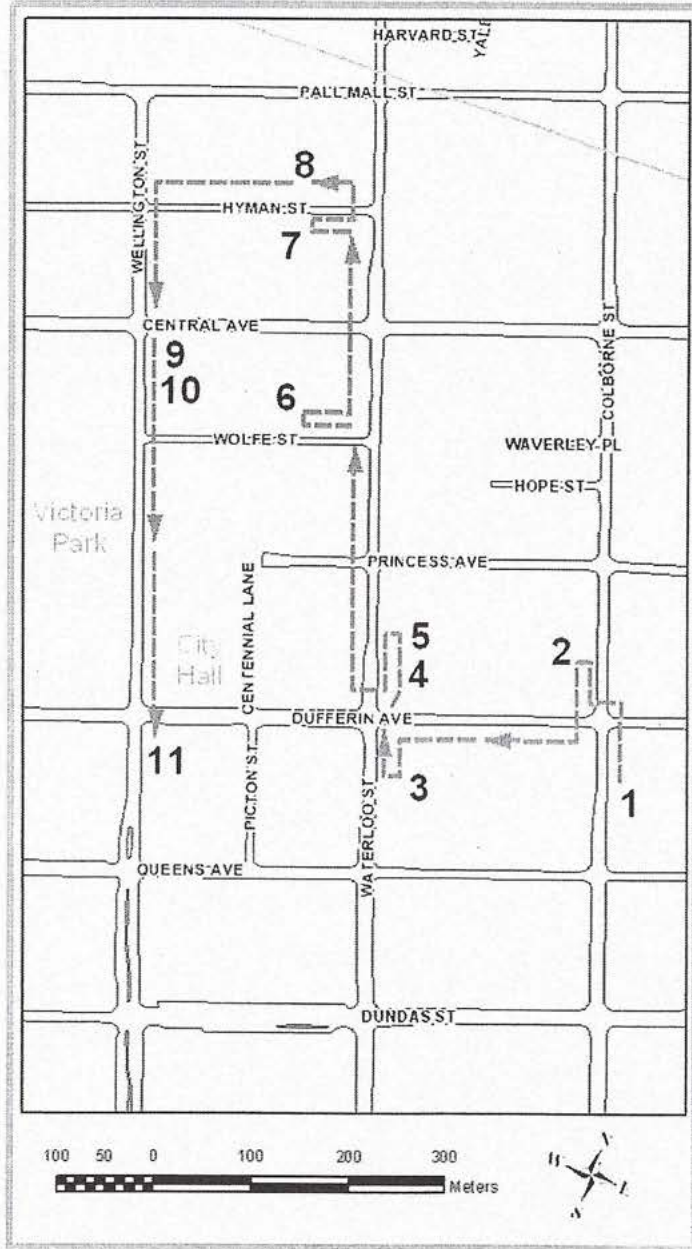
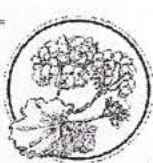
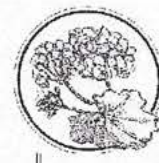


A house with a potted geranium in front is open for viewing



## ACO'S 34th Annual Geranium Heritage House Tour

# West Woodfield Walkabout



**Sunday June 3, 2007  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*Walk begins at Mocha Shrine Centre  
468 Colborne Street*

Refreshments are available at Metropolitan United Church  
between 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
London Region Branch



## The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

### Founded in 1933

#### *Aims*

- To preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province.
- To protect its places of natural beauty.
- To preserve significant buildings regardless of age, style and size.
- To protect such buildings from unsympathetic alteration.
- To preserve the architectural integrity of streetscapes.
- To protect places of natural beauty from destructive uses.

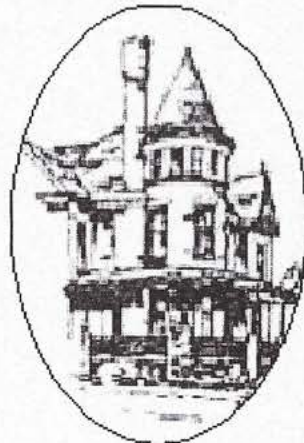
## The London Region Branch

### Founded in 1966

When faced with the probable loss of the buildings in London's earliest banking and professional areas on Ridout Street, concerned citizens and groups combined to form the London Region Branch of the ACO. As a branch of the Provincial ACO it serves to further the *aims* of the parent organization in the London Region.

#### *Activities*

- Organizing walking tours, lectures, bus trips and workshops
- Providing financial assistance to owners of selected properties
- Influencing public policy at local and provincial levels.
- Holding an annual architectural tour on the first Sunday in June.
- Appointing a representative to the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH).



## Introduction

This year's Geranium Heritage House Tour returns to the residential district of West Woodfield. This area is rich in historical and architectural heritage, and exhibits some of London's finest examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Many of London's successful business owners chose to live in this area since it was close to Victoria Park. Prominent London architects George F. Durand and John M. Moore were residents of the district, and designed several of its homes.

At present, the West Woodfield community has requested that the City of London assist with the creation of a heritage conservation district under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. Work has now begun by the team of consultants towards determining whether West Woodfield satisfies the criteria required. The city currently has three heritage conservation districts - East Woodfield, Bishop Hellmuth, and Old East Village.

One of the main aims of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is "to preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province". Our annual heritage house tour provides an opportunity for Londoners to appreciate the richness of our built heritage. To further the preservation of our built heritage proceeds from today's tour will help fund two ongoing ACO heritage projects :

- a \$1000.00 grant to homeowners to help preserve or restore heritage features of their home
- a \$1000.00 grant to a student enrolled in a heritage trades program at Algonquin College

Enjoy your stroll through West Woodfield today. You will find a map on the back cover of this booklet, but remember that the sites are all open from 1:00 to 5:00, and to avoid long lineups you may wish to see them in a different order.

Don't forget to stop for refreshments at Metropolitan United Church between 2:30 and 5:00. While you're at the church, don't miss today's opportunity to purchase your copy of the newly published *Residential to the Core* published by the Woodfield Community Association. One of its feature articles by ACO member and Treasurer John Therriault reviews the history of previous Geranium Walks in the Woodfield neighbourhood and provides some insight into how these walks are organized.

**Note: As part of our commitment to residential property owners we would ask that our participants be prepared to remove their shoes if asked. Our guides will provide shopping bags for you to carry them with you as you observe the home.**

"West Woodfield Walkabout" is sponsored in part by Landmarks London.

Thank you for your participation



Geraniums for today's tour have been provided by Van Horik Greenhouses and Garden Centre.



930 Gainsborough  
London, Ontario .  
N6H 5L4

## History of West Woodfield

The west side of the Woodfield neighbourhood (bounded by Richmond, Queens, Adelaide and the CPR) developed relatively late compared to the east side. While Rev. Cronyn, Talbot heir George Macbeth and merchant Lawrence Lawrason were carving out their estates on the east side beginning in the late 1830s, the British army was clearing a huge tract of land for a base closer to the edge of what was then the village of London. It would house a garrison, brought to London following the rebellion of 1837 to prevent attacks from the US, which would remain in London in some form until the general withdrawal of the British Army from Canada in 1869. Much of today's walk takes place on the former garrison lands.


The garrison lands, bounded by Waterloo, Dufferin, Clarence, Richmond and Piccadilly, provided barracks, stores, a magazine and a parade ground which was often used for cricket. As early as the 1850s the part of the reserve lying north of Central Ave. provided a site for agricultural fairs. The Western Fair was held on these lands from 1868 to 1886.

After the troops left, London's MP John Carling, a brewery owner, convinced the federal government to turn the lands over to the city. It was decided that the former barracks and parade ground would become a park. It was dedicated in 1874 in honour of Queen Victoria. After the Western Fair relocated to Queens Park, the remaining lands were subdivided and the lots sold. The most attractive lots bordered the new park. The city's leading merchants, lawyers and factory owners were drawn to the area joining those who had already built homes further east along Queens, Dufferin and Princess. 256 Central Ave., for example, was built by lawyer Charles Ivey and was later owned by brewer John S. Labatt. 284 Central Ave. was owned by Frank McCormick, president of the McCormick Company which made biscuits and candy.

The last part of the garrison reserve to be built on was the southeast corner of Central and Wellington which was developed after 1905 when the new downtown Armories replaced a militia building located there. Six houses were built on Central Ave. and three on Wellington Street. Today the three new houses on Wellington (568-572) are all that survive of the mansions that once lined the street. In the 1950s the land in this block was assembled to build Centennial Hall, the Centennial Apartments and City Hall which opened in 1971. This saw the loss of many of the great Victoria Park mansions.

The blocks north and east of the park however, remain intact and are filled with the nineteenth and early twentieth century homes of the owners and workers that founded the historic Woodfield neighbourhood.

*Mike Baker*



**Call today to book a complimentary lunch and tour!**

**519 667-1381**

**10 Grand Avenue**  
in the heart of  
Old South London

**The Waverley**  
*Retirement Residence*



**468 Colborne Street**  
**Mocha Shrine Centre**  
**(c. 1903)**



*Priority 1*

Today's tour begins in one of London's most elegant mansions, now known as the Mocha Shrine Centre. This was the home of John B. Smallman, a founder of London's largest department store, Smallman & Ingrams (later Simpson's Ltd.). His brother, T.H. Smallman, had purchased the Waverley mansion in 1892 and was associated with both the London and Port Stanley Railway and the Canada Chemical Company. J.B. Smallman occupied this home until his death in 1916, and his sisters Annie and Bessie continued to live here until it was sold to the Shriners in 1957.

The building displays many features of the Edwardian style, including an irregular roof line with large gables and a turret, texture in the glass, stone, wood and brick, and the use of classical ornamentation.

As you walk out of the house to the sidewalk, stop for a moment to take in the impressive view from the street. Notice

the perfect balance between the two prominent features of the front façade - the gable and the turret. The gable is topped with a classical pediment containing a very elegant Palladian window. The red textured infill blends nicely with the red brick of the house and the tiled roof of the turret.

Harmony is brought to the various design elements through decoration. The gable and turret have similar woodwork, featuring brackets and dentils. This decoration continues around the top of the verandah, and even to the porte-cochere (added at a later date). Another unifying design element is the egg-and-dart motif, which shows up in the brickwork around the windows, at the top of the columns, and even in the borders of door knobs.

The home's large verandah wraps around the base of the turret, and was glassed in at a later date. The 1955 photo shows its spindled railing, now preserved behind the glass, and a matching railing atop the verandah.



*The Smallman house, taken August 12, 1955  
Photo courtesy of Victor Aziz Studio*

### **Exit by the front door and walk north on Colborne Street.**

In 1874, Alexander Johnson, a leather merchant, commissioned the firm of Robinson and Tracy to design two small houses, at 469 and 473 Colborne Street, as rental properties. The one and a half story white brick homes combine elements of the Italianate style with the irregularity of design favoured by the late Victorians. Notice the double brackets in the gables and brick cornices, the decorative brick window surrounds with keystones and the elegant double windows in the first floor bays. Other design elements of interest are the classical porches and broad transoms above the doors.



*469 Colborne Street*

The house on the southeast corner of Colborne and Dufferin, 484 Colborne Street, features an elaborate frieze under the eaves, keystones in the slightly arched window headings, a double-leaf door with a rounded transom and a lovely verandah.

**At the intersection cross Dufferin Avenue and Colborne Street.**



**501 Colborne Street**  
**(double house with 503)**  
**(c. 1902)**



*Designated*

*Priority 2*

This two and a half storey double house was built by Tambling and Jones Builders and Contractors, who built many houses in the core. It features pressed red brick and a rusticated stone foundation, a signature of the builder. Mr. Tambling gave this double house to one of his three daughters (each of his three daughters was given a house by her father). The daughter and her husband lived in one side on the first two floors, with servants on the third, and the other side of the house was rented.

This building is an example of the transition between the Queen Anne and later Edwardian style. It is symmetrical, as most double houses are. The façade is well balanced, with a dormer window and wide porch uniting the two sides. Two-storey projecting bays on the front (also on the north and southsides) are topped with formidable gables. Modillions and dentils enhance the wide wood eaves. The palladian windows in the pediments are set in half-timbering and

stucco, with Doric pilasters on the window surrounds. Matching pilasters are used in the double window dormer. Windows in the rest of the house are defined by rusticated stone lintels and sills.

Modifications to the home have been thoughtfully carried out. The original front doors were replaced with double-leaf doors featuring bevelled glass. The original full width verandah was replaced with a narrower but very elegant porch, featuring Doric columns. The turned spindles are a replica and are nicely echoed in the shorter railing atop the porch.

**Exit the home and turn right at the sidewalk. At the corner, turn right again onto Dufferin Ave.**

The yellow brick house at 400 Dufferin Avenue, probably built in the 1870's, was the home of Judge William Elliott, a county court judge who died in 1903. The double bay was once capped by a cupola-like tower with a window in it. The Elliott daughter occupied the house for over 75 years until the 1950s. Tea was regularly served on the lawn.

The red brick building at 392 Dufferin Avenue was built in 1905 for Gordon J. McIntosh, an accountant at Robinson, Little, a huge wholesale drygoods firm. His widow donated their considerable art collection to UWO and the McIntosh Gallery is named after him. Notice the rusticated stone of the lintels, sills and foundation.

The red brick house with red trim and a slate roof at 385 Dufferin Avenue was built about 1907 and is one of the last Queen Anne style houses to be built in London. Note the rounded doorway built into the tower. It was built for John Marr, president of the grocery wholesaling firm of Elliott, Marr.

The houses at 368 and 370 Dufferin Avenue were both constructed by Alexander McLean, a retired British army officer, for his daughters. The two buildings are sisters in design as well, since both are examples of the Italianate style. The tall narrow shape, the balanced three-bay façade and side hall plan are typical of this style. Note the three-arched "London doorway" on #368.



*368 Dufferin Avenue*

369 Dufferin Avenue was built in 1913 and was designed by John M. Moore for his son John McClary Moore, who was a grandson of one of the founders of the McClary stove works. The design of the house marks a trend away from the ornamentation of the Edwardian period toward the more symmetrical, four-square style.

Well known London artist Eva Bradshaw lived at 348 Dufferin Avenue. Note the parapet walls rising above the roof and the double bracketing.



## 478 Waterloo Street (c. 1876)



*Priority 1*

This Italianate home was built about 1876 for Thomas Muir, and is the oldest building on today's tour. Thomas Muir was manager of the Ontario Car Company, a firm which built railway coaches in London East.

Significant alterations to the house were made after it was purchased by John Mackenzie Moore around 1893. Moore was a prominent London architect, whose designs include the elegant red-brick house across the street at 471 Waterloo. In the 1880s he was employed in the office of George F. Durand when Durand designed many Woodfield houses. Moore started his own firm shortly before Durand's death in 1889.

The home's original Italianate features include the low hipped roof (since altered), overhanging eaves with paired corner brackets, and slightly arched windows. Originally the façade was dominated by a central tower. However, Moore had it removed and replaced with a classical portico and bandshell-



shaped verandah. The enclosed balcony on the second storey (called a "sleeping porch") is elaborately decorated, and topped with a large pediment. Woodwork on the cornice includes dentils and modillions, which blend in with the rest of the house. The Ionic pilasters at the corners echo the Ionic columns used on the verandah below.

**After exiting 478 Waterloo Street turn right (north) and return to and cross Dufferin Avenue.**



*471 Waterloo Street*



**496 Waterloo Street  
(c. 1893)**



*Designated*

*Priority 1*

This impressive red-brick house displays a diversity of architectural elements typical of late Victorian houses. It was commissioned by a successful real estate agent, Albion Parfitt, who later became a stock broker. In 1923, it was bought by Dr. John A. McGregor, an eminent physician who, at age 19, had the distinction of being the youngest-ever graduate of the UWO medical school. Until the mid-1970s the house was continuously occupied by doctors who had their consulting rooms in a north-side addition which was built on in the 1920s.

The house incorporates many design features of the Queen Anne style, with its irregular high-pitched gable roofline, three-storey corner turret, balcony, wrap-around verandah and two-storey bay topped with an overhanging gable and heavy brackets. The shingled gables each have a different treatment: a Palladian window on the north side, an oriel



window on the south, and a very ornate balcony in the west gable.

The octagonal turret is decorated with contrasting brick panels and corbelled brick brackets. It is topped with a flared polygonal roof and finial.

In the structural design of the house, the portent of Edwardian dignity is beginning to be felt. Queen Anne vitality is counterbalanced by certain Romanesque Revival elements such as heavy stone lintels and cut-stone column supports. The verandah has classical features, with slender Corinthian columns and a pediment over the entrance. The spindled railing is echoed in the railing above the verandah and in the third storey gable balcony.



*Close-up of turret at 496 Waterloo Street*



## 502 Waterloo Street (c. 1902)



*Priority 1*

The handsome residence next door at 502 Waterloo is somewhat simpler in design, with many of the same Queen Anne/Edwardian features.

Once again the Queen Anne influence is seen in the overall shape, with the familiar irregular roofline, round turret with finial, and two-storey bays on the front and south sides topped with pediment gables. The hipped roof has a steep pitch, allowing for a good view of the fishscale slate shingles. This shingle pattern is repeated in the turret roof and the gable infill. Single and paired brackets decorate the cornice. The home's two-storey turret, less prominent than that of its neighbour, balances nicely with the gable. There is a conservatory on the south side and a vehicle turntable in the garage.

Edwardian touches are evident in the simplicity of the window design and porch. Windows on the first two storeys

are flat with stone headings and sills. The pediment contains a tri-part window that bows out slightly and features decorative woodwork. The tall porch, with its classical Doric columns, frames the entrance and allows for a good view of the doorway. There is a double-leaf door with recessed transom and bevelled glass. The original wooden porch railings were replaced by stylish iron railings.

The home was first occupied by Alex Gilleau, an agent and inspector for Standard Life Company. Subsequent owners included Norman Howden, president of D.H. Howden & Co. wholesale hardware firm, and Frank S. Ashplant of Ashplant & Sons shoe store.

#### **Exit the house and continue north on Waterloo Street.**

Central Secondary School was built in 1922 following a fire that destroyed the first collegiate institute that had been built in 1878 on part of the old garrison lands. The present building is designed in the Collegiate Gothic style.

The white brick house at 504 Waterloo Street, which was built about 1894, is notable for the shape and placement of the windows and the courses of rough textured brick which add interest to the south, west and north facades. Its neighbour, 508 Waterloo Street, is similar in design but the façade has been altered by the addition of a sun porch. Compare the details in the gables of these two houses.

Notice the two double houses at 512-514 Waterloo Street and 516-518 Waterloo Street. Unique in London, they are in the Romanesque style; the fronts of the houses are faced with red sandstone on the first storey and red brick on the second, while white brick is used on the sides. When these houses were built, red brick was being brought into London at some expense from Milton and other centres to the east, but the local white brick, which was much cheaper, was commonly

used for the sides and back of the buildings. A single arch surmounts the double balcony on one house, while the other has two keyhole-shaped openings, giving it a Moorish air. Note the attractive fish-scale lining in the balconies. Notice, too, that the facades of the first stories of these two buildings are identical, but on the second storey they are quite different.



*516-518 Waterloo Street*

#### **Continue your stroll north toward Wolfe Street.**

The Italianate Richard J. O'Loane house, at 528 Waterloo Street, was built in 1874. Note the gently sloping roof, round-headed windows, projecting frontispiece, and carved paired brackets under the eaves, all typical elements of the Italianate style. A broken-pediment gable crowns the centre of the house; notice how the undulating pattern of the frieze trim is repeated in the pediment. Two matching single-storey bays give balance to the front. This house is very compatible with the more restrained design of the house to the north of it.

Take a moment to appreciate the trio of Edwardian houses at 551, 555 and 559 Waterloo Street. They are a good example of variations in one architectural style. The height, mass and asymmetrical plan of the individual houses all contribute to the unified look. All of them were constructed between 1897 and 1905 of white brick with rusticated stone foundations and fish-scale slate roofing. (The original fish-scale slate roof is still present on the tower of 559.) Note, too, the differences

between the individual houses, particularly with the window placement. 559 Waterloo Street, with its square tower sited at an angle, is designed to suit the corner location. The round headings on the first floor windows and doorway to the balcony are emphasized by the use of rough textured brick. These, along with the handsome verandah give this house visual interest



*559 Waterloo Street*

**Turn left (west) onto Wolfe Street.**

This is one of London's most charming streets. The similarity in size, style and setting of the buildings on both sides of the street, and their angular roof lines and high chimneys contribute to the appeal, as does the riot of decorative detail. Most of the houses were built in the 1890s. Wolfe Street retains an air of turn-of-the-century London.

The house at 320 Wolfe Street is the only one that seems somewhat out of place in the overall streetscape. It was built in 1928, much later than its neighbours, in the Dutch Colonial style. Note the gambrel roof and copper eaves troughs and downspouts.

The two and a half storey white brick residence at 317 Wolfe Street is in the Queen Anne style. The square tower set at an angle to the street reflects that on the house at 559 Waterloo Street

The houses at 315 and 320 Wolfe Street are the only red brick ones on the street. The design of 315 Wolfe Street, built in 1908, is dominated by a large classical verandah and a massive centre gable which extends through the second storey. The Ionic columns of the verandah are repeated in the small porch set into the gable on the second floor. Watch for the interesting curved window on the east side, and the extensive use of diamond patterned leaded glass. This is an unusual and attractive house.



*320 Wolfe Street*



## 314 Wolfe Street (c. 1888)



*Designated*

*Priority 1*

314 Wolfe St. is a fine example of High Victorian architecture. It was built for Edward Lee, an excise officer with the Inland Revenue Department, and it remained in his family until 1963. Following two decades as a duplex, the home was returned to a single family residence and has been lovingly cared for by the present owners.

The two and a half storey home is made of local white brick and has a rusticated stone foundation. The gabled front projection is topped with decorative bargeboard and shingled infill. The small gable atop the slate roof imitates the design of the main gable. Tall, narrow windows and brackets at the eaves lend an Italianate feeling to the design of the house.

The building's most prominent feature is the elaborate verandah. Nicely restored, it features a variety of decorative elements, including pierced woodwork, spindled brackets, and ornate pendants. The paired spindle-style columns are

rooted in concrete block piers (added later). The low railing is original, however the upper balcony has been faithfully reconstructed with a railing that replicates the one below.

As you enter the house, notice the panelled, recessed doorway with double-leaf door, transom and sidelights.



*Verandah at 314 Wolfe Street*

**Return along Wolfe Street to Waterloo Street.** Glance across the street to the east side at the houses that make up a handsome street scape.

**Turn left (north) onto Waterloo Street and proceed to Hyman Street.**

The house on the southwest corner of Waterloo Street and Hyman Street has some interesting features. Note the oriel windows on the upper storey and the oculus window on the main floor near the side verandah.

The storey and a half house on the northwest corner of Waterloo Street and Hyman Street (633 Waterloo) has elaborate gable treatments on the south and east gables. Observe the attractive detail on the verandah.

**Turn left onto Hyman Street.** As you stroll along Hyman street you will notice a variety of architectural styles as well as house sizes from small cottages to two and one-half storey homes.



### 317 Hyman Street (c. 1897)



The handsome white brick home at 317 Hyman was first occupied by William H. Boughner, a seller of men's furnishings, hats, and caps. Subsequent owners included George McKee, a teacher at the London Collegiate Institute, and Charles Doe, linesman for the Bell Telephone Company.

The two storey white brick building has a gabled front, side hall plan and several original stained glass windows. The gable design is typical for homes in the area, with decorative bargeboard and brackets. Windows in the gable are divided by brackets that echo the brackets supporting the gable itself. The infill features shingles and various geometric designs.

The wide verandah, supported by grooved columns, has a low railing with original spindles. The present owner has replaced the lower portion of the verandah with wooden slats, modelled after original ones across the street at 310 Hyman.

**Cross the street to 318 Hyman.**



### 318 Hyman Street (c1897)



A wrap-around verandah dominates the quaint white brick house at 318 Hyman St. Notice the replica spindled railing and sturdy column supports. This verandah would have provided a nice resting area for the home's first occupant, Alexander F. Tytler. Mr. Tytler was a traveler for W.E. Saunders & Co., selling wholesale drugs and druggists' sundries.

The one and a half storey home features a hipped roof with two large gables, and a side hall plan. Both gables have elaborate bargeboard and infill, with geometric patterns such as circles set in squares. The gables contain double windows separated by curved brackets. These decorative features are nicely accented by the use of contrasting paint colours.

The main floor tri-part window and the double-leaf doorway have transoms with stained glass.

**Exit the home, turn right and proceed west on Hyman.**

309 Hyman Street has a number of features worth noting: the original porch with carved woodwork, the angled window in the gable, the oculus window on the east side, the double-leaf door and the stained glass in the transom above the front window.

307 Hyman Street has a keyhole east-facing window and several lovely stained glass windows. Note the rusticated stonework surrounding the windows on the north side. The front door and the side door off the porch are identical and have interesting detail.

As you walk along the street, notice the variation in the gables and windows.

The windows on the second floor of 287 Hyman Street have rusticated stone surrounds. There is interesting decorative detail in the gables facing north.

Locate the gargoyle on 288 Hyman Street as well as the two winged figures that top the support brackets of the gable.

The semi-detached house at 285-283 Hyman Street has recessed side entrances and less decorative detail than the other houses on the street.

**When you reach Wellington Street, turn left (south).** The west side of Wellington Street presents a handsome streetscape with a variation of styles and ages of buildings.

The house on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Wellington Street (284 Central) was designed by the firm of Moore and Henry for D.W. Sutherland, who lived in his Queen Anne extravaganza for only a year. For 50 years it was known as the McCormick house, home of Frank McCormick of McCormick's Biscuit Company. This house was devastated by fire and renovations following the fire

completely changed the character of the house: the porch and balcony were removed, and the double-hung windows were replaced by single dark thermopanes. Much of the original building has been preserved however, including the unusual doorway with alternating wide and narrow voussiors and the swag decoration on the tower.



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## 572 Wellington Street (c. 1907)



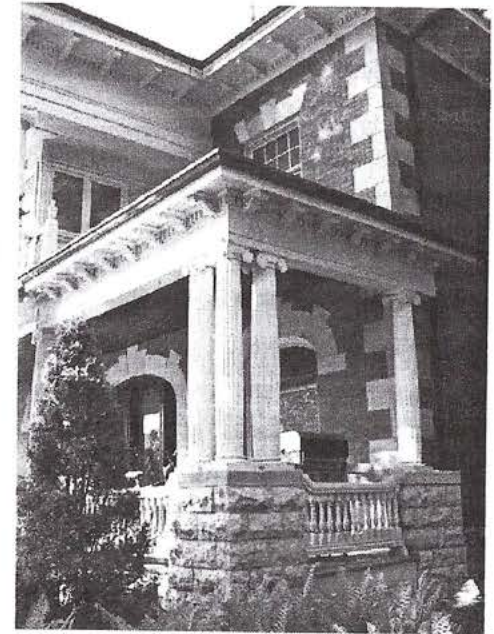
*Priority 1*

This impressive red-brick mansion was one of the last to be constructed facing Victoria Park. The militia drill hall that had formerly occupied this corner was removed and replaced with the three mansions you see today, when the new armouries were built in 1905.

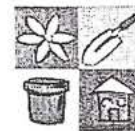
The Edwardian style home was built for Edward Shea, who operated a wholesale wine and liquor business downtown at Richmond and King. At the onset of Prohibition in 1919, he turned to real estate and owned considerable property when he died. His estate valued this house at \$15,000.

The façade is dominated by a massive classical entranceway featuring two-storey Ionic columns and an overhanging pediment. Matching Ionic columns support the wide verandah, and a curved second storey railing with urn-like decorations further enhances the classical theme. The enclosed sunroom on the second floor is a later addition.

The house itself is built of expensive pressed brick with stone quoins and window headings. The high mansard roof has two pediment dormer windows in the front and one on each side. Notice the patterned decoration in the scalloped slates. Originally, the roof was topped with a railed deck which provided a fine view over the park to the downtown. The upper eave brackets, with dentil ornamentation, are reproduced in smaller scale on the verandah.



*Close-up of porch  
detail at 572  
Wellington Street*



*Tuckey's  
Garden Patio*



**Tuckey Home Hardware**  
136 Wortley Road-Wortley Village  
London, Ontario N6C 3P5  
T 432-7683



## 570 Wellington Street (c. 1907)



*Priority 1*

The house next door at 570 Wellington St. was owned by Samuel W. Abbott, accountant and treasurer for the McCormick Manufacturing Company. Subsequent owners included John G. Stephen, traveling agent, and Dr. William W. Middleton, physician.

This graceful red-brick home has a plethora of interesting, even whimsical, architectural features. With simpler ornamentation than its neighbour, the emphasis here is on the home's design elements, especially the variety and placement of windows. Although the façade is asymmetrical, there is a nice balance between the gable on one side and wide dormer window on the other. Placed in the centre of the facade, above the entrance, is a small bay window with shingling that seems to flow onto the roof of the verandah below. This shingling is repeated in the gable, forming a small roof over the oriel window there.

To the left of the verandah is a large Palladian window encased in stone. This window shape was named after Andrea Palladio, an Italian Renaissance architect who revived classical forms in his time. It consists of an arched window with a shorter square-headed window on either side. It is interesting to compare this Palladian window with the one next door which is nestled inside the classical pediment.

The verandah is supported with handsome Doric columns on massive rusticated stone piers. As you approach the front door, note the beautiful leaded glass sidelights and transom with fanlight.

**Continue your walk south along Wellington Street.** London's picturesque Victoria Park forms the western edge of the Woodfield district. This former military parade ground provides a peaceful setting for summer festivals and leisurely lunchtime strolls. On the east side of Wellington Street sits the complex of Centennial Hall, Reg Cooper Square (name after a long-serving city clerk), and City Hall.

London's City Hall, designed by Philip Carter Johnson, was opened in 1971. The style is contemporary. The façade is dressed with light marble from Tweed, Ontario, and black granite from Peribonka, Quebec.

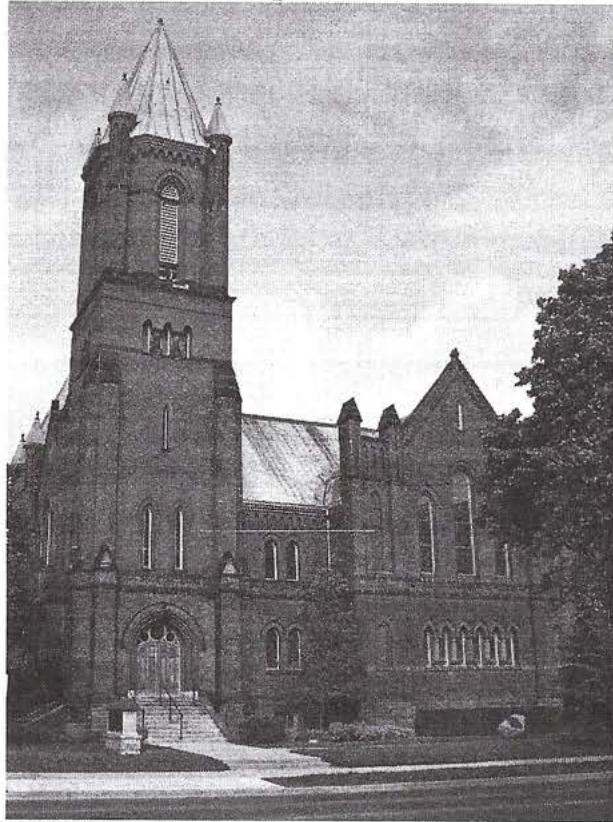


*London City Hall*





**468 Wellington Street  
(c. 1896)  
Metropolitan United Church**



*Priority 1*

The laying of the cornerstone of the First Methodist Church (now Metropolitan United Church) on July 30, 1895, must have inspired in its large congregation feelings of sorrow as well as hope. The new church was replacing the Queen's Avenue Methodist Church, a block to the west, which had burned down under mysterious circumstances earlier that year. The Queen's Avenue Methodist Church had been a source of considerable pride to the city (and its own

members): long the structure in London with the greatest seating capacity, it had been the chosen venue for very special events, such as the memorial service held after the assassination of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. In planning a new church, the congregation was determined to erect a building even larger and grander than the one it had lost. When the first service was held in the new structure on October 18, 1896, an estimated 2,600 people filled the church (sitting in pews and chairs and standing in the aisles) for the evening service, and hundreds of people had to be turned away.

The Toronto architectural firm of Burke and Horwood was hired to produce plans for the church, in collaboration with the local supervising architect H. C. McBride. The building they designed shows as its dominant influence the Romanesque Revival style associated with the American architect H. H. Richardson. Typical features of the style include the asymmetrical corner towers, the parapet gables, the round-headed arches of the main doors, and the general impression of bulkiness and weight created by expanses of uninterrupted wall space, such as that in the third stage of the tower. But the building also displays prominent Gothic features. The windows have pointed arches. Moreover, with its high foundation and strong vertical components, the building as a whole has an upward thrust that largely counteracts its heavy Romanesque qualities. The careful interweaving of the Romanesque and Gothic traditions reflects the skill of the architects as does the refinement of detail throughout the building.

The smooth pressed brick finish of the exterior forms a striking contrast with the rusticated stone at its base. Sandstone columns adorn the main floor entrance ways and bricks shaped into round mouldings are used to form the splayed arches of the main doorway, the windows of the tower bell chamber and the pinnacles. The hood-moulds over

the windows terminate in intricate terra cotta stops. The design of the string course is reflected in the gables. Corbelled brickwork creates a row of pointed arches in the cornice.



*Close-up of Metropolitan  
United Church Entrance*

The attention to detail is even more evident inside, where a rich mixture of textures, materials and colours is used to create a warm, luxurious and surprisingly intimate space. The lower part of the sanctuary walls are faced with brick in varying shades of brown, beige and orange-red; arches and doors are outlined in red brick laid in a modified quoin pattern. The ceiling is stenciled in a detailed geometrical pattern; its centrepiece is an intricate stained glass dome. Wooden beams, in a rich dark brown finish, cross the barrel vaults as well as the flat ceilings of the tower and the main part of the sanctuary; the same finish is used on the wooden surrounds of the large quatrefoils in the spandrels of the arches, and on the giant braces, adorned with decorative ironwork, that support the tower walls. Joining the braces are massive, ornately-carved pendants. The turned wooden railings of the balcony echo the design of the newel posts and stairways in the narthex and hall.

The building has undergone many changes. In the semicircular Sunday School wing at the rear of the building, a

basement gymnasium was installed in the late 1920s. In the main sanctuary, the present pulpit and choir area replaces an older and smaller chancel complex of dark mahogany, and renovations in the plasterwork have resulted in the loss of some of the stenciling. In 2005 an elevator was installed to provide accessibility for all to the various levels. At the same time other changes were made to the rear of the building. These include the remodeled Great Room where you will enjoy tea, an updated kitchen, a boardroom and new locations for the church office and minister's study.

Probably the most striking additions have been the stained glass windows. Most of the windows in the sanctuary were ordered from the McCausland firm in Toronto during the 1920s and 1930s. An impressive 1902 work by London stained-glass artist Henry E. St. George is situated in the church office. Another interesting window, created by London artist Doreen Balabanoff, is in the vestibule of the west door. Its delicate greens and blues connect the window with its exterior landscape.

The window which fills the transom of the east door was a project of the Sunday School in 1985 and 1986. Basic drawings for the circles, which depict the seven days of creation, were designed by the Junior Sunday School, then members of the Senior Sunday School did the actual stained glass work under the supervision of Ted Goodden, in his studio. Ted then integrated the seven roundels into the final design for the transom window.

**Please proceed into the church for refreshments  
and an opportunity to learn more about ACO.**

*Thank you for your participation on today's tour. We look forward to your ongoing support of our activities and encourage you to become members of ACO and to volunteer for future activities.*

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These works have been consulted in the preparation of this booklet:

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## Glossary

**Bargeboard:** board, usually ornamented, under the gable

**Bracket:** a projection from a wall, usually beneath the eaves

**Column:** tall, cylindrical support, usually with details from Classical orders:

**Corbel:** a stone or brick projection from a wall to provide horizontal support

**Corinthian:** classical column having a capital (top) adorned with rows of acanthus leaves

**Cornice:** the decorative termination to a wall; transition between wall and roof

**Dentil:** small rectangular block, similar to teeth; usually a number of blocks repeated as a band in a classical cornice

**Doric:** style of classical column with a simple capital

**Dormer:** vertical window in a projection built onto a sloping roof

**Finial:** ornament ending the top of a gable or turret

**Frieze:** row of decoration on a cornice or column

**Hipped Roof:** a roof sloping on all four sides

**Ionic:** style of classical column having spiral scrolls in the capital

**Keystone:** the stone at the top of an arch or window surround

**Lintel:** horizontal structural member at the top of a door or window

**Mansard Roof:** a hipped roof of double pitch, the lower section with a steep slope

**Modillion:** horizontal bracket, either scrolled or block shaped

**Oculus:** round window

**Oriel window:** upper-floor bay window supported by corbels

**Parapet:** a low wall projecting above a roofline

**Pediment:** triangular area above a portico, window, or door

**Pendant:** hanging ornament

**Pilaster:** rectangular feature in the shape of a pillar, projecting from a wall

**Pillar:** square column

**Portico:** small porch with columns or pillars supporting a roof

**Porte-cochere:** a large porch at the door of a building, extending over the driveway

**Quoin:** stone or brick used to reinforce a corner, usually different in material or relief

**Rusticated:** used to describe rough or grooved masonry

**Sidelights:** glass panels on either side of a door

**Transom:** a glass panel above a door or window

**Voussoirs:** wedge-shaped stones or bricks used to form an arch

## Acknowledgements

We wish to show our appreciation to all the volunteers who make the annual Geranium Heritage House Tour possible. Special thanks go to the homeowners and church officials who have allowed us access into their buildings. Without them this event would not be possible.

We would also like to thank the following individuals for their contributions:

### **Organization:**

GHHT Committee: Sylvia Chodas, Shirley Gladwell, Marlyn Loft, Ann Riddell

Helpers: Ken Fitchett, Arthur McClelland, Ann McKillop, Don Menard, Bob Porter, John Therriault, Janice Thielenhaus

Church Volunteers: Al Boyd, Liz Manness

### **House Captains:**

Shirley Gladwell, Paul Grabowski, Jenny Grainger, Janet Hunten, Mary Lake Collins, Steve Liggett, Sharon Lunau, John Manness, Chris Pehlke

### **Brochure:**

Writers: Mike Baker, Sylvia Chodas, Marlyn Loft

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Layout: Sylvia Chodas, Debra Farnham

## Designation

Some of the buildings described or noted in this booklet are on the City of London's *Inventory of Heritage Resources*. The *Inventory* is a list, compiled to date by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH), and the Planning Department. It consists of nearly 3,800 buildings and structures located throughout the city which have architectural or historical significance. Many of them are eligible for designation under the provisions of the *Ontario Heritage Act* or may already be designated (including approximately 1500 now in existing heritage conservation districts). Copies of the *Inventory* can be viewed at the City Clerk's office, in libraries and will soon be available online through the City's website.

Priority 1 buildings are London's most important heritage structures and merit designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. This group includes landmark buildings and other structures with major architectural and/or historical significance. On Council's recommendation, they may be designated without the owner's consent.

Priority 2 buildings merit evaluation for designation because of their significant architectural and/or historical value.

Owners of any property can request designation by City Council through LACH and the City of London's Heritage Planner. Designation, which is done through the passage of a by-law, provides some protection for buildings against alterations and demolition.

