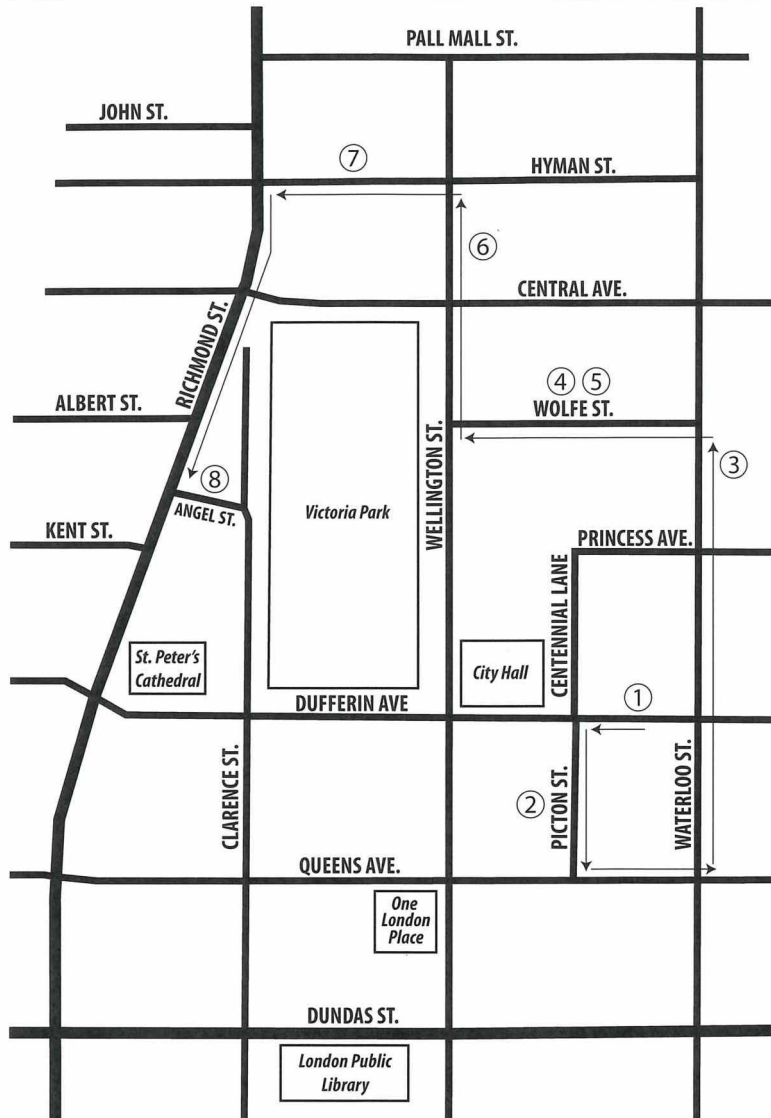


Victoria Promenade II



Tour Destinations

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Central Secondary School | 5) 312 Wolfe St. |
| 2) 7 Picton St. | 6) 618 Wellington St. |
| 3) 570 Waterloo St. | 7) 253 Hyman St. |
| 4) 310 Wolfe St. | 8) First Baptist Church |

ACO'S 46TH ANNUAL Geranium Heritage House Tour

VICTORIA PARK PROMENADE II

Sunday, June 2, 2019
Noon To 5 pm

Walk Begins At
Central Secondary School
509 Waterloo St.

Refreshments at First Baptist Church 2 - 5 pm

 **London
Region**

www.acolondon.ca

About Us

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY ONTARIO FOUNDED IN 1933

Mission

“Through education and advocacy, to encourage the conservation and re-use of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historic and cultural significance, to inspire and benefit Ontarians.”

Aims

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

ACO LONDON FOUNDED IN 1966 AS THE LONDON REGION BRANCH

When faced with the possible demolition of London’s earliest business and financial buildings on Ridout Street, concerned citizens and groups came together to form the London Region branch of ACO over fifty years ago. The Ridout Street Complex was designated a National Historic Site in 1966. As a branch of the provincial ACO, our group works to further the aims of the parent organization in the London region.

Activities

- Influence public policy at local and provincial levels.
- Hold annual architectural tour on the first Sunday in June.
- Present annual joint Heritage Awards during the Heritage Week in February.
- Provide heritage scholarships and financial assistance to owners of selected properties.
- Organize walking tours, lectures, bus tours and workshops.
- Appoint a representative to the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH)

Introduction

Welcome to the 46th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. This year, for the first time since 1982, we’re exploring the streetscapes flanking London’s venerable Victoria Park. Most of the buildings on the walk today are part of the West Woodfield Heritage Conservation District.

Our focus today is to discover creative examples of “adaptive re-use” — heritage structures that have been refashioned to accommodate 21st century life. Local architect John Nicholson reflects that thoughtful renovation often means that irreplaceable heritage buildings can be “enriched by change”.

The featured jewel of this year’s tour is Victoria Park itself — be sure to take a focused stroll through the Park on your way to tea [see the park features map in the centrefold]. How can we Londoners ensure that any refashioning of the perimeter serves to highlight this treasured landscape?

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

- An annual Restoration Grant to homeowners to help preserve or restore heritage features of their homes
- An annual London Heritage Scholarship to a post-secondary student for a project or course of studies involving heritage designation

We hope you enjoy your Promenading today. In response to suggestions from last year’s tour-goers, we’ve added an extra hour to the tour. You will find a map on the back cover of this booklet, but do remember that the houses can be visited in any order you wish. A potted red geranium marks each house open for viewing [hence, the name of the tour!]

Also new this year: a pair of booties for each tour-goer. These will be distributed at Central Secondary and tour-goers are asked to use them while inside each house.

Geraniums for today’s tour have been graciously provided by PARKWAY GARDENS.



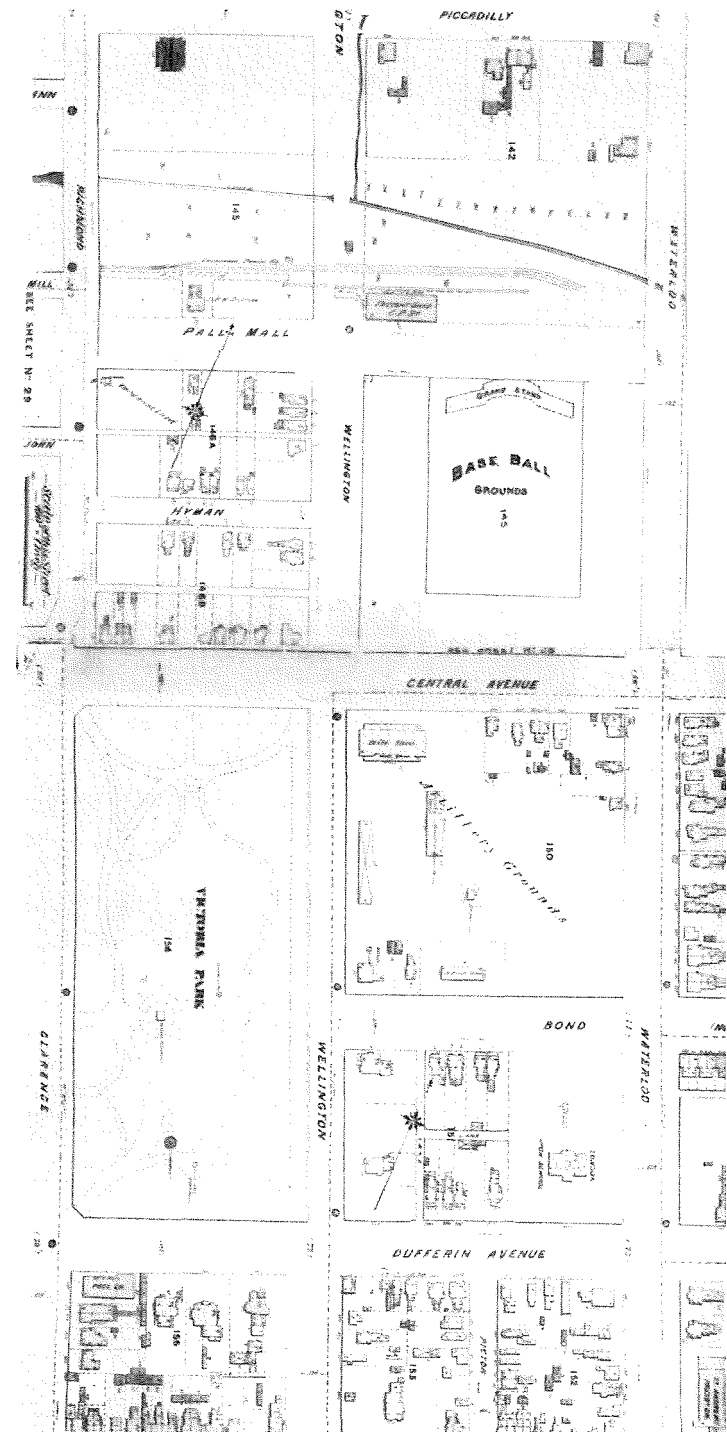
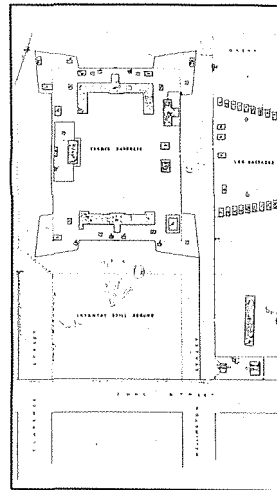
History of the Victoria Park Sector

While this western edge of Woodfield is now largely residential and commercial in appearance, its original function was largely military. For several decades following the Rebellion of 1837, a British garrison was stationed on lands bordered by Waterloo, Dufferin, Clarence, Richmond, and Piccadilly. As the soldiers cleared the military grounds, they made good use of the stumps as a fence for their parade ground.

By the 1850's, part of the military reserve north of Central Avenue was repurposed as fairgrounds. The Western Fair was held on these lands from 1868 to 1886.

The British Army garrison began to withdraw in 1868 and it was decided to fashion a city park from the parade grounds. In 1874, Governor-General Lord Dufferin dedicated the new park in honour of Queen Victoria. After the Western Fair decamped to Queens Park (its present location), those remaining lands were subdivided. However, the area was still home to several military buildings until the 1890s [see fire insurance map].

The last two decades of the nineteenth century were something of a boom time for London. The city's leading merchants and professionals were attracted to the lots bordering Victoria Park and commissioned the building of several stately homes along the adjacent streets. Gradually, the neighbourhood transitioned from drill sheds to London's most prestigious address. Several examples of major architectural styles and trends of the turn-of-the-century can be seen on today's tour route.

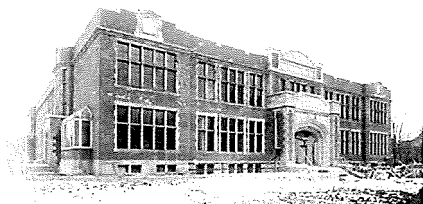


Fire Insurance map

Central Secondary School



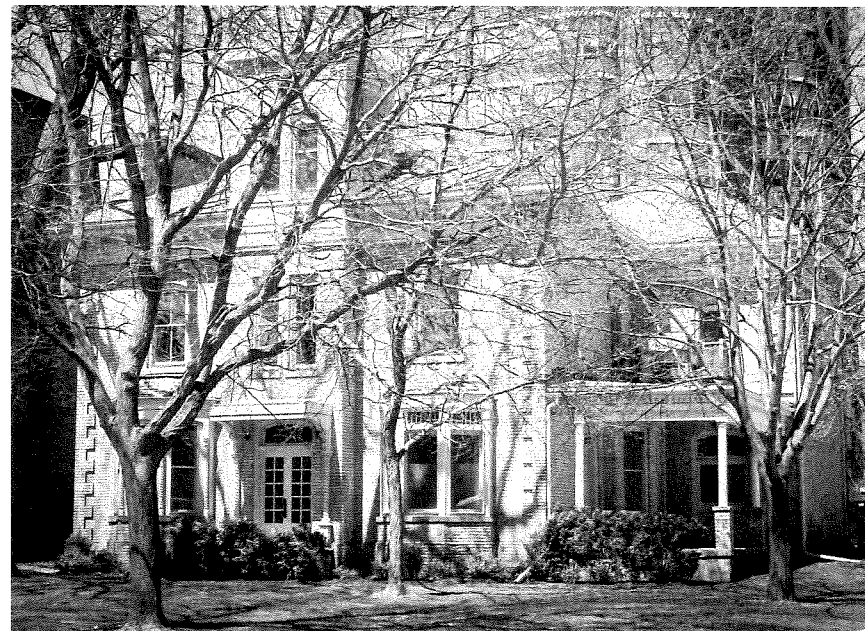
Built in 1922, Central Secondary absolutely captures that “halls of knowledge” atmosphere. The present building was constructed after the London Collegiate Institute (1877) was destroyed by fire in 1920. The school is typical of the “Collegiate Gothic” style. There have been several additions, which are fortunately sympathetic to the original structure.



After gathering your tour booklet and booties, exit through the rear parking lot and make your way to Picton Street.

- As you walk, take in London’s City Hall (1971). Approaching its 50th anniversary, our city hall was designed by London architect Philip Carter Johnson. In 1952, Johnson was awarded a Massey Medal in Architecture. Today, the building continues to present the simple elegance of the Modernist tradition.
- (Carefully) cross Dufferin and proceed south along Picton Street.

7 Picton Street / 300 Queens Avenue



When the apartment building at 7 Picton appeared in the late 1980’s, the *London Free Press* noted that it “actually responds to its surroundings”. Architect Desh Malhotra designed rounded corners as a subtle reference to the nearby sanctuary of Metropolitan United Church; courses of yellow brick on red relate to the brickwork on adjacent apartments.

Proceed south along Picton to Queens Avenue — look for the geranium and your volunteer guide.

Stand on the sidewalk in front of the house to get an overall impression of what it must have looked like when it was built in 1876. The original owner was James Owrey, a Justice of the Peace. However, by 1878, Edmund Beltz, furrier and hat maker, had moved in. The original lot extended north along Picton and included a substantial greenhouse. Later, Beltz built residences for his children’s families along the west side of Picton.

Continued...

7 Picton Street / 300 Queens Avenue

Continued...

The home is a splendid example of Italianate architecture. The central tower continues to be impressive, however at some point its spectacular cresting has been removed. Note the stone window heads with carved floral motifs and the porch pillars ornamented by rope-like decorations. Closer inspection will reveal the particularly lovely “300” stained glass over the eastern door — this side verandah and entrance door are later additions.



To explore the interior of the Beltz mansion, you will walk west on Queens to your next volunteer guide and pass through the gate to the rear courtyard. As you arrive, one of our GHHT volunteers will describe Metropolitan United Church and its manse from this rarely-seen perspective.

The decision to repurpose the yellow brick mansion at 300 Queens as a pool/gym for the Picton Street condo building was definitely “outside the envelope” thinking. From an architectural history perspective, seeing the interior structure laid bare gives us a real appreciation of the scale of this Victorian home. Note how the condo architect chose to retain one of the fireplaces in the pool area. Also examine the original windows.

Travel back along the corridor and exit the building, turning left to Queens Avenue. Pause for a moment to absorb the Queens Avenue streetscape:

- The St. George, Alexandra, Victoria, and Hayman Court apartments clustered around the intersection of Queens and Wellington. Constructed circa 1910, they represent an admirable blend of residential intensification and heritage.
- The Elsie Perrin Williams building (formerly Central Library) on the south side of Queens. Fondly remembered by many Londoners, this Art Deco structure dates from 1939. Many recall climbing the ostentatious set of stairs to be greeted by Socrates. The building still stands in quiet wait for a new purpose, and is registered as one of Canada’s Historic Places.
- The Victorian terrace east of Picton on the north side of the street; observe its handsome Mansard roof with dormers.

Stroll along Queens, turning left/north on Waterloo. Take time to admire the streetscape of substantial Victorian and Edwardian homes.

- First-St. Andrew’s United Church, built 1868-1869 and designed by noted London architect William Robinson.
- 471 Waterloo, a large red brick residence built c. 1910 for Robert D. McDonald, one of London’s foremost cigar manufacturers. Of particular note in the Queen Anne façade is the classical portico and balustraded verandah.
- 477 Waterloo is a charming Regency-style cottage. Built in 1876, its triple-arched “London doorway” is one of the cottage’s appealing architectural elements.
- 478 and 484 Waterloo, both built in 1875. Note the enclosed balconies on the upper level, known as a “sleeping porch”. #478 was home to John M. Moore, prominent local architect and mayor of London (1926-27).
- 496 Waterloo was built c. 1893 and has been featured on previous Geranium tours. With its three-storey turret and handsome gables, it is a magnificent example of Queen Anne Revival.



- Stop to examine the front façade of Central Secondary. The Collegiate Gothic Style of this building is emphasized by a large true ‘Tudor’ shaped doorway in the central dominating frontpiece. The faux balcony and pediment above further echo the theme and together accomplish an impressive entrance. Other Tudor styling is found in the combination of red brick interspersing the stone flanks of the doorway and window surrounds. The ranks of large windows on each side lend symmetry and a pleasing profile as well as shedding light into this place of learning.

- The houses opposite the school present an harmonious mix of styles and brickwork. The two double houses at 512-514 and 516-518 Waterloo are unique in London. Built in the Romanesque style, the fronts are faced with red sandstone on the first storey and red brick on the second, while the locally-available (and cheaper) white brick is used on the sides.

At the corner of Princess and Waterloo, take a lingering look to the left/west. This short stretch of Princess has echoes of an opulent Edwardian streetscape. Some tour goers today may recall that 308 Princess was the site of Interiors ’96, an Orchestra London fundraiser.

Cross Waterloo at the crosswalk and proceed north to 570 Waterloo. Many buildings along this stretch of Waterloo have been converted to offices. However, most facades have been beautifully maintained and preserve the ambiance of a heritage streetscape.



This refined Italianate residence was built c. 1880; it is the northernmost of three yellow-brick residences — the brickwork and trim details would suggest that they were all built about the same time. Assessment records reveal that the owner of these lots was John Christie, a well-regarded builder in London and — briefly — its mayor.

The home's first resident was George Macbeth, who was an accountant with Molson Bank. His father was a close confidant of Col. Thomas Talbot. For many decades, until the first decade of this century, it was also home to Dr. Charles Spurgeon.

Apart from the sunroom addition at the front right, the façade maintains its original features: low-pitched roof, widely-overhanging eaves, decorative brackets, and tall, narrow windows with

arched tops. The brackets on the original section of the building are especially elaborate. Also note the voussoirs (the wedge-shaped stones forming the window arches). The keystones are carved with different designs, including grape clusters. Step back at bit and observe the spectacular chimney.

Amble down the driveway, taking a close look to determine where the “new” extension begins. When this addition was initiated in 2011, every effort was made to reflect the existing structure. The renovators discovered corbels at an architectural salvage which closely resemble those on the original part of the house. They also re-used salvaged bricks to ensure that the new construction was seamless. Note how the rear sunroom exactly reflects the front version; the carport in the rear

is meant to invoke the old carriage house/garage which stood there for years. This example of thoughtful urban intensification won a Heritage London award in 2012.

Enter the featured flat at the rear of the building. This spectacular home perfectly melds modern living with traditional elegance. Note how the thoroughly modern kitchen enhances the traditional dining room furniture. The 1800-square foot residence has ten-foot ceilings, infloor radiant heat, and twenty-one windows to flood each area with light.

As you enter, glance left into the sunroom. Note how even the “new” brickwork looks vintage, even down to the beaded mortar.

Throughout the flat, there are several examples of how the homeowners commemorate their travels by selecting cherished articles for their home. On the east wall, by the entrance, is a reproduction tapestry from Versailles. The unique “shelf” hanger is from Holland.

There are several gorgeous carpets in the residence. Under the living-room sofa is a museum-quality carpet, signed by the rug maker. Under the piano, is an equally beautiful carpet from Egypt.

Wander down the hall to the cozy den, with its impressive breakfront, a British reproduction of a Georgian piece. The carpet on the wall is from Morocco. As you enter the bedroom, take note of the extensive storage throughout, a real benefit of new construction. Ask your volunteer guide about the carpet on the bedroom wall... a family heirloom from

Holland, it has an unusual fabrication. Peek into the stunning ensuite — they've made clever use of a picture frame to add interest to a plate glass mirror.

Exit and carefully cross Waterloo to Wolfe Street.

Wolfe Street did not exist until c. 1890, when many of the drill sheds and militia stores were gradually moved to Wolseley Barracks. Therefore, many of the homes built along this charming streetscape appeared between 1890 and 1905 and together present a snapshot of an Edwardian neighbourhood. Although many residences have been converted into multiplexes, several facades remain intact and display an abundance of decorative brickwork and woodwork. Note the variety of roof materials along the street — shingles, slate, composite — and all the beautifully-constructed corbelled chimneys. Despite its being a short stretch, Wolfe Street has several designated houses.

Proceed west along Wolfe, taking in:

- 320 Wolfe: this relatively-recent (1928) Dutch Colonial contributes to the eclectic nature of the street; note the copper eaves troughs
- 318 Wolfe: is the glass appendage an effective addition or not?
- 315 Wolfe: apart from #320, the only other red-brick home on the street. Its most striking feature is the massive centre gable
- 314 Wolfe: intricate woodwork on the verandah — pierced woodwork, spindled brackets, and ornate pendants.



These attached residences present today's tour goers with a unique opportunity to see two approaches to renovation. The house on the left (310) has been extensively redone while largely maintaining the original floorplan. The eastern half of the building (312) has been dramatically transformed into two stunning flats.

The residences were built in 1892 by Adam Maguire, manager at the Grand Trunk Railway. He then sold #310 to James C. and Sarah Hazard. James was the bursar at the Ontario Hospital [more recently known as the London Psychiatric Hospital]. The Hazards never actually

lived in this home, renting it out to several tenants over the next two decades.

The adjoining house at #312 was purchased by Orlando Zeigler, who then deeded it to his brother Cyrus, a well-known dentist. Interestingly, #314 Wolfe had built their house 2" over the property line and had to pay \$40 to rectify matters.

Enter on the left. The #310 stained glass transom insert is original, as is the stained glass in the living room. The staircase is authentic, but not actually original to the house — it was "rescued" from a farmhouse demolition. The extensive pine trim has been lovingly restored, including the double-layer baseboards.

The fireplace mantel in the living room is original, but has been updated with a gas insert. Examine the pocket doors — still functioning perfectly; the present owners have had the door hardware refurbished. The living room light fixture is original, quite possibly originally a gas fixture.

The fireplace in the dining room is also original to the house and continues to be wood-burning. Note the pineapple motif in the surround. Quite unique are the wood ceiling medallions, whereas most are made of plaster.

Proceeding to the rear of the home, you can see where there used to be "back stairs", now replaced by a railing that surrounds the entrance to the basement. Peering into the back den, you can observe where the original house ended, with the exit to the "smoking porch".

Exit back out the front door. Notice the newly-installed front railing, with its pineapple fixture echoing the dining room fireplace surround.

Now enter the attached house. For many years, it was a multiplex until bought by the owners of #310. In 2016, they undertook a massive re-working of the entire structure. Their goal was to "make every inch count" — studs were carefully positioned and the cherry cabinets in the kitchen were installed right to the ceiling to maximize storage. This ground-floor unit has multiple examples of adaptive re-use:

- Re-purposed newel post as support under the island counter
- Pocket doors originally in the hallway were moved to the den
- The fireplace was from the renovation at 570 Waterloo

There are several modern luxuries throughout: the built-in vacuum, infloor heating, much built-in storage. Explore both sumptuous marble bathrooms, taking particular note of how the ensuite bath was "tucked in" to maximize available space.

Exit through the rear of this unit, and pause to examine the exposed foundation in the back hall.

NOTE: the upper unit is truly beautiful, but please be advised that the stairs are quite challenging.

The upper unit is more expansive, spread over two floors. Again, many elements were salvaged and repurposed. The fireplace is from a farmhouse on Southdale Road.

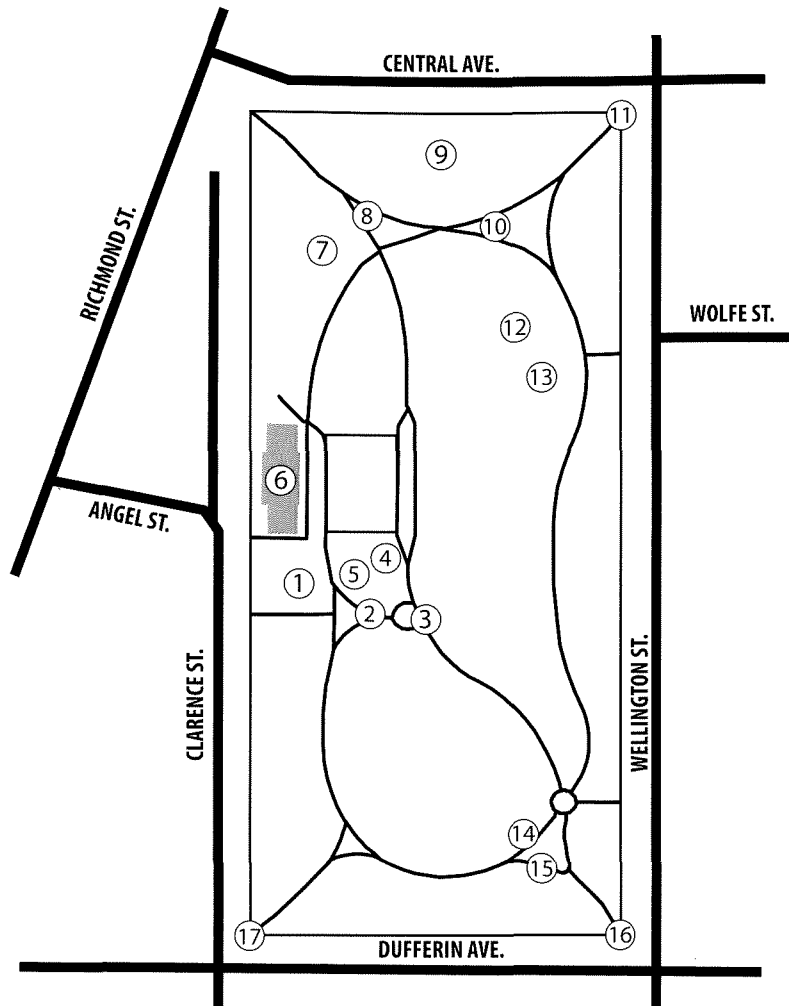
Original to the home is the "window door" to the front balcony. The sofa was brought in over the balcony and through this opening. Also, the extensive kitchen countertop had to be manoeuvred in through the back window with a crane.

Carefully climb the stairs to the luxurious master suite on the top floor. Again, every inch has been utilized, right into the roof line. Take a look out the eastern-most window to get a close-up look at the slate roof on the neighbouring house.

Make your way down the two flights of back stairs and out into the garden. Exit the property along the path on the west side of the building. Continue along Wolfe Street to Wellington.

Continued...

Monuments in Victoria Park



Description of Monuments

1. Kiwanis Sculpture by Sam Redoff
2. Cannon, brought to Canada following their capture at the Siege of Sebastopol by the British in 1855 during the Crimean War. Two Russian guns and one British gun acquired by Sir John Carling and installed in 1907.
3. Boer War Memorial (1913) by Montreal-based sculptor George W. Hill, commissioned by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) and unveiled by the Duke of Connaught.
4. Archaeology cultural heritage interpretive sign
5. London's First Integrated School cultural heritage interpretive sign
6. Kiwanis Club Memorial Bandshell (1989-1991), designed by Paul Skinner, architect
7. Women's Sculpture (1994) for London's Committee for the Prevention of Violence Against Women by Leigh Rainey. Dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.
8. British Garrison cultural heritage interpretive sign
9. Holy Roller (1950), one of only two Canadian army tanks that landed on D-Day and made it through the end of WWII, moved to Victoria Park in 1950 by First Hussars.
10. The British Garrison in London plaque, erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now Ontario Heritage Trust)
11. Woodfield Corner – with Woodfield cultural heritage interpretive sign, Time Capsule (2005), and Canadian Institute of Planners' Great Neighbourhood award (2016)
12. Queen Elizabeth II tree (2015), planted to commemorate our longest reigning monarch
13. King George VI tree (1937), planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI
14. Carillon (2006), memorial donated by the Dutch community of London in honour of the contributions of Canadian troops during WWII to liberate the Netherlands.
15. Veterans' Garden (2005), dedicated in the Year of the Veteran
16. Cenotaph (1934), a replica of the Cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in Whitehall, London, England. Dedicated to "the glorious dead." Restored in 2017.
17. British Ordnance survey marker



Continued...

Pause at the corner — this was once informally known as Millionaires' Row, for the series of majestic homes that faced Victoria Park. Several were demolished to make way for Centennial Hall and the City Hall complex.

- Fortunately, the large residences at 568, 570, and 572 have survived, with the two northernmost of these presenting original facades.
- 570 Wellington, with its ground floor Palladian window, continues as a private residence
- 572 Wellington was built circa 1907 by Edward Shea, a prosperous wine merchant who had extensive real estate holdings throughout north London. Its impressive portico, supported by Ionic columns, is outstanding.

Carefully cross Central Avenue, taking in the large residence on the northeast corner. While the façade has undergone much renovation, it is interesting to note that this was once the home of Frank McCormick, of McCormick's Biscuit Company.

The Wellington streetscape north of Central Avenue presents a variation of styles and ages of buildings. This was the landscape originally occupied by the fairgrounds, then a large baseball field.

For London's best blooms visit
Parkway Garden Centre

Parkway
GARDEN CENTRE

1473 Gainsborough Rd. parkwaygardens.ca 519-657-7360
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

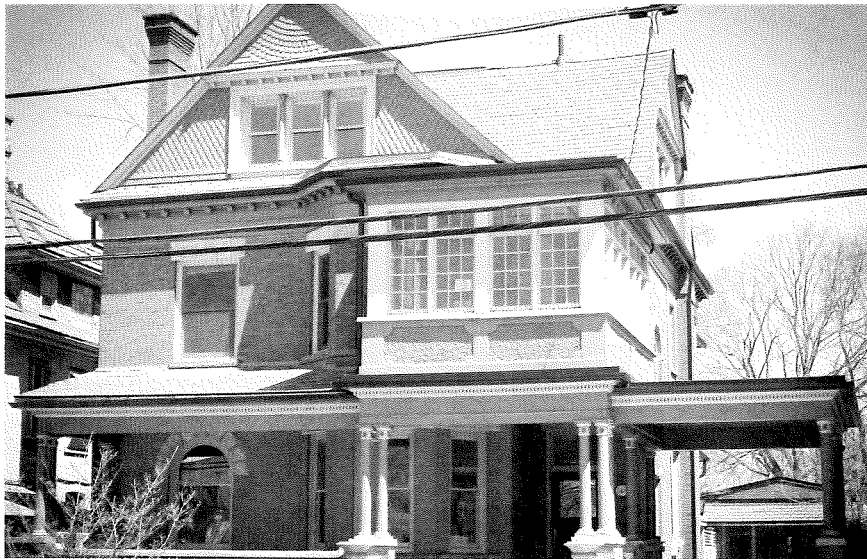


1834

Eldon House
Heritage Site and Gardens

Visit Eldon House located at 481 Ridout Street North
(North of Queen's Ave, between Fullarton St. and Dufferin Ave.)

519-661-5169 | info@eldonhouse.ca
For hours of operation please go to
www.eldonhouse.ca



This substantial home, built in 1895/96, reflects an overall Queen Anne/High Victorian style. The house is built from red brick, which was seen as highly prestigious at the turn of the century, since it was “imported” from Milton and thus more expensive. The original resident was E.W.M. Flock, a well-regarded London attorney. He and his family, including in-laws, lived in the home for over 20 years. Definitely Mr. Flock’s “claim to fame” is that he was both close friend and lawyer to Ambrose Small, the Grand Theatre owner who mysteriously vanished in December 1919. Flock was one of the last people to see him.



From the sidewalk, glance up at the intricate scales used in the gable treatment. Proceed up to the front door — the original entrance had wooden steps and porch deck, which have been recently replaced by stone. The portecochere to the south side is especially attractive, with its separate set of stairs to the front door.

As you enter, step through the compact vestibule into the offset front hall. The staircase was originally completely finished in dark stain, now refreshed with a coat of white paint. Take note of the boxed treatment on the stairway panelling, framing the base of each step.

This is home to a family committed to living in the heart of the city and nurturing its built heritage. As you proceed into the home, you will notice how they have renovated the interior to scaffold their lifestyle, while maintaining or replicating several intriguing heritage elements. The wood floors throughout are new, as the originals were beyond refinishing.

Proceed through the hall straight through to the kitchen, a functional room that has been completely modernized. A fabulous touch is the library ladder used to access the top cupboards. Examine the door to the basement — the door hardware throughout the house was meticulously restored by the owner’s father.

The sunroom is an addition circa 1920, originally part of an open back porch extending across the back of the house. Look up at the beautiful panelled ceiling. Every effort was made to replace the non-functioning original windows with a similar style.

As you walk towards the front of the house, you will encounter a creative use of space — the high ceilings meant that an under-utilized dining room could be set up as a practise centre for the daughter of the house, who is a competitive gymnast.

Across the front of the home is a double parlour. The present owners undertook extensive renovation, including structural upgrades. The wall opening between the parlours was enlarged to create a more open space, while the original plaster cove ceilings were retained. Several built-ins were added around the mantel and closet space was inserted into what were old

bookcases between the dining room and living room. Note the intricate baseboard design throughout the space — many sections had to be diligently replicated. Exit the living room back into the hall, taking a look at the original pocket doors.

The space at the bottom of the staircase was formerly a coat closet, now repurposed as a powder room.

NOTE: the third floor master suite renovation is truly beautiful, but please be advised that the stairs are quite challenging.

On your way to the second floor, pause and enjoy the stained glass window, which has been protected with an exterior glass “cover”. Proceed through the second floor to the staircase accessing the master suite. This space was originally the attic with two roughed-in rooms and largely unusable. After several months of painstaking infrastructure work and design planning, the space now includes a large built-in closet, ensuite washroom with tub and shower, spacious bedroom and a spectacular view. Again, every inch was maximized — note the underside angles of the roof, even in the shower!

Carefully make your way back down the stairs, exiting the house through the kitchen. Take a quick look at the fieldstone foundation of the sunroom; it matches that of the front porch, suggesting that both were constructed at about the same time. The garage is original, with its wooden vertical folding doors for a car and the separate “people door” to the left.

Cross Wellington and walk north to Hyman, and then turn left.

This is definitely a charming example of the much-loved Ontario Cottage. Now painted a dramatic grey, the original brick was the ubiquitous pale yellow London-sourced brick. The exact origins of this building are somewhat “fuzzy” — the 1881–1888 fire insurance plan shows a house matching this one already in place. However, the 1881 directory does not include Hyman under street listings, probably because the area was still part of the fairgrounds. The directory does mention a John Geo. Scragg caretaker, living in a cottage on the grounds. Is it possible that this is Scragg’s cottage? If so, then the “1867” displayed above the front door may indeed be true!

City directories for several years just list “house” on this stretch of Hyman, with no other information. Fortunately, by the early 1900’s, directory listings and addresses appear to have stabilized. George McBroom, an inspector for London Life, lived at 253 Hyman for over a decade in the early part of the last century. At the time, the house was assessed at \$500 with the land evaluated at \$1000. The residence was a hair salon in the 1980’s; several curlers have been discovered throughout the building. More recently, the interior was completely opened up and used as a photography studio. The present tenants are committed to preserving as many historical features as possible as they adapt the structure to their needs.



The double-leaf doors are quite possibly original to the cottage — similar doors are in evident on several cottages built in London in the 1880’s. Enter the building and take in the scale of the laid-bare structure — interesting to compare to the laid-bare interior of the Queens Avenue mansion! Notice the bay window on the east wall, situated to capture morning light.

Proceed into the back “summer kitchen”. While usually an addition, it would appear that this is almost as old as the main building. The fold-down ironing board also has a bit of a mystery... carved into its underside are the words “Niagara Niagara radio [or radii]”. Exit through the rear door and walk along the west side of the house, observing the bits of Florentine glass and stained glass on the west side door.

Stroll a half-block along Hyman towards Richmond, stopping to admire the tree carving dedicated to tanner Charles Hyman, after whom the street is named.

Backtrack to Wellington and head to Victoria Park. Before crossing Central, pause before 256 Central Avenue. This was home to the Ivey family for many years, but its main “claim to fame” is that John S. Labatt was living here at the time he was kidnapped in 1934.

Cross Central Avenue and enter Victoria Park. Don Menard, formerly London’s heritage planner, describes the Park as a “repository of memorials”. Many of these have a military connection, appropriate considering the Park’s origins. See the centrefold map for a complete overview of the monuments.

Additionally, there are interpretive signs placed around the park:

- Military history of the Park
- London’s first black school
- History of Victoria Park
- Archeology of the Park

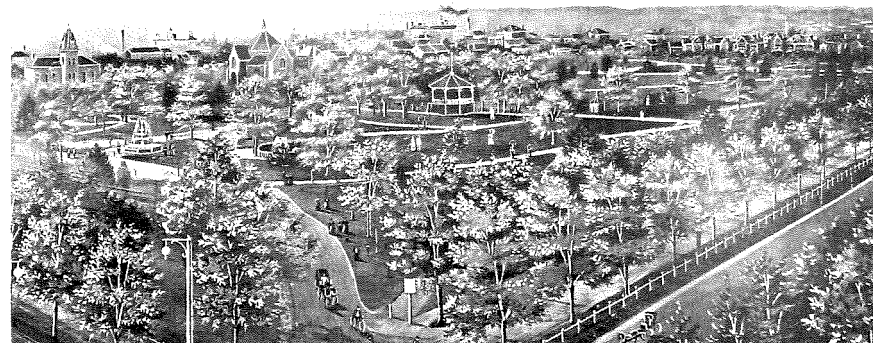
Victoria Park was always intended to be a green oasis in the city; initial plantings in the late 1870’s included 331 trees

and 72 shrubs. The landscape designer, William Miller from Philadelphia, sought to create an elegant strolling park, with winding paths and stately trees.

Several prominent London edifices surround the Park. Opposite City Hall, is the Metropolitan United Church. Built in 1895 as First Methodist, the impressive style of this red brick church was derived from American H.H. Richardson’s Romanesque Revival.

On the south perimeter, looms the immaculate and gracious London Life building. Designed by London architect John M. Moore, the neo-Classical Revival building opened in 1928. Originally, the office building only extended from Wellington halfway along the block.

On the western perimeter are two churches: St. Peter’s Cathedral (1885) is a classic French Gothic design with pointed arches, pinnacles, and other Gothic details. In 1961, Pope John XXIII promoted St. Peter’s to the standing of a minor basilica. The second church on the Park’s western perimeter is First Baptist, who have been gracious enough to host our tearoom this afternoon.





This particular building is the second church on this site. The original was colloquially known as the “pepperbox church”, built as St. James Presbyterian Church in the 1880s. This church was sold in 1899 when the St. James congregation moved to Wellington and Oxford. The next owner of the pepperbox church was the First Church of Christ Scientist, who occupied the church until the 1950’s. The older church was then demolished and the church you see today was constructed.

The original church was called “pepperbox” because its octagonal shape and conical top resembled seventeenth-century pewter pepperboxes.



Enter the church on Clarence Street, just opposite the Kiwanis bandshell. Take either the stairs or the lift to the lower levels and enjoy your tea!

Thank you for participating in this year’s Geranium Heritage House Tour. We would appreciate your taking time to fill out a survey.

Heritage Conservation & Designation

Some of the buildings described or noted in this guidebook are on the City of London’s Inventory of Heritage Resources. The Inventory consists of over 6,000 buildings and structures located throughout the city, which have architectural and/or historical significance. Many of them are eligible for designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act or may already be designated, either individually or under one of the city’s seven Heritage Conservation Districts.

Community members or property owners may request that a property be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Requests are reviewed by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH) and Municipal Council makes decisions regarding designations under the Act. Designating by-laws are registered on the title of a property and provide some protection for buildings against demolition. A Heritage Alteration Permit may be required to make changes to a heritage designated property. For more information on London’s heritage resources, the designation process, or making changes to heritage designated properties please visit the City of London’s website at london.ca/about-london/heritage. Copies of the Inventory can also be viewed at the London Public Library and the City Clerk’s office.

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 historic value.

Priority 3 buildings may merit designation as part of a group of buildings or as part of a heritage conservation district.

London currently has seven heritage conservation districts: East Woodfield, Bishop Hellmuth, Old East, West Woodfield, Downtown, Blackfriars/Petersville, and Wortley Village-Old South.

Glossary

Bargeboard: board, usually ornamented, under a gable

Bay: a division of façade usually indicated by an opening such as a door or window; or projection, as in "bay window"

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

Capital: block at the top of a column

Column: tall, cylindrical support, usually with details from Classical orders (Doric – plainest with a simple capital, Ionic – decorated with scrolls on the capital)

Corbel: stepped brickwork projecting from a wall, usually to support a window or chimney top

Cornice: decorative termination to a wall; where wall meets roof

Coursing: (or stringcourse) a continuous horizontal row of bricks

Cupola: a small dome adorning a roof or ceiling

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

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

Drip moulds: mouldings over windows or doors to help divert rainwater to the sides

Edwardian: a style similar to Queen Anne but with more restrained ornamentation, typically featuring a moderately pitched, gable roof and classical porch

Fluting: long, vertical grooves decorating a column or pillar

Gable: the triangular portion of a wall between the enclosing lines of a sloping roof

Gothic Revival: a style defined by steeply pitched rooflines, pointed arch windows and picturesque decoration

Half-timbered: timber framing with plaster or masonry infill

Heading: the area immediately over a door or window

Hip or Hipped Roof: a roof sloping on all four sides

Italianate: a style originating in rural Italy which features shallow rooflines, tall arched windows, and deep overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets

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

Modillions: horizontal brackets, either scrolled or block shaped

Neoclassical: a style inspired by the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, featuring symmetry and grand scale

Ontario Cottage: a popular early Canadian style, featuring one-and-a-half storey design with central doorway and large symmetrical windows

Palladian Window: three-part window with the centre section larger and rounded at the top

Parapet: part of a wall that extends above the roofline

Pediment: a triangular area within a gable or above a portico

Piers: square masonry supports

Pillar: a rectangular column

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

Portico: small porch with columns or pillars supporting a roof

Oculus: round window

Queen Anne Style: a style originating in England popular in London in the late 1880s; featuring irregular rooflines and house footprints, gables, towers, and intricate decoration

Quoins: stone or brick used to reinforce a corner

Romanesque: a style featuring asymmetrical solid massing and heavy round-arch window and doorways

Rusticated Stone: rough or grooved masonry

Sidelights: glass panels on either side of a door

Stucco: plaster or cement applied as a finish to the exterior surface

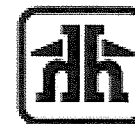
Transom: a glass panel above a door or window

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



*Tuckey's
Garden Patio*

Annuals, Perennials, Soils, Fertilizers, Planters and More
Store hours Mon - Fri 8 - 8, Saturday 8:00 - 6, Sunday 10 - 5



Tuckey Home Hardware
136 Wortley Road - Wortley Village
London, ON N6C 3P5
T 519-432-7863

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brackets and Bargeboards: Walk in London, Ontario, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Region Branch, London, Ontario, 1989.

Geranium Walk brochures:
West Woodfield Walkabout, ACO 2007,
Victoria Park Promenade, ACO 1982

Inventory of Heritage Resources,
City of London, London Advisory
Committee on Heritage, London,
Ontario, 2006

London City Directories,
London Room, London Public Library

“Maclean’s Flashback: What Really
Happened to Ambrose Small?”,
Maclean’s Magazine, January, 1951

**Walking Tour: West Woodfield
& Victoria Park**, Landmarks London
and Museum London, 2004

**West Woodfield Heritage
Conservation District Plan**,
August 2008
[https://www.london.ca/About-London/
heritage/Documents/Hertige-Conserv-
Dist-Studies/West-Woodfield-Plan-
August-2008.pdf](https://www.london.ca/About-London/heritage/Documents/Hertige-Conserv-Dist-Studies/West-Woodfield-Plan-August-2008.pdf)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thanks to all those volunteers who donate their time and expertise to the ACO’s annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. We are most grateful to those homeowners who graciously shared their homes with us today.

GHHT Organizing Committee

Anna Arestova, Diane Bell, Mike Bloxam,
Louanne Henderson, Alexandra Jimenez,
Sharon Lunau, Dorothy Palmer (chair),
Susan Smythe

House Captains

Jenny Grainger, Steve Liggett,
Genet Hodder, Ellen and Ty Harries,
Dave McKelvey, John Manness

Brochure

Dorothy Palmer, City of London [maps],
Louanne Henderson, Blanduzia and
Claudiu Beloiu [research], Sylvia Chodas
and Susan Smythe [proofreading],
Shawn Adamsson and Mike Scott [layout]

Publicity & Tickets

Marlyn Loft, Sandra Miller,
Kelley McKeating

Much appreciation to Janis Wallace,
London Room staff, Don Menard,
Maggie Whalley, and Jack Palmer.

