

ACO's 40th Annual  
Geranium Heritage House Tour

# BISHOP HELLMUTH HIKE



**Sunday June 2, 2013**  
**1:00 - 5:00**

Walk begins at St. George's Public School  
782 Waterloo Street

*Refreshments are available from 2:30 to 5:00*

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - London Region Branch  
[www.acolondon.ca](http://www.acolondon.ca)  
*"preserving London's heritage"*

## **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Founded in 1933**

### **Aims**

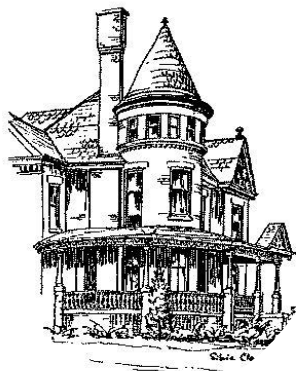
- To preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province.
- To protect its places of natural beauty.
- To preserve significant buildings regardless of age, style and size.
- To protect such buildings from unsympathetic alteration
- To preserve the architectural integrity of streetscapes.
- To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

Welcome to the 40th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. The neighbourhood you will be exploring on today's tour lies within the boundaries of the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District, a designation which protects the architecture and character of the area. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the district's formation in 2003, and residents have successfully maintained the historic character of their neighbourhood. Step into a bygone era as you stroll along tree-lined streets past homes built over a century ago.

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 ongoing ACO heritage projects, including:

- an annual grant to homeowners to help preserve or restore heritage features of their homes
- an annual grant to a student enrolled in a heritage trades program at Algonquin College or Willowbank School of Restoration Arts.

Enjoy your walk through the picturesque Bishop Hellmuth district today. You will find a map on the back cover of this booklet, but remember that the route shown there is just a suggestion. The sites are open from 1:00 to 5:00, and can be viewed in any order. A potted red geranium marks each house open for viewing (hence, the name of the tour!).

NOTE: As part of our commitment to property owners we ask that tour participants be prepared to remove their shoes if asked, and do not take interior photographs.

Thank you for your participation.

*Cover photo: Hellmuth Boys' College, 1864-1895*

# CHOICE BUILDING LOTS FOR SALE

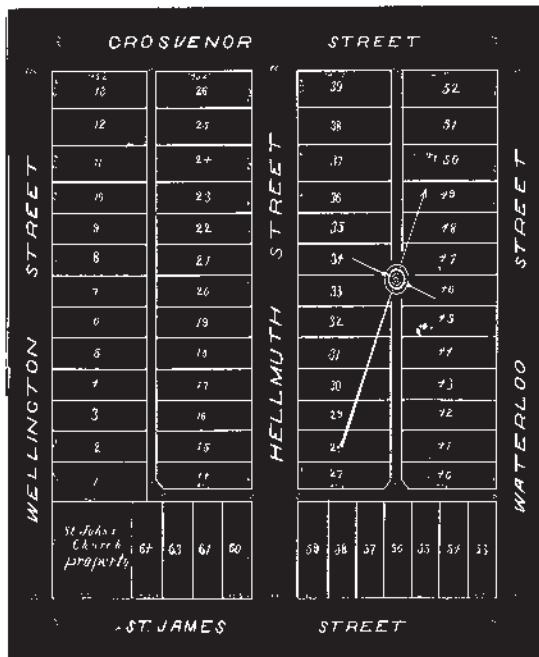
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*Poster courtesy of Western Archives*

## History

Much of the area covered by today's walk once comprised the grounds of Hellmuth Boy's College, named for its founder, Dean and later Bishop, Isaac Hellmuth. The 70 room private elementary and secondary school which occupied the block bounded by St. James, Waterloo, Grosvenor and Wellington Streets was to educate "sons of gentlemen" in a classical and scientific curriculum. The imposing William Robinson designed building opened for classes in 1865 but was closed in 1877 after ongoing financial difficulties. The following year, the new Western University of London, Ontario which was established under Hellmuth's sponsorship, took over the building (and the mortgage). By 1893, the mortgage payments had become a burden and the Star Life Insurance Company foreclosed. The University moved to share Huron College's campus on St. James Street west of St. George Street. Hellmuth's dream ended in dust when the former Boys' College was demolished in 1895.

The original 1840-41 survey for this section of St. George's Ward showed plans for streets laid out in a grid pattern with 132 feet wide streets aiming to create an elegant residential neighbourhood. Lots were 100 feet wide and 350 feet deep. Development did not happen until the late 1800's with the subdivision of the former College grounds. Only three buildings predate 1894 and almost 80% were constructed from 1895-1910. The original large lots were subdivided on many streets creating 40 feet x 140 feet lots and narrow Hellmuth Avenue was put through the centre of the survey.

As a growing and prosperous class of merchants, government employees and business men bought houses the area was no longer exclusively for the wealthy. The expansion of the Richmond Street trolley line (electrified in 1895) made the neighbourhood accessible to a wider cross section of society.

The park-like pedestrian character of Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District is a result of the network of back lanes allowing houses, trees and gardens to dominate the narrow lots' frontages while garages (originally stables) are at the rear. From 1915-1926 building permits for the construction of garages were very popular on these back lanes. Most were simple metal structures built for \$150 but one homeowner chose the more upscale look of a brick garage at a grand cost of \$950!

In the 1930s the trend to turn larger homes to multiple family

use began in this neighbourhood. By the 1970s a move to return them to single family dwellings began. The predominant style of the district brick, 1-2 1/2 storeys Queen Anne Revival with front porches, stained glass and gables - has been retained by present owners. Almost 75% of the houses' exteriors are near original.

To protect the low density, residential nature of the area and to mitigate land use conflict, the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District was officially designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in January 2003, a process spanning four years of hard work by the neighbourhood and its supporters. The unique architectural integrity, historic character and natural beauty will be preserved. The significance of this preservation cannot be overstated.

### ***Did you know?***

*Bishop Hellmuth also founded a school for girls as a companion to his Boys' College. Hellmuth Ladies' College opened in 1867 and was located atop a hill on the east side of Richmond Street at Windermere Road. It later became Mount St. Joseph Orphanage and Motherhouse, and is currently the site of Windermere on the Mount Retirement Residence.*

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



930 Gainsborough  
London, Ontario .  
N6H 5L4

## QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

Most of the buildings in the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District were erected between 1895 and 1912, and almost all of them show the Queen Anne Revival influence that dominated London domestic architecture during this period. The Queen Anne Revival style has a complex and varied history and thus a complex and varied character. Its origins in England looked back to the period of Queen Anne (1702-1714), but its interpretations in both England and North America became increasingly eclectic over time.

Its main characteristics, in Ontario terms, are a highly picturesque roofline, often with high chimneys, roof ridges of different heights, and even towers; numerous gables copiously decorated with shaped shingles, brackets, ornamental bargeboards, and windows with interesting shapes; prominent and sometimes multiple porches; stained glass windows; and frequently with other forms of decorative brickwork or woodwork and with receding or protruding wall planes.

A style that flourished in the decade prior to World War 1 is labelled Edwardian Classical because of the popularity during this period of such features as Classical columns, Palladian windows, shallow pediments, and greater simplification in footprint, form and ornamentation.

London, though, loved the detail of the Queen Anne Revival, so in this neighbourhood one finds rows of porches with Classical columns and balustrades combined with stained glass windows, highly ornamented gable treatments and picturesque rooflines. Indeed, the decorative details of the Classical porch pediments often echo those of the elaborate Queen Anne Revival gables.





## St. George's School 782 Waterloo Street



1967

St. George's Public School has the distinction of being London's oldest school site in continuous use.

The story begins in 1844 when London's town council took control of four existing private schools. One of them, probably located on Kent Street, between Richmond and Talbot Streets, served St. George's Ward, the sparsely settled area north of Duke (now Dufferin) Avenue. In 1847 the school was moved to Albert Street.

In 1848, when the school trustees decided to build the Union School on King Street between Colborne and Burwell Streets to educate all children in London, parents in St. George's Ward were furious that their children would have to travel so far to school. In 1851, after a determined effort, the ward's two room brick cottage school opened for classes on the same block as today's current St. George's School. More than 200 students were enrolled – a result of the town's decision to offer free public education.

Within twenty years, the growth of London necessitated the building of a new two storey, four room brick school behind the old cottage which was then torn down. A decade later four more rooms were added. When the area experienced a building boom following the subdividing of the former Hellmuth Boys' College campus, two more four room additions were made to the school in 1897 and 1907.



Photographs of the early school show a graceful, Georgian style building with symmetrically placed multipaned windows surrounding a columned double door entry. A large, windowed central gable and two smaller gables dominated the roof of the 2 ½ storey building.



By the 1960s the old school was aging dangerously, causing the north wall to buckle. St. George's was closed for demolition in 1967 while students were relocated to local churches or bused to other

London schools. A new "open plan" school was opened on March 7, 1968 by Premier John Robarts who lived at 808 Waterloo Street in his youth. The absence of walls proved less than satisfactory and walls and partitions were added ten years later.

As enrollment of neighbourhood children declined, those from expanding west end subdivisions were bused to St. George's. When a school was built to accommodate those students, empty space at St. George's was put to use as a new home for part of the Board of Education's developmentally challenged program. The school underwent yet another renovation to accommodate the students' special needs while a new front entrance was created, windows were added and the office and library were renovated.

After 162 years on this site, St. George's continues to meet the needs of its community.

### **Exit the School.**

Look across the street to 779 Waterloo, now Rosneath Bed and Breakfast. This 1 ½ storey, white brick cottage, built c 1898, is typical of the Queen Anne Revival style with its stained glass, multiple gables and high chimneys. Rosneath's website invites guests "to enjoy an iced tea on the front porch in the summer" in "one of London's most picturesque neighbourhoods".

**Turn right (north) and walk north on Waterloo Street.**

## 806 Waterloo Street



2



*1872 Priority #1*

806 Waterloo Street is the southern half of the buff brick Italianate house at 806-808 Waterloo Street. The first occupant of 806 was John Burnett, an insurance agent and broker for a number of local firms. His daughter, Mary, was a noted London artist.

The design of the semi-detached house incorporates many of the features associated with the Italianate style of architecture and are applied in equal measure to both halves of the building. These include a shared low-pitched gable roof; large elaborately carved paired eaves brackets under wide eaves; and a decorative frieze running along the base of the cornice. Other Italianate design elements comprise segmental windows with wooden heads and sills, and a prominent two storey centre projection, incorporating the front doors of both addresses. A gable with a centre quatrefoil window boldly crowns the centre projection and features the same paired eaves brackets and decorative frieze as the rest of the semi-detached house. As an added measure, brick corner quoins accentuate the corners of both halves of the house and the corners of the centre projection while brick coursing demarcates the first and second storeys. The building is finished off in style with four paired sets of chimneys.

**Exit the house and continue north to St. James Street.  
Cross Waterloo Street to the west side.**

The Queen Anne Revival style is on full display in 807 Waterloo Street with an elaborate gable containing a Palladian window on the front façade and the delightful bandshell porch that features a double row of spindles. Note the double leaf door and decoration on the dormers and cornice. This house was featured on a Canadian stamp in 1998.



**Cross St. James Street to the north side.**

338 St. James Street was built in 1910 for John C Butler, a manufacturer of waterproof clothing. Note the two prominent decorated chimneys, the rounded southwest corner and triple Romanesque windows with stained glass transoms. Take time to admire the alternating cement and brick voussoirs, the decorative detail in the gables and the string courses. The large verandah, which complements the features of the house, is supported



by Doric columns and has a field stone foundation. It is a later addition, replacing an earlier wrap-around verandah. As recently as 2009 this house had been rented to students and was in sorry shape. The current owners are to be commended for their careful and extensive restoration.

## **Continue to walk west on St. James Street.**

336 St. James is a Georgian Revival house which occupies the former tennis grounds of 338 St. James.



334 St. James is a handsome Queen Anne Revival home. Observe the front and side bay windows and the verandah with its simple Doric columns, dentils and spindles.

332 and 330 St. James are similar to 334. What differences do you detect?

335 St. James, and later 330 St. James, were manses for St. John the Evangelist Church.

326 St. James Street, built c 1898 and the oldest house on this part of St. James, is notable for the highly ornamental quality of wood and brick-work. Look for the brick-work in the chimney, in the voussoirs above the windows and in string courses between the first two stories. The front gable has elaborate shingling, bargeboards and bracket work. Turn the corner to view the decorative brick detail on the west façade, possibly outlining the presence of a chimney. 326 St. James is effectively balanced by 338 St. James on the opposite end of the block.

## **Cross St. James Street to the south side.**

The entire length of Hellmuth Avenue, from Oxford Street to Grosvenor Street, is an intact early twentieth century streetscape. The homes, built in similar style and in a short time period, present an harmonious face, particularly south of St. James Street. The narrow street allowances, small front yards and two storey building heights create a spatially intimate urban environment.

## **Walk south on Hellmuth Avenue**

The houses you are passing, on both sides of the street, share many common characteristics and this adds to the charm of the neighbourhood. Look for decorative gable treatments that often include brackets and shaped shingles, porches with classical columns and stained glass in the arched front windows and transoms. Sometimes a pediment over the front steps echoes motifs in the front gable above.

**798 Hellmuth Avenue**

*1904 Priority #2*

This charming two storey home has pleasing proportions, with a wide gable roofline nicely balanced by a wide verandah. Notice how the decorative elements of the gable are echoed in the pediment over the doorway. Both have bargeboard featuring an unusual bullseye-in-square pattern, and rows of dentil ornamentation. The gable has square shingle infill atop a decorative band with mini brackets. There is a second gable on the south side of the house, balanced by a corbelled chimney on the north side. Graceful fluted columns support the full-width verandah, which is also adorned with a dentil pattern.

The door and main floor double window have stained glass transoms. In fact the home boasts four stained glass windows, which you will be able to enjoy once you enter. Tall slender windows grace the second floor and draw the eye upwards.

The original resident at this address was Samuel Harding, a driver for Dominion Express.

**Exit the house and cross Hellmuth to the west side. Turn right (north) and continue to the corner house.**



## 799 Hellmuth Avenue



*1905 Priority #3*

The original resident at this address was Alonzo G. Howse, a traveler for Frost and Wood Company, makers of agricultural implements. The company had a warehouse at Richmond Street and Pall Mall, the present site of Jack Astor's Restaurant.

Impressive gables on the front and side, together with a wrap-around verandah, give this two and one-half storey corner house an elegant presentation toward both streets. The gables have scalloped shingles, Palladian windows, and bargeboard decorated with a simple dentil design. Notice how the dentil pattern has been accented with blue paint, not only in the gables but also on the cornice and verandah.



*oriel window*

The home's many large windows bring in lots of light. Many of the windows have heavy stone sills and lintels, and there is an oriel window on the north side second floor. Transoms above the door and main floor window have diamond-patterned glass.

The use of rusticated stone in the foundation and window headings give the house a sense of solidity. In contrast, decorative brackets on the verandah pillars add a whimsical touch.

**Exit the house and cross at the corner to the north side of St. James Street. Proceed north on Hellmuth Avenue.**



*Palladian Window*

The houses on this block exhibit the increasing dependence on red brick, usually imported from the Toronto area, over the local white brick. Red brick at this time was seen as a prestige construction material and it eventually replaced white brick which went out of production in the 1930s in London. The London brick came from yards on the east side of Adelaide near Grosvenor and along Commissioner's Road. (formerly known as Brick Street)

846 Hellmuth, on the east side, features half timbering in the upper stories and an oriel window in the peak of the front end gable. This house is modeled on the Tudor style.



*Ocular Window*

The architecture of many of the houses is homogeneous but there are differences: height, rooflines, window shapes, decorative details (particularly in the gables). Some houses are grander than others, perhaps reflecting the prosperity of the original owners. Can you spot the Keyhole, Ocular and Palladian windows?



*Keyhole Window*





## 849 Hellmuth Avenue



*c1900 Priority 3*

Many elements of the Queen Anne Revival style are on display at 849 Hellmuth Ave. including the irregular roofline, variety of window shapes, and highly decorative gable. Notice how the design elements work in harmony: the shape of the gable is echoed in the entranceway pediment, and the round heading of the second floor window balances that of the main floor double window. Brick voussoirs adorn all of the windows, including the keyhole window on the south side of the house.

The front gable commands your attention; its double windows are surrounded with ornate brackets and scalloped shingles, the bargeboard is lined with a dentil pattern, and the corners are supported by two very large brackets. Notice how these architectural details have been accented by the use of contrasting shades of paint. Similar hues have been used on the full-width verandah, a later addition to the house. Graceful fluted columns and a spindled railing add the finishing touch to this elegant home.

The first resident at this address was Thomas H. Baker, a partner in Stevenson Bros. & Baker which was a jewellery manufacturing business located at 115 Carling Street.

**Exit the house and continue your stroll north.**



**867 Hellmuth Avenue***1907 Priority #3*

This 2 ½ storey London brick house, built in 1907, was occupied by Wilbur Kay Darch, grandson of a famous London harness maker, (see Darch & Sons, next page) for several decades. The hip roof is fronted by a gable faced with fish scale shingles on the upper storey. Painted wood soffits and fascias have been retained along the eaves of the house, as well as the dentil trim. Notice the stone lintels that support the weight of the brick walls on the second storey.

The large arched front window is surrounded by wedge shaped stones or voussoirs while the windows along the north and south sides of the house were given a simpler treatment with brick voussoirs. Many stained glass and sash windows have been preserved as well as the painted wood frames and storms. Of particular note is the unusual triangular bay on the north side of the house. To the east of this window there is evidence of a door or window that was bricked over.

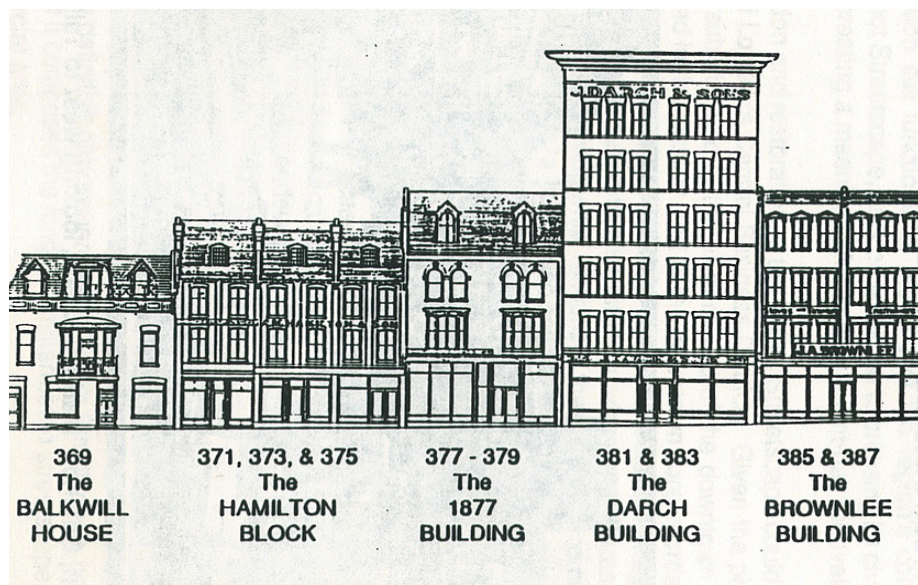
The front verandah was recently rebuilt with a more modern esthetic but using traditional wood flooring, ceiling, fascia, dentil trim and columns. The painted 867 house number in the transom above the original front door sets off the asymmetrical entrance to the home.

## Darch and Sons

One of the most successful businesses in the old Market District on Talbot Street was Darch and Sons Saddle and Harness Makers, established in 1843 by John Darch. After his son John's premature death in 1867, his wife, Jane Kay, took control of the business, building it into what was probably the largest harness business in western Ontario. In 1877 she hired architect William Robinson to design a shop and residence at 377-79 Talbot Street. By 1903 the business was so prosperous that the family added to their space by building London's first skyscraper at 381-383 Talbot Street to serve as a factory, warehouse and shop for their expanding business as saddlers, harness makers and luggage producers. The six storey building towered over its neighbours and in its simple style reflected the style and technology of the new commercial era.

In use by the Darch family business until the late 1930's, the building was then put to a number of uses including a Canadian Tire store and the Trajectory Art Gallery. Painted ghost signs advertising the firm were still visible on the north and south walls until the Talbot Streetscape sadly became part of London's history in 1990. On the west side of Covent Garden Market's upper floor overlooking Talbot Street you will find Ted Gooden's stained glass panel of the Talbot Streetscape, purchased by ACO London. The skyscraper Darch building stands out in the centre of the panel just as it did in its heyday.

**Exit the house and continue along Hellmuth.**



**873 Hellmuth Avenue****7***c1905 Priority #2*

This stately red brick home is a fine example of the Edwardian style that followed Queen Anne revival, with similar design features but more restrained ornamentation.

The façade of the house has an offset projection capped with a prominent gable featuring scalloped shingles, plain bargeboard and a lovely Palladian window. Wide overhanging eaves are supported by a series of ornamental brackets known as modillions. The placement of the classical verandah offsets the gable nicely, and brings harmony to the home's façade. This balance of colour and form makes the door appear to be centered.

The large windows have gently curved headings with brick voussoirs, and simple stone sills. Notice the leaded glass in the ground floor and second storey transoms, with its attractive crest shaped patterning.

The original resident here was W. P. Rennie, a traveler. The number of travelers living in this area reflects the growth of manufacturing industries and wholesale businesses in London which employed travelers to sell their goods outside London.

Look across the street to the red brick house at 872 Hellmuth. Compare it to 871 and 873. It is similar but with a more elaborate verandah, a slate roof and half timbering in the gable.

**Retrace your steps on Hellmuth Avenue and return to St. James Street. Turn right (west).**

The elegant Queen Anne Revival home at 290 St. James Street was built in 1907 for Gillian McLean, owner of a hardware store in the now demolished Talbot streetscape. With its tower and two porches the house effectively anchors the eastern end of a handsome streetscape. Notable features include the patterned shingles, intricate woodwork in the gables and the cement voussoirs outlined in red mortar.



Next door, 288 St. James was built c 1906 for flour agent A.M. Oldham. The gable is decorated with shaped shingles, a moulded box bargeboard and a Palladian window. The eaves are adorned with dentil mouldings. This home boasts five original stained glass windows.



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**286 St. James Street**

8

*1905 Priority 2*

This charming 2½ storey buff brick house makes a dramatic statement on the streetscape with its unique design. A tall gabled projection on the left side of the façade contrasts sharply with the large shingled dormer on the right, and yet the two sides are balanced by similar styles of bargeboard with returned eaves. A steep shingled roof extends halfway down the front of the house, giving the façade a cottage feel. The door is tucked quietly in the center of the house, its multi-paned transom and side window bringing light into the foyer. The wide verandah is adorned with rows of both large and small dentils and supported by graceful columns.

The three large windows of the façade are accented with shutters, and their shape is echoed in the triple window of the newer dormer. A pattern of small window panes is carried through all of the windows on the ground floor. Notice the heavy stone window sills and lintels, even on the gable and basement windows. Together with the rusticated stone foundation this gives the house a solid, grounded feeling.

The home saw a series of occupants in its early years, beginning with Lyonel F. Robinson, a traveler.



**Exit the house, turn right (west) and walk to Wellington Street. Turn left and cross to the south side of St. James Street.**

This block, bounded by Oxford, Hellmuth, St. James and Wellington Streets was owned by John Labatt, one of several properties in London that he bought as speculative ventures.

The houses on the east side of Wellington between St. James and Oxford were

built between 1895 – 1906. They provide a fine showcase of variations on the Queen Anne style. As you stroll down the street pause to appreciate the neighbour-friendly and highly decorative verandahs, the oriel windows and other kinds of elaborate



790 Wellington Street

ornamentation. Each house retains its individuality in design and in detail. The colour choices of paint that some of the owners have made enhance our appreciation of the heritage features.

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**786 Wellington Street**

9

*Designated 1904 Priority 1*

The handsome buff brick home at 786 Wellington Street has a hipped multi-gabled roof highlighted by a deep cornice with dentil ornamentation and colourful band. The dentil theme is continued in the very ornate pediment atop the classical porch. Notice how many of the home's decorative details have been accented by the use of an elegant shade of red paint.

The rather simple offset gable has shingle infill surrounding a single window. There is quite a variety of window shapes incorporated in the home's design, the most interesting of which is an unusual second floor oriel window topped with an extension from the gable. The large main floor window is capped with brick voussoirs, as is the round-arched stained glass window beside the door. The north side of the house has a V-shaped bay window and there is a dormer on the south side.

The home was built for James Footitt, an accountant for the Carling Brewing and Malting Company.

**Exit the house and continue south on Wellington Street.**

784 Wellington Street, built 1905, is the only house on the block that still has the original slate roof. The bandstand porch, ideally located for catching the summer breezes, was originally part of the neighbouring house at 782 Wellington. The fire map shows that by 1912 it had been moved and was part of 784.



VIEW FROM ST. JAMES STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

*782 Wellington Street as the only house on the street*

782 Wellington Street, the oldest house on the block, was built in 1895 for Judge Edward Elliott. The house has undergone numerous changes over the years. Just ten years ago the main entrance



was on the north side, opening onto *782 Wellington Street today*



a car port, and there was no verandah. The present owners are to be commended for their outstanding efforts to preserve this grand home through careful restoration of original features and historically appropriate enhancements. Take particular note of the intricate detail in the gables on the front and south sides and the wrap-around verandah with its classical columns and balustrade.

776 Wellington Street is another elegant home with presence in this impressive streetscape. Observe the unusual brick detail of the two storey bay and corner turret. This house was for many years the home of E.V. Buchanan, long-time general manager of the P.U.C.

The congregation of New St. James Presbyterian Church bought the property on the corner of Oxford and Wellington from John Labatt in 1899 for \$2100. London architect W.G. Murray designed it in 1900 in a Romanesque Revival style. The rounded arched windows and the asymmetrical towers of different heights and designs are typical of the style.

**Turn right (west) and cross Wellington Street to the west side. Walk north.**

The houses at 765 and 777 Wellington Street are Prairie style, a design usually associated with Frank Lloyd Wright, and quite rare in London. Identifying features are the strong horizontal lines, broad gently sloping roofs and windows in groups.

**Cross Sydenham Street and continue to stroll north.**

The houses on the west side of the street between Sydenham and St. James date mainly from the 1930s and 1940s when the then owner sold off some lots from the Headley estate (now Sir Adam Beck condominiums). These houses can be considered Colonial (785 Wellington), Georgian (789 Wellington), or Tudor (791 Wellington) Revivals.

793 Wellington is a relatively new house, built c 1985, and is a good example of appropriate infill.

**When you reach St. James Street turn left (west).**

The pleasant Tudor Revival houses at 253 and 251 St. James Street were built in 1932. The steeply pitched roofs and half-timbering of 253 are features of this style.

**Before you reach Richmond Street, cross St. James Street.**



## James A. Harris Funeral Home 220 St. James Street



*1872 Priority 3*

The stately 3 storey mansion located at 220 St. James Street was known as Woodlawn. It was built in 1872 by George W. Robinson, an emigrant from Ireland whose dry goods and clothing business grew into one of London's first wholesale firms. In the early 1920s, Woodlawn was completely renovated by Robinson's son, William E. Robinson, who replaced the third storey with a hip roof and stuccoed over the yellow brick. The home was sold by William's son, George Robinson Jr., in 1957 to Archie M. Harris. It was James Harris, Archie's son, who transformed the mansion into a funeral parlour, altering the character but maintaining many of the architectural features. The building serves a dual purpose, with funeral space on the first floor and a residence for the family upstairs.

The home's entrance is now obscured by a tinted glass enclosure, but the elegant Doric style columns of the porch remain. The green glazed tile roof, the wide overhang and the eaves brackets and frieze with dentil details are all reminders of the home's early twentieth-century heritage.

**This site is open for touring as long as there is no funeral or visitation on the day of the tour.**



*Woodlawn circa 1915*



*Woodlawn after alterations, 1920's  
Photos courtesy of Western Archives*

**After viewing or visiting the funeral home walk east along St. James Street towards Wellington Street.**

250 St. James Street, an example of an Edwardian Classical building, was built in 1910. This massive house, with its two-storey large bay, has a two-storey verandah which is architecturally interesting.

264 St. James Street, also Edwardian, is a well-balanced imposing home that features a central entrance and a large verandah with dentils below the eaves. Note the stone window headings and sills. The finial is unusual in a house of this age. The fish scale shingles in the front gable are slate.

270 St. James St. was built c 1898 for William Smith, the owner of a hardware business on Dundas Street. Noteworthy architectural features include the square tower on the corner, the second floor bay and the slate roof. The design of this house is admirably suited to the corner site. This building was for many years a fraternity residence. When the fraternity vacated it, it was empty, the windows were boarded up and it was invaded by raccoons, squirrels, mice and rats. Fortunately for the neighbourhood it was purchased in 2009 and restored to its former grandeur. Some of the work that was done included removing the white paint from the exterior and replacing the long-gone wrap around verandah.

**Cross Wellington Street to the east side.**



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## St. John the Evangelist Church 280 St. James Street


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*1888 Priority 1*

This year, St. John the Evangelist Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

The origins of the church date back to 1864 when a chapel was built on the grounds of Huron College, located at that time on the corner of St. James and St. George Streets. The chapel sat 200 people and served as a place of worship for the both the college and Anglicans in the vicinity. It had been donated by Archdeacon (later Bishop) Isaac Hellmuth and his wife Catherine, in memory of her late father. In 1884 the Chapel was deemed structurally unsafe and so the congregation moved to a chapel in the new Chapter House on Piccadilly Street at Richmond (since demolished to make way for the Selby Building's parking lot).

Seeking a permanent home, the congregation erected this handsome church in 1888 on the edge of Hellmuth College land at the cost of \$13,000.00. It was designed in the Victorian Gothic style by architect and church member Charles F. Cox, and has the appearance of an English parish church. Notice the pointed windows, detailed ornamentation, and steeply pitched roof with dormer windows to let in light. The trademark tower and spire were added in 1897 and to this day you can hear the bells chime the hour. The abundance of stained glass in the windows is better viewed from inside once you enter this remarkable church.

**Refreshments will be served at the church between 2:30 and 5:00.**

**We hope you enjoyed the tour.**

## Glossary

**Bargeboard:** board, usually ornamented, under a gable.

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

**Balustrade:** a row of carved columns supporting a hand rail.

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

**Colonial:** a style that recalls North American heritage; may be distinguished from the original by the use of modern materials, different scale and a mixture of elements

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

**Coursing:** continuous horizontal row of brick or stone.

**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.

**Double-leaf door:** an outside door composed of two equal vertical sections closing in the centre.

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

**Finial:** vertical ornament topping a gable or spire.

**Frieze:** part of cornice below roofline, often decorated.

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

**Georgian Revival:** built in the Georgian style after it had gone out of fashion and characterized by symmetry and simplicity

**Gothic Revival:** a style developed in reaction to the restraint of Georgian; defined by steeply pitched rooflines, pointed arched windows and picturesque decoration.

**Half-timbered:** timber framing with plaster or masonry infill.

**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.

**Keyhole window:** a window shaped like a keyhole.

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

**Lintel:** a horizontal length of stone or timber above a window or door

**Ocular Window:** round window

**Oriel Window:** an upper floor bay window supported by corbels

**Palladian Window:** a three-part window with the centre section larger and arched at the top.

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

**Quatrefoil:** a window having four lobes

**Queen Anne Style:** a style originating in England and popular in London in the early 1900s; featuring irregular rooflines and house footprints, gables, towers, and intricate decoration.

**Quoins:** stone or brick used to reinforce a corner.

**Romanesque Revival:** a style featuring asymmetrical, solid, massing and heavy, round-arch windows and doorways; materials often include rusticated stone and brick

**Rusticated stone:** rough or grooved masonry

**Sidelight:** glass panels on either side of a door.

**Spindles:** a series of small upright members that support a handrail

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

**Tudor Revival:** a style of architecture developed in the United Kingdom in the mid 19th century as a reaction against ornate Victorian excess, featuring steeply pitched roofs, gables, decorative half-timbering, and patterned brickwork.

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

## 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 2,000 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. Some are part of a designated heritage conservation district.

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. Copies of the *Inventory* can be viewed at the City Clerk's office, in libraries and is 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.

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



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## Acknowledgements

We wish to show our appreciation to all the volunteers who donate their time to the ACO's annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. We are especially grateful to the homeowners 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:

### **GHHT Organizing Committee**

Sylvia Chodas (chair), Marlyn Loft, Sharon Lunau, Ken Fitchett

### **House Captains**

John Lutman, Jenny Grainger, Janet Wombwell, Steve Liggett, Ty and Ellen Harries, Dennis Lunau, Dave McKelvey, and Meaghan Rivard

### **Brochure Producers**

**Writers:** Marlyn Loft, Sharon Lunau, Sylvia Chodas, Nancy Tausky

**Consultants:** Anne McKillop, Stephen Harris, Don Menard

**Map:** Cheryl Koteles

**Layout:** Marty Peterson, Sylvia Chodas

Special thanks to Nancy Tausky, Mari Parks, and the staffs of the London Room and Western Archives for their invaluable assistance.





# Bishop Hellmuth Hike

