their workers. Perhaps not surprisingly, each firm's founder produced a son who entered public life. Between them they dominated

Federal politics in the city from 1867 to 1907 though opposing each other only twice. Charles S. Hyman, a Liberal, defeated Sir John Carling, a Tory, in the General Election of 1891, but was defeated the following year by Sir John after being unseated.

In the twentieth century the Talbot area has become less industrial. The Hyman tannery, which operated until 1970, was the last of the early industries to close. Some of the large nineteenth century houses are gone, but many remain. A number have been converted to non-residential uses but are largely intact. Their days, however may be numbered. The recommendation in the Draft Official Plan to rezone for multiply family high density residential use, the high ground to the west of Talbot Street that attracted prominent Londoners to this area in the last century, may provide the economic stimulus for the removal of their still impressive homes.

1. Middlesex County Building



The **Middlesex County Building** was designed in 1827 by John Ewart as a gaol and courthouse for the London District. Few other structures existed in the recently surveyed town site when construction began in 1828. The building was constructed of brick and then stuccoed to give the appearance of cut stone. When a separate, but connected, gaol was begun on the west side of the building in 1843, the entrance to the courthouse was permanently relocated from the river front to the east side. The size of the courthouse was nearly doubled in 1878 by Thomas H. Tracy, who also set the large centre tower over the entranceway. A final two storey addition to the south was made by Arthur Nutter in 1911. In *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario* Nancy Tausky and Lynne DiStefano describe the courthouse as “. . . a building that is classical in its dimensions, symmetry, and the basic arrangement of its façades. It is, essentially, a Neoclassical country house dressed up, in the fashion of the times, to look somewhat like a medieval fortification.” The use of a “somewhat Gothic” design for the building is explained, in part, by the presence of Thomas Talbot on the Commission charged with its erection. Talbot, they conclude, considered the courthouse “a public assertion of the system of aristocratic privileges in which he believed.” What better form for it to take than that of a baronial castle similar, perhaps, to his own family’s at Malahide in Ireland?

IN ADDITION TO THE GROUND FLOOR, THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND THE WARDEN’S CHAMBER ON THE SECOND FLOOR ARE OPEN. THE 1ST HUSSARS MUSEUM IS ALSO OPEN ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THE UPPER FLOORS CAN BE REACHED BY ELEVATOR OR STAIRS. A CELL BLOCK OF THE GAOL IS ALSO OPEN. IT CAN BE ENTERED FROM THE OUTSIDE THROUGH A DOOR AT THE END OF THE GAOL NEAR THE PARKING LOT. PROCEED NORTH ON RIDOUT STREET TO THE CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE AT THE CORNER OF QUEENS AVENUE AND RIDOUT STREET.

2. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

435 Ridout Street was completed in 1836 to house the Bank of Upper Canada which had established an agency in London the year before, becoming the city’s first bank. After the bank failed around 1865, its manager, James Hamilton, bought the building and lived in it until he died in 1896. Hamilton was also an amateur artist and a number of his views of the early city were reproduced in *London Illustrated*.

The building passed through other owners and occupants and had deteriorated considerably by the time a restoration was begun in the late 1960s. The building is now in use again as a branch bank.

The bank is a Georgian building with a typically balanced façade comprising a centre door and small-paned windows, parapet gables, and end chimneys. Four dormers have been placed in the roof on the river side. The porch was added during the restoration. Inside, notice the deep window casements which possess small doors concealing shutters. The interior was completely gutted during the restoration and only an approximation of the original now exists.

PROCEED NORTH ON RIDOUT STREET TO ELDON HOUSE.

441-447 Ridout Street is also a Georgian-style structure possibly built in 1846. The Gore Bank of Hamilton, the Commercial Bank of Kingston, and the London Savings Office all occupied space in the building in the late 1840s and early 1850s. A fifth bank, the Bank of Montreal, was built about 1844 immediately south of the Bank of Upper Canada. This building was demolished in the 1970s to allow for the extension of Queens Avenue.

The three storey Georgian block was owned by a Dr. Anderson who, sometime in the 1840s, also built the house to the north at 451 Ridout, where he lived until his death in 1873. The tall windows and ornate porch of 451 Ridout suggest an Italianate influence. All three of these buildings were restored around 1970 by John Labatt Limited, whose corporate offices are in 451. At the time of restoration, 451 was taken apart and completely reconstructed. It is now part of a much larger structure that rises from the floodplain behind the former doctor's home.

3. Eldon House

Eldon House was built in 1834 for John Harris, Treasurer of the London District from 1821 to 1850. The house was well sited on a height of land overlooking the Thames River. The house was located on Ridout Street, one of the settlement's main roads, near the new courthouse where the District's administration was housed. Four generations of Harrises lived in the house and the fourth generation presented it to the city in 1960.

Eldon House is a Regency dwelling with some Georgian influence. It has a hip roof with a wide attic dormer and chimneys set back from the eaves. The verandah was added soon after construction. In 1877 the kitchen wing was torn down, the present drawing room and bedrooms above it built, and a new kitchen wing added at the back. Most of an early series of terraces in the hillside have recently been cleared. Eldon House was the first building in London to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

CONTINUE NORTH ON RIDOUT STREET, TURN RIGHT ONTO DUFFERIN AVENUE (until recently Maple Street, originally Hitchcock Street), AND CONTINUE TOWARDS TALBOT STREET.

93 Dufferin Avenue built c. 1868. This was the home of Samuel Peters, architect and surveyor, from the 1860s to 1881. The residence at 95 Dufferin Avenue was attached in the 1890s. Note the brackets under the eaves, the wreath around the round attic window, and the recent loss of original window sash which gave the façades a different character.

At the corner of Talbot Street and Dufferin Avenue look south past Hakim Optical to the large brick terrace. Marked "Camden Terrace" it was probably built in the 1870s by Samuel Peters who owned the land. He died at No. 2 Camden Terrace in 1882. His former neighbours included hardware merchant James Cowan and biscuit and candy maker Daniel S. Perrin.

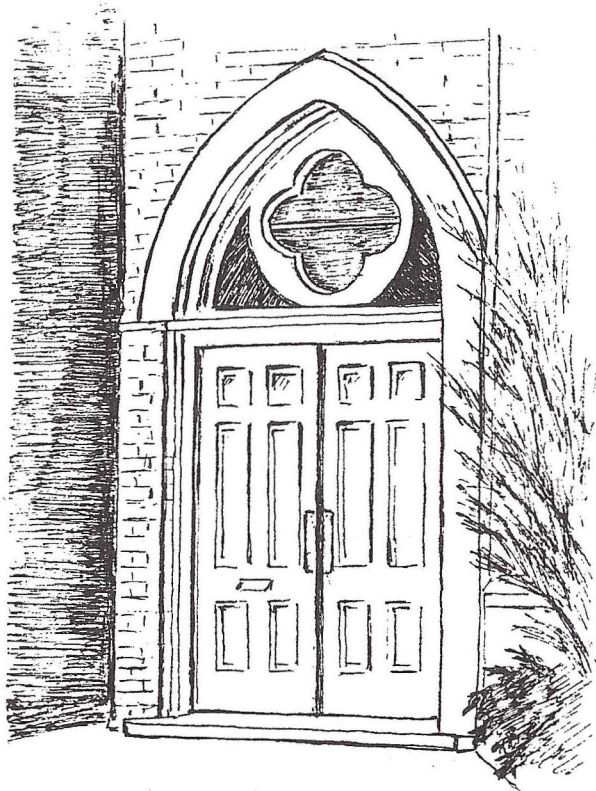
On the north-west corner of Talbot Street and Dufferin Avenue is a large Italianate house (505) built for James Owry c. 1881. Noticeable features include a decorative frieze. The attic dormers are later additions.

PROCEED NORTH ON TALBOT STREET TO THE FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH.

4. First Christian Reformed Church

The Talbot Street Church was built in 1881-82 for the rapidly expanding Baptist congregation in London. As a note in the *Canadian Baptist* of 1881 explained, the local Baptists had been "blessed . . . with a continual revival for over two years," and they were likely soon to fill the 600 seats of the first floor and the 320 in the gallery.

The church was designed by the city's leading architect George Durand, and its appearance exemplifies his typically original and effective handling of space. In keeping with the contemporary practices of the more evangelical protestant denominations, the building is broad in order to allow members of the congregation the best view of the preacher. The side walls of the nave are actually in line with the outer boundaries of the side doors. Durand had disguised the width of the church by dividing his façade into three parts: a central section and two polygonal stair towers that appear to be adjuncts to the main structure. As Nancy Tausky and Lynne DiStefano have explained of these towers in *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario*. "their shape is vaguely reminiscent of the chapels in the chevet of a French medieval cathedral, but here they have been moved from the apse to form side wings on the façade of a parish church." Their polygonal shape is echoed in what were originally the buttressed bases of pinnacles rising above the roofline.



The central part of the façade originally countered the weightiness of the stair towers with strongly vertical components: a slightly projecting central bay rose through a series of gradually narrowing steps to culminate in a gabled bellcote, and the pinnacles terminated in spires. Unfortunately, a problem with one of the main roof trusses forced the present Christian Reformed congregation to replace the original roof, and the bellcote and spires were removed in favor of the overhanging eaves. Except for this necessary alteration, the members of the Christian Reformed Church have done an admirable job of maintaining the building's original architectural features. They have removed the red paint (added around the turn of the century) in order to reveal the original bichromatic brickwork of the façade, and they have retained the original stained glass windows and the original doors with their diagonal boarding. They have also kept many interior features. Before entering the church, visitors should note the freely designed capital of the column between the two front doors; its general outlines are matched inside by the capitals of the columns supporting the large gallery.

The somewhat theatrical character of the interior would have been even more in evidence before the present pulpit platform replaced the old curtained baptistery. The semi-circular seating of the main floor and the horseshoe-shaped gallery were designed to give a good view of the 'stage', and the turn-of-the-century folding plywood seats, complete with hatracks on the underside, probably differed from those at the Grand Opera House only in their lack of padding. (Note the patent date that forms part of the iron design of the sides.) Like these seats, the elaborate iron railing of the balcony was added as part of turn-of-the-century renovations. A postcard dated 1908 shows main-floor pews with iron sides similar to those of the gallery chairs, and the writer notes that the church is "one of the prettiest" in town.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED HERE AFTER 2:00 PM. PROCEED NORTH ON TALBOT STREET TO 535 TALBOT AT THE CORNER OF TALBOT STREET AND KENT STREET.

5. 537 Talbot Street

Evidence gained from London City Directories indicates that **537 Talbot Street** was built in the mid-1850s. Its first occupant was Robert S. Murray, a dry goods merchant and a Ward Two alderman in the 1880s. Another noteworthy resident was Dr. William E. Waugh, a founder of The University of Western Ontario's Medical School in 1881. He was also among the first physicians affiliated with St. Joseph's Hospital, established in 1888. The house was purchased by U.W.O. in 1944 and converted to student housing. Since 1985 it has functioned as a legal office; a commodious apartment occupies the second storey.

The building is a typical Italianate-style cityhouse of its period. Boxlike in shape, it features a hip roof, broken at the front by a centre gable accommodating a round arched window. Corner quoins and coursing between the first and second stories, and between the foundation and the first storey add variety to the white brick wall surfacing. A kitchen wing extends from the rear of the dwelling. The flat-roofed, one storey doctor's office was added by Dr. Waugh in the early 1890s.

The interior double leaf entrance door features round arched windows of etched glass with a red-coloured etched glass transom above. Downstairs note the wooden fireplace and built-in bookcase in the Camman office and another wooden fireplace in the Beccarea office. Plaster ceiling mouldings, multi-panelled doors, deeply incised door and window mouldings with corner blocks, and high baseboards are features common on the first storey. Access to the upstairs is gained by a handsome wooden staircase. On the second floor note the remarkably high ceilings, the transoms above the doors and the French window in the centre bedroom, giving access to the porch roof.

PROCEED NORTH ALONG TALBOT STREET

The buildings between Albert Street and Central Avenue represent a variety of architectural styles of the second half of the nineteenth century. The two Ontario cottages at 601 and 607 Talbot provide an interesting contrast to the adjacent Italianate structures on either side.

6. 601 Talbot Street

PLEASE BE PREPARED TO WAIT AS ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE HOUSE AT ONE TIME.

Built c. 1873, the building was first occupied by David Bruce, a fire department engineer who sold it in 1882 to A.S.K. Barclay, an inspector for the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company (now Canada Trust). The gothic façade of 601 has been somewhat altered by the addition of a partially covered porch enclosed by a fieldstone wall which dates possibly from the 1920s and likely replaced a smaller porch. The façade features a round window in the centre gable which lights an unfinished attic. A wooden frieze beneath the eaves extends around the house. This frieze has been reproduced beneath the porch roof where it conceals an arched transom of etched red glass now visible only from the inside. A pair of recessed doors with etched glass are set in a panelled frame.

Each of the doorways along the short, central hall has a transom as does the bedroom doorway further down. The doorway in the back wall once led into the kitchen, now a separate apartment. A flight of stairs to a room above the kitchen begins here. With the relocation of the kitchen, the dining-room and living room (parlour) have been reversed. A feeling of spaciousness is imparted by the high ceilings in these two rooms. The carved marble fireplace in the former parlour is beautifully proportioned.

PLEASE EXIT BY THE FRONT DOOR.

The exterior of the kitchen and summer kitchen can be seen by following the driveway to the left (south) of the house.

CONTINUE NORTH ON TALBOT STREET. TURN LEFT ONTO CENTRAL AVENUE AND PROCEED WEST TO 98 CENTRAL.

7. 98 Central Avenue

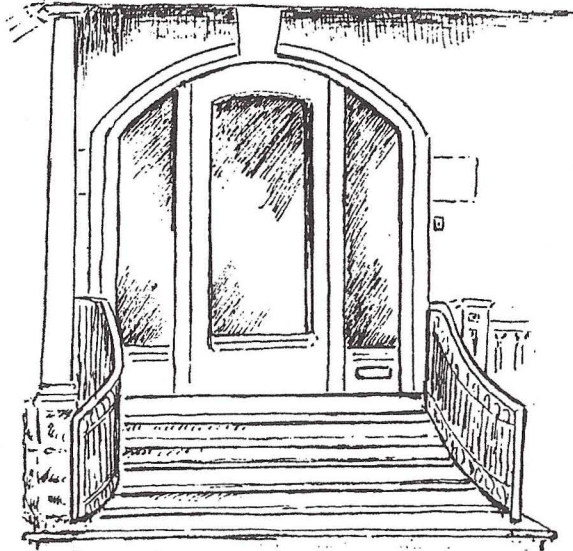
The two storey smooth red brick house at **98 Central Avenue** was probably built, along with neighbouring 100, around 1905 replacing an earlier building on the site. Its first occupant was George C. Gunn, son of G.M. Gunn, the insurance agent. In 1928, it became the home of Edith and Archibald Treleaven, finance manager of the Gorman-Eckert

Spice Company. The family lived here until the 1960s. At that time the house was converted into two apartments, by enclosing the lower half of the stairway in the front hall, by adding an outside entrance through the window at the first landing.

The present owner has removed the staircase enclosure and restored the window hoping to replace what was probably stained or leaded glass. When the house was renovated in the 1960s a second storey was added to the porch covering a large window (possibly a bay) above the front door.

The oversized oak front door, with its curved wide side-lights, leads into a square entrance hall with doors into the former living room, dining room, and kitchen. The house is currently being used as a denture therapy office and lab on the ground floor with a comfortable two storey apartment above. Other than converting one window of an upstairs bay into a doorway leading to the glassed-in porch, no structural changes have been made.

As you leave, note the stained glass doors and panelling in the former butler's pantry which connects the former kitchen and dining room.

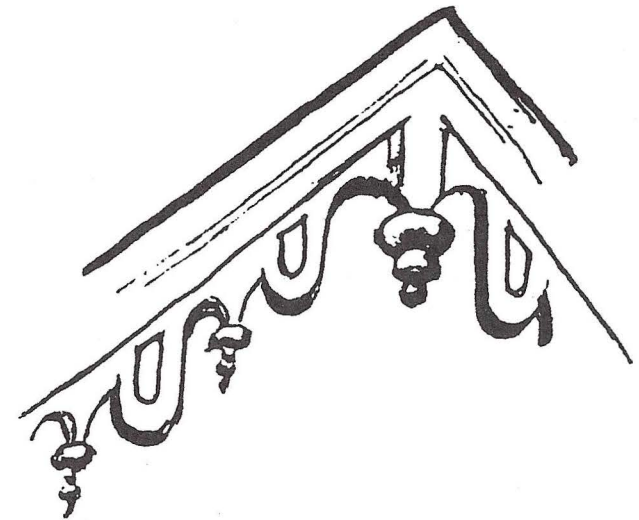


EXIT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR AND RETURN TO THE STREET THROUGH A GATE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE HOUSE. PROCEED WEST ON CENTRAL AVENUE AND TURN LEFT THROUGH THE SMALL GATE ONTO THE GROUNDS OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE BISHOP OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LONDON.

This Italianate house, known as Blackfriars, was built for Thomas Kent, president of the London Loan company, in 1875. It was designed by William Robinson. Tausky and DiStefano have described it as "typical of Robinson's houses, it had graceful proportions, carefully selected ornamental details (such as brick quoins, textured keystones and a decorative brick cornice), and an overall air of quiet reserve." The massive "porch-portico" was designed c. 1912 by John Moore and J. Vicar Munro, who had by then become principals in the architectural firm Robinson founded. The enclosed second storey porch was added later.

PROCEED NORTH THROUGH THE GROUNDS OF BLACKFRIARS TO RALEIGH HOUSE.

8. Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House



Built in 1866 or 1867, **639 Talbot** was occupied for many years by two prominent families. George B. Harris, a lawyer and a son of John Harris of Eldon House, bought the house in 1871, named it Raleigh House and lived there until 1887 with his wife Lucy. The house was named after a township near Chatham, Ontario, where Lucy's family, the Ronalds, held property. James Cowan, a hardware merchant and civic politician, and his family then occupied the house, renamed Birkhill, until the 1940s. The house then became the home of the London Chapter of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. The Sorority has since sold part of the property, which once extended to Talbot Street, and the house is now screened by an apartment building.

A total of five gables each with their original barge-board give the house an asymmetrical appearance. A number of bay windows, French doors and floor-to-ceiling windows now provide a contrast with the original round and pointed Gothic windows in the upper part of the house. Verandahs once existed on all sides of the house except the north.

A variety of interior details from different periods are visible in the lower floor rooms, all of which open off a large, square entrance hall. The plaster arch with cast plaster corbels over the entrance, the four-panel doors and the hall's baseboards are all probably original. The Eastlake mantel-piece, set over a fireplace fitted for gas, was likely added in the 1880s. The panelled stairway and beam ceiling probably date from after the turn of the century.

The large bookshelves in the library cover a window which is still in place but permanently shuttered on the outside as is the one above it on the second floor. Moulds with a fleur-de-lys motif were used to produce the library's cast-iron firebox. The drawing-room, a later addition, is entered through an archway fitted with pocket doors. Here, a second Eastlake mantel can be found complete with spindles, applied burls and veneers and incised line decoration. French doors once led to a verandah overlooking the Thames River. The drawing-room's outside doors and windows once had Eastlake valences. Each of the three lower sash in the bay window can be slid up past the top of the window frame into a pocket in the wall above. This type of window can be found in the dining-room as well.

The dining-room is next to the butler's pantry on the east side of the house. The plaster medallion in the ceiling is

probably original. Another of the house's Eastlake elements is the built-in shelf unit backed with a mirror which sits against one wall. The den, redecorated in the 1920s, still retains some earlier details. Wood has been applied to the walls and topped with a moulding to give the effect of panelling, and a rug-brick fireplace has replaced an earlier wooden one. A late Victorian panelled ceiling and a completely grained bay window are still present. Raleigh house was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1983.

PROCEED THROUGH THE GATES OF RALEIGH HOUSE AND DOWN BARTON STREET TO TALBOT STREET. TURN LEFT AND PROCEED THREE BLOCKS TO ANN STREET.

652 Talbot was originally built c. 1862 as a classical one storey house. It was owned, until 1912, by William C. Furness, Manager of the Montreal Telegraph Company. This building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1986.

651 Talbot was built c. 1905 and occupied for many years by Thomas P. McCormick a biscuit manufacturer.

653 Talbot is a Georgian Revival house, built c. 1908.

Built for Elijah Leonard, Junior in 1853-4, **661 Talbot** is a classical structure built of brick and stuccoed. Leonard established his first foundry in London in 1838. The house became known as "Locust Mount" because a number of locust trees had been planted nearby.

"**The Ritz**" was built as the Monastery of the Precious Blood. It occupies the former site of Thomas Carling's home built in the 1870s. The disappearance of the decorative metal work has revealed a wide section of cheap white brick that normally would have been hidden.

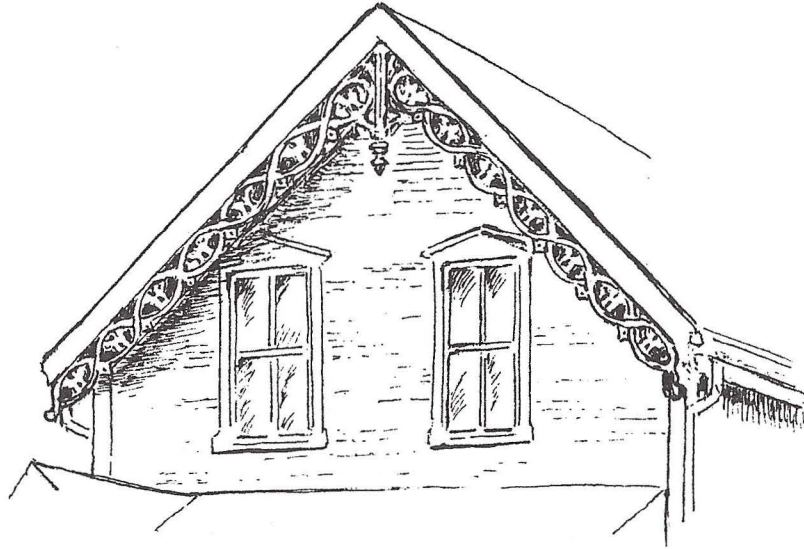
Half-way between Mill and Ann Streets an open space running eastward through the block marks the former stream bed of Carling's Creek, now piped underground through here to the river. There was a mill known as the Waters' mill at the end of the creek by at least 1843.

The hugh brick Ontario Hydro building between Piccadilly and Ann Streets on the West side of Talbot Street is located on part of the former Carling Brewery site. The brewery was built in 1875 and operated until the 1930s.

TURN RIGHT AT ANN STREET AND PROCEED TO 127 ANN.

9. 127 Ann Street

Possibly built in the 1880s, this house was occupied for many years by the Arscott family who owned much of the block between Talbot and St. George Streets. **127 Ann Street** has barge-board, verandah embellishment, and tapered window frames, all of which distinguish it from its plainer twin to the west (125). The traditional white paint with dark green for verandah and trim has now given way to a clay colour with green trim. The painted stencils on the window frames are the present owners' handicraft. When they had to replace the verandah they ordered wooden balusters specially turned by lathe to replicate the original spindles. The transom light above the front door was formerly of frosted glass, and the original thin curved glazing bars suggest an arch.



Inside, the front hall partition has been removed to open up the parlour space. The sliding doors to the dining room have their old grained finish. Notice above them the bell-flower and spindle filigree trim.

The old kitchen area has a sloping roof which shows slightly at the edge of the kitchen ceiling. The side door has a wealth of interesting detail. An old pantry was eliminated and new partitions planned for bathroom and mud-room. The glass French door was formerly in the front hall.

The third and rear section of this house is possibly the oldest. It contains a cistern for collecting rainwater from the roof, which was customary before the advent of town water supply. Arscott descendants continued to live in #127 until about fifteen years ago.

YOU MAY LEAVE BY THE DRIVEWAY AND PROCEED EAST.

146-154 Ann Street is a wooden terrace possibly built in the 1880s.

147 to 161 Ann Street were built c. 1898. These six late Victorian cottages occupy the former site of the Arscott tannery which operated from about 1868 to 1890. The founder, Richard Arscott, who eventually sold out to Hyman, lived on the northwest corner of Ann and St. George Streets. In 1870 he employed seven men, Hyman employed ten.

The workingman's house is an important component of urban dwellings which has received little attention. In uniform series they are not at all common in London North, and being beside the railway and tannery partly accounts for them here.

A brief detour can be made here to see **183 Ann Street** the former home of John Hamilton and, later, of his son Joseph Hamilton both of who owned the Kent Brewery which is likely the building at **197 Ann Street**. The brewery existed as early as 1870 when it produced 250 barrels of beer a year (8000 gallons).

The Hyman tannery was established at the corner of Ann and Richmond Streets in 1867. It eventually grew to cover much of the block. Construction on the tannery's replacement is just now being completed.

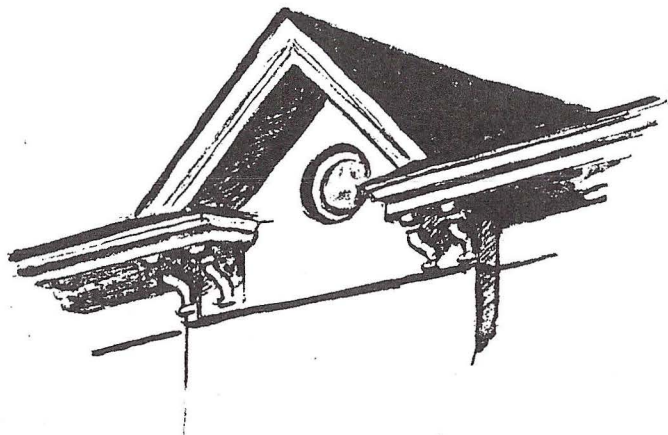
PROCEED SOUTH ON ST. GEORGE STREET TO MILL STREET.

163 Mill Street is a one storey, hip roof, Regency style cottage built in 1880 for Thomas A. Hall who operated a grocery here, as indicated by the arched windows and recessed door on the east side of the façade. It operated as a grocery until 1950 with the owners living in the west two-thirds of the building. This building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1986.

CONTINUE SOUTH ON ST. GEORGE STREET WHICH JOGS SLIGHTLY AT JOHN STREET. AT HYMAN STREET TURN LEFT AND PROCEED TO RICHMOND STREET.

623 Richmond Street is another combined home and grocery store. It was built between 1902 and 1906 by the firm of John Moore and Fred Henry. A dining room, a kitchen and a pantry occupied the lower floor behind the store. Upstairs were four bedrooms, a bathroom, and a sitting room. It was built for Mrs. O'Donnell whose son ran the grocery until 1957.

PROCEED SOUTH ON RICHMOND TO CENTRAL AND TURN RIGHT. PROCEED TO 172 CENTRAL AVENUE.



172 Central

The Italianate house at **172 Central** has an unusually interesting history and design. It may have been relatively new when it was recorded on the insurance map of 1881. Its first known resident was Oronhyatekha, a Mohawk Indian from the Six-Nation Reserve, who after study at a variety of schools including Toronto and Oxford Universities, practised medicine in several Canadian towns. He lived in London from 1874 to the late 1880s, gaining recognition as an especially skilled and learned physician.

From the front, the house might seem to resemble several others built in London during the 1870s and early 1880s. Its symmetrical two-storey façade has three bays, with segmental arches over the windows and the centre complexes of door and sidelights. There are brick quoins at the corners of the main block and also at the corners of the projecting frontispiece. Inside, however, one discovers the house to have a character very much its own. It is unique in several respects.

- 1) In plan. Most houses of this design are two rooms deep, with a main stairway rising parallel to a long centre hall. Here, the main block is only one room deep, and the stairway turns to run along the back wall. This arrangement originally allowed three upstairs bedrooms along the front of the house.
- 2) In interior architectural fittings. A number of characteristics contribute to the elegance of the central hall and the two rooms that open off of it. All have very generous proportions, their height (11 1/2') is emphasized by the extraordinarily high doors leading into what were probably, in their first use, a parlour and a dining-room respectively. (The present doors are the original ones, though they have been cut in half.) The egg-and-dart design of the cornice is not typical of houses of this period, but its unusually large size and robust quality suggest that it may be original. There are handsome marble mantels in both rooms. The bulbous quality of the "eggs" in the moulding is echoed by the spherical projections in the mantel of the west room.

Subsequent fittings have enhanced the building's original elegance they include the valence boxes and, most likely, the downstairs newel post (compare the original newel post and spindles on the second floor). The back wing, which probably housed a kitchen and summer kitchen in 1881, has been made into a dining room and more modern kitchen. Note the unusually low doors here. The present owner, Mr. G. Robyn, has conscientiously copied the moulding of the valence boxes in extending their line along the rest of the room.

- 3) In construction. The stone foundation of the house is three feet thick. The brick walls are three layers thick. The beams supporting the stairwell measure 6" x 6". The roof rafters comprise three trunks split in half. When Mr. Robyn cut a new door through a bedroom wall, he discovered that even interior partitions were composed of vertical 3" x 12" or 3" x 14" planks of hemlock! The house clearly has substance as well as style.

PROCEED WEST ON CENTRAL AVENUE TO TALBOT STREET AND THEN SOUTH ON TALBOT STREET TO ALBERT. TURN LEFT ON ALBERT AND PROCEED TO 121 ALBERT.

11. 121 Albert Street

Both sides of this small hip-roofed double cottage have seen a long list of working class inhabitants including a groom, a cigarmaker, a painter, an engraver, and a dress-maker. Directory listings for the address begin around 1878, though it may have been constructed as early as 1862. The entranceway to 121 is lit by sidelights and a transom which are likely original, as is the plaster medallion on the ceiling. The doorway at the other end of the entrance hall has been converted to shelving and a new route through the living room has been established. Doors to two bedrooms (one is now a closet) lead from the dining room which adjoins the living room. A narrow flight of stairs runs from the back corner of the dining room towards the front of the house up the the wall which divides the two sides. To the rear of the dining room are two separate brick additions now in use as a kitchen and a bathroom. A great deal of rehabilitation has been done by the present tenants over the past eight years including recovering and re-hanging most of the building's doors.

PLEASE EXIT THROUGH THE KITCHEN'S SIDE DOOR AND FOLLOW THE PATH ALONG THE BUILDING BACK TO ALBERT STREET. THIS CONCLUDES GERANIUM WALK XV. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH (513 TALBOT) UNTIL 5:00 PM.

IN ADDITION TO NANCY TAUSKY AND LYNNE DISTEFANO'S VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO, JOHN LUTMAN'S BOOK THE HISTORIC HEART OF LONDON (SOON TO BE REISSUED) HAS BEEN RELIED ON HEAVILY IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BOOKLET.

- NOTES -