

ACO's 44th Annual  
Geranium Heritage House Tour

# Piccadilly Promenade



**Sunday June 4, 2017**

**1:00 to 5:00**

Walk begins at Siskinds - The Law Firm  
680 Waterloo Street at Pall Mall

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



Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region  
[www.acolondon.ca](http://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 44th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. This year's walk explores three blocks of Piccadilly Street between Wellington and Maitland, a neighbourhood of well maintained single-family homes in a variety of styles and ages. This cozy community has kept its residential character despite being a stone's throw away from busy railroad tracks and the hustle and bustle of Oxford Street. On today's tour you will see an array of architectural styles, from cottages to grand mansions, existing side-by-side to form a charming, harmonious streetscape.

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

Enjoy your promenade through the Piccadilly 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

Architecturally speaking, Piccadilly Street was a late bloomer.

Although the name Piccadilly Street is shown on early maps of London, including Samuel Peters' map of 1855, the street was sparsely populated until well into the 1880s. The London City Directory of 1872-73 shows houses sprouting up on surrounding streets, including 24 on Pall Mall Street a mere block to the south, but there is no mention of the name Piccadilly until the 1875 directory.

What was it about Piccadilly Street that kept development at bay for so many years? The answer is, as realtors like to say, location location location... or, in this case, the brook, the British, and the beer.

Let's back up a bit. From the moment London was established in 1826 at the fork of the Thames River, the little town began to grow. By the time it was incorporated as a city in 1855, the population was close to 10,000 and the city was expanding in all directions. In most parts of London development happened naturally, along transportation arteries and the adjacent streets. However in a few areas there were barriers to development, and this little Piccadilly pocket, only a few blocks northeast of downtown, was one of those areas.

First there was the brook. The meandering Mill Creek ran westward just south of Piccadilly on its way to the Thames River, with several marshy streams feeding into it. It was re-named Carling Creek later on, and was dammed up at Richmond Street for many years to form an artificial lake known as Lake Horn.

Then came the British army. On today's tour you will see a British ordnance stone at the corner of Waterloo and Kenneth Streets that marked the north-east corner of the garrison land. This military zone was a significant barrier to settlement on the adjacent streets.

Finally, there was the beer. Thomas Carling opened a brewery on the corner of Waterloo Street and Pall Mall around 1840 (purposely close to the army garrison) and the business grew steadily until the brewery buildings occupied most of the block bordered by Piccadilly, Waterloo, Colborne and Pall Mall streets.

By the 1880s Carling Creek had been harnessed, the military reserve had been divided up (the parade ground became Victoria

Park), and the Carling Brewery site had been abandoned in favour of a new Carling Brewery on Talbot Street. The land was finally opened for development, and Piccadilly Street blossomed into the vibrant neighbourhood we see today.

**Detail from  
MAP of the CITY OF LONDON  
Surveyed and Drawn by  
SAMUEL PETERS P.L.S. 1856**



*Dotted outline shows Reserve lands occupied by British garrison.  
Sarnia Street, the western boundary, is now Richmond St.  
Duke Street, the southern boundary, is now Dufferin Ave.*



## 680 Waterloo Street Siskinds The Law Firm



*1914*

The starting point of today's tour is a building that has an interesting and storied past, with a variety of occupants. The history of 680 Waterloo Street dates back to about 1840, when Thomas Carling built a brewery on the site. The creek that ran nearby, Mill Creek, was renamed Carling Creek. By 1878 the Carling family had opened a new brewery on Talbot Street and the Waterloo St. location was abandoned.

At some point in time, the site was purchased by William Copp of the Copp's Buildall family. In 1914, William Copp sold the property to Ford Motor Company, and an assembly plant was constructed. The location of the plant beside the railway tracks was perfect for access to the boxcars that delivered partially assembled cars from plants in Detroit. The cars were then assembled and sold here, using showrooms that faced Waterloo Street. The stately, four-story building was one of the most modern and up-to-date automobile plants in the country. It cost \$125,000 to build and featured red bricks, green tiles, terracotta, and marble staircases. Henry Ford visited the location twice, in 1920 and 1926.

In 1945, Ford sold the site to Pumps and Softeners Ltd., a London company credited with manufacturing the country's first electrically powered piston pumps.

In 1989, the property was purchased by Siskinds Cromarty Ivey Dowler, a firm created from the merger of two London law firms. This newly formed firm undertook extensive renovations to the building and, from the beginning, was

committed to preserving as much of the original architecture as possible. The red bricks were removed and put back onto the reformed structure. The marble staircases are still in place today.

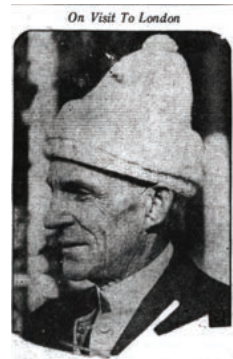
The original windows were replaced, but the design of the original Ford plan was maintained in the design of the new windows. The team wanted to preserve the white slate trim that ran across the length of the building above the windows, but acid rain had damaged the material to the point that it was unsafe and, unfortunately, had to be removed. The building's main entrance moved from Waterloo Street to its present location on



*Ford Motor Company c1925*

London Free Press April 13, 1926

Henry Ford paid a short visit to London to inspect the local branch of the Ford Motor Company of Canada at 680 Waterloo Street. He looked from cellar to attic, talked to employees and shook hands with



many staff. Henry Ford was known to be able to put anyone at ease; he also had a keen eye for detail. After the inspection he left in his car, driven by his chauffeur, to head back to Detroit.

Pall Mall Street as the firm wanted to add a free parking lot for clients. Since moving into the building 26 years ago, the size of the firm has grown significantly. Presently, the Siskinds firm fills the building completely, and plans to accommodate the need for additional space are currently underway.

**Exit Siskinds and walk east, keep to the left around the back of the building. Pause when you reach Harvard Street.**

This was the location of the Carling Brewery, its buildings occupying two thirds of the block between Pall Mall and Piccadilly. What is now Harvard Street was the laneway to the Carling homestead, its address being 674 Waterloo Street. Other residential development did not begin here until the brewery relocated.

**Turn left (west) on Harvard Street and walk to Waterloo Street. Turn right and stroll north.**

Many of the houses you can see are passing, built during the first decade of the last century, have experienced significant change but there are still details to admire. Notice the shingles, brackets and patterned bargeboards which adorn some of the gables. Two of the houses have wide verandahs with decorative details that enhance the façades.

**When you reach Kenneth Avenue cross Waterloo to the southwest corner of Kenneth and Waterloo.**

Observe the British Ordnance survey stone and the informative plaque that relates the history of Piccadilly Park, formerly the northern section of the Military Reserve.

**Cross Kenneth Avenue, turn left and stroll west.**

Kenneth Avenue does not appear in the city directories until 1905 and that year there were seven houses listed, beginning with 2 Piccadilly and ending at 14 Piccadilly. Three of the occupants were widows with no occupation listed. The others included a labourer, an engraver for the London Printing and Lithograph Company and an assistant superintendent for the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton Pennsylvania. All seven houses are similar, probably originally identical and built by the same builder. Today they still present a pleasant streetscape.

To your left is Piccadilly Park, now a very popular green space where children enjoy the playground equipment (provided by Siskinds), tennis is played, office workers take their lunch break and neighbours stroll and visit.



***A little bit of London's military history preserved in stone..***



*Ordnance stone marking the NORTHEAST. Corner of Military Reserve.*

*Corner of Waterloo and Kenneth.*



*Ordnance stone marking the SOUTHEAST corner of Military Reserve*

*Corner of Clarence and Dufferin*

*(this sidewalk tile plaque replaces the ordnance stone originally in this spot)*

Carling Creek originally flowed to the west close to this side of the park. It was dammed at Richmond Street to form Lake Horn, named after Colonel Horn, who engineered its formation. The soldiers used the lake for swimming and it is rumored that in winter the Harris sisters, of Eldon House fame, and their friends skated on it. The dam was removed and the lake drained before the railroad was put through in 1887. Carling Creek became a ditch-like stream until 1986 when it was channelled into an underground pipe, and this area became Piccadilly Park.

**After you pass 14 Kenneth Avenue, look to your 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, some of which still remain, and allowed garbage collection to occur unobtrusively.

18 Kenneth, built c1975, is an example of "sympathetic infill" a new building which suits its setting. Only the façade is brick.

22, 24, 32 and 34 Kenneth have been built quite recently, replacing homes that were demolished. Do the new buildings

complement and enhance the streetscape or would you prefer more traditional designs?

**When you reach Wellington Street turn right (north) and continue to Piccadilly Street.**

274 Piccadilly, on the northeast corner, is a charming one-and-a-half storey white brick residence, built c1898, in the Queen Anne style (irregular outline, gables, tall decorated chimneys). Notice the large round-headed windows with decorative headings of pressed cement blocks, the shingle detail and sunburst design in the gable and the beautifully proportioned doorway.

**Begin your promenade east on Piccadilly Street.**

276-278 Piccadilly Street (c1883) is a double house that presents a well-balanced design with prominent keystones, shutters and two London (triple arched) Doorways. The peaked gable features delicate fretted bargeboard and an ocular window.

288 Piccadilly (c1877) is a white brick home with plenty of noteworthy details. Pause to appreciate the parapet walls which rise above the roofline (originally designed to halt the spread of fire), the two tall decorated chimneys, the ground floor bay window and the brick voussoirs with keystones over the windows. Significant additions include the oversized dormer and cornice with half-ball trim and large rather heavy looking verandah.

290 Piccadilly (c1881) was, in its original form, almost a twin of 288. This house has retained its Gothic gable with vine-like bargeboard and its London Doorway.



*London Doorway at 276 Piccadilly*

**Continue your stroll east to the Shanly House.**

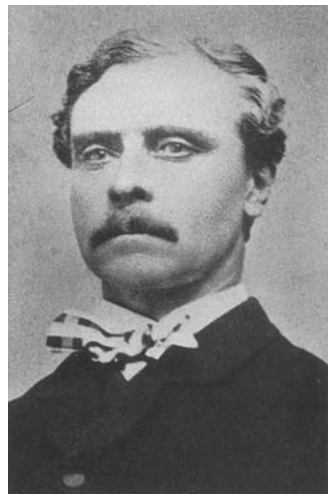
## 301 Piccadilly Street The Shanly House



*Designated*

Welcome to historic "Shanly Townhouse", one of the earliest houses built on Piccadilly Street. Its date of construction has not yet been pinpointed (house dating can be a challenging process) but records suggest it was built c1872 and was purchased by Colonel James Shanly from James Medcalfe in 1875.

Colonel James Shanly Q.C. was a barrister and first commanding officer of the London Field Battery, a local militia unit. His family had settled in Nissouri Township, naming their homestead "Thorndale" and thus providing a name for the adjacent village. This London residence was considered the family's "town" house. After Colonel Shanly's death in 1897 and his son's move in 1903, the house passed through a succession of owners including the Bernice Harper School of Dance. It has recently been



*Col. James Shanly*

restored to its original single-family status.

To appreciate the house as it appeared when first built, look beyond the columned portico, a later addition, to study the original Italianate building behind. The two-storey house is constructed with buff-coloured brick, a common sight in early London since the bricks were made locally and bear the colour of the region's clay. (They are also referred to as white brick or yellow brick). Italianate features include the hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, prominent cornice with rows of modillions (mini-brackets) beneath the eaves, and tall slender windows with curved headings. Take a close look at the carved stone lintels above the windows and door, featuring a floral scroll pattern and centre shield. Notice also the brick quoins at the corners of the house and lion's head collector boxes on the downspouts.



*Carved lintels at 301 Piccadilly Street.*

Now that you have seen the subtle grandeur of the original 1870's townhouse, step back to take in the full effect of the two-storey Classical Revival portico added to the house in the early 1900s. The massive Classical pediment, with scroll design and an ocular window in the centre, is supported by fluted Corinthian columns and matching fluted pilasters on either side of the door. This stately home certainly makes a dramatic statement on the street.

**Exit the house and look across the street.**

300 Piccadilly Street is probably the oldest building we will pass on the tour (c1860). It is a frame building now covered in



*Corinthian style capitals*

stucco. A close look reveals indication on the stucco that a verandah once surrounded the house on three sides. The arrangement of the windows is interesting: five on the first floor with the



*300 Piccadilly Street*

front door separating one of them from the rest and one on the upper floor in the central gable. The home's decorative details have been accented by the colourful paint choices.

305 Piccadilly (c1881) was built in Georgian Revival style. (The façades of Georgian houses are balanced with an equal number of windows on either side of the front door.) The classical symmetry of this building, which was originally a double house, achieves an impressive presence in the surrounding streetscape.

316 Piccadilly has several unusual and pleasing features: on the ground floor two narrow arched windows where normally one window would be found and a decorative string course laid in saw-tooth formation. Also observe the brackets and wooden trim under the eaves and parapets.

318 - 326 Piccadilly are three frame cottages. 320 retains its original windows and storms and gingerbread woodwork on the verandah. 320 is an Ontario cottage (characterized by a hipped roof and a central doorway flanked by symmetrically placed windows).

**Enter the building that is open for viewing on the corner of Waterloo Street and Piccadilly Street.**



## 719 Waterloo St.



This two-and-a-half storey white brick house, built c1902, has been renovated inside for use as office and classroom space by the Montessori Academy of London, yet the heritage character of the exterior has been retained. This “adaptive re-use” of buildings is a practice that ACO encourages, in order to help conserve resources as well as maintain historic value of properties.

The Queen Anne style house has matching wide front and side gables, with an enclosed entrance door nestled between the two facades - a pleasing design for a corner house. The gables have intricate pierced wood bargeboard, squared shingle infill and carved brackets at the corners that are imitated by smaller brackets in the window casing above. A delicate row of dentils underscores the gables and runs along the cornice line. The full-width wraparound verandah further enhances the home’s corner setting. Notice the harmony between the verandah roof and the main roof, with matching rows of modillions and dentils.

The first resident here was Mr. William Hutchins who lived with his sons Thomas D’Oyley Hutchins, an accountant, and George W. Hutchins, a clerk at the Bank of British North America.

**Exit the building onto Piccadilly Street, turn right and cross Waterloo Street.**

718 Waterloo Street, built in 1873, was the only house on the south side of Piccadilly between Colborne and Waterloo Streets before 1890. This is because most of the land was occupied

by the Carling brewery and sheds. Pause to admire the corner quoins, brackets under the eaves and wide wraparound classical verandah on this well-proportioned building which has now been repurposed.



*718 Waterloo Street*

**Cross Piccadilly Street to the north side and enter Somerville House.**

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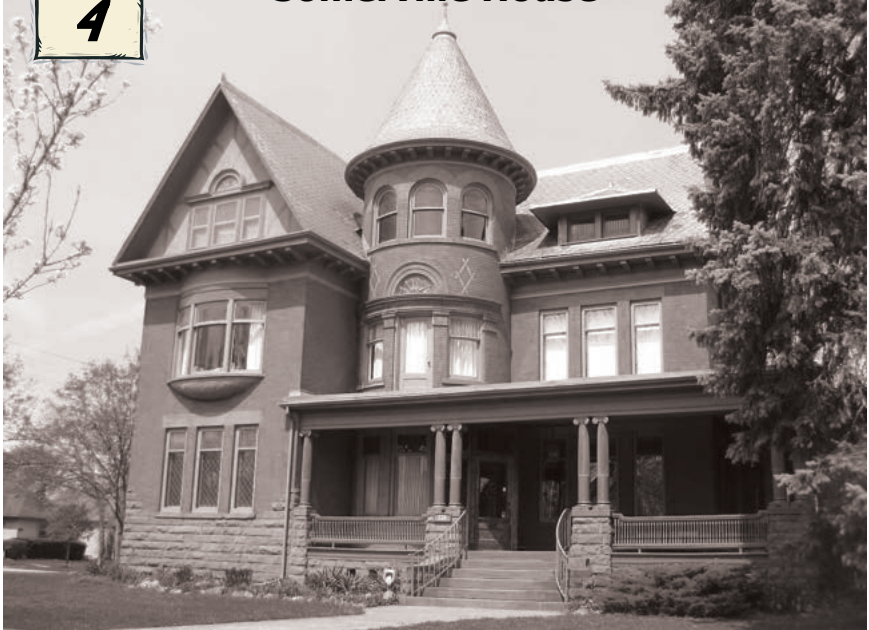
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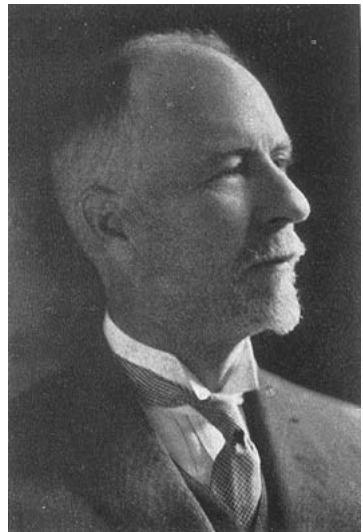


## 336 Piccadilly Street Somerville House



This grand red brick mansion was built c1907 for Charles R. Somerville, founder of a paper box manufacturing company that grew into Somerville Industries, one of the largest game and jigsaw puzzle manufacturers in the country. Charles Somerville retired from business in 1909 and entered public service, serving as mayor of London from 1918 to 1919. He named his house Kenross after his two sons, Kenneth and Charles Ross. The younger of the two, Charles Ross "Sandy" Somerville, born in 1903, became a successful golfer with such a large collection of trophies that a specially-designed trophy case was installed on the third floor.

Built during the Edwardian period when the decorative flourishes of Queen Anne style were going out of style in favour of the simplicity of Neo-Classicism, Kenross nevertheless



*Charles Ross Somerville*



exhibits the basic elements of Queen Anne style with its prominent gables, three-storey tower, wraparound verandah, and multiplicity of window shapes and sizes.

Elements of Edwardian Neo-Classicism can be seen in the plain stone lintels over the windows and the fluted Ionic columns of the verandah.

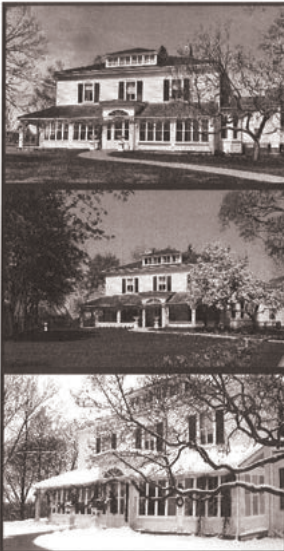
There is a great variety of architectural features to observe here, working together in a harmonious design, including a deep rusticated stone foundation curving upward at the corners, steep slate roof with wide overhang, half-timbering in the gables, second storey oriel window and third floor dormer. The central tower, tucked between the two wings of the house, is the most eye-catching Queen Anne feature. Take a moment to study its lush details, from the tip of its conical roof to the entrance door at its base.



*336 Piccadilly tower detail*

As you approach the welcoming front stairs, picture in your mind's eye the grand gardens and tennis courts on the east side that once graced this corner estate.

**Exit the house, turn left and continue your promenade east on Piccadilly Street.**



# Eldon House

Heritage Site and Gardens

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

519-661-5169 | [info@eldonhouse.ca](mailto:info@eldonhouse.ca)

For hours of operation please go to  
[www.eldonhouse.ca](http://www.eldonhouse.ca)

344 Picadilly is a stately red brick Queen Anne house that still has its original slate roof. The oval window and dormer, capped by a hexagonal roof and finial, are picturesque features.

347 and 349 Piccadilly, across the street, were built c1907 when, following the Queen Anne revival period, architectural styles favoured more restrained ornamentation.

349 Piccadilly has a two storey bay, plain stone lintels and a classically inspired verandah which offsets the gable with its lovely Palladian window.

348 Piccadilly Street is an Italianate house featuring the strong vertical lines, hipped roof supported by brackets, and wide eaves that are typical of the style. Often, as with this house the cornice brackets are paired. The next four houses, 350 - 356, are similar in style but have different surface treatments.

358 - 370 Piccadilly (c1895) were originally identical. Today the brackets under the eaves, composed of spindles arranged like an open fan, is the only façade feature they have in common. They have endured changes over the years. During the 1950s 358 Piccadilly was faced with stone when the owner was the proprietor of a stone-works company.

357 and 359 Piccadilly Street, once probably very similar, are now dramatically different in appearance. 357 still boasts decorative details in the gable and retains its verandah with delightful gingerbread. 359 has lost its verandah and is covered in stucco to achieve a more modern look.

394 Piccadilly is an imposing home with some unusual design devices. Notice the wraparound verandah with columns arranged in groups of three, the handsome doorway and the multisided bay window positioned over the verandah.



*354 Piccadilly Street was home to Canadian writer Michael Ondaatje and his wife, artist Kim Ondaatje, during the late 1960's. Michael Ondaatje's celebrated novel *The English Patient* was made into a film in 1996, winning nine Academy Awards*

**398 Piccadilly St.**

5

*Designated*

Architect Herbert E. Matthews designed this 2 ½ storey red brick home in 1903 for John George Richter, first manager and eventual president of the London Life Insurance Company, and his wife Martha Ann Bullock. The Richters had one daughter, Mabel Richter, who lived in the home until age 81 and became well known for her travels and philanthropy. After her death in 1976 several local charities benefited from the Richter Endowment Fund, and Museum London was the recipient of 90 of her dresses.

The home's design includes a blend of Queen Anne and Edwardian styles, not unusual for a building of this time period in London. Well suited to its location on a corner lot, the home has a Queen Anne style roofline with a front and side gable and an ornate wraparound bandshell verandah that welcomes views from both streets. The gables feature fishscale infill and Palladian windows. Notice the patterned slate roof and the small "gablet" behind the main front gable. In contrast, simpler Edwardian elements include the square window openings, simple stone lintels, and flat facade.

**Cross to the east side of Colborne.**

414 - 416 Piccadilly was built in 1906. The first floor of 414 has always been a store.

**Stroll east on Piccadilly Street.**

## 422 Piccadilly Street



6

With its tall slender outline, this stately 2½ storey white brick house makes maximum use of a rather narrow lot. Built c1897, it is a fine example of the Queen Anne style as it appeared near the turn of the century, as tastes turned to more restrained decoration and more balanced forms. The home's first resident was Mr. Stanley Street, a photographer at Cooper and Sanders Photographers located at the corner of Richmond and Dundas Streets. The firm's motto was "All kinds of commercial work a specialty".

As with many Queen Anne style homes, the projecting gable wall and overhanging eaves draw the eye upwards. The gable is outlined with "bars and squares" bargeboard and features a sunburst design at the peak and a pair of elaborately carved brackets at the base. The strong vertical lines of the



*422 Piccadilly window detail*

house are balanced nicely by four horizontal rows of rough brick coursing and the four prominent round arches of the windows and doorway, accented with patterned voussoirs.

The home's recessed entranceway shelters a small portico lined with elegant woodwork.

**Exit the house and continue to walk east.**

The homes you will pass on the north side of the street are a mix of architectural styles. Look for classical verandahs, slate roofs, tall corbelled chimneys, keyhole windows, stained glass, elaborate gable detail and porches with gingerbread decoration.

**When you are opposite 447 Piccadilly, cross carefully to the south side and enter this charming cottage.**



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## 447 Piccadilly Street



This charming white brick cottage, set well back from the street, was one of the first houses built along this stretch of Piccadilly, c1886. It bears the outline of an Ontario Cottage, with a hipped roof and central door surmounted by a steep gable, however it lacks the symmetry of true Ontario Cottage style since there is a bay window on one side and not the other.

The windows are tall with simple sills and gently curved headings adorned with brick voussoirs. They may not be symmetrical but they do appear balanced thanks to a set of working shutters on the single window. The bay window is crowned with small paired brackets and patterned woodwork.

Take a moment to appreciate the intricate woodwork of the central gable, with its delicate pierced bargeboard encircling a round-headed vent opening. There is an organic,



*447 Piccadilly St. porch  
woodwork detail*

almost floral, design motif. The porch is accented with pierced woodwork as well, but the size and pattern are quite different from that of other trim on the house, indicating it may have been moved here from another house.

The first resident was Mrs. Thirea Osborne.

**Exit the house, turn left on Piccadilly and walk west.**

445 Piccadilly is a gracious Queen Anne style house that was designed c1905 by architect William Murray for Fred Henderson, a clerk at Robinson, Little and Company, wholesalers and dry goods dealers. The front verandah, ideal for enjoying summer evenings, features classical columns, dentils and finely-turned spindles. To the left of the front door is a lovely stained glass oval window. The double arched windows on the front façade are echoed by the smaller window in the gable, which is trimmed with pierced woodwork - delicate, attractive and yet restrained.

431 Piccadilly features bichromatic brickwork in the voussoirs above the windows. The fine architectural features in the gable and portico are accentuated by painting them in matching colours. The addition on the west side has been designed to complement the proportions of the original building.

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## 429 Piccadilly Street



The first residents of this Dutch Colonial Revival house (c1912) were George and Ena Reed, who lived here for 54 years. George Reed worked as an engraver and later a supervisor at T.H. Baker Wholesale and Manufacturing Jewellers on Carling Street.

The defining feature of Dutch Colonial style is the gambrel roof, a type of gable roof with a double slope and wide overhang, usually flared at the eaves. There is often a dormer window on one or both sides, as is the case here. The facade of this house is fairly bursting with decoration. There is a variety of window shapes, including two offsetting bay windows, and a substantial porch supported with sets of octagonal columns. The porch roof has a wide overhang with exposed rafter tails that harmonize with woodwork on the gable above.

Take a moment to admire the workmanship and fine architectural details of this house. They reflect the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, which gained local popularity around the time of the First World War. More of a philosophy than a style, the Arts and Crafts movement began in 1880s Britain as a reaction to the expanding industrial age and the "sameness" of mass production. It promoted a return to traditional craftsmanship and the use of local, often rustic, materials such as wood, stone, and stucco. All of these have been used here in harmony with the smooth red



brick. Notice the stone foundation, the liberal use of scalloped shingle woodwork, and the half-timbering with stucco in the upper part of the gable.

**Exit the house and promenade west on Piccadilly Street to Colborne Street. Cross to the west side.**

**Enter Colborne Street United Church to take a guided tour of the sanctuary. Church volunteers will then direct you to the reception area where refreshments will be served between 2:30 and 5:00 pm.**

**Interesting fact:**

*How did Piccadilly Street get its name?*

Like many London street names, Piccadilly was brought from London, England. The word originally comes from the piccadill, a wide, decorated collar that was sufficiently popular in old England to make the fortune of a tailor named Robert Baker. He built himself an impressive residence dubbed Piccadilly House.

*Happy 150th Birthday  
Canada!*



**June 20th - July 8th 2017**

**CANADIAN LANDSCAPE EXHIBITION**



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## 711 Colborne Street Colborne Street United Church



Established in 1853 as Colborne Street Methodist Church, the congregation has since had three locations in the neighbourhood, with the present location having been built in 1889. Designed by the noted High Victorian London architect, George F. Durand, the Church prominently stands on the southwest corner of Colborne and Piccadilly Streets. The eastern façade of the building is distinguished by truncated twin towers which frame the Gothic pitched roof, symmetrically arranged stained glass windows and textured white brick. The side elevations are variations on the design of the main section of the façade. The north side of the building facing Piccadilly Street has a smaller profile with gables almost exactly matching the size and set-back of the streetscape.



*Colborne United Church window*

The plan of the sanctuary design

is based on the Akron plan with an interior arrangement that provides for semi-circular seating. The structure is loosely modelled on the ideas of Henry Hobson Richardson (Richardsonian Romanesque) In 1953, the original Christian Education wing on the west side of the building was levelled and replaced by the present white brick structure.

In 2010 the congregations of Empress United Church, Robinson Memorial United Church and Colborne Street United Church amalgamated at this location. The "New" Colborne Street United Church brought stained glass windows from the



*Church cornerstone*

other two former Church buildings and installed them in the window frames as well as in illuminated cabinets created to house them adjacent to the Chancel and in the balcony. In subsequent years, stained glass windows were installed in the transoms over the front sanctuary doors.

To quote Rev. David Carrothers:

"The thematic motto of Colborne Street United Church, which expresses who and what we endeavour to do and be, is UNITING IN LIGHTING THE WAY. We welcome you to Colborne Street United Church where members of our congregation will guide you on a tour of our building."

**ACO London thanks you for your support. We hope you have enjoyed the tour.**

## 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](http://london.ca/about-london/heritage). Copies of the *Inventory* can also be viewed at the London Public Library and the City Clerk's office.

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

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

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

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



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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

**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

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

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

**Fluting:** long, vertical grooves decorating a column or pillar

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

**Gambrel Roof:** a gable roof having two slopes on each side

**Georgian Style:** a style originating in England whereby a building is symmetrical around a central doorway and has simple decoration.

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

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

**Heading:** the area immediately over a door or window

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

**Italianate:** a style originating in rural Italy which features shallow

rooflines, tall arched windows, and deep overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets

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

**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

**Parapet:** part of a wall that extends above the roofline

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

**Piers:** square masonry supports

**Pillar:** a rectangular column

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

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

**Oculus:** round window

**Queen Anne Style:** a style originating in England and popular in London in the late 1800s; 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

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

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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 and officials who have allowed us access into their buildings. Without them this event would not be possible.

Thanks to the following individuals who contributed to today's tour:

### GHHT Organizing Committee

Sylvia Chodas (chair), Marlyn Loft, Sharon Lunau

### House Captains

Jenny Grainger, Steve Liggett, Genet Hodder, Maggie Whalley, Janet Wombwell, Todd Simpson, and Dorothy Palmer

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Special thanks to Mark Tovey, Janis Wallace, Colin Duck, London Room staff, and geranium delivery man Bob Gladwell.

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The GHHT Committee along with the ACO London Executive wish to pay tribute to one of the founders of the "Geranium Walk", heritage activist extraordinaire Anne McKillop, who passed away on May 10, 2017.



## “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](mailto: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



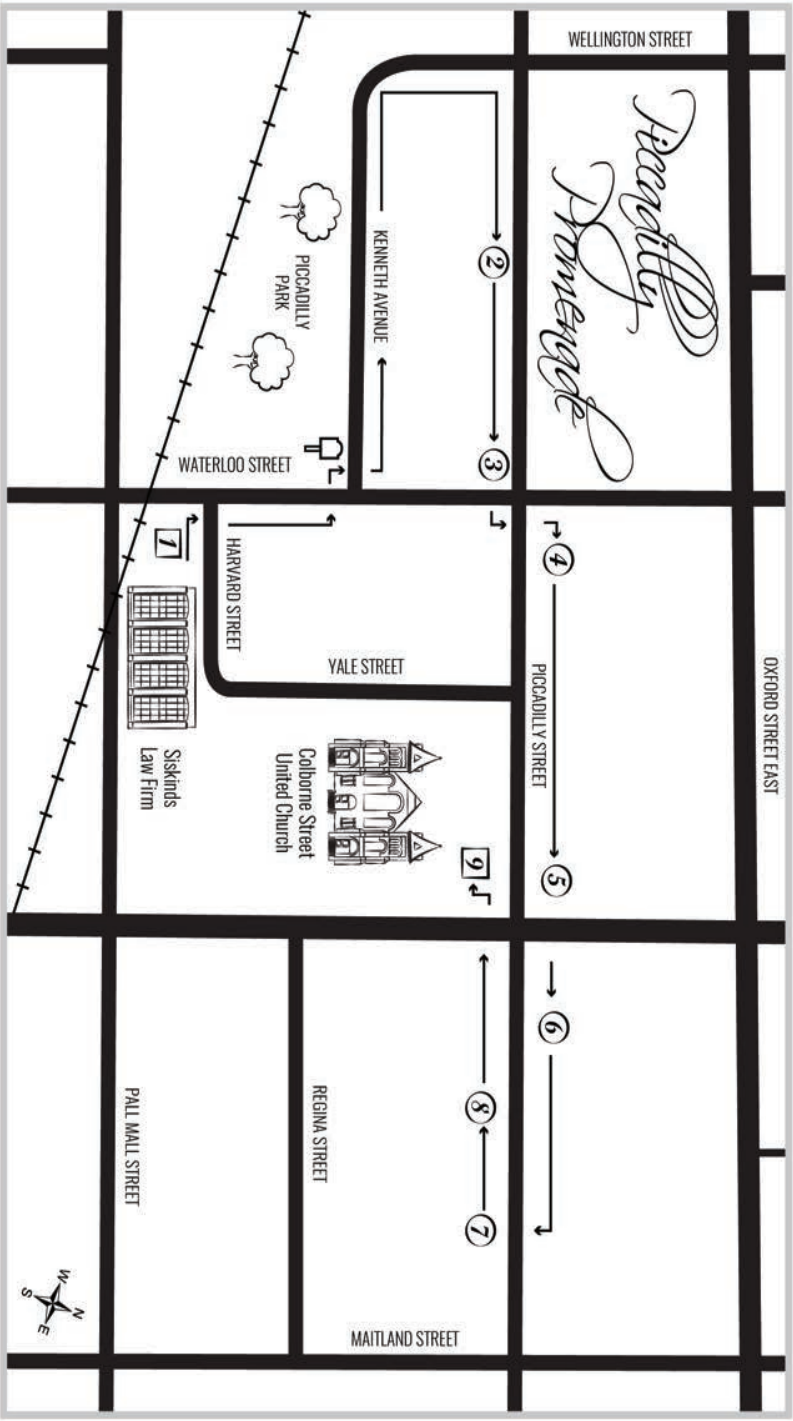
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*Piccadilly  
Promenade*

OXFORD STREET EAST

WELLINGTON STREET

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⑧

⑦

KENNETH AVENUE

YALE STREET

MAITLAND STREET

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