

ACO's 43rd Annual
Geranium Heritage House Tour

Sydenham Saunter



Sunday June 5, 2016

1:00 to 5:00

Walk begins at Victoria Carter Dance Centre
160 Sydenham Street

Refreshments are available from 2:30 to 5:00



Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region
www.acolondon.ca



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 fifty years ago this July 14th. The Ridout Street Complex was designated a National Historic Site that same year. 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 an 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 43rd annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. We are pleased to welcome you today to the St. George-Grosvenor neighbourhood, an area currently being studied to become London's eighth heritage conservation district. This part of London, north of Oxford Street and up on a hill, was home to luxurious country estates in the mid 1800s. As population growth moved steadily northward, the streets of London North became lined with houses and, happily, the area has retained its residential character to this day. On today's tour you will see a wide variety of architectural styles, from Ontario Cottages and Italianate homes to grand Queen Anne mansions. Most have been well preserved, and together they create a series of charming, harmonious streetscapes.

One of the main aims of Architectural Conservancy Ontario is "to preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province". ACO London's 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 Restoration Grant to owners of heritage homes to help preserve or restore heritage features
- an annual London Heritage Scholarship to a post-secondary student enrolled in a heritage trades program

Enjoy your saunter through the Sydenham Street neighbourhood. You will find a map on the back cover of this booklet, but remember that the route shown there is just a suggestion. Except for the refreshment stop which opens at 2:30, 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 would ask that tour participants be prepared to remove their shoes if asked, and please DO NOT take interior photographs.

Thank you for your participation.

Geraniums for today's tour have been graciously provided by *Parkway Gardens*.

History

The St. George-Grosvenor neighbourhood was identified in 1994 by the city of London as an area of outstanding architectural, historical and natural character. The written history of the area begins 200 years earlier.

In 1796 Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe set aside a Crown Reserve at the Forks of the Thames for a town he would call London, however it wasn't until the 1820s that the development of London really began. An 1824 survey by Deputy Provincial Surveyor Mahlon Burwell, under direction from Thomas Talbot, began the process of subdividing former Crown Reserves. Then in 1826, when London was selected as the new administrative centre of the London District, a new courthouse was constructed at the forks of the Thames and the town immediately grew up around it.

The first town plan extended from the river east to Wellington St. and northward to present-day Queens Ave., but soon the rapidly growing population needed space to expand. At first most of this growth was eastward, as the Thames River restricted westward and southward expansion. Then Londoners began to set their sights northward. Between 1838 and 1840 the large tract north to Huron St. and east to Adelaide was surveyed, and for many years the area was called the New Survey. However, the Military Reserve which occupied a large parcel of land including present-day Victoria Park was a significant barrier. Much of the New Survey was only partially opened to development and some of the streets were only visible on the surveyor's map.

With vistas overlooking London on the gentle rise of over 40 feet from Oxford Street to Grosvenor Street, high above the floodplains of the Thames and away from the factories being built in London's core, London North was a perfect location for four wealthy Londoners to build their mansions. In 1845 lawyer H.C.R. Becher built Thornwood on St. George Street. In 1854 London's second mayor, William Barker, built the Barker House on Richmond Street, naming several area streets after family members: Ann Street (just south of Oxford) for his wife Ann McLaughlin, St. James Street for his wife's brother, and St. George St. for the couple's youngest son. In 1856 hardware merchant Lionel Ridout built Rough Park on St. James Street and in 1861 tanner Ellis Hyman built Elliston on Richmond Street. The character of the area as a desirable place of residence was now established as more large houses were built for wealthy Londoners.

In 1875 the London Street Railway extended its route north along Richmond Street to St. James Street. In this era the best residential areas were along the main transportation arteries and so within five years a prosperous middle class of civil servants, merchants and business men were living in solid brick cottages and smaller two storey townhouses.



William Barker Estate 1869
 Photo: Archives, Mt. St. Joseph, London

The 1900 and 1913 expansion of the Richmond Street trolley line (electrified in 1895) spurred the building of more expensive homes for London's elite along the west side of Talbot Street, both sides of Richmond, and the connecting streets of Sydenham and St. James: the area we explore on today's tour.

The area has essentially retained its diverse residential character but the residents have had to be vigilant to ensure that character is maintained. A recent study will soon be available for a new St. George-Grosvenor Heritage Conservation District and will provide, according to the City of London website, "a framework to ensure the long-term conservation of this neighbourhood's significant cultural heritage resources."

This diverse residential character of the area is a highlight of today's Sydenham Saunter. Keep your eyes open and you will be delighted by the treasures of the St. George-Grosvenor neighbourhood.



Victoria Carter Dance Centre

160 Sydenham Street



The starting point of today's tour is a long-standing landmark of dance in London, embedded discreetly in the midst of a residential neighbourhood. The Victoria Carter London Dance Centre is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, having been founded by Victoria's parents Dorothy and George Carter in 1956. Victoria took over headship of the school in 1982 and changed the name from Dorothy Carter School of Dance Arts to its present name.

To appreciate the house as it appeared when first built, c1870, stand on Sydenham Street and look at it from the front. In your mind's eye, remove the verandah and addition along the east side which were added later. The two storey Italianate style house is constructed with buff-coloured brick, a common sight in London's buildings of the period since the bricks were made locally and took on the colour of the region's clay. (They are also referred to as white brick or yellow brick.) The Italianate style is one that emphasizes the height of a building and uses elements that draw the eye upwards, such as tall slender windows and a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves supported by rows of decorative brackets. On this house the brackets are in pairs, and feature a

scroll pattern that is repeated in the elegant drip moulds atop the second floor windows. Notice the detail in the brickwork, with string courses (rows of projecting brickwork) extending under the brackets, along the window line, and between floors.

The home's first recorded residents (1872) were Henry L. Church and his wife Ettie, followed by Rev. William Henry Halpin, a professor of Math and Classics at nearby Huron College. The property was purchased by John Puddicombe in 1880 and remained in his family for many years. John's son Harry (Henry) Puddicombe was a talented concert pianist who eventually founded the Canadian Conservatory of Music in Ottawa in 1902 and was its director until 1937. How appropriate it is for a dance centre to continue to fill the house with music!



Roofline Brackets

Exit the Dance Centre and turn left on Sydenham Street. Cross St. George Street and walk to the first house with a red geranium in front.

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182 Sydenham Street



Although this two-and-a-half storey yellow brick home is a later addition to the streetscape, its design and setback fit in well on the street. Built in 1913, this house replaced an earlier frame structure at this address occupied by John Jepson, a provisions merchant and later on by George Marshall, a tea merchant.

The design of the home's front façade is well-balanced, with a prominent dormer window and wide verandah competing for your attention. Windows vary in size and shape and have matching stone headings and sills. The off-centre front door has a glass transom which, together with the small window beside it, brings light into the interior. The full-width verandah with balcony above is supported by slender columns resting on concrete piers.

There is much to look at in the trim on this house, nicely accented by the current homeowners with contrasting colours of paint. The decorative dormer, with its triple set of windows, fishscale shingle infill, and scroll-like wooden applique, has a unique bargeboard pattern which is echoed on the verandah roof.

Exit the house, turn left and stroll east on Sydenham.

188 Sydenham is a modified Ontario Cottage that was built c1868. A popular style in London, the Ontario Cottage is characterized by large symmetrical windows on either side of a central door, and a hipped roof (sloping inward on all sides). The front dormer window on this house is decorated with shingle detail and the wide classical verandah enhances the front façade.

The neighbourhood of today's tour became part of London in 1840 and, unlike some neighbourhoods such as nearby Bishop Hellmuth, had a long period of development. This resulted in a diversity of architectural styles, building materials and streetscapes.



188 Sydenham St.

Cross to the south side of Sydenham Street.

191 Sydenham Street, built in 1885, is an Ontario Cottage with a centre gable over the door decorated with vine-like bargeboard. The first inhabitant of this charming home was William Taylor, a clerk. It has also been home to a janitor, railway dispatcher, widows and lawyers over the years.

Turn right and saunter west.

181 Sydenham Street was built 15 years before 191 Sydenham although over the years there have been changes. Look for features that still identify it as an Ontario Cottage.

Cross St. George St. and continue to walk west on Sydenham.

154 Sydenham (across the street) is an Italianate building, featuring the strong vertical lines, hipped roof and wide eaves typical of the style. The tall windows have gently rounded tops crowned with brick voussoirs. The gables on the portico and on the house balance nicely.

This block of Sydenham has several cottages. Most are modest buildings and some have been altered significantly but they have many fine details. Look for an ocular window.

148 Sydenham, (on the north side), is an attractive Ontario Cottage and is one of the oldest houses on the street (c1868). The rounded window tops are enhanced by the radiating brick voussoirs above them. The front façade is framed by brick corner pilasters and cornice. Notice what is perched above the doorway.



148 Sydenham St.

133 Sydenham is another delightful cottage (Queen Anne influence) with many intricate decorative details. The gables display brackets, patterned bargeboards, scalloped shingles, dentils and a fan pattern in the peak. The broad verandah, perfect for summer visits with neighbours, is supported by Doric columns.

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131 Sydenham Street



Built in 1893, this charming side-hall plan cottage features a steep hipped roof, wide doorway, and two large windows with shutters and simple wooden sills. The buff-coloured brick walls are unadorned except for rows of voussoirs highlighting the gently arched window tops. An arched porch roof supported by large wooden brackets draws attention to the intricately carved double-leaf doors topped with a transom. Black paint on the home's trim provides a dramatic contrast with the light colour of the brick. As you pass the west side of the house note the bricked-up coal chute, a remnant of the past.

Exit the house and continue on Sydenham.

126 Sydenham, (across the street), was built c1870. This enchanting Ontario Cottage was originally sided in wood but is now covered in stucco. The symmetrical windows, still sporting shutters, have decorative wood mouldings and original storms. Notice the small bay window on the west façade. The centre gable is decorated with dentils and fish scale shingles. The first resident listed here was John Denahy Carter.

125 Sydenham is an example of sympathetic infill, fitting into the streetscape.

When you reach Talbot Street turn left.

817 Talbot is a recent building (c1960) respectful of the older architecture through appropriate setback and height.

812 Talbot Street



4



Designated

The elegant two-storey house at 812 Talbot Street and its nearly-identical sister house next door at 810 Talbot were built in 1883. They have the dimensions and shape of Italianate structures, including a shallow hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and tall slender windows, but are frame instead of brick and are missing the characteristic roofline brackets. The wooden window surrounds are fairly plain with only the hint of a pediment above the ground floor windows, matched by that over the door. The porch is a later addition. Look to the sister house to see the original tongue-and-groove exterior which would have graced both houses.

The first resident listed at this address was James Egan, a well known photographer and city alderman, who occupied the house from 1884 to 1902. He was influential in the establishment of London's waterworks system, and helped arrange for 15,000 trees to be planted on city streets.

Exit the house, turn left and return to Talbot Street.

The west side of Talbot Street, between Oxford and St. James, developed later than the east because the land was the fairgrounds of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society for many years.

Many properties on this portion of Talbot Street were purchased by Alexander Harvey who resided at 802 Talbot and oversaw the construction of several houses in the area, some of them for members of the Harvey family.

Cross Sydenham Street and walk north on Talbot.

825 Talbot, (on the west side), is an imposing Colonial Revival residence built in 1929. Noteworthy features include quoins which define the corners, and the large arched dormers with multi-paned windows. Shutters with a pierced pine-tree design enliven most window openings. Look for similar shutters at 189 College Ave.



825 Talbot Street

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816 Talbot Street

5



Designated

The first resident of this c1886 side hall plan cottage was Robert H. Miller, an agent for the Equitable Life Insurance Society of New York. By 1890 it was occupied by Walter J. Blackburn, advertising manager of the London Free Press and son of its founder Josiah Blackburn.

The frame side-hall plan cottage has a hipped roof, large windows with carved wood surrounds, and tongue-and groove siding. Note the intricately carved double-leaf door with transom. There is a very decorative bay window on the south side which you will see as you exit the home.

Exit the house and look across the street.

831 Talbot is a gracious Colonial Revival house designed by O. Roy Moore in 1938. Although it is wide, it is only a single room deep. The front façade is symmetrical with five windows around an attractive front entry. The roof is covered in green slate. Notice the dentils beneath the eaves.

Turn right and continue your saunter north.

837 Talbot (across the street) was built in 1915. The large house

was constructed on the site of the old East Middlesex Agricultural Hall, also known as Simcoe Castle, and after its demolition some of the bricks were salvaged and used in the construction of the home. The first occupants, Edward Reid and later his son Robert Reid, were among the foremost members of London's financial community. Robert Reid became president of London Life. This substantial house blends well into the Talbot streetscape.

When you reach the corner turn right and stroll east.

The residents on the south side of this block of St. James Street now enjoy park-like surroundings. The buildings that at one time were on the north side have been demolished. Because the London Plan supports suitable infill it is possible that some development will take place here.

149 St. James Street is a handsome Ontario Cottage that was built c1881 for an accountant. The decorative window headings, gable detail and original doorway are pleasing features. The front porch cuts through the ornate woodwork and was probably a later addition.



149 St. James St.

The northwest corner of St. James and St. George is the former site of Bishopstowe, a large house built here in 1886/87 on Huron College grounds as the official residence of the Bishop of the Diocese of Huron. In 1953 it became Miss Matthews School, now demolished.



159 St. James was built in 1870. Dr. N.C. James, president of Western University from 1908 to 1914, lived here from 1906 until 1942. Observe the handsome doorway, window surrounds and bay window.

*Bishopstowe
Photo: London Free Press*

Cross St. George St. and enter the home designated by the red geranium.

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**Watch our website, Facebook page, Twitter and
newsletter for more details**



“Oral History of St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly”

PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT INTERVIEWING RESIDENTS OF THE ST. GEORGE-GROSVENOR- PICCADILLY NEIGHBOURHOOD ABOUT ITS HISTORY

You are being invited to participate in this research study because you are now living and/or working, or have lived and/or worked, in the area bordered by Grosvenor St., Hyman St., Talbot St., and Colborne St., including properties on both sides of those streets (the St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly Neighbourhood)

RESEARCH PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to collect stories about the history of the St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly neighbourhood from people who have lived or worked there. It is hoped that conducting oral interviews will preserve information that would otherwise be lost. The intent of this work is to write a history of the St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly neighbourhood, and to create an archival repository of information about the neighbourhood for future researchers. The research will also increase awareness of cultural resources in the community by producing an online multimedia portrait of the St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly neighbourhood.

PROCEDURES: Interviews will be audio or video recorded. The interview will be conducted at the location of the interviewee's choice. The interview is typically held at the interviewee's house or while walking outside. It may also be held at the interview room at the History Department of the Western University or in any other appropriate location. Interview sessions normally last up to an hour, but participants are free to stop and take a break or discontinue at any time.

RISKS AND BENEFITS: There are no known or anticipated risks or discomforts associated with participating in this study. The research project will contribute to historic interpretation of the St. George-Grosvenor-Piccadilly neighbourhood, as well as publications, audio tours and walking tours. Video or audio recordings of these stories will be made available on the Internet, and will be permanently archived at Archives and Research Collections Centre (ARCC), Western University.

To volunteer to be a research participant, or for more information about this study, please contact Mark Tovey, Ph.D., Department of History, Western University, at metamer@gmail.com, or 519-661-2111 ext. 84973. Collaborating on this project are Michelle Hamilton, Ph.D., Director, MA Public History Programme, Department of History, Western University, and Nancy Tausky, Nancy Z. Tausky Heritage Consultants, Grosvenor Lodge.

2016/03/02

177 St. James Street


 6


The Queen Anne style corner house at 177 St. James Street has an unusual design, perhaps unique in the city. Built c1888 of local white brick, the home appears deceptively small when viewed from the front when it is in fact long and narrow to fit the dimensions of the lot. The steeply-pitched slate roof, accented with a strip of fishscale tiles, is interrupted by dormer windows on three sides of the house, faced with brick and bisected with chimneys. Look to the front of the house for a multitude of decorative Queen Anne elements working harmoniously together. The main gable is edged with floral bargeboard and has square shingle infill with half-timbering in the peak supported by a row of brackets. The gable above the two-storey bay has matching floral bargeboard, supported at the ends with oversized brackets, and scalloped infill in the peak. The bay windows, taller on the first floor than the second, are joined visually with wide horizontal wooden bands both above and below. The front door enclosure is a later addition, as is the side entrance on St. George Street.

The first resident listed at this address was John A. Miller, a traveller for Struthers, Anderson & Co., providers of wholesale dry goods and gents' furnishings. In the 1890s it was occupied by Albert W. Woodward, an accountant at the Carling Malting

and Brewing Company. Perhaps the most interesting owner was Sydney Greenberg who used the house as a sales showroom during the 1980s for his company The Jimsol House Company.

Exit the house and cross St. James Street to the north side. Turn right and walk east.

200 St. James Street is the address of the luxurious three-storey St. James Court apartment building, constructed in 1926 by Hayman Construction, and the first apartment building to appear in London North. It was designed by architect O. Roy Moore, who lived in Unit 5, the two-storey penthouse suite, from 1928 to 1931. For such a large building, it sits quietly on the street and does not strike any discordant note with the adjacent single family homes, thanks to its low profile architectural details. Cement trim is used effectively as decoration on this elegant building.

Turn west and retrace your steps to St. George Street. Turn right (north).

230 St. George St. (1898) is Queen Anne style and was designed by the London architectural firm of Moore and Henry. Notice the two front gables, with timbering and stucco, which are adorned with an interesting bargeboard. Separating the gable and main level is an ornate band with dentil moulding, and just below that is a large arched window. The choice of paint colours and unique painted design enhance the home's architectural features.

The five houses you will now pass, 230 - 238 St. George St., were all built within six years (1896 - 1902) and in similar style. The doorways, porches, windows and decoration of the gables vary from one house to the next and give modest homes charm and individuality. Pause to appreciate this harmonious streetscape.

The property on the west side of St. George Street near Grosvenor is where Rough House, one of London's most impressive mansions, was erected in 1856 by Lionel Ridout, a prosperous hardware merchant. The building was surrounded by a 14 acre property named Rough Park. In 1862 Bishop Benjamin Cronyn and Rev. Dr. Isaac Hellmuth were instrumental in arranging the purchase of Rough House by the Diocese of Huron and it became the nucleus of Huron College.

Turn right (east) onto College Ave. and enter the house indicated by the red geranium.



189 College Avenue



This magnificent home, built by architect Oliver Roy Moore for himself in 1930, is a one-of-a-kind showpiece of architectural skill. The basic plan is that of a large Ontario Cottage, with a steep hipped roof and a central doorway flanked by symmetrical large windows. However the elaborate neoclassical entranceway, prominent dormer windows and elegant decorative elements are more reminiscent of a mansion than a cottage. Despite its size the house fits in well here on the street's downward slope. There had been an earlier frame cottage on this site, the last in a row of four along College Street (the rest of which are still standing), and O. Roy Moore is said to have traded the cottage he removed for the red bricks used on his house.

A variety of building materials, in contrasting colours, highlight the home's architectural features. Light-coloured stone quoins and window headings stand out against the smooth red brick walls. Grey slate roof tiles add contrast and texture, as do the elegant rows of dentils which appear on the entranceway and continue along the cornice just under the eaves. A high stone block foundation raises the first storey off the ground, and the resulting raised entrance is approached by a double set of stone

steps leading to a small porch faced with red brick. The recessed front door, complete with transom and sidelights, is protected by a curved copper portico roof supported by fluted Doric columns. A pair of pilasters, also fluted, stand guard on either side of the door and are echoed on the substantial dormer windows above.

Take a moment to appreciate the many whimsical touches that add charm to the very formal façade: floral endblocks on the window headings, a decorative iron lantern fixture over the door, pierced black shutters held in place with s-shaped fixtures, and copper downspouts at the outer corners of the house, embedded with the date 1931.

Exit the house, turn right and stroll east.

College Ave. takes its name from Huron College. It provided a thoroughfare from the St. George St. campus to Richmond St.

The Barker House, another of London North's great estates, once occupied the property on the north side of College Ave. where Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care now stands. The mansion was built c1854

for William Barker, a grocer who was London's second mayor. The three acre estate was purchased by the Roman Catholic Diocese of London and in 1869 became Mount Hope Convent and Orphanage.

A Gothic Revival addition was built

in 1877, and the complex graced the site until 1963 when the original Barker House was demolished, followed by the addition in 1980.

193 and 195 College Avenue are unpretentious cottages (1881) that are mirror images. Notice the ample verandahs, ideal for catching the summer breezes, bay windows and attic dormers.

197 College is a Side Hall Plan cottage with a verandah, decorated with classical pillars, across the front façade.

When you reach Richmond Street, turn right (south).



Postcard of Mount Hope Convent & Orphanage

The Moores – London Architects

Many Londoners may not know the name John M. Moore or

John M. Moore & Co. Architects & Engineers
489 Richmond Street

O. (Oliver) Roy Moore but they may be familiar with the work of this father and son team of London architects.

As was the custom in the 19th century, John Moore studied as an articling student with the prestigious London architectural firm of Robinson & Tracy. Following a partnership with one of the era's most notable Ontario architects, George Durand, Moore established his own firm in 1888. He partnered with first Fred Henry, and then J. Vicar Munro before the firm became John M. Moore and Company. His connections to McClary Manufacturing through his wife, Louise McClary, and his own surveying and engineering skills ensured success. During his term as superintendent of the London Waterworks for 16 years, Springbank, which served as a reservoir for London's water supply, was developed into one of Canada's finest natural parks.

As London's industry boomed in the period prior to World War I, Moore's firm designed many of its new factories including the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company (Kellogg's) plant on Dundas St. East under the direction of John M.'s son, O. Roy.

Following the war, John M. became involved in city politics, first as a controller on the old Board of Control and in 1926-1927 as Mayor of London. It was also a period of continued success for the firm. Between 1922 and 1924 the company



A 1929 Gathering of the MacKenzie-Moore clan at Dalmagarry, Hyde Park, MacKenzie Family Home built c1836.

Centre: John M. Moore holding O. Roy's daughter Shirley. His wife Louise McClary is to John's right.

Far right: O. Roy is kneeling with his wife, Shirley, behind him. His son George is in the front row, third from right.

Photo: London Township History Book.

worked with a Detroit firm to design buildings for the new campus of the University of Western Ontario: the main arts and administration building (University College), the natural sciences building (Physics and Astronomy Building), and the bridge over the Thames River. Later that decade the firm designed the head office of London Life Insurance Company on Dufferin Ave. and the Bell Telephone Building at Clarence St. and Dufferin Ave. While these buildings retained elements of the Victorian and Edwardian building styles, the firm began to build houses in a number of modern styles including Prairie influenced.

Following J.M.'s death in 1930, O. Roy Moore assumed leadership and eventually the company became O. Roy Moore and Co. He continued the firm's influence on the Western campus, designing Lawson Memorial Library (now Lawson Hall), Cronyn Observatory, Thames Hall Gymnasium and Field House, and the new Huron College on Western Road. He insisted that only Indiana limestone, the most durable stone available, be used on the exterior of all of the university buildings.

Following O. Roy's death in 1964 the firm was succeeded by Ronald Murphy. Murphy donated the collection of architectural plans and drawings known as the Murphy-Moore Collection of Architectural Records to Western Archives at Western Libraries, Western University.



*O. Roy Moore
Photo: London Room*

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ILDERTON ON

835 Richmond Street is a grand residence built in 1907 in the Edwardian style (typically featuring a symmetrical façade, prominent entrance and a porch with classical details). The first owner was Joseph Scandrett, a partner in Scandrett Bros. Wine and Liquor Merchants. The two and half storey red brick building exhibits an abundance of outstanding architectural features. Observe the unique Dutch gable, curved bay windows, large portico with an arched roof supported by brackets, brick quoins and the stone dressing that is selectively used for windowsills, lintels and accents. There is a two storey half turret on the south elevation and a corbelled chimney.

834 Richmond Street, (across the street), was designed by O. Roy Moore for George Belton, proprietor of Belton Lumber Company. The home's design is basically in the Prairie style which is characterized by strong horizontal lines, gently sloping roofs and windows in groups. The overhanging red tile roof, end beams and paired triangular brackets enliven the smooth stucco façade. The verandah is composed of massive angular piers with stone capitols and base and ornate concrete railing sections.

The large estates in the area acted as magnets for other high income citizens who chose to build their substantial homes in this neighbourhood. Even the lesser dwellings were mostly sizable, solid brick cottages and two storey town houses occupied by civil servants, accountants, college professors or merchants.

825 Richmond Street was built in 1906 for contractor Robert Wilson. This Queen Anne style home was designed to suit the corner property. Anchored by a circular tower which is topped by a conical slate roof, the architecture features a steeply pitched roof, a classical columned verandah and Palladian windows in the gables and dormer. Like other mansions along Richmond Street that have been converted to businesses, this is an example of adaptive reuse.

Turn right onto St. James Street and stroll west.

206 St. James St., built in 1914 in Queen Anne style, is an elegant home with presence. Take a moment to admire the windows - the Palladian window in the gable, the small oriel window on the second storey and the leaded windows in the two storey curved bay that are adorned with rusticated stone lintels and sills. The placement of the classical verandah offsets the gable and brings harmony to the home's façade.

204 St. James Street


 8


This stately one and a half storey red brick home was built in 1915 by John M. Moore as a residence for his son O. Roy Moore, who lived here until 1928.

The design is symmetrical and well-proportioned, with strong horizontal lines. A slate gambrel-end roof (with a double slope) extends nearly halfway down the front of the house, its wide overhang decorated with a row of bracket-like modillions. Originally the entire roof was slate, but the upper part has been replaced with shingles. The wide dormer has two paired windows and pink slate shingle infill.

Notice the variety of building materials on display, most notably the interesting red rug brick mottled with blue tinges that is used in abundance: brick quoins accent the corners of the house, brick piers support the porch roof, triple rows of brick voussoirs adorn the window arches. A deep fieldstone foundation rising up to the level of the window sills gives a sense of solidity to the home, as does the solid brick porch with overhanging roof supported with wooden brackets. There is a wide fieldstone chimney on the east side containing an embedded lionshead emblem.

Exit the house and cross carefully to the south side of the street.

199 St. James Street



This two-storey eclectic house was built in 1893 and has had a series of owners beginning with William F. Graham in 1894 and including Charles Herbert Ivey Jr., brother of Richard G. Ivey, who resided here from 1921 to 1953. Charles Ivey Jr. was president of the Empire Brass Manufacturing Co. Ltd., founded in London in 1906 and later renamed EMCO Ltd. His wife Ethel was president of the Canadian Women's Golf Association. In 1953 the house passed to their son Charles Robert Ivey.

The house was originally constructed of brick; the stucco cladding was part of a 1922 renovation by the J.M. Moore & Co. architectural firm which also included the addition of a wide dormer over the verandah and a back porch. The L-shaped design of the house features front and side gables, a shallow pitched roof overhanging at the eaves, large windows, and a central doorway protected by a decorative wooden enclosure. There is a pleasing arrangement of single, double, and triple windows, all with simple matching stone sills and a 9-over-one or 12-over-one pattern of panes. Tapered piers at the corners of the verandah add a rustic touch.

Take a moment to observe on the front façade the nice balance

between the large gable on one side and the off-centre verandah and eyebrow roof curve on the other, a result of the Moore enhancements. It would be a pleasing sight for O. Roy Moore as he sat on his own home's verandah across the street.

Exit the house and, as you return to the street, look to the right into the lane.

This lane is similar to many that can still be found in some of London's heritage neighbourhoods. They were lined with stables and coach houses, and allowed garbage collection to occur unobtrusively. A walk through London's back lanes, often under a canopy of trees, is highly recommended.

Turn right and proceed to Richmond Street. Turn right (south).

813 Richmond Street was built in 1892 in the Queen Anne style by John Sharman. His previous home was the cottage to the south, but when he gained prominence and prosperity, politically and through marriage, he built a more substantial residence befitting his raised position in the community. The classical verandah stretches across the façade and the details are repeated in a smaller second storey porch. The gable is decorated with dentils, shingle detail and brackets. Above it is a gablet with a simpler decoration.

805 Richmond St. was built in 1876 by John Sharman, mentioned above, who began his career as a clerk in the post office. This superb example of an Ontario Cottage was built of local white brick but is now painted. Notice the elegant perforated double chimneys on either side of the house and unusual bargeboard. The entryway, with its classical columns, is welcoming.

Look across the street to where one of London's great country estates once stood. First known as Elliston and later Headley, it was the home of two of London's most prominent figures: tanner and businessman Ellis Hyman and Sir Adam Beck, politician and founder of Ontario Hydro. Headley was built c1861 and was demolished in 1990 by Sifton Properties, who built a replica house and incorporated it as part of the Sir Adam Beck Condominiums.

Continue to walk to Sydenham, cross and enter the building indicated by the red geranium.



783 Richmond Street Old North Optometry



A former church converted into a business – why not? This modest white stucco building, once converted into law offices, has now been cleverly adapted for use as an optometry office, and its history kept alive. Built in 1924, Trinity Lutheran Church was the proud accomplishment of a small congregation who had been holding services in a rented hall on Pall Mall Street. They remained at this location until 1951 when an increase in their membership from 10 to over 800 forced the congregation to build a new larger church at the corner of Oxford Street and Colborne. Faith Tabernacle occupied the building from 1951 to 1983.

There is a hint of Gothic Revival influence in the steeply pitched roof and gently pointed arch windows, however the building's modest appearance and lack of ornamentation were purposeful; at the dedication service on October 12, 1924, the minister commented "we share a pride in the simplicity of the beauty of the outward appearance of this church". The welcoming double door entranceway is curved at the top and accented with a projecting door surround. The symmetrically placed windows are small but tasteful, and the contours of a trio of windows over the entrance form a gently pointed arch.

London Free Press - October 13, 1924
Lutheran Church Dedicated



Hundreds joined in the impressive dedicatory services held yesterday morning which marked the formal opening of the new Trinity Lutheran Church shown here. This beautiful edifice is situated at the corner of Richmond and Sydenham street.

Photo from the London Free Press

The fact that this business and many like it have made use of heritage structures is pleasing to advocates of "adaptive re-use" who say the greenest building (best for the environment) is the one still standing.

Exit the building and return to Richmond Street.

784 Richmond, (across the street), is known as the "House of Five Gables" and it dates back to 1860. At one time this Gothic Revival building housed the original Miss Matthews School. Bargeboards, decorated with a rhythmic "cornhusk" design, outline the gable ends. Quoins also add interest.

Turn right and walk south toward Oxford Street.

Settlement in this neighbourhood was greatly aided by the London Street Railway, which in 1875 laid tracks along Richmond Street as far north as St. James Street. The journey to work downtown was shortened considerably by the horse-pulled trams. The trolley line

was electrified in 1895 and extended to Regent Street in 1900. Before the age of the car, some of the “best” residential areas were to be found along the main transportation arteries.

Paul Peel, one of Canada’s first internationally recognized painters, lived as a teenager on the property a few doors west of the corner of Oxford and Richmond.

At the corner use the lights to carefully cross Richmond Street.

The Modernist building on the corner, now a CIBC branch, was built c1951 as a branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Continue east along Oxford Street.

256 Oxford Street East, now Susan J. Fashions, was built in the Italianate style in 1873. Notice the double brackets and dentils under the eaves and ornate window headings. One of the first residents was hatter Henry Beaton. For many years Rowcliffe Real Estate was located here.



256 Oxford Street East

When you reach Wellington Street cross to the east side. Continue to walk to the first building past the church.

300 Oxford Street East (1878), once a handsome Italianate double house, is now vacant and in need of repair. From 1973 to 1975 Nobel Laureate Alice Munro and her daughters lived in one of the apartments on the west side. She was writer in residence at Western University in 1974 - 1975.

Return to the church, where refreshments will be served between 2:30 and 5:00. We hope you enjoyed the tour!

280 Oxford Street East New St. James Presbyterian Church



Designated

St James Presbyterian Church became New St James Presbyterian Church in 1899. The congregation could already trace its roots back to the establishment of the first Presbyterian congregation in London in 1833, and had occupied several locations since. Its previous home, nicknamed "the Pepperbox Church" for its distinctive shape, was on Richmond Street at Kent Street. In April 1899, at the urging of their newly arrived minister, the Reverend Alexander J. MacGillivray, the congregation bought a parcel of land at the corner of Wellington Street and Oxford Street from John Labatt, and laid the cornerstone of its new building. The first service was held in the new sanctuary on January 6, 1900, and the building remains the congregation's home to this day.

The building was designed by Herbert Edward Matthews in the style of the Romanesque revival. Distinguishing characteristics of this architectural style include its rather castle-like appearance, and semi-circular arches over the doors and windows. Sets of three narrow windows emphasize the vertical lines, and string course of contrasting colour emphasizes the horizontal lines. The Oxford Street façade is non-symmetrical, with two towers separated by the gable roofline. The square west tower is topped

by an octagonal roof, and four pinnacles cap the buttresses. The east tower is topped by a steeply-pitched roof. The triangles of red slates on the roof of the east tower mark the location of dormer windows that were lost during roof repairs in 2005. The windows in the gable are the only remaining original windows in the sanctuary, the others having been replaced between 1933 and 1958 by a spectacular set of stained glass windows. These are best viewed from inside the sanctuary on a bright day, when the richness of the colours may be seen. A guide to the windows is available inside.

The exterior remains largely unchanged from its original design, with a few alterations. Porches added over the Oxford Street doors in 1931 soften the severity of the appearance. Other changes to the building have been internal, some made by the firm of J. M. Moore, and were undertaken to serve the congregation's ministry to the community or to improve function and accessibility. We are delighted to welcome you today.



Stained glass window detail

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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”
- Bracket:** a projection from a wall, usually beneath the eaves
- Buttress:** an exterior mass of masonry bonded into a wall which it supports
- Capital:** block at the top of a column
- Colonial Revival:** a style that recalls North American heritage; may be distinguished from the original by the use of modern materials and different scale
- 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
- 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
- Dripmoulds:** mouldings over windows or doors to help divert rainwater to the sides
- Eclectic:** drawing from a variety of styles
- 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
- Gambrel Roof:** a gable roof having two slopes on each sides
- 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

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

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

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

Ocular: round window

Quatrefoil: a shape have 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

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

Vernacular: exhibiting local design characteristics and using easily available building materials

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

Heritage Conservation and 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.

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