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REPORTS ON SELECTED BUILDINGS  
IN LONDON, ONTARIO

by  
JOHN LUTMAN

(1976-77)

PARKS CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN  
AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

PARCS CANADA  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES  
INDIENNES ET DU NORD

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Bon nombre de ces rapports paraîtront dans la revue intitulée Canadian Historic Sites/Lieux historiques canadiens, et pourront être remaniés ou mis à jour.

## INTRODUCTION

The following brief reports have been prepared by the Historical Research Section of the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building in an attempt to collect some data about early Canadian architecture. They do not pretend to represent exhaustive research on any building: they are irregular in the depth of information they contain, and they do not attempt to cover all of the early, or even important buildings in any community. Instead, they represent only a selected sampling of interesting early Canadian building which has been researched to obtain comparative data.

Any style denominations given to these buildings must be considered temporary only. Final denominations will be applied to conform with the definitions of Canadian styles as they are outlined by the Architectural Analysis Section of the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building.

This manuscript has been compiled for the use of CIHB historians; consequently, it is organized in consecutive geocode order. A geocode is comprised of 14 digits, e.g. 06108000400472. The first group of digits (06108) indicates the province and city or area; the second (0004) gives the name of the street; the final five digits (00472) represent the number of the street address at the time the building was recorded by the CHIB (in this case, 472).

The centre four digits provide the key to the organization of reports in this manuscript. A list of street geocodes or street names in geocode order is given below to indicate their consecutive order. Buildings on the same street will be found in order of their street address number.

Geocode	Street Name
06108000400000	Richmond Street
06108000500000	Western Road
06108000700000	York Street
06108000800000	King Street
06108000900000	Dundas Street
06108001000000	Queens Avenue
06108001600000	Central Avenue
06108001700000	Maitland Street
06108001800000	Picton Street
06108002200000	Talbot Street
06108002300000	Dufferin Avenue
06108002600000	Ridout Street North
06108002800000	Waterloo Street
06108003000000	Wellington Street
06108003400000	Sydenham Street
06108003500000	James Street
06108003600000	Wolfe Street

06108004500000

Piccadilly Street

06108007700000

Grosvenor Street

06108010700000

Hill Street

## Table of Contents By Street Address

Buildings are included in geocode order. This list has been compiled to provide the convenience of retrieval by street address.

Geocode	Address	Building Name
06108001600090	Central Avenue	"Blackfriars"
06108001600284	Central Avenue	--
06108001600558	Central Avenue	--
06108002300180	Dufferin Avenue	St. Peter's Basilica
06108002300182	Dufferin Avenue	St. Peter's Rectory
06108002300368	Dufferin Avenue	--
06108000900566	Dundas Street	"Buchan House" (formerly Oakhurst)
06108007700036	Grosvenor Street	--
06108010700575	Hill Street	--
06108003500177	James Street	--
06108000800404-406	King Street	--
06108000800545	King Street	--
06108001700369 1/2	Maitland Street	--
06108004500235	Piccadilly Street	Eastern Star Temple
06108001800028	Picton Street	--
06108001000518	Queens Avenue	--

06108001000534	Queens Avenue	"Fontbonne Hall"
06108001000536	Queens Avenue	"Worthy Place"
06108000400472	Richmond Street	St. Paul's (Anglican)
06108002600435	Ridout St. N.	--
06108002600481	Ridout St. N.	Eldon House
06108003400191	Sydenham Street	--
06108002200639	Talbot Street	Birkhill
06108002800471	Waterloo Street	--
06108002800496	Waterloo Street	--
06108003000156	Wellington Street	Wellington Street United Church
06108003000568	Wellington Street	--
06108000501017	Western Road	Grosvenor Lodge
06108003600315	Wolfe Street	--
06108000700182	York Street	Granite Block





Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: January 1976

Geocode: 06108000501017

City: London, Ontario

Address: 1017 Western Road

Building Name: Grosvenor Lodge  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1853

Architect: Samuel Peters, Jr., of Peters and Stent, Civil Engineers  
and Architects

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Demereau and Hines, bricklaying; Robert Lewis,  
stained glass; Abe Tibbs, plastering, stonecarvers; Grant and Sons,  
carpenters.

Name and occupation of original owner: Samuel Peters, Sr. - operator of  
abattoir

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: James P. Dunn - editorial  
writer for the London Free Press

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Brick (local white)

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: This the finest of London's country estates. It was built in 1853 for Samuel Peters, Sr., who was a leading London businessman and the founder of London West.

1017 Western Road

London, Ontario

"Grosvenor Lodge" is architecturally the finest of London's country estates. It was built in 1853 for Samuel Peters, Senior, who was a leading London businessman and the founder of London West (Petersville).

Peters was born in Merton, Devonshire, England, and worked as a civil engineer on the estate of Lord Clinton. In June 1835, with his wife, Anne Philips of Frome in Somerset, he left for Upper Canada. After short stays in Montreal, Bytown, Kingston, and Hamilton, they arrived in London, Ontario, where Peters secured a position with the Canada Land Company in the Goderich area of the Huron Tract. He surveyed there for a time, but returned to London to enter the business community. He owned an abbatoir on Ridout Street North on the bank of the South Branch of the Thames River and a distillery by the entrance to the Blackfriar's Bridge in West London which crossed the North Branch.<sup>1</sup> He had purchased the distillery from John Balkwill in 1850 for L3500.<sup>2</sup> Peters' sons, Fred, John, and William, assisted him in his business operations.<sup>3</sup>

The Peterses first lived on Ridout Street North, across from the court house, and later further north on Ridout at

Carling, opposite the Bank of Upper Canada (06108002600435). He did considerable survey work in London and surrounding areas, and in the process acquired much land in London Township.<sup>4</sup> His importance in the community was testified by the fact that, as a representative of Masonic Lodge 209-A, he assisted Bishop John Strachan in 1855 to lay the cornerstone of St. Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral<sup>5</sup> (061080800400472).

In his survey work, Peters became interested in acquiring land to the west of the then town of London, immediately across the Thames River. The area had been surveyed as part of London Township by Mahlon Burwell in 1818. The first settler was John Kent, who arrived from England in 1823 and farmed land on both sides of the Thames River. In 1828 Nixon and Hale established a brickyard in the vicinity. At that time the locality was variously known as either "Nixon's Flats" or "Kent's Flats". In 1852 Peters purchased 500 acres of the largely flood plain land from George Jarvis Goodhue, London's leading merchant. After the completion of "Grosvenor Lodge" in 1853, it was Peter's domination of the flats that resulted in the area being named "Petersville" on its incorporation as a village in 1874.<sup>6</sup> Located on a rise of land to the north of the settlement, "Grosvenor Lodge" was protected from floods that were a common occurrence in the area from 1867 until the Fanshawe Dam was completed in 1953.<sup>7</sup> In the early 1880s the name of the village was changed to London West, reputedly because of the disfavour

with which many villagers looked upon the paternalistic Peters family. In 1897 London West was annexed by the city of London.<sup>8</sup>

Samuel Peters, Senior, died in 1864 and his son, Colonel John Peters, moved into "Grosvenor Lodge". He had married the former Constance Roberts of Buffalo, New York. As an officer of the artillery and a justice of the peace, he was prominent in London and area affairs. His daughter, Lelia Gertrude Peters, who married James P. Dunn, an editorial writer for the London Free Press,<sup>9</sup> was the last private occupant of the mansion.

Most of the original Peters property of 500 acres was sold for suburban development. The family, however, gave the site of St. George's Anglican Church on Wharncliffe Road North. In recent years the house has rested in a verdant 15 acre park of trees, fields, and manicured lawns.

The architect of "Grosvenor Lodge" was Samuel Peters' nephew, Samuel Peters, Junior,<sup>10</sup> who, with Thomas Stent, was a partner in the local firm of Peters and Stent, Civil Engineers and Architects.<sup>11</sup> Peters, Junior, was one of the leading surveyors, engineers, and architects of the city and also designed the Covent Garden Market Building in 1853 and the Tecumseh House Hotel in 1854.<sup>12</sup> Various contractors were involved in the construction of the lodge. Demereau and Hines were responsible for the brick and stonework; Robert Lewis of Noble and Lewis, London, Ontario,

designed the stained glass; the carpentry was by Grant and Sons, who operated a steam turning mill; and the plastering was the work of Abe Tibbs of the city.<sup>13</sup>

The large two-and-one-half-storey mansion is a fine example of the Tudor Gothic style,<sup>14</sup> which was popular in Britain at the time. The general design was influenced by a manorial house in Merton, Devon, that Mrs. Peters recalled.<sup>15</sup> The white brick, which is the major building material, was probably from one of the local brickyards. Cut stone was used to cap the balanced gables, for the finials, and to surround the windows. Stone plaques are also found in either gable, in one of the entwined initials "S.P." (Samuel Peters) and in the other the date "1853". The stained glass is found in the sidelights and fanlight about the door. In the latter appear in the form of a Victorian loveknot the entwined initials "S." and "A." for Samuel and Anne, the original owners.<sup>16</sup> The verandah surrounds three sides of the house.

The interior possesses many fine rooms. The dining room fireplace is a handsome example of Gothic Revival design in stone. There are many other fireplaces in the house of black, gray, and white marble.<sup>17</sup>

In January 1972 the house and property was sold by Mrs. James P. Dunn to the University of Western Ontario. She was to have lifetime occupancy of the house.<sup>18</sup> Her death occurred one year later. Since then a segment of the

former "Grosvenor Lodge" property has seen the construction of student apartments and a new road allowance for intersection improvement. The mansion itself will soon be occupied by the Library Board of the City of London to be used for offices and a museum. "Grosvenor Lodge" thus will remain as a symbol of upper-middle-class life in 19th-century London, and as a memorial to Samuel Peters, founder of London West.

Endnotes:

- 1 Free Press London, 8 September 1862.
- 2 Anne McKillop, "Grosvenor Lodge" in "Our Past Made Present: Talks given at the unveiling of plaques erected by the Historic Sites Advisory Committee, 1970-1972," London Public Library and Art Museum, Occasional Paper No. xvii (July 1974), p. 10.
- 3 Free Press, 8 September 1962.
- 4 Anne McKillop, loc. cit.
- 5 Free Press, 8 September 1962.
- 6 John H. Lutman and John Picur, Report to the London Heritage Advisory Committee (London, Ont.: Corporation of the City of London, 1975), pp. 22-23.
- 7 "Floods Once Plagued City," Free Press, 1 June 1955.
- 8 John H. Lutman and John Picur, op. cit., p. 23.
- 9 Free Press, 8 September 1962.
- 10 Anne McKillop, loc. cit.
- 11 Railton's Directory for the City of London, C.W., 1856-57 (London, C.W.: Geo. Railton, 1856), p. 178.
- 12 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Reflections on London's Past (London, Ontario. The Corporation of the City of London, 1975), p. 23.
- 13 Anne McKillop, loc. cit.
- 14 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, loc. cit.
- 15 Anne McKillop, loc. cit.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Free Press, 26 January 1972.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108000700182

City: London, Ontario

Address: 182 York Street

Building Name: Granite Block  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1886-87

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, stonemasons

Name and occupation of original owner: Charles W. Andrus, assessor for  
the city of London  
Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified: Bowman & Kennedy, wholesale hardware  
H.T. Reason & Co., paper box manufacturers; Raymond Brothers, canvas  
products.

Building use: Mercantile, wholesale store

Major building material: Imported red brick; local white brick; cut stone  
granite

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 182 York Street is among the last of the many wholesale warehouses which once lined York Street, the former centre of London's wholesale district.



182 York StreetLondon, Ontario

The warehouse at 182 York Street is one of several warehouses that are part of the "Granite Block" (176 to 184 York) which was built in 1886-87 for Charles W. Andrus, the assessor for the city of London.<sup>1</sup> The first occupant of 182 York, which is centred in the middle of the building, was the firm of Bowman & Kennedy, Wholesale Hardware. John Bowman and William Kennedy had founded the business a few years before. However, in 1899 John Bowman became the sole proprietor and expanded the hardware business to include coal, clay, firebrick, and wood.<sup>2</sup>

He left the premises in 1905 and was followed by H.T. Reason & Co., paper box manufacturers. The firm specialized in the manufacture of folding boxes, fancy candy boxes, hosiery boxes, boxes for ladies' silk wear, and jewelry boxes, as well as bags and stationery. The business was founded in 1879 by Peter Hendershott, sold to George Baly in 1894 and subsequently purchased by H.T. Reason in 1898. During the years at 182 York Street, it employed 40 persons and sold its products throughout Canada.<sup>3</sup>

The warehouse was vacant in 1923-24, but in 1925 it was occupied for one year by the Do-More Chair Co. and ever since

by Raymond Brothers Ltd., canvas products.<sup>4</sup> The latter concern was established in London in 1907 by Joseph, Alfred, and George C. Raymond. They manufactured and sold awnings, flags, tarpaulins, coal bags, feed bags, tents, folding outdoor furniture, cots, stools, lawn umbrellas, waterproof horse covers, and countless other canvas goods.<sup>5</sup> They employed between 50 and 60 workers, many of whom were skilled sail makers. Even today the firm is still prominent in the local canvas trade.

The "Granite Block" was built in London's wholesale district, which was centred along York Street east from Ridout to Wellington. Wholesale houses were attracted to York Street as early as the 1850s, as the Great Western Railway (now C N ) tracks were laid parallel to the street.

A York Street location was convenient for travelers and for the transport of supplies and manufactured products. Conveniently, 182 York Street faced the railway depot. Among other wholesalers in the district were those who specialized in groceries, hardware, tea and coffee, wine and liquors, millinery, woolens, and lumber.

Previously, the site of the "Granite Block" had been a wholesale lumber yard, E. Willis & Co. With his brother, James, William Willis had co-founded the business in 1872. Willis' was among the more prominent of London's many wholesale lumber firms. In the 19th century, few cities in Ontario were surrounded by a more abundant supply of standing

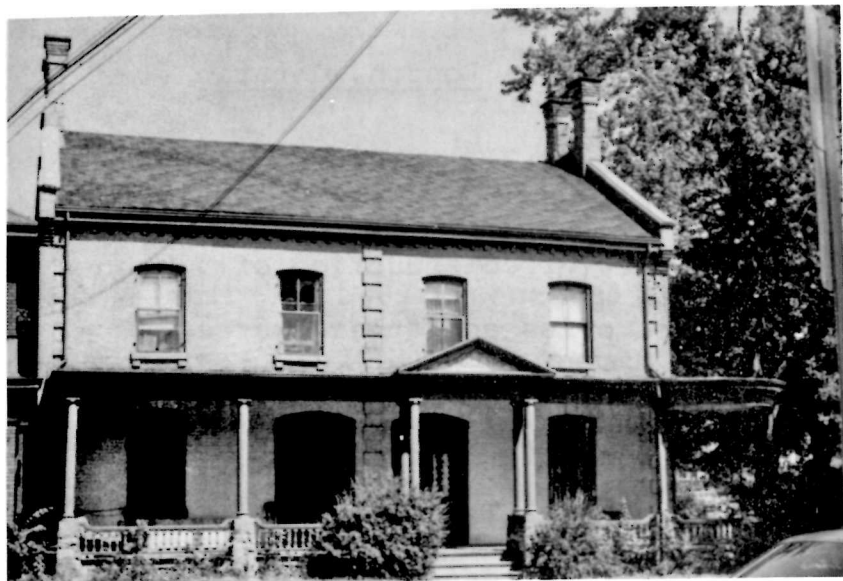
timber than London. The yards and mills supplied wood for London's construction trade and to a large number of industries which used wood as a raw product.<sup>6</sup>

Architecturally, the "Granite Block", of which 182 York Street forms a part, is a four-storey building with a facade of red brick, topped by a heavy cornice. (In London, red brick was never made locally, as it instead was brought in by rail from Hamilton and Milton, Ontario).<sup>7</sup> Local white brick was used elsewhere. Cut stone was also used as a building material. The building's name, "Granite Block", which appears in cut stone in the storey above the central carriage way, was probably derived from the granite foundation blocks and classical pilasters on either side of the door and first-storey windows. A pair of wrought iron grills protect the basement windows. The architect and contractor(s) are unknown.

The building is in generally good condition. In contrast, since World War II the neighbourhood has developed a rather seedy appearance. Most of the wholesale houses have been left as abandoned hulks or have been demolished and been replaced by parking lots. The industries have decentralized to industrial parks far from downtown and others have left the city altogether, making London much less of a wholesale centre than in years past.

Endnotes:

- 1 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London, Ontario: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), p. 409.
- 2 This information was taken from the city directories of the period, 1890 to 1899.
- 3 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's Thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), pp. 313-314.
- 4 Ibid., p. 277.
- 5 Vernon's City of London Directory for the Year 1924 (Hamilton: Henry Vernon & Son, 1924), between pp. 504-505.
- 6 B.S. Scott, op. cit., p. 157.
- 7 Ibid., p. 340.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode:06108000800404

City: London, Ontario

Address: 404-406 King Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: ca. 1875

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers,

Name and occupation of original owner: 404: William Bryce, book seller  
406: John Millar, oil refiner

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: John H. Forristal, barrel  
manufacturer; William E. Forristal, unlisted

Notable type of occupants: Middle and upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Residential, double dwelling  
Present: Residential, other (rooming house)

Major building material: local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Front verandah, back porch, small room on rear wing	1888-1912		

Comments:404-406 King Street is a reminder of London's early prominence as an oil refining centre, as its most notable subsequent owner, John H. Forristal, founded the London and Petrolia Barrel Company which made barrels for the oil industry.

404-406 King StreetLondon, Ontario

Located on the northwest corner of King and Colborne Streets, there is some confusion about the date of construction of 404-406 King Street. The city directories and other sources are not specific, as street numbers were not applied with any consistency and accuracy until the late 1870s. The residential double dwelling was built definitely by 1875, but could have been built as early as the 1850s. The first known occupant of 406 King Street was John Millar, an oil refiner, T. & J.C. Millar and Co. and in 1876 a "stoves and tinware" merchant. The first verifiable resident of 404 King Street was William Bryce, a bookseller of some not in the city, who lived there in 1877. That there was a previous residence on the site is possible, as the north side of King Street between Waterloo and Colborne streets was developed early.

The most notable owner/occupant was John H. Forristal, one of the founders of the London and Petrolia Barrel Company. Forristal and his large family occupied the 406 King Street half in 1887 and, with the exception of the turn of the century, from 1890 to 1942 occupied 404 King Street as well. For most of this time only the 406 King Street

address was listed.<sup>1</sup>

John H. Forristal was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, on 22 August 1843 where he learned the cooper's trade as a youth. He left for Canada in 1868 and settled in London, where in 1869 he entered the employ of William Hockin, a cooper. In 1870 he established a cooperage of his own, and by 1879 he had two businesses, one on the corner of Waterloo and York streets and the other on Bathurst Street. With Edward Taylor and William Hockin, his former employer, Forristal organized the London and Petrolia Barrel Company in 1886. Their factories, offices, and warehouses were located on Simcoe Street and covered three acres of ground.<sup>2</sup>

The wealth accumulated by Forristal and the success of the London and Petrolia Barrel Company was an outcome of the oil industry in London.<sup>3</sup> With the discovery of oil in the Oil Springs-Petrolia area in 1861, London became the centre of the refining industry.<sup>4</sup> Barrels were needed, of course, to transport the oil. With the decline of the oil boom in the 1880s the company diversified and made barrels for many other kinds of products, including apples, flour, liquor, and milk. After the First World War, the barrel industry gradually declined, affected by a scarcity of suitable woods, the temperance legislation of the war years, and by technological change, as different containers came to replace wooden barrels.<sup>5</sup> However, much credit must be

given to the astute business acumen of the Forristals, for the London and Petrolia Barrel Company limped on until sold in 1969. The buildings were afterwards demolished and all that remained of eighty-three years of business was a vacant lot.

After John H. Forristal's death in 1913, his widow, Bridget Forristal, whom he had married in 1870,<sup>6</sup> occupied the house until her death in 1937. The last Forristal to reside there was William E. Forristal, a son of John and Bridget, who died in 1953. As of 1942, 404-406 King Street again reverted to a residential double dwelling; William E. Forristal occupied only 406 King Street. From 1953, when Forristal died, until the late 1960s, when the double house became a rooming house, the place was occupied by people of no particular note.<sup>7</sup> The place is presently (1974) owned by Postians Limited, a retail rug establishment, on which 404-406 backs.

As a residential district, King Street never gained the prestige of Dundas Street and Queens Avenue to the north. This was primarily because of the railway which went through in 1853, only two short blocks to the south. However, King Street did become lined mainly with comfortable, middle-class dwellings. In recent years, the lower end of King Street, is located closest to the central business district, has suffered severely from development. Many of the houses have been demolished for new buildings and others have been



modified for new functions.

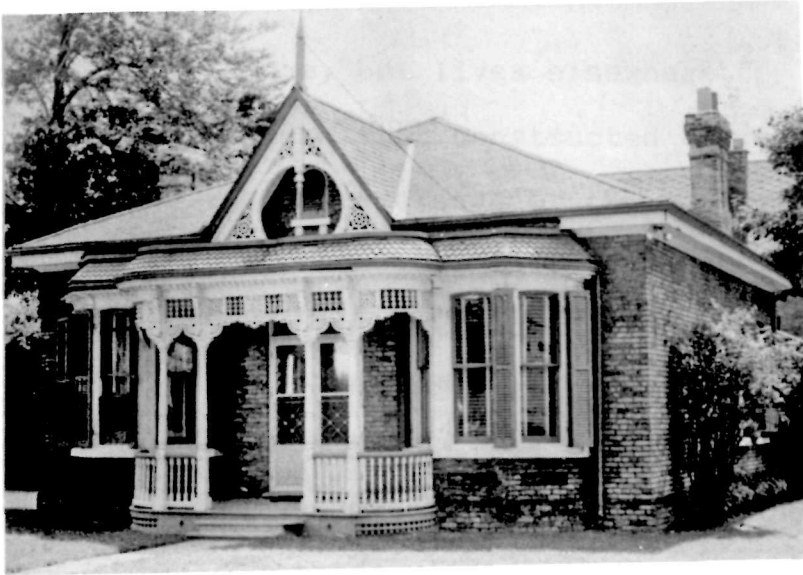
Architecturally, 404-406 King Street is a plain, two-storey, local white-brick, residential double dwelling. Brick quoins down the centre of the facade divide 404 King from 406 King. A charming oriel window is located on the east side of the double house. The large classical verandah, a back porch, now gone, and a small room on the east side of the rear wing were added between 1888 and 1912.

Despite the building's age and use in recent years, 404-406 King Street is in remarkably good condition. Its continued existence, although probably threatened, is a reminder of the London and Petrolia Barrel Company, a long-successful business now gone from the London industrial scene.

Endnotes:

- 1 The information in the above two paragraphs was taken from the city directories of the period, 1856 to 1942.
- 2 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London, Ontario: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), pp. 818-819.
- 3 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 174.
- 4 Charles Whipp and Edward Phelps, Petrolia, 1866-1966 (Petrolia: The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic and the Petrolia Centennial Committee, 1966), p. 3.
- 5 B.S. Scott, op. cit., pp. 175-176.
- 6 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, op. cit., p. 189.
- 7 City directories, 1913 to 1969.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 06108000800545

City: London, Ontario

Address: 545 King Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: ca. 1863

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: William Begg, retail shoe store

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: George W. Sanborn, an owner of retail grocery and later a retail tea business; Dr. Edward Spence, a physician; Dr. J.H. Spence, a physician

Notable type of occupants: Middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 545 King Street is possibly the finest local white brick cottage in London.

545 King StreetLondon, Ontario

Built circa 1863, 545 King Street is among the oldest and most attractive residential single dwellings in its neighbourhood. Its first occupant was William Begg, a retailer of boots and shoes, whose store was at 115 Dundas Street. He died in 1877. According to the London directories of the period, his widow, Isabella Begg, left shortly thereafter.

The house became vacant in 1878-79 and was not occupied again until 1880. The new owner was George W. Sanborn who was involved with other Sanborns in a retail grocery on Dundas Street in London East, a village to the east of Adelaide Street which was incorporated as such in 1874 and amalgamated with the city of London in 1885.<sup>1</sup> Sanborn later established his own retail grocery at 358 Wellington Street address and then at his 545 King Street residence. Sanborn occupied the house until 1916.

The new owner, Dr. Edward Spence, a physician, resided in the dwelling for the remarkably long period of fifty-four years, from 1918 to 1972. His doctor's office was located in the house. Since his death, his widow has been the sole occupant. Her son, Dr. J.H. Spence, also a physician, owns

the house, but lives elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

When first constructed circa 1863, 545 King Street was on the extreme edge of the eastern city limits, which were established along Adelaide Street in 1840. Few other houses had been constructed in the neighbourhood in 1863, and it was several blocks distant from the main core of the city. As the area became built up in the next three decades with other residences, it took on a largely middle-class character. On the average, however, most of the residential single and double dwellings were larger than 545 King Street. Generally, King Street did not have the upper-middle-class prestige of Dundas Street and Queens Avenue, as it was only two blocks from the C N railway tracks. Since World War II the neighbourhood has declined drastically. In the same block as 545 King Street, several houses have been demolished for the new Police Headquarters and for intersection improvement. The others are either abandoned hulks or have been converted to apartments and businesses.

Architecturally, the one-storey, local white-brick cottage has several Gothic features. It has a single centre gable with a magnificently intricate carved wooden barge-board, pendant and finial. Along the King Street and William Street sides of the house are ornate "gingerbread" porches. The King Street porch is flanked by two bays; the roofs of the bays and the porch merge. The architect and contractor are unknown, as the architectural specifications

and drawings have never been located.

The most remarkable aspect of 545 King Street is its excellent condition. Despite the ravages of well over one hundred years, sound maintenance has preserved every detail of the design. The brickwork, the "gingerbread" of the gable and the porches, the cornice, and the chimneys are all in perfect shape. Thus, the threat to the house comes not from physical deterioration, but from new development. 545 King Street is possibly the finest local white-brick cottage in London.

Endnotes:

- 1 Edmund J. Carty and Arthur C. Carty (eds.), London (Ont.) Centennial Review: An Authentic Record of the City's Growth from 1826 to 1926 (London, Ontario: Edmund J. and Arthur C. Carty, 1937), p. 69.
- 2 The information in the above three paragraphs was taken from the city directories of the period, 1856 to 1974.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: December 1976

Geocode: 06108000400472

City: London, Ontario

Address: 472 Richmond Street

Building Name: St. Paul's  
(if important) (Anglican) Cathedral

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1844-46

Architect: William Thomas

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Henry Simpson, stonework; Buckle & Robinson, brick-laying and plastering; Thomas Worthington, plumbing and glazing; Pope & Till, carpentry and joinery.

Name and occupation of original owner:

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use Religious, church

Major building material Brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Enlargement of chancel	1869	Spier & Rohns,	
Lengthening (transepts)	1892-94	Detroit, Michigan	
Offices	1950s		

Comments: St. Paul's Cathedral is the oldest church in London. The first election of an Anglican Bishop in Canada took place here.



472 Richmond Street

London, Ontario

St. Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral, seat of the diocese of Huron, was constructed in 1844-46 and is the oldest church in London.

Before 1846 the episcopal congregation worshipped in a frame building on the southwest corner of the Court House Square, which had been built in 1826 to accommodate court proceedings until the court house was finished.<sup>1</sup> The first clergyman of note was Benjamin Cronyn, who had arrived in London in 1832. Although it was his intention to minister to the settlers in Adelaide Township, he was persuaded to stay in London, as the congregation was without a priest. Cronyn was appointed to the parish of London in 1833. On the creation of St. Paul's and Arva Rectories in 1836 he became the rector of both.<sup>2</sup>

Before 1832 the intention of the congregation was to build a church on the northwest corner of Dundas and Ridout streets.<sup>3</sup> The frame of the church was erected in 1830, but, for reasons unknown, it was not completed.<sup>4</sup> In 1832, on application to the Government, Cronyn secured the grant of the block of land on which St. Paul's now stands (bounded by Queens Avenue, Richmond Street, Dufferin Avenue, and

Clarence Street). The lots on Dundas Street were sold to village merchants, and the frame of the church was moved to the new site during the winter of 1832-33. The church was completed in December 1833. The slightly elevated site was cleared by Edward Allen Talbot. At the time the church was a fair distance from the village and was separated from Dundas Street by a miasmatic swamp.<sup>5</sup>

Unlike the present St. Paul's, which faces Richmond Street, old St. Paul's looked south to Queens Avenue. A picture dating from the 1840s shows the tower of the church to be too large in proportion to the rest of the building. Its seating capacity was said to be 400.<sup>6</sup> Disaster struck on Ash Wednesday, 21 February 1844, when fire destroyed the building.<sup>7</sup>

With great energy, money was raised for a new building to be constructed of local brick, possibly made on the site. The cornerstone of the new church was laid with great ceremony on 24 June 1844. Notables present were Governor-General Sir Charles Metcalfe, Bishop Strachan, the Reverend Mr. Cronyn, and the architect, William Thomas of Toronto. The style of the architecture was described as "early decorated English Gothic."<sup>8</sup> The west front was dominated by a tall, 114-foot tower, and the east end was concluded by a semi-octagonal chancel, graced by three Gothic windows. There were seven bays along each side. One entrance was at the centre of the side facing Queens Avenue, which enabled

carriages to drive up to the church door. In the interior, galleries the walls. The building was 130 feet long, 64 feet wide, and 38 feet to the peak of the roof. It accommodated 1,200 persons.<sup>9</sup>

The church was formally dedicated with another impressive ceremony on 13 March 1846. The total cost of construction was close to L7,000. The contractor for the stone work was Henry Simpson of Toronto; for the brick-laying and plastering, Buckle & Robinson of the city; for the plumbing and glazing, Thomas Worthington, also of London; and for carpentry and joiners' work, Messrs. Pope and Till of London.<sup>10</sup>

The first bells for the tower arrived in 1846 and others were added at the turn of the century. In 1935 a number were taken down and recast. The four-faced tower clock was not installed until 1900.<sup>11</sup>

A graveyard formerly surrounded the church and was the principal cemetery for the village until 1849. Most of the bodies and grave markers were removed to St. Paul's Cemetery in London East; some twelve still remain as reminders of London's pioneer days.<sup>12</sup>

While the front façade and tower were white brick, which was just coming into style and was regarded as more elegant, the side walls were of the less expensive red brick. Today, the front façade and tower are painted a pinkish shade, in an attempt to match the red brick sides.

In 1869 the small apse was replaced by a spacious channel, in red brick like later additions, flanked by vestries and an organ chamber. Formerly the choir and organ were in the west gallery. In these years many of the stained glass windows were installed in memory of prominent Londoners who were original benefactors of the church,<sup>13</sup> such as Samuel Peters of "Grosvenor Lodge" (06108000501017); the Honourable George Goodhue, London's legislative councillor; Laurence Laurason, London's police magistrate, and Charles Hunt, an important miller. In keeping with the windows, the church has become filled with memorial plaques and monuments, as well as regimental banners.

Debt was a chronic problem with the congregation. In order to raise money, parts of the block on which the church was located were periodically sold off. Pieces of property along Dufferin and Clarence were dispensed with in 1865 and 1870 respectively. About 1872 the lot on the northeast corner of Queens and Richmond was sold to the federal government for a customs house (this building was demolished in 1971, and the land was donated to the Diocese by the Ivey Foundation). The Rectory, later the Deanery, on the northwest corner of Queens and Clarence was built in 1853-54<sup>14</sup> and demolished one hundred years later (1955), and the land leased to a trust company which erected an office tower.

For most of St. Paul's history, the site of the church

was on the edge of the central business district at the head of Queens Avenue--London's premier wealthy residential street. Since 1918 the area has been encroached upon extensively by office development.

In 1857 in St. Paul's occurred an event unique in the history of the Church of England in Canada. For the first time a bishop was elected. The diocese of Huron was formed in that year out of the diocese of Toronto and St. Paul's was designated the Cathedral Church. The diocesan membership, lay and clergy, met in St. Paul's, and, after heated balloting, Benjamin Cronyn was elected as the first bishop of Huron.<sup>15</sup>

On Cronyn's death in 1871, Dean Isaac Hellmuth was elected as his successor. Hellmuth conceived the idea of building a great cathedral several blocks north of St. Paul's to be called "Holy Trinity". Only the Chapter House (06108994500235) was completed, as Hellmuth, the prime mover behind the project, resigned in 1883. From 1873 to 1883, however, the seat of the bishopric was removed to the Chapter House and St. Paul's Cathedral was relegated to a mere parish church. The move was not popular with the congregation, and Hellmuth's successor, Bishop Maurice Scollard Baldwin, almost immediately returned the bishop's chair to St. Paul's.<sup>16</sup>

Restoration and enlargement of St. Paul's was deemed necessary in order to make it worthy of its position as the

episcopal seat of an important diocese. The changes took place in 1892. The transepts were added with their stained-glass windows, the chancel was extended with room for the choir and clergy vestries, and the galleries and posts were removed to be replaced by an elaborate hammer beam ceiling. The designs were by Messrs. Spier & Rohns of Detroit, Michigan, under the superintendence of John M. Moore, architect, of London.<sup>17</sup>

With the enlargement of the Cathedral, it was proposed to build a suitable Synod Hall in order to provide a Sunday School and a place for parochial meetings and offices. These needs had formerly been met by the old Cronyn Hall, located on the northeastern part of the block. On the completion of the new Cronyn Hall in 1894, designed to match the Gothic architecture of St. Paul's and linked to the Cathedral by an enclosed walkway, the old building was demolished.<sup>18</sup> In total all the additions and changes cost \$60,000.<sup>19</sup>

Since 1894 St. Paul's Cathedral has remained essentially unchanged. A low, two-storey, red brick office, however, was added to the back of the building in the 1950s, as was a small rear entrance hall.

The bishops of Huron since Baldwin's death in 1904 have been David Williams (1905-31), Charles Allen Seager (1932-48), George Nasmith Luxton (1948-70), Carman J. McQueen (1970-74), and David Ragg (1974- ).

Despite the dramatic changes that have occurred in London since 1844, St. Paul's Cathedral remains as a symbol of the city's roots with its past and its impressive grounds add dignity to both Richmond Street and Queens Avenue.

Endnotes:

- 1 Verscholye Cronyn, "The First Bishop of Huron," London and Middlesex Historical Society, Vol. 1-3, p. 54.
- 2 Ibid., pp. 53-57.
- 3 Ibid., p. 56.
- 4 Orlo Miller, Gargoyles and Gentlemen: A History of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario, 1834-1964 (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1966), pp. 18, 22.
- 5 Verscholye Cronyn, op. cit., p. 56.
- 6 Orlo Miller, op. cit., p. 35.
- 7 Enquirer (London, Ontario), 5 July 1844.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Orlo Miller, op. cit., pp. 55-56.
- 11 Tom McKegney, "Clock-watchers: St. Paul's clocks no pastime to English horologist team," Free Press (London, Ontario), p. 41.
- 12 "St. Paul's to Mark Centenary on December 1." Free Press, 20 November 1946.
- 13 Alfred Henschman Crowfoot, "St. Paul's Was Centre of Bitter Controversy in 1857," Free Press, 14 February 1962.
- 14 Orlo Miller, op. cit., p. 95.
- 15 Alfred Henschman Crowfoot. loc. cit.
- 16 Gordon W.H. Bartram, A Historical Sketch of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist (London, Ontario: n.p., 1961), p. 22.
- 17 Rev. Canon Dann, Seventieth Anniversary of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario, 1835-1905: Souvenir (London, Ontario: London Printing & Lithographing Company, 1905), p. 20.
- 18 Ibid.





1 St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, interior view, ca. 1900. (University of Western Ontario, Regional, Collection.)



2 St. Paul's Cathedral from the northwest, ca. 1900. (University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection.)



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: April 1977

Geocode: 06108000900566

City: London, Ontario

Address: 566 Dundas Street

Building Name: "Buchan House"  
(if important) (formerly  
"Oakhurst")

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1872

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Thomas Aspden, oil cloth manufacturer

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Frank Smith, oil refiner;  
T.B. Escott, wholesale grocer; Albert D. Jordan, music school; Royal  
Canadian Legion

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified: William Duffield, Managing Director of  
City Gas

Building use: Original: Residential, single dwelling  
Present: Social and Recreational, club

Major building material Red Brick (from Hamilton-Milton area)

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
New front facade, roof line, foundation	1887		

Comments: 566 Dundas Street is among the last of the Dundas Street mansions built by London businessmen and oil refiners that formerly lined both sides of the street east from Waterloo to Adelaine Street.

566 Dundas StreetLondon, Ontario

The large, residential, single dwelling at 566 Dundas Street was built in 1872 for Thomas Aspden, an oil and leather cloth manufacturer, who lived at this address until 1884. His associate in the business, Edward Hodgens, was also an oil refiner. Previously, Aspden had had an oatmeal mill on Adelaide Street and had been a partner of John H. Pritchard.<sup>1</sup> The property on which the Dundas residence was located had been purchased from Benjamin Cronyn, the first Anglican bishop of Huron, former owner of the entire block.

Aspden was followed in 1881 by Frank Smith, an oil refiner. He and several other Londoners made their fortunes in the oil industry. These men were largely located in London East, a separate community to the east of Adelaide Street. London East was incorporated as a village in 1874; it was only half a block east of 566 Dundas Street. London and its London East suburb became the centre of the oil refining industry in southwestern Ontario following the discovery of oil in the Petrolia-Oil Springs area about 1860.<sup>2</sup> The city's situation along the main line of the Great Western Railway (now the C N ) made it the

obvious place to refine the oil. Large refineries were built mainly along the east side of Adelaide Street.<sup>3</sup> A wealthy, oil merchantocracy was created by the boom conditions.

They choose to build or to purchase mansions along Dundas Street and Queens Avenue to the west of Adelaide Street, within the boundaries of the City of London. Among them was Frank Smith. However, he occupied 566 Dundas Street for less than two years (1884-85).

In 1886 Smith left and rented the house to William Duffield, the managing director of the City Gas Company and the former president of the Dominion Savings and Investment Society (1882-87).

In 1887 the house was purchased by Thomas B. Escott, who named it "Oakhurst". It remained vacant in this year while drastic alterations were made to its architecture (see below). Escott was the president of T.B. Escott & Co., wholesale grocers, at 146 York Street, which had been founded in 1890.<sup>4</sup> The wholesale grocery business in London, Ontario, had been dominated formerly by Edward Adams & Co., but in the 1880s and 1890s three others, including Escott's, were established.<sup>5</sup> Escott built his business into one of the largest wholesale groceries in southwestern Ontario. He lived at "Oakhurst" until 1919 when he sold the house to Albert D. Jordan and moved to Miami, Florida, returning only for the summer.

Since 1920 the house has been subjected to a wide and strange variety of institutional uses. From 1921 to 1940 Jordan and his wife, Effie, operated a music conservatory, first as the London Institute of Musical Art and then as the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music. In 1925 the Oakhurst School for Girls shared the premises.

In 1941 the building was sold to the First Church of the Nazarene and was used as their place of worship. They occupied the premises until 1943. The house was listed as a "Japanese Rooming House" and housed British Columbian Japanese in 1944. The Royal Canadian Legion purchased the former residence in 1945 and, as "Buchan House", have used it as their club since 1947.<sup>6</sup>

As described above, 566 Dundas Street was located in an exclusive neighbourhood where London's elite choose to situate their abodes. As early as 1839, when Benjamin Cronyn, later first Anglican bishop of Huron, built his large stone house in behind the site of 566 Dundas and in the centre of the block, the wealthy elite were residentially attracted to Dundas Street. A half a block to the east was the central business district of London East where stores came to line both sides of the street. Incongruously, nearly opposite "Oakhurst" was the Globe Casket Company (formerly the Globe Foundry and then the Globe Agricultural Works), a large brick factory, built circa 1866, replacing a frame building constructed in 1856.<sup>7</sup>

During the interwar period the area went into drastic decline. With the universal use of the automobile, Dundas Street, as London's "Main Street", became subjected to the noise of heavy vehicular traffic, gasoline fumes, and dangers to children. Dundas Street thus lost a great deal of its residential attractiveness. On a single family basis, 566 Dundas Street, as with the other mansions in the area, became difficult to maintain because of high repair costs, exorbitant heating bills, and the increase in salaries for servants and gardeners. As a consequence, the residences gradually were abandoned and were either demolished or were converted to apartments, boarding houses, offices, clubs, or institutions. "Oakhurst" and its neighbourhood are no exception to this rule. In addition, new stores and office buildings have crept up on 566 Dundas, spreading east from London's business district.

Architecturally, 566 Dundas Street is among London's half dozen most grandiose houses. Its impressiveness is due principally to the 1887 alterations undertaken by T.B. Escott (the radiators are dated 1887). The residence, as constructed in 1872 for Thomas Aspden, was probably a plain, two-and-one-half-storey, red brick, residential, single dwelling. The use of red brick was peculiar as, unlike the local white brick, it was imported from the Hamilton-Milton, Ontario, area, nor was it employed commonly in London until after 1895. The 1887 alterations consisted of a new, red

sandstone foundation, bays, a high pitched roof, and a new front facade. This latter part of the house is dominated by two massive, three-storey, conical-roofed turrets, a verandah supported by granite tuscan columns, and a stairway, flanked by ferocious lions. The mansion is well maintained by the Royal Canadian Legion, but in the future may be threatened by office development.



Endnotes:

- 1 City directories of the period.
- 2 Charles Whipp and Edward Phelps, Petrolia 1866-1966 (Petrolia: The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic and the Petrolia Centennial Committee, 1966), p. 3.
- 3 Edmund J. Carty and Arthur C. Carty (eds.), London (Ont.) Centennial Review: An Authentic Record of the City's Growth from 1826 to 1926 (London, Ontario: The Hayden Press, 1926), p. 26.
- 4 Commercial Industries of Canada (Toronto: M.G. Bixby & Co., 1890), p. 42.
- 5 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's Thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 53.
- 6 City directories.
- 7 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London, Ontario: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), p. 410.



1 Buchan House, 1914. (University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection.)

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: April 1977

Geocode: 06108001000518

City: London, Ontario

Address: 518 Queens Avenue

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1872

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, stonemasons

Name and occupation of original owner: James Duffield, oil refiner

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: James C. Duffield, president, City Gas; J. Fraser Coate, department head, London Life

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Residential, single dwelling  
Present: Remedial, nursing home

Major building material: local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Major two-storey addition on east side	1950s		

Comments: The grandeur of 518 Queens Avenue is reflective of the immense fortunes that were made in the oil refining industry in London from 1862 to 1883.

518 Queens Avenue

London, Ontario

The large, residential, single dwelling at 518 Queens Avenue, on the northeast corner of Queens and Peter Street, was built in 1872 for James Duffield, a wealthy oil refiner. With the discovery of oil in the Oil Springs-Petrolia area about 1860.<sup>1</sup> London's situation along the main line of the Great Western Railway made it the obvious place in which to refine the oil. The oil refineries grew up along the east side of Adelaide Street, from York Street to the Thames River,<sup>2</sup> in what in 1875 became the incorporated village of London East (it was amalgamated with the city of London in 1885). Many London men made a fortune in oil refining, among them James Duffield. In 1861, with his brother, William, he founded the Forest City Refinery, later Duffield Bros., and located it at the corner of Adelaide Street and Hamilton Road. Duffield Bros. amalgamated with several other refineries to form the London Oil Refining Company. However, over production and increased competition from discoveries in Pennsylvania resulted in such a price reduction per barrel for lamp oil that expenses could only barely be met. A further amalgamation of oil refining firms was thus made necessary. In September 1880, Imperial Oil was

founded with Duffield as one of its leading lights. However, by 1883, all the oil refining facilities were removed to Petrolia.<sup>3</sup> Although Duffield remained an "oil promoter", he seemed to have retired from active participation in Imperial Oil. Nevertheless, it was oil money that built 518 Queens Avenue.

After Duffield's death in 1888 his nephew, James C. Duffield, occupied the house. With his brother, William E. Duffield, he had founded the London Gas Light Company on 22 February 1879 to provide natural gas for consumers and to light street lamps. This put them in direct competition with the City Gas Company, established by private initiative on 6 July 1864. The awkwardness of this situation was ended by a provincial act of 1 February 1883 which amalgamated the City Gas Company and the London Gas Light Company; the City Gas name was retained. The Duffields dominated the new company and thus monopolized the gas supply business in London.<sup>4</sup>

James C. Duffield occupied 518 Queens Avenue until his death in 1920. His widow, Mrs. Alma A. Duffield, died nine years later. On his father's death his son, Colin Duffield, became the owner of the house; he lived there until his death in 1934. His widow, Geraldine, was the last Duffield to occupy 518 Queens Avenue (1840).<sup>5</sup>

Colin Duffield became president of City Gas in 1920, succeeding his late father. On 1 August 1930 City Gas was

purchased by Union Gas and thenceforth operated it as a wholly-owned subsidiary. Duffield remained as vice-president.<sup>6</sup>

518 Queens Avenue was to remain a single family, detached dwelling until 1943. From 1941 the house was occupied by J. Fraser Coate, a department head at the London Life Insurance Company,<sup>7</sup> founded in London in 1875.

Since Coates' departure, the house has been used for institutional purposes. In 1944-45, as part of the war effort, it became the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic. The London Bible Institute, later the London College of Bibles and Missions from 1946 to 1968 shared the former Duffield mansion with apartments (1946-53), the Arthur Alloway Men's Residence (1964) and the Saturday School of Music (1964-68). Briefly vacant in 1969, it has since been the Queens Avenue Manor Limited, a private nursing home for senior citizens.<sup>8</sup>

The neighbourhood in which 518 Queens Avenue is located was London's most prestigious, wealthy, residential district. Built in 1872, 518 Queens Avenue was among the first mansions constructed along Queens, which received its initial impetus in the 1870s. The late 1860s and early 1870s marked the beginning of the city's formative period of development. Many financial institutions and industries were established and much wealth was generated. Symbolic of this new prosperity were the large residences of

the merchantocracy built along Queens Avenue and Dundas Street, one block to the south. Of them, 518 Queens was one of the grandest.

Between the wars, the neighbourhood went into decline. With the universal use of the automobile, Queens Avenue became a major traffic artery and experienced the concomitant problems of traffic noise, gas fumes, and dangers to children, making the street a less desirable place to live. In addition, because of high maintenance costs, exorbitant heating bills, and increased salaries for servants and gardeners, operating 518 Queens Avenue, or any large mansion on a single-family basis, became financially difficult. One by one they were abandoned by the old elite and were either demolished or converted to other uses.

Architecturally, 518 Queens Avenue is a large, two-and-one-half-storey, local white brick, single dwelling. It possesses a mansard roof broken by dormers and underlined by a heavy, boxed cornice and a decorated frieze. Cut stone is used liberally for the door and window surrounds, the sills, and the bays--the double bay of the front facade is especially impressive. A sweeping classical verandah graces the Queens Avenue side of the house. The property is divided from Queens and Peter Street by a deteriorated wrought iron fence.

Since its conversion to institutional use in 1944, the exterior and the interior of the house have undergone

significant modifications. On the exterior these include fire escapes and a large addition on the east side of the house, built in the 1950s for the Bible Institute and called the Hooper Memorial Chapel. Two storeys in height, the building is constructed of white brick and has a separate entrance. The interior of the house has been severely changed by the occupying institutions. As with the entire length of Queens Avenue, from Wellington Street east to Adelaide Street, 518 Queens Avenue's future seems cloudy.



Endnotes:

- 1 Charles Whipp and Edward Phelps, Petrolia, 1866-1966 (Petrolia: The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic and the Petrolia Centennial Committee, 1966), p. 3.
- 2 Edmund J. Carty and Arthur C. Carty (eds.), London (Ont.) Centennial Review: An Authentic Record of the City's Growth from 1826 to 1926 (London, Ontario: The Hayden Press, 1926), p. 26.
- 3 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855 to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's Thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), pp. 55-56.
- 4 Victor Lauriston, Blue Flame of Service (Chatham, Ontario: Union Gas Company of Canada, Limited, 1961), p. 78.
- 5 City directories of the period.
- 6 Victor Lauriston, op. cit., p. 78.
- 7 City directories.
- 8 Ibid.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 06108001000534

City: London, Ontario

Address: 534 Queens Avenue

Building Name: "Fontbonne Hall"  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1878

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: William Spencer, oil refiner

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Josephine McTaggart,  
daughter of William Spencer; George H. Ellis, textile manufacturer;  
Roman Catholic Diocese of London

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
large rear two storey addition	1950s		

Comments: Built in London's premiere, high-income, residential district, "Fontbonne Hall's" magnificence reflects the wealth generated by the oil refining industry in 19th-century London.

534 Queens Avenue

London, Ontario

"Fontbonne Hall" at 534 Queens Avenue, on the northwest corner of Queens Avenue and William Street, was built in 1878 for William Spencer, a prominent oil refiner. It is among London's largest and most impressive single dwellings.

Spencer was intimately involved in London's early development as an oil refining centre. The city became the hub of the oil boom in southwestern Ontario, following the discovery of petroleum in the Petrolia Oil Springs area about 1860.<sup>1</sup> London's situation along the main line of the Great Western Railway made it the obvious place in which to refine the oil. In the 1860s and 1870s numerous refineries grew up along the east side of Adelaide Street in London East, a separate village which was incorporated in 1874 and amalgamated with the city of London in 1885.<sup>2</sup>

Among the first refineries was W. Spencer & Son. Spencer had originally built a refinery at Cedar Springs, near Woodstock, Ontario. The oil from Lambton County was moved by the Great Western Railway to Wyoming, Ontario (which Spencer founded), and thence by road to Cedar Springs. By 1863 the demand for coal oil was so substantial that

Spencer moved his refinery to London East, because it was both closer to the oil fields and on the main line of the Great Western Railway. Comprising 16 acres, the refinery property was on the east side of Adelaide Street directly by the railway tracks.<sup>3</sup>

W. Spencer & Son amalgamated with five other refineries in 1876 to form the London Oil Refining Co. In order to stem over-production, four years later the new company joined with seven other local firms to form the Imperial Oil Co. William Spencer was named secretary. However, by this date, the oil industry in London was in decline, and by 1883 all oil refining facilities were removed to Petrolia.<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless, a wealthy merchantocracy grew to prosperity in London East which benefitted from the boom conditions, and many, including the wealthiest oil refiners, chose to locate their homes on Dundas Street and Queens Avenue to the west of Adelaide Street within the boundaries of the city of London.<sup>5</sup> One of these was William Spencer. His mansion, built on previously undeveloped land in 1878, was among the earliest constructed in an area which was to become the city's most prestigious, high-income, upper-middle-class neighbourhood. Spencer occupied "Fontbonne Hall" until his death in 1902. His widow, Jane, lived on in the house until 1918.

From 1919 until 1928 the mansion was the sole address of Josephine McTaggart, the widow of Dr. Alexander McTaggart,

a noted local physician, and the daughter of William Spencer. The McTaggarts had shared 534 Queens with the Spencers until 1887.

After Josephine McTaggart's departure, the house was purchased by George H. Ellis. He was the manager of the Canadian Kickernick Co. at 176-178 Dundas Street and was later the president of George H. Ellis Co., underwear manufacturers, at 167 1/2-169 Albert Street.

Since 1945 "Fontbonne Hall" has been associated with Roman Catholics in London. The Knights of Columbus, London Council No. 1410, made a successful bid on the Ellis property for \$13,500. Possession was taken on 1 June 1945. It was used as a club until June 1952 when it was sold to the Sisters of St. Joseph. Since 1952 the Sisters have put the building to a variety of related uses--the Sacred Heart School of Music, the Fontbonne Hall Catholic Orphanage, the Madame Vanier Children's Service, and the St. Joseph School of Music.

Architecturally, the house possess many Second Empire design features. The two-and-one-half-storey, white brick dwelling has a mansard roof with hooded dormers. The front entrance is flanked by single two-storey bays. On the east side (William Street) is a sizeable verandah. Alterations and additions have occurred over the years. The front porch has been modernized and the chimneys have been reduced in height. In the 1950s a large, modern, two-storey, white

brick wing was built on the back of the house. It holds the offices for the activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The interior of the house has been faithfully maintained. Even the inside shutters fold with ease. The attic, mansard storey was formerly one immense room, possibly used as a ballroom; it is now partitioned into smaller rooms. No information is readily available on the architect or the contractor.<sup>6</sup> A rusting, cast-iron fence separates the property from Queens Avenue and William Street.

"Fontbonne Hall" is one of the better examples of buildings containing Second Empire features in the city. In addition, its immensity signifies the wealth that was generated in London in late-19th century by the oil refining industry.

Endnotes:

- 1 Charles Whipp and Edward Phelps, Petrolia, 1866-1966 (Petrolia: The Petrolia Advertiser-Topic and the Petrolia Centennial Committee, 1966), p. 3.
- 2 Edmund J. Carty and Arthur C. Carty (eds.), London (Ont.) Centennial Review: An Authentic Record of the City's Growth from 1826 to 1926 (London, Ont.: Hayden Press, 1926), p. 26.
- 3 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855 to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's Thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 57.
- 4 Ibid., pp. 59-63.
- 5 Edmand J. Carty, and Arthur C. Carty, loc. cit.
- 6 Very often in the Free Press (London) for this period at some time in the month of December the architect and contractor(s) were listed with brief descriptions of the new buildings constructed in the city for the particular year.



Historian: John H. Lutman  
 Date: February 1977  
 Geocode: 06108001000536  
 City: London, Ontario  
 Address: 536 Queens Avenue  
 Building Name: "Worthy Place"  
 (if important)  
 Source of Title Photo:  
 CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1878

Architect: George F. Durand of Robinson and Tracy, Architects

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters, stone masons

Name and occupation of original owner: Charles Murray, financier

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: George T. Hiscox, horse dealer, livery stable operator, real estate promoter; Frederick P. and Frederick C. Betts, barristers

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Two-storey verandah	early 1900s(?)		
Removal of conservatories	1940(?)		

Comments: "Worthy Place" was among the finest of the many sizeable mansions built in what was considered London's premier, high-income, residential district.



536 Queens Avenue

London, Ontario

Located on the northeast corner of Queens Avenue and William Street, 536 Queens Avenue, "Worthy Place", was built in 1878 for Charles Murray, a London financier. Murray, who lived in the mansion from 1878 to 1887, had settled in London as early as 1838.<sup>1</sup> Having previously been a clerk with the Middlesex County Treasurer's Office and then the Secretary and Treasurer of the Huron & Erie Saving and Loan Society, he became the first manager of the Federal Bank, which was incorporated in London on 7 September 1874 and folded on 2 February 1882. Murray remained the manager until 1880 when he was appointed president of the Ontario Investment Association, located at 394 Richmond Street. Organized in May 1880, it lasted only a short time, folding seven years later. Many of its problems were apparently due to Murray's fiscal incompetence.<sup>2</sup> He shortly thereafter disappeared from the London scene. However, Murray's financial activities were a reflection of the historical period of the 1860s and 1870s when London rose to its position as a financial centre.

The next occupant of 536 Queens Avenue was George T. Hiscox. He had succeeded his father, Thomas Hiscox, in 1868

in the livery business which he had established circa 1838.

His father had conducted an extensive and successful horse dealership and, while thus engaged, had purchased real estate. When Thomas Hiscox died in 1885, his son became the largest real estate owner in London, Ontario.<sup>3</sup>

George T. Hiscox was born in London on 6 May 1849 and was thoroughly reared in the knowledge of the livery business and of real estate transactions. Actively engaged in city politics, he was an alderman in the years 1875-77, 1879-81, and 1886. He was the Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners in 1888 and was involved with the Western Fair Association. In 1884 he was appointed a justice of the peace. Hiscox was considered to be the father of "Livery Reform". He took the first steps towards the inauguration of a law for province-wide licensing of livery-keepers, a substantial reform for the time. In 1877 he married Sarah Rattenbury whose father, W. Rattenbury, was the first settler and founder of Clinton, Ontario. It was Hiscox who named 536 Queens Avenue "Worthy Place" after the farm on which Hiscox's father was born in Shepton Mallet in Somersetshire, England, in 1811.<sup>4</sup>

After Hiscox left, the Betts family occupied and at 536 Queens Avenue and remained there until 1939. Frederick P. Betts, with Vershoyle Cronyn, formed one of London's foremost law firms. He was a former President of the Middlesex Bar Association and a solicitor for the Huron &

Erie Mortgage Corporation and the Canada Trust Company. Frederick C. Betts, following in his father's tradition, was likewise a lawyer--a member of the law firm of Cronyn, Betts, Robertson and Harrison, barristers and solicitors. Both Bettas died in the 1930s and their widows lived on in the house until 1939. After their departure, "Worthy Place" was divided into apartments and acquired an additional William Street address (470-472).

The neighbourhood in which the mansion was built was originally London's foremost prestigious, high-income residential area. Much of Queens Avenue, west of Adelaide Street, was lined with large mansions and exclusive churches. Across the street from "Worthy Place" was the Cronyn Memorial Church, a noted "society church". Since the interwar period, the neighbourhood has suffered encroachment by apartment development, and several of the other mansions have been converted to prestige office space.

Architecturally, 536 Queens Avenue is difficult to label. In an eclectic fashion it mixes many Gothic and Italianate design features. The focus of the two-and-one-half-storey, local white brick house is a three-storey, square, central Italianate tower. To its left is a two storey bay with a conical roof, topped with a finial. A picturesque Gothic porch protects the front entrance. It possesses a field-stone base which stretches across the

front of the house and forms the base of an oversized, two-storey verandah on the west side which may possibly be a later addition. The house formerly possessed conservatories at the back and on the east side. These have been taken down, probably when the house was converted to apartments.

The architect of the house was George F. Durand, a member of the architectural firm established by William Robinson, the City Engineer, in 1876. A Londoner by birth (in 1850), he had received his training from William Robinson and had worked with Thomas Fuller in Albany, New York (Fuller later became the Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works, Ottawa). After a year in Maine, Durand returned to London in 1878 and re-entered the Robinson firm. In 1882 he established his own architectural office. He was responsible for numerous important buildings in London and vicinity, including several churches and schools. He received second mention for his design for the Toronto City Hall/Court House and was the architect for Upper Canada College.<sup>5</sup> The Murray house at 536 Queens Avenue was thus among his first designs on his return to London in 1878. Although the architectural specifications are available,<sup>6</sup> the contractors' names are not listed.

Set off from the street by a spacious lawn and a cast-iron fence, after almost one hundred years the Murray house is still among London's more impressive buildings.

Endnotes:

- 1 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), p. 515.
- 2 Ibid., pp. 397-398, 403.
- 3 Ibid., pp. 859-860.
- 4 Ibid., pp. 860-861.
- 5 Canadian Architect and Builder, January 1890, p. 4.
- 6 Robinson and Tracy, Architects, Copy Book of Building Specifications, 1876-1883 (copy in Regional Collection, U.W.O.) (n.p., n.d.), pp. 163-169



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 06108001600090

City: London, Ontario

Address: 90 Central Avenue

Building Name: "Blackfriars"  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1876

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: Thomas Kent, real estate promoter  
financier

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Roman Catholic Diocese of  
London

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class; Bishops of the Diocese of  
London

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Verandah/portico	ca. 1912	Moore and Munro	

Comments: "Blackfriars" is one of several large mansions built along the banks of the North Branch of the Thames River.

90 Central Avenue

London, Ontario

"Blackfriars" at 90 Central Avenue was built in 1876 for Thomas Kent, a prominent local land owner and financier. The property was originally the farm of his father, John, who came to Canada in 1823 from England. His farm extended on both sides of the North Branch of the Thames River, and he located his home on the west side in what is now West London.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Kent's large single dwelling was situated high on the east bank, facing the river, and on that portion of Central Avenue which ends at the edge of the cliff. Central Avenue, west from Richmond Street to the river, was formerly called Lichfield (Litchfield) Street. Immediately below the mansion is the Blackfriar's Bridge, which was built in 1875 to link central London with West London. The house is also connected to Talbot Street via Barton Street to the north, a short lane that leads west from Talbot and terminates in a circular driveway.

"Blackfriars" was located in a wealthy residential neighbourhood. It was one of a series of sizeable mansions, leading from "Eldon House" (06108002600481), which was built mainly along the east bank of the Thames River in the latter part of the 19th century. Its immediate neighbours were

83 Central Avenue to the south, the long-demolished former home of Joseph Jeffery, founder of the London Life Insurance Company, and 639 Talbot Street, "Birkhill" (06108002200639), to the north, originally occupied by George B. Harris, a son of John and Amelia Harris of "Eldon House".

Thomas Kent made his fortune not only in real estate by selling off and developing the old farm, but also in finance. He was the first president of the London Loan Company, an organization which was incorporated in 1877<sup>2</sup> and was prominent in late-19th-century London. Kent's financial activities reflect the historic period during which the London Loan Company was founded. During the 1860s and 1870s London rose to its position as a financial centre. Other financial institutions founded during this period were the Huron & Erie Savings and Loan Society in 1864 (now the Canada Trust/Huron & Erie Corporation). The London Life Insurance Company in 1874, and the Ontario Loan and Debenture Company in 1879 (now part of the Royal Trust). Many Londoners became prosperous in financial affairs and Kent's mansion reflects that prosperity.

On Kent's death in 1912 the house was purchased at auction by John Donnally of Buffalo, New York, who then presented it to the Roman Catholic diocese of London to be used as a bishop's residence. Donnally was a wealthy admirer and friend of the then bishop, Michael Francis Fallon, whom he



had known when Fallon was the pastor of Holy Angels in Buffalo.<sup>3</sup> Each succeeding bishop has occupied the residence since Fallon's death in 1931--John T. Kidd (1931-50), John C. Cody (1950-63) and the present bishop, G. Emmett Carter (1964- ).

The architecture of the two-and-one-half-storey, local white brick, single dwelling illustrates many Italianate/Classical design features. At the corners of the eaves are two pairs of double brackets, and below these are brick quoins, stepping down to ground level. The general design of the structure exudes a classical balance of three windows above, and two windows and centre door below. Although not of major note, the interior features high ceilings, a large sweeping staircase, and several marble fireplaces. The architect and contractor for the original house are not known.

Since the residence has been occupied by the diocese, major changes have taken place in the design. Circa 1912 the massive columned verandah/portico was added to the front of the house. This replaced a porch of much smaller proportions and a single centre gable. The architects for the new verandah were Moore and Munro, the city's most prestigious architectural firm, which had been founded in 1876 by the City Engineer, William Robinson.<sup>4</sup> Other additions that have occurred in more recent years are a small, one-storey, north-side extension to the dining room,

a rear entrance enclosure of matching white brick, and several ugly roof dormers. The second storey of the columned verandah has been filled in by a sun porch, and the chimneys have been cut down in height.

The house and the grounds, with their many bushes and flowering plants, are immaculately maintained. A charming bird bath is found on the front lawn. Looking across from the west bank of the Thames river, the house is obscured from view by large trees which grow on the River's bank. A wooden picket fence separates the property from Central Avenue.

Although its maintenance as a single-family dwelling is no longer feasible, "Blackfriars" at 90 Central Avenue still serves a useful purpose in its capacity as the bishop of London's residence.

Endnotes:

- 1 Clarence T. Campbell, "Settlement of London," London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions, Part 9 (1911), p. 49.
- 2 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London: W.A. and C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), pp. 400, 403.
- 3 O'Farrell, "St. Peter's Rectory," Our Past Made Present, London Public Library and Art Museum, Occasional Paper No. XVII, p. 49.
- 4 University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection, Architectural Drawings to the J.M. Moore Papers.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: April 1977

Geocode: 06108001600284

City: London, Ontario

Address: 284 Central Avenue

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1902

Architect:

Builder: Bricklayers, stone masons

Craftsmen (List Type)

Name and occupation of original owner: D. Warden Sutherland, president of W.T. Strong & Co., chemists and druggists

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Charles W. Leonard, president of E. Leonard and Sons, Engine and Boiler Manufacturers; George H. Belton, lumber; Frank A. McCormick, biscuit manufacturer.

Notable type of occupants: Upper class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Residential, single dwelling  
Present: Remedial, other (doctor's offices)

Major building material: Red brick (from Hamilton and Milton, Ont.)

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 284 Central Avenue was one of the grandest mansions built facing Victoria Park, an area where many of London's elite located their residences.

284 Central Avenue

London, Ontario

The large single dwelling at 284 Central Avenue was built in 1902 for D. Warden Sutherland, president of W.T. Strong & Co., chemists and druggists, located at 184 Dundas Street. The business was formerly called Strong and Rosser and had been founded by William T. Strong in 1872. Sutherland was an assistant to Strong and took over the business on the latter's retirement. Oddly, Sutherland lived at 284 Central for only one year, afterwards moving to a considerably more modest house on Albert Street.

The next owner/occupant was Charles W. Leonard, president of E. Leonard and Sons, Engine and Boiler Manufacturers, located on York Street, between Waterloo and Colborne Streets. The firm had been founded by his father, Elijah Leonard, Junior, in 1839 and specialized in the manufacture of railway rolling stock, farm equipment, boilers, engines, and barrels (drums). Charles W. Leonard and his brother, Frank, had been admitted to the business in 1875 and took over completely on their father's death in 1891. Leonard resided at 284 Central Avenue from only 1903 to 1905.

He was followed by George H. Belton who, in 1886,

joined his father in the family business of James H. Belton & Son, wholesale and retail dealers in lumber, lath, shingles, cedar posts, and other wood products, at 234 York Street. The business had been established in 1854 and was inherited by Belton on his father's death in 1894. Four years later, he changed the firm's name to the George H. Belton Lumber Company and in 1904 erected a large planing mill and sash and door factory on a six-acre site on Rectory Street by the CN tracks. The York Street site was later abandoned and all departments of the business were moved to Rectory Street where it remains even today. During his lifetime Belton was active in local politics and in business affairs as a city councillor and vice-president of the Board of Trade. In 1912 he vacated 284 Central Avenue.

Frank A. McCormick lived the longest at 284 Central Avenue (1913-65). He was president of the McCormick Manufacturing Company Limited, which was founded by his father, Thomas McCormick, in 1858. The first factory was a small structure on Clarence Street, in behind the family residence. The rapid expansion of the business necessitated the construction in 1875 of a new and larger building, located on the corner of Dundas and Wellington Streets. The present plant, an architectural gem which, in its lighting and ventilation, was far ahead of its time, was completed in 1914 on Dundas Street East. Thomas McCormick died in 1905 and the business was carried on by his sons, Thomas, Frank,

and George, (the latter severed his connections in 1906). After World War I McCormick's amalgamated with several other companies to form the Canada Biscuit Company with Frank McCormick as president. However, the McCormick label was retained. Through Frank McCormick's efforts, the early local reputation for the fine quality of McCormick's biscuits and candies spread throughout Canada.

On McCormick's death in 1965, 284 Central Avenue remained vacant for one year and was sold to Wellsworth Holdings Limited of London. This organization is owned by Dr. John Nicholson who, with Dr. G.W. Preuter, has converted the house into doctors' offices.

The house was built rather late (1902), considering its nearness to the city's core. The land was originally in the centre of the military reserve, granted in 1838 and bounded by Dufferin Avenue on the south, Piccadilly Street, approximately, on the north, Waterloo Street on the east, and Clarence Street, then Richmond Street, on the west. The military left the area, for the most part, in 1869 for other quarters within the city, and their former lands north of Central Avenue became the Western Fair Grounds, where every September a large agricultural exhibit was staged. For the rest of the year, the area remained a park.

When the Fair left for Queens Park on Dundas Street East in 1886, the land west of Wellington Street was divided immediately into building lots; the land east of Wellington

Street, including the future 284 Central Avenue, became the "Base Ball Grounds." Not until the 1890s did the construction of houses begin in this section. Among the houses in the area, 284 Central was among the last constructed.

Its location, in terms of prestige, was very exclusive. Studies have determined that the wealthy have a tendency to locate their residences in the vicinity of parks. London was no exception. Whereas the east half of the military reserve, south of Central Avenue, was divided into building lots, the west half, the former parade grounds, was donated to the city in 1874 by Governor-General Lord Dufferin to be used in perpetuity as a park. Victoria Park, as it was named, became surrounded on three sides by many large mansions.

Since the 1920s much adverse development has taken place in the neighbourhood. Many of the houses have been divided into apartments or into prestige office space, as with 284 Central. Along Wellington Street, beginning a half a block to the south, the grand row of mansions that lined the east side of the street was demolished in the 1960s for new development--284 Central itself may disappear in the future for high rise apartments.

Architecturally, 284 Central Avenue is a large, two-and-one-half-storey, red brick, late Victorian mansion. It is an uncontrolled riot of contrasting features on a grand scale. Guarding one corner is a rather squat, conical



turret which vies for attention with an immense gable, which juts out a considerable distance and is precariously supported by a two-storey bay. The first storey of the bay is partially obscured by a large classical verandah. Generous amounts of cut stone were used in its construction. The red brick was imported by rail from brickyards in Hamilton and Milton, Ontario, and, unlike the local white brick, was not used extensively in London construction until after 1895. The interior has been modified to accommodate the doctors' offices.

Nevertheless, despite the changes in the neighbourhood, the house still acts as a reminder of the former prestige of the area and of its former prominent occupants.

Endnotes:

- 1 This information was taken from the city directories of the period.
- 2 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's Thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 55.
- 3 London and Its Men of Affairs (London, Ontario: Advertiser Job Printer Company, n.d.), p. 34.
- 4 B.S. Scott, op. cit., pp. 195-201.
- 5 City directories.
- 6 Insurance Plan, City of London, October 1881.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Homer Hoyt, "The Structure and Growth of Residential Neighbourhoods in American Cities" in William L.C. Wheaton, Brace Milgram, and Margy Ellin Myerson (eds.), Urban Housing (New York: The Free Press, 1966).
- 9 Archie Bremner, City of London, Ont., Canada; The Pioneer Period and the London of Today (London, Ontario : London Printing and Lithographing Company Limited, 1900), p.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman  
Date: March 1977  
Geocode: 06108001600558  
City: London, Ontario  
Address: 558 Central Avenue  
Building Name:  
(if important)  
Source of Title Photo:  
CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1884

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Michael G. Delaney, worked at McClary  
Manufacturing Company  
Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants: Working class, lower middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
East side, upstairs entrance	1948		

Comments: 558 Central Avenue is typical of the working-class residences built in the vicinity of London's CN and CPR lines.

558 Central Avenue

London, Ontario

The single dwelling at 558 Central Avenue was built in 1884 for Michael G. Delaney who worked at the McClary Manufacturing Company. McClary's was among London's largest industries, and it employed many men in its stove assembly. Delaney lived at 558 Central until 1927 and was followed by his widow, Jane, who lived alone in the house until 1941.

Until 1948, the house remained a single-family dwelling; however, in that year, the residence was converted to a duplex with an apartment on the second floor and a separate, east side entrance. While the first-storey apartment has remained the residence of Mrs. Marjorie Truan, a widow, since 1948, the second-storey apartment has accommodated many successive occupants, ranging from a research assistant at the University of Western Ontario to a labourer with the city of London<sup>1</sup> (a full list is found in Appendix A).

Located on the eastern extremity of Central Avenue, on the north side of the street between Adelaide and William streets, the immediate neighbourhood of 558 Central consisted mostly of working-class homes; however, this house was slightly larger than its neighbours. Proceeding in an

easterly direction along Central Avenue towards Victoria Park and Richmond Street several blocks distant, the residences became larger in size and housed middle-class occupants. In the section facing Victoria Park were located some of the city's largest mansions.

The working-class character of the area was probably due to the nearby railway facilities. Running behind the house was the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a siding. In the vicinity was a C P R round house, turn table, numerous other sidings, water tanks, piled logs, and wood and coal yards. Industries were situated along both sides of the tracks.<sup>2</sup> Oddly, none of the occupants of 558 Central worked for the C P R or for industries immediately in the area. Although there are fewer railway facilities and industries in the vicinity today, the working-class character of the neighbourhood has not changed.

Architecturally, the house is a one-and-a-half-storey, local white brick, single dwelling. A classical verandah with a peculiar railing design stretches across the front facade. The highlight of the building's architecture is the doorway and the large, semicircular main window. The door is capped by a triple arched transom and flanked by recessed sidelights; the main window possesses in its half-round upper panel a stained-glass window of intricate design and many colours. The architect and contractor are unknown. The house appears to be in fair condition, although in the future the area may be zoned for high rise development.

Appendix A. Occupants of 558 Central Avenue from 1884 to 1974. (N.B. a) 1st-storey apartment; b) 2nd-storey apartment).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1884	Unfinished house	
1885-1927	Michael G. Delaney	works, McClary Manufacturing Co.
1928-41	Mrs. Jane Delaney	widow, Michael F. Delaney
1942	Sydney Morton	mechanic, London Street Railway
1943-46	Clifford J. Eyre	printer, University of Western Ontario
1947	Vacant	
1948-74	a) Mrs. Marjorie Truan	widow, Floyd Truan
1948-53	b) Thomas S. Foster	research assistant, University of Western Ontario
1954-57	b) Bethune Hutton	assembly, General Steel Wares
1958-60	b) Vacant	
1961-63	b) John Mitcheltree	labourer, City of London
1964-68	b) Vacant	
1969-70	b) Gary Thomas	Department of National Defense
1971	b) Marion Dust	unlisted
1972	b) Vacant	
1973	b) Deborah Sims	unlisted
1974	b) Gerald Crawford	labourer, City of London

Endnotes:

- 1 The information in the above two paragraphs was taken from the City Directories of the period.
- 2 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.

Canadian Inventory of Historical Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: April 1977

Geocode: 06108001700369 1/2

City: London, Ontario

Address: 369 1/2 Maitland St.

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: Before 1910

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner:

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants: Working class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Insulbrick	since 1945		

Comments: As a workman's dwelling, 369 1/2 Maitland Street was an anomaly in a neighbourhood of upper- and middle-class housing.



369 1/2 Maitland StreetLondon, Ontario

The single dwelling at 369 1/2 Maitland Street can only be traced, according to available evidence, to 1910; however, the architecture indicates that the house may have been built ten or twenty years earlier. As a certainty, it was not built in 1888, as the Insurance Plan, revised to that year,<sup>1</sup> shows a vacant lot for the site. The earliest city directory listing for 369 1/2 Maitland is for 1910; as well, the Insurance Plan for 1912<sup>2</sup> clearly illustrates the house. The confusion lies in the fact that the dwelling is located in the centre of the block bounded by Maitland Street on the east, Burwell Street on the west, Dundas Street on the north, and King Street on the south, and, although facing King Street from in behind the King Street houses, possesses a Maitland Street address. Because the house is linked to Maitland Street by a lane, it has always been numbered on Maitland Street and never on King Street (the King Street houses were built earlier).

The earliest known inhabitant of 369 1/2 Maitland Street was William F. McNamara, a driver for "Wm. Stevely & Son, stoves, tinware and sheetmetal". As with McNamara, the succeeding occupants were either working class or lower

middle class (see Appendix A for a full list). For instance, Joseph A. Watterworth (1914-15) was a carpenter; John E. Marsh (1917) was a store clerk with W. Mara, dry goods; and Arthur Howard (1926-28) was a labourer. James A. Wilson (1930-62) lived at 369 1/2 Maitland for the longest duration. From 1954 until his departure in 1962 he shared the premises with other occupants (see Appendix A). The current resident is Kurt W. Stock who works for John Labatt Ltd.<sup>3</sup>

The property on which the house was located was originally part of the Glebe Lands, or Clergy Reserve, of the Church of England. However, these lands were sold by the 1850s and divided into building lots.<sup>4</sup> As the area was then some blocks from the core of the city, development did not occur until the 1870s. As a workman's dwelling, the house was generally out of character with the rest of the neighbourhood. Dundas Street, a half block to the north, was one of London's premier wealthy residential streets. King Street's early development as a high-income, residential street was almost immediately arrested by the Great Western Railway (now the C N) which went through two blocks to the south in 1853;<sup>5</sup> however, the street did prove attractive to comfortable middle-class houses. Burwell and Maitland Streets were transitional in nature.

In recent years, although nearly every house is still standing, the area has suffered from adverse developments.

As main arterial routes, Dundas and King Streets have undergone drastic increases in auto traffic. As a consequence, much of the residential attractiveness of the area has disappeared and many of the houses have been divided into small apartments, abandoned, or converted to non-residential uses.

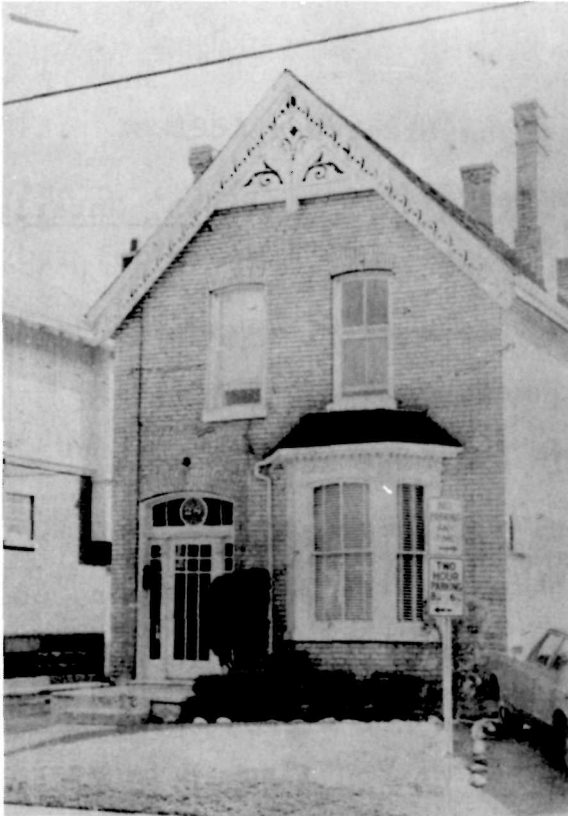
Architecturally, 369 1/2 Maitland Street is a one-and-a-half-storey, local white brick, single dwelling. Insulbrick is used to cover the gables, to ring the house beneath the eaves, and to surround the piers of the verandah. Its major attraction is the gingerbread of this same verandah, which on close inspection is not in good condition. In its pastoral setting, the residence is not without appeal.

Endnotes:

- 1 Insurance Plan, City of London, October 1881.
- 2 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.
- 3 City directories of the period.
- 4 Clarence T. Campbell, "The Village of London," London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions, Part 9 (1918), p. 5.
- 5 J.J. Talman, "The Great Western Railway," Western Ontario Historical Notes, Vol. VI, No. 1 (March 1948), p. 3.

Appendix A. Occupants of 369 1/2 Maitland Street from 1910 to 1974.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1910-13	William F. McNamara	driver, Wm. Stevely & Son, stoves, tin-ware and sheetmetal
1914-15	Jsoeph A. Watterworth	carpenter
1916	Edward Moyer	carter
1917	John E. Marsh	clerk, W. Mara, drygoods
1918	Almira J. Harpin	widow, Charles Harpin
1919	Vacant	
1920-25	Percy D. McNamara	foreman, Clark Cigar Factory
1926-28	Arthur Howard	labourer
1929	George J. Hughes	builder
1930-1962	James A. Wilson	attendant, Victoria Hospital
1954	Clifford Everett	works, Gerry Supply & Lumber Co. Ltd.
1955-56	John Granger	soldier
1958-60	Lewis R. Lucas	civil service, Westminster Hospital
1963-64	Kurt W. Stock	brewer, Labatts Ltd.
1965-66	James Parker	unlisted
1967-74	Kurt W. Stock	works, Labatts Ltd.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108001800028

City: London, Ontario

Address: 28 Picton Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: Circa 1878

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: Matthew W. Manville, auctioneer and  
real estate agent

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: James S. Marshall, livery

Notable type of occupants: middle class; lower middle class; working class

Notable occupants and reason identified: Gosso Dental Clinic

Building use: Original: Residential, single dwelling  
Present: Remedial, clinic and centre

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 28 Picton Street, when first built, was generally out of place in a neighbourhood that, in the 19th- and early 20th centuries, was London's foremost high-income residential district.

28 Picton StreetLondon, Ontario

Located on the east side of the street, the single dwelling at 28 Picton Street was built in approximately 1878 for Matthew W. Manville of Manville & Brown, auctioneers, evaluators, real estate agents, and commission merchants. The business was located at 205 Dundas Street; however, on Alfred G. Brown's departure, Manville moved the location to 247 Dundas. Their establishment was not without prominence in the latter part of 19th-century London. Manville lived at 28 Picton Street from 1878 to 1884.<sup>1</sup>

He was followed by James S. Marshall who was in the livery business at 191 Dundas Street (James S. Marshall, Coupe, Coach and Light Livery Stable). He was the occupant of 28 Picton Street until 1893. From this date to the present began a dizzying parade of occupants who remained for only short periods of time. They were all either members of the lower middle class or working class. For instance, George W. Stuart (1894-96) was a bookkeeper; Edward Banks (1926-29) was a carpenter; and James T. Harris (1931) was a janitor. The house was vacant in 1910 and 1943.<sup>2</sup>

In 1952 the residence was divided into a duplex. Again, briefly, it reverted to a single dwelling in 1953, but for the next four years variously contained from four to nine apartments with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. In 1958 the first floor was converted to the Gosso Dental Laboratory and has remained as such through 1974. The second storey is still an apartment.<sup>3</sup>

Picton Street is itself a short, narrow street, one block in length. Running in a north-south direction, it linked Dufferin Avenue with Queens Avenue. The street was lined with small houses which, in character, were very much out of place with the mansions on Dufferin and Queens.

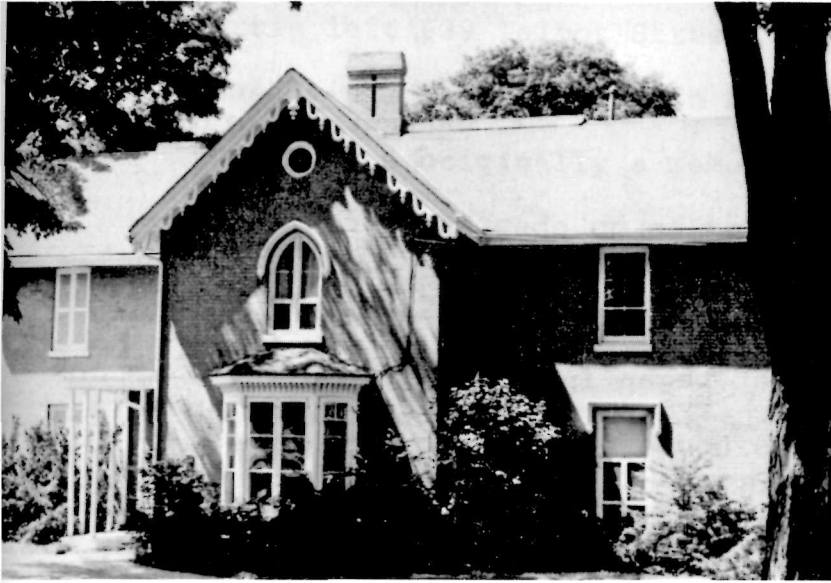
Beginning in the interwar period, the street has suffered severely from adverse development. Of the nine original dwellings along the street, only four are now left. The rest have been demolished for small parking lots and for an apartment house.

Architecturally, it is a one-and-one-half-storey, local white brick, single dwelling. Bays are found to the right for the front entrance and on the south side of the house. The gable is decorated by an intricately cut bargeboard. The dwelling is in good condition.



Endnotes:

- 1 This information was taken from the city directories of the period, 1878 to 1884.
- 2 Ibid., 1886 to 1951.
- 3 Ibid., 1952 to 1974.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: December 1976

Geocode: 06108002200639

City: London, Ontario

Address: 639 Talbot Street

Building Name: Birkhill  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: Circa 1868

Architect:

Builder: Bricklayers, carpenters

Craftsmen (List Type)

Name and occupation of original owner: George B. Harris

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Cowan family (leading  
merchants)

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Removal of verandahs	early 1960s		

Comments: George Harris was born in "Eldon House" (see 061080002600481).  
One of several suburban estates built in boom period from 1849 to 1857.

639 Talbot StreetLondon, Ontario

"Birkhill", set back from the road at 639 Talbot Street, is one of several spacious suburban estates that were built in London in the boom period that began in 1849 and lasted until the panic of 1857. The house was built for George B. Harris circa 1868. Possibly on the same site, or in the immediate vicinity, was another dwelling built for an Isaiah Harris (no relation). According to the 1856-57<sup>1</sup> and 1863-64<sup>2</sup> Directories, Isaiah Harris lived on Talbot Street, the corner of John, and on Talbot Street, between Litchfield (now Central Avenue) and John respectively. His occupation is listed as that of a tailor. It is unlikely that Isaiah Harris could afford to build such a grand home. It is virtually certain the 639 Talbot Street was built for George B. Harris.

George Becher Harris was born in London, Upper Canada, on 29 July 1836. He married Lucy Ronalds circa 1865.<sup>3</sup> He was one of the several sons of John Harris and Amelia Ryerse of "Eldon House" (06108002600481). George and Lucy Harris had two children, Amelia, who remained a spinster, and Ronald, who married Miss Gibbons, a daughter of Sir George Gibbons, a prominent London Liberal and barrister.<sup>4</sup>

Harris left 639 Talbot Street in 1889 and returned to "Eldon House" in which he had been born and where he died in 1923.

He was originally a member of the legal firm of Harris Bros. which was made up of three brothers, George B. Harris, Edward W. Harris, and John Fitzjohn Harris. It was a large and important solicitor's practice with many influential English clients. Unfortunately, John F. Harris died young, but the firm continued on as Harris Bros. for several years until Mr. Justice Magee became a member. The name changed to Harris & Magee, and later to Harris, Magee, McNab & Campbell.<sup>5</sup>

As a member of the firm George B. Harris participated actively in the 1860s and 1870s in London's rise to prominence as a financial centre. It organized the Ontario Loan and Debenture Company (now the Royal Trust) in 1871 and was instrumental in bringing the Molson's Bank to London.<sup>6</sup> In the Dundas Street office Harris trained many young lawyers.

In addition to his legal practice, Harris had a real estate office, George B. Harris & Co. This was in the Molson Bank Building which fronted on the Market Square.<sup>7</sup>

On moving to "Eldon House", Harris sold the mansion to the two Cowan brothers, Robert K. and James. It was James Cowan who in 1892 named 639 Talbot Street, "Birkhill". Robert Cowan, the lesser known of the two, was a barrister whose office was in the Bank of Commerce building at the

corner of Dundas and Richmond Streets. James Cowan was the founder of the hardware firm of James Cowan & Co. He came to London in 1855 via Hamilton, Canada West, New York City, and County Kirkcudbright, Scotland, where he was born in 1832. Working for Adam Hope & Co. of London, wholesale merchants, until 1864, he formed a partnership with James Wright in a hardware business (Cowan & Wright) which was dissolved in 1875. From that date the firm became James Cowan & Co. It was located at 127 Dundas Street and has remained there to the present day.

James Cowan participated actively in municipal affairs and was an alderman for several years and mayor in 1887-88. His only child, David James Cowan (by his first wife), became associated in the business. The house passed from the Cowan family in 1941, briefly remained a single dwelling in 1942 (the residence was occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hartley, a widow), and in 1943 was converted to the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House. Its numerous rooms make it ideal for this purpose.

"Birkhill" is located on the high east bank of the North Branch of the Thames River, overlooking the Blackfriar's Bridge and London West. Until 1875 the address is listed exclusively as Barton Street, north side, and from 1876 to 1896 as variously 647 Talbot Street or Barton Street, north side. In 1897 it assumes its present listing, 639 Talbot Street. This confusion results because the

residence from a distance faces Talbot Street, but is reached by driving down Barton, a short street (really a lane off Talbot), which ends at the river.

The property which George B. Harris purchased was originally that of John Kent, a farmer who owned land on both sides of the North Branch of the Thames River<sup>10</sup> which, in this vicinity, became lined with large mansions. The lawns of "Birkhill" itself, which once surrounded the house, were extensive. However, in 1952, the part of the property facing Talbot Street was sold for apartment development.

The two-and-one-half-storey brick house has many Gothic Revival style features. Irregular in plan, the architecture is a riot of gables, bargeboards, multiple chimneys, bays, and differing window shapes. Verandahs were formerly on three sides of the house, but with the exception of a small segment of the verandah on the east side, they were removed in the early 1960s. The brick has since been painted a blue-gray colour. There is no information available with regard to the architect or the builder.

"Birkhill" is one of the most interesting and varied of London's riverside mansions. Its history has created much interest among London historians.

Endnotes:

- 1 Railton's Directory for the City of London, C.W., 1856-1857 (London, C.W., 1856).
- 2 City of London Directory of 1863-64 (London, C.W., 1863).
- 3 University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection, Harris Family Register.
- 4 Ibid., Key to the Diary of Charlotte Harris, 1848-1851 by Edward W. Harris.
- 5 T.H. Purdom, K.C., "A Later History of the Bar of Middlesex," in London and Its Men of Affairs (London, 1915), p. 184.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 R.L. Polk & Co.'s London, Ontario Directory, 1878-79 (London, Ontario, 1878), front cover.
- 8 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, The History of Middlesex County, Canada (Toronto and London, Ont: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), p. 774
- 9 Ibid., pp. 774-775.
- 10 Clarence T. Campbell, "Settlement in London," London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions, Part 9, (1911), p. 49.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: January 1977

Geocode: 06108002300196

City: London, Ontario

Address: 180 Dufferin Avenue

Building Name: St. Peter's  
(if important) Basilica

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1880-85

Architect: Joseph Conolly

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Thomas Green & Co., carpentry; George Riddle; slating; Gould and Statfold, plastering; Drew, brick and stonework; A.S. Corp., painting and glazing

Name and occupation of original owner: Roman Catholic Diocese of London

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Religious, church

Major building material: Ohio cut stone

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: Queen of London's churches; symbol of the ambitions of Bishop John Walsh who returned the seat of diocese back to London from Sandwich (Windsor) in 1869.



196 Dufferin Street

London, Ontario

St. Peter's Basilica is the grandest of London, Ontario's, many churches. Its erection in 1880-1885 was both "testimony to the depth and sincerity of the faith of the Catholics of Western Ontario" and to the ambitions of the second bishop of the Diocese of London, John Walsh.

The reasons for its construction are long and complicated. On London's founding in 1826, the settlement was part of the diocese of Kingston, which comprised all of Upper Canada. In 1841 the diocese of Toronto was created with Toronto as the episcopal see. That diocese consisted of those portions of the province west of the eastern boundary of the late county of Ontario. The great increase in population necessitated further subdivisions in 1856. The diocese of Toronto was divided into the dioceses of Toronto, Hamilton, and London. The bishop's chair for the diocese of London was situated in London. This see comprised the counties of Middlesex, Essex, Elgin, Huron, Perth, Oxford, and Norfolk.<sup>1</sup> The division remains basically the same today.

Among the first settlers in Middlesex County were Irish and Scottish Roman Catholics. However, not until 1834 was

the first Roman Catholic church built in London. This church was erected at the southwest corner of Richmond and Maple streets, across the street from the present structure. Primitive in design, it was constructed of logs and had an earthen floor. There was no resident priest in London. Disaster struck when the church was destroyed by fire on 24 August 1851.<sup>2</sup>

Father Kerwin, the first resident priest, shortly thereafter leased the Universalist Church on King Street until the new building was completed in 1852.<sup>3</sup> St. Laurence's, as it was named, was situated on the site of the present edifice (the northeast corner of Dufferin Avenue and Richmond Street). However, unlike today's St. Peter's Basilica, it faced Richmond and was much closer to Dufferin. Divided from the street by a picket fence and surrounded by a graveyard, it was built of white brick in the Gothic style of architecture. Atop its rather heavy-set tower was a tall spire. The interior had two galleries, the pillars of which formed the aisles. The total cost of the building was \$30,000.00.<sup>4</sup>

Kerwin remained in charge until June, 1856. In this year St. Laurence's was selected as the bishop's seat for the newly created diocese of London and was renamed St. Peter's Cathedral. The first bishop was Adolphe Pinsonneault who, at his appointment, was a canon of St. James Cathedral, Montreal, and priest of the Society of St. Sulpice.<sup>5</sup>

Three years after his arrival Pinsonneault removed his see to Sandwich (Windsor), as he wished to minister more directly to the French-speaking Catholics of Sandwich. Perhaps he was also attracted by the more pretentious Church of the Assumption in Sandwich than by modest St. Peter's in London. The diocese was renamed the diocese of Sandwich. According to the official historian of the diocese, his profound French nationalism and his antipathy to everything English-speaking offended the English, Scottish, and Irish members of his flock who outnumbered the French members. In addition, because of his fiscal incompetence and the seigneurial grandeur with which he conducted the office and which was out of place in a pioneer diocese, he was forced to resign in 1866.<sup>6</sup>

Father Bayard was the Rector of St. Peter's Church during the see's absence from London. He was in charge until 1861, when the Dominican order assumed responsibility for the parish.<sup>7</sup>

Bishop Pinsonneault was succeeded by John Walsh, who was as Irish as Pinsonneault was French. He was born in Mooncoin, County Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1830. Arriving in Canada West two years earlier, Walsh was ordained in 1854 by the Count de Charbonnel, bishop of Toronto. In 1867, while at St. Mary's Parish in Toronto, he obeyed the summons from Bishop J.J. Lynch of Toronto to become the second bishop of Sandwich and was consecrated on 10 November

in St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto.

In January 1868, he removed the episcopal administration back to London, and, in the following year, the diocese of London was restored with London as the bishop's see.<sup>8</sup> It was Walsh's hope to build a cathedral which would cement the diocese of London in perpetuity and would be a symbol of the church's importance. The greatest difficulty in the way was the debt of \$40,000 that Pinsonneault had accumulated through fiscal mismanagement. This amount, in addition to the urgent need for more parish churches and schools, forced Walsh to put off the cathedral project for twelve years.<sup>9</sup>

Construction thus did not begin until 1880 and the cornerstone was laid the next year. The architect was Joseph Conolly of Toronto. Not unfamiliar with churches, he had also designed the Church of Our Lady in Guelph.<sup>10</sup> London's new cathedral was designed in the middle French Gothic period.<sup>11</sup> The stone foundations were from nine to twelve feet thick, and the walls were constructed of brick and faced with fine quality brown Ohio cut stone.<sup>12</sup> The building was 200 feet long and 115 feet wide at the transepts.<sup>13</sup> The height from the ground to the ridge of the roof was 88 feet.<sup>14</sup> The towers with their spires, as originally designed, were 215 feet high. The building was to have a seating capacity of 1,200.<sup>15</sup>

The contractors from London, Ontario, were Thos. Green & Co. for carpentering, A.S. Corp. for painting and glazing,

George Riddle for slating, Gould and Statfold for plastering, and Drew of Clinton, Ontario, for brick and stone work.<sup>16</sup> Total cost for the cathedral eventually approached \$150,000.<sup>17</sup>

As the new cathedral neared completion, it was necessary to demolish the old St. Peter's. The last service occurred on 19 April 1885. The new St. Peter's was consecrated on 28 June 1885.<sup>18</sup>

However, the building was not complete. The towers lacked their top storeys and had no bells.<sup>19</sup> The towers and carillon were not added until 1957-58 during the episcopate of Bishop John Cody. Two major difficulties were encountered: securing materials to match the brown Ohio cut stone, and carrying out the details of the original design. In the judgement of the engineers, the foundations of the church could not support the towers as first intended by Conolly. "It then became very difficult both to remain loyal to the lines of the sub-structure and to achieve a satisfactory towers without spires."<sup>20</sup> A new design was thus proposed. The architect, Peter Tillmann of London, produced towers that were on a less pretentious scale, but were in harmony with the rest of the cathedral. The matching stone was secured from the demolished St. Thomas Post Office.<sup>21</sup> The twelve bells of the new carillon were cast in the Netherlands and were installed in the spring of 1958.<sup>22</sup>

A description of the interior would go far beyond the scope of this report. However, some note should be made of the basilica's nave. Pillars of red granite support the arches of the nave and carry the eye upward to the wood-panelled ceiling. The transepts are dominated by huge rose windows. In looking back over the organ loft is another rose window constructed of beautiful stained glass. The interior was redecorated by Ponzerroni in 1926.<sup>23</sup>

Richmond Street, along which St. Peter's was located, was from the 1840s the main entrance into London from the north. From Oxford Street south the street was lined with business blocks and hotels.

Walsh was elevated to the position of archbishop of Toronto in 1889 and was succeeded in London by Bishop Dennis O'Connor (1890-1899). Others after O'Connor were Fergus F. McEvay (1899-1908), Michael Fallon (1910-31), John Thomas Kidd (1931-50), John C. Cody (1950-63) and the present Bishop, G. Emmett Carter (1964- ).

St. Peter's crowning moment came in 1961 when Pope John XXIII elevated the cathedral to the dignity of a minor basilica. Ranking in neo-medieval splendour as the queen of London's churches, St. Peter's Basilica acts as the symbol of the ambitions of Bishop Walsh.

Endnotes:

- 1 Reverend John F. Coffey, The City and Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada: An Historical Sketch (London, Ontario: Thomas Coffey, Catholic Record Office, 1885), p. 1.
- 2 Ibid., pp. 6-7.
- 3 Ibid., p. 3.
- 4 St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica, London, Ontario (London , Ontario: [Diocese of London], n.d.), pp. 3-4, (hereafter cited as St. Peters...).
- 5 John K.A. Farrell, The History of the Roman Catholic Church in London (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1949), p. 35.
- 6 Ibid., pp. 36-37.
- 7 St. Peter's..., p. 4.
- 8 John K.A. Farrell, op. cit., pp. 52-53.
- 9 St. Peter's..., p. 4.
- 10 Ibid., p. 5.
- 11 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Reflections on London's Past (London, Ontario: Corporation of the City of London, 1975), p. 29.
- 12 Reverend John F. Coffey, op. cit., p. 45.
- 13 St. Peter's..., p. 5.
- 14 Reverend John F. Coffey, op. cit., p. 44.
- 15 St. Peter's..., p. 5.
- 16 Reverend John F. Coffey, op. cit., p. 45.
- 17 John K.A. Farrell, op. cit., p. 72.
- 18 Ibid., p. 74.
- 19 St. Peter's..., p. 5.
- 20 Ibid., p. 8.
- 21 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Op. cit., p. 29.
- 22 Ibid., pp. 6, 8.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: January 1977

Geocode: 06108002300182

City: London, Ontario

Address: 182 Dufferin Avenue

Building Name: St. Peter's  
(if important) Rectory

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1870-71

Architect: William Robinson

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Roman Catholic Diocese of London

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Religious, other (bishop's palace);

Present: Religious, rectory

Major building material: white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Two three-storey additions	1888-1912		
Verandah	1905-12		
Two storey porch	1948-49		

Comments: Signifies the return of the bishop's see to London, after ten years absence (1859-69) at Sandwich (Windsor).



182 Dufferin AvenueLondon, Ontario

St. Peter's Rectory at the northwest corner of Dufferin Avenue and Clarence Street was built in 1870-71. It signifies the return of the bishop's see to London, after ten years absence (1859-69) at Sandwich (Windsor). In function it was attached to St. Peter's Basilica (see 06108002300180 for a history and description of this building), and its construction was considered at the time "as among the many signs of church progress in London."<sup>1</sup>

St. Peter's Rectory originally served as the bishop's palace of the diocese of London. It replaced the former palace which was immediately to the west and was probably constructed circa 1853 shortly after the completion of St. Laurence's Church. From 1870 to 1914 the new building sheltered four bishops. The first was John Walsh (1867-1889) who was responsible for moving the diocesan seat back to London. He was the principal force behind the construction of St. Peter's Basilica and was from 1889 to 1898 archbishop of Toronto. The next bishop to occupy the palace was Dennis O'Connor (1890-1899) who founded Assumption College, now the University of Windsor, and succeeded Walsh as archbishop of Toronto (1899-1908). After O'Connor came Fergus F. McEvay

(1899-1908) who, as with Walsh and O'Connor, was elevated to the archbishopric of Toronto. The last bishop to reside in the palace was the fiery and controversial Michael Francis Fallon (1908-1931) who founded St. Peter's Seminary.<sup>2</sup>

In 1914 John Donnalley, wealthy admirer and friend of Bishop Fallon, from Buffalo, New York, who had known Fallon when he was the pastor of Holy Angels in that city, donated the mansion at 90 Central Avenue, "Blackfriars" (06108001600090), to the diocese of London as the new residence of the Roman Catholic bishops of London. The removal of the bishop and his staff to "Blackfriars" considerably lessened the overcrowding of the building, which afterwards was renamed St. Peter's Rectory. Pressure on the building had increased in 1912 when St. Peter's Seminary was founded in the same premises.<sup>3</sup>

From 1912 to 1914 St. Peter's Rectory contained the bishop's residence and his staff, the priests attached to the cathedral parish, and the seven professors and thirty-one students of St. Peter's Seminary. Despite the size of the building, the three different functions it had to serve and the number of people it was forced to accommodate put a severe strain on the structure's capacity. Thus, relief was in store when the bishop left for "Blackfriars" in 1914 and between 1917 and 1921, when the parish priests moved to a house on the corner of Talbot and Maple streets, and later to one on Kent Street. The latter were able to return in

1921 when the twenty-six philosophy students (pre-theological students) moved from the Rectory to the old Labatt mansion at 572 Queens Avenue, (demolished in 1931).<sup>4</sup>

The Seminary professors and theological students continued to occupy the rectory until September 1926, when the magnificent new St. Peter's Seminary was dedicated on 29 September. The Rectory reverted to the single purpose of housing the priests and some of the lay assistants of St. Peter's Cathedral and "of being the centre of service for the parishioners of the Cathedral."<sup>5</sup>

Architecturally, St. Peter's Rectory is a fine example of the High Victorian period, illustrating a mixture of many Second Empire and Gothic design features.<sup>6</sup> The building possesses a Mansard roof and there are Gothic details around the windows and the door. It was constructed of local white brick; cut-stone was used for the quoins at the corners<sup>7</sup> and for the string courses dividing the basement and first storeys and the first and second storeys.<sup>8</sup> Originally, the building was U-shaped with a centre courtyard. In dimension it was 66 feet long by 66 feet wide by 51 feet high. In the interior on the first floor was a spacious chapel, 38 feet by 22 feet. When first built it had all the modern conveniences of the time, including a hot air furnace. Along the rear of the palace was a spacious verandah, protected by lattice work, and used as a promenade.<sup>9</sup>

The architect was William Robinson, the City Engineer

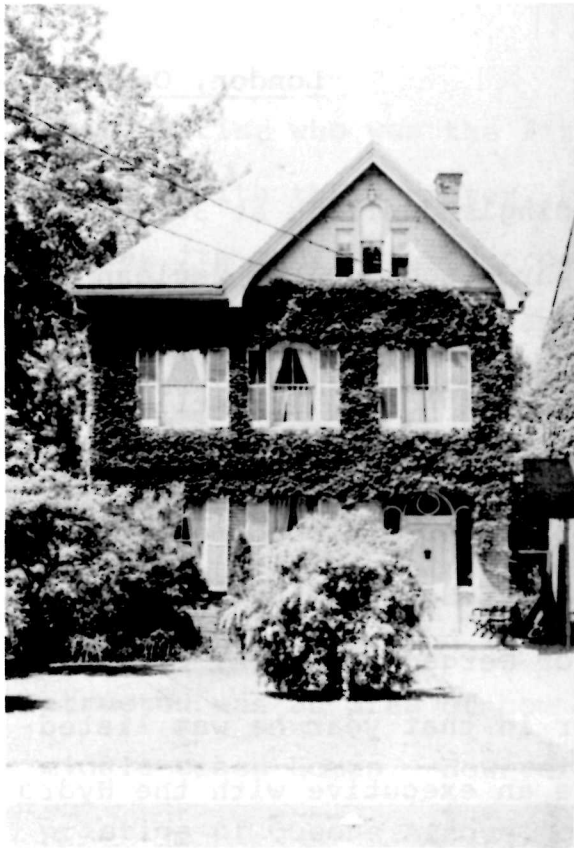
from 1859 to 1879, who designed numerous buildings in London, including many homes for the wealthy elite. In his office he trained some of the architects of the next generation--Tracy, Durand, Fairbairn, and Moore.<sup>10</sup>

Although the rectory has been altered several times since its completion in 1871, the alterations have been in harmony with the original design. Between 1888 and 1912 the courtyard was filled in by a three storey addition. Another three-storey addition, in matching architecture, but with a flat roof, was built on the rear. Between 1905 and 1912 a one-storey verandah was attached to the front, and continued along the west side and half of the back. A covered walkway formerly connected the palace to the cathedral.

In recent years, the diocese's pride in the rectory has been apparent by their efforts to preserve and to restore the building. In approximately 1948-49 Monsignor J. Feeney had the interior restored and elegantly redecorated. The verandah was removed and replaced by a curved double stairway and a two storey porch placed in the centre of the front façade.<sup>11</sup> In splendid condition, St. Peter's rectory ranks among London's most interesting buildings.

Endnotes:

- 1 Free Press (London, Ontario), 14 April 1870.
- 2 John K.A. O'Farrell, "St. Peter's Rectory," London Public Library and Art Museum, Occasional Paper No. XVIII, p. 49.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid., pp. 49-50.
- 6 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Reflections on London's Past (London, Ontario: The Corporation of the City of London, 1975), p. 31.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Terence W. Honey (ed.), London Heritage (London, Ontario: London Free Press Printing Company, 1972), plate 20.
- 9 Free Press, 14 April 1870.
- 10 London and Its Men of Affairs (London, Ontario: Advertiser Job Printing Company, n.d.), p. 114.
- 11 John K.A. O'Farrell, op. cit., p. 50.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108002300368

City: London, Ontario

Address: 368 Dufferin Avenue

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: Circa 1871

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Samuel H. Craig, wood dealer and builder

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: William R. MacGregor, vice-president, McKay-Crocker Construction

Notable type of occupants: Middle class, upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Gable roof	ca. 1910		

Comments: 368 Dufferin Avenue is architecturally typical of the many Victorian, middle class, townhouses built in 19th century London.

368 Dufferin StreetLondon, Ontario

The half acre lot on which the single dwelling at 368 Dufferin Avenue is located was purchased by Alex Maclean in 1849 for L7 10. The house itself and its near-identical neighbour at 370 Dufferin Avenue were not built until approximately 1871. The first owner/occupant of 368 Dufferin was Samuel H. Craig, a builder and wood dealer, and apparently a descendant of Maclean. However, by 1880, Craig's business either folded or merged with F.A. Fitzgerald & Co., lumber and furniture, for in that year he was listed as its manager. He later became an executive with the Hydro Electric Power Co. of London, Ontario.<sup>1</sup>

Craig's widow, Mary A. Craig, lived in the house until her death in 1927 and was followed by her daughter, Evva Craig, who lived alone in the house until 1942. Afterwards, from 1943 to 1953 the house was subjected to a dizzying parade of new occupants, all of whom resided for no more than two years (see Appendix A for a full list). Prominent among them were Ronald Harris (1949) and his brother, Robin Harris (1952-53), who both taught at the University of Western Ontario. They were born in "Eldon House" (0610800 26481) which was built in 1834 for their great-grandfather,

John Harris, who was the first Treasurer of the London District. With their sister, Ronald and Robin Harris gave the house, its contents and property to the city of London to be maintained in perpetuity as a museum and park.<sup>2</sup>

The present occupant of 368 Dufferin Avenue is William R. MacGregor, who is the vice-president of McKay-Crocker Construction Limited, one of London's biggest construction companies.

The neighbourhood in which 368 Dufferin Avenue was constructed was an area of commodious upper-middle-class and middle-class homes. However, the street did not possess the prestige of Queens Avenue, one block to the south, along which some of the city's biggest mansions were built. Today, much of Dufferin Avenue's reputation remains intact. Many of the houses are still single-family dwellings, although one large red brick mansion across the street has been converted to prestige office space.

Architecturally, 368 Dufferin is a comfortable, two-and-one-half-storey, local white brick, Victorian townhouse. A very balanced effect is produced by the three windows of the second storey and two windows and door of the first storey. The doorway, with its sidelights and triple-arched transom panel, is the most appealing feature of the design. In the centre arch over the door is a bull's-eye window. Where the glass in the transom is coloured and patterned, the coloured glass of the sidelights has been replaced by clear glass.<sup>3</sup>



The original, parapet gable roof was altered early in the century. It was replaced by an entirely different, ill-conceived, steep-pitched, offset gable roof. A then fashionable Palladian window was placed in the gable. Fortunately, the interior has been preserved in its original condition. The architect and constructor(s) of the original design and of the alterations are unknown.

Locally, 368 Dufferin Avenue and its neighbour at 370 Dufferin Avenue are called "the sister houses", since they were near mirror images when they were built. Their excellent state of preservation ensures that they will remain as symbols of middle-class life in Victorian London, Ontario, for many years to come.

Appendix A. List of occupants for 368 Dufferin Avenue from 1943 to 1953.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1943	Alex Craig	unlisted
1944	Vacant	
1945	A.N. Beattie	soldier
1946	Vacant	
1947-48	Alexander Anderson	district engineer, Department of Public Works
1949	Ronald Harris	teaches, U.W.O.
1950-51	John Wainwright	teaches, U.W.O.
1952-53	Robin Harris	professor, U.W.O.

Endnotes:

- 1 The above information was taken from the city directories of the period.
- 2 Frederick H. Amrstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Reflections on London's Past (London, Ontario: The Corporation of the City of London, 1975), p. 19.
- 3 Terence W. Honey (ed.), London Heritage (London, Ontario: London Free Press Printing Company, 1972), plate 6.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108002600435

City: London, Ontario

Address: 435 Ridout St. N.

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1835

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Bank of Upper Canada

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: James Hamilton, bank manager;  
Canon Alfred G. Dann, Assistant Rector of St. Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral  
Ronald Harris, engineer; Cora H. Rice, operator of private hospital

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class, middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Administrative, Provincial, Financial, bank  
Present: Administrative, Professional, Financial, bank  
Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: Originally built for the Bank of Upper Canada, it was the first such institution in London, now a financial centre.

435 Ridout Street North

London, Ontario

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at 435 Ridout Street North is the most southerly of three buildings recently restored to their original exterior appearance by John Labatt Limited. The site, on Lot 2 on the west side of Ridout Street, was purchased on 11 June 1835 from John Ewart of Toronto by the Bank of Upper Canada.<sup>1</sup> Ewart was the contractor for the Middlesex County Court House (06108002600399) built between 1827 and 1829. He owned land to the north of this building and he sold it in the 1830s to various people and institutions, including the Bank of Upper Canada.<sup>2</sup> The Bank erected its building on the property in the same year as the purchase.<sup>3</sup> It has been chartered in 1819 and was the first bank to be established in London. Unfortunately, the Bank of Upper Canada suspended operations in 1866, because of heavy losses in other branches.<sup>4</sup> The affairs of the defunct bank were taken over by the Gore Bank, which had established a branch in London at 447 Ridout Street North, next door, in 1840. This Bank amalgamated with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1869, thus providing a direct historic link between the building's original use and its present use.

Its first and only manager, James Hamilton, bought the building and converted it in its entirety to his residence; he had occupied previously only the second storey. Hamilton was a native of London, England, where he was born in 1810. He came to Upper Canada in 1820 and stayed in Toronto until 1834 when he moved to London to manage the local branch of the Bank of Upper Canada. Active in Anglican church affairs while in London, he was a church warden at St. Paul's Cathedral (0610800040072) and a representative to the Synod. For long years, he was secretary-treasurer of the Proof Line Road Company. A man of scholarly and artistic tastes, he was a noted painter of local scenes and in his day was considered the equal of Paul Kane. He died at 435 Ridout Street North in 1896.<sup>5</sup>

After Hamilton passed on, the house remained in the possession of Miss Mary Ellen Hamilton, probably a daughter, until 1901. She was followed briefly by the Reverend Canon Alfred G. Dann, the assistant rector and then rector of St. Paul's Cathedral from 1903 to 1910, when he moved to the rectory on Queens Avenue.

After Dann, for the next ten years, a dizzying procession of people occupied the house (a list of the occupants between 1904 and 1913 is found in Appendix A). From 1914 to 1916 Ronald Harris resided in the dwelling. Harris who was born in "Eldon House" (06108002600481), was an engineer and hunter.

From 1917 to 1924 the building was converted to the Glenwood Private Hospital. Mrs. Cora H. Rice, the widow of Freeman Rice, was the superintendent of the institution.<sup>6</sup>

For part of the next forty years (1925 to 1968), the building reverted to a single dwelling. The occupant was C.R. Smith, president of C.R. Smith Stationery Co., wholesalers and manufacturers. In the 1950s, however, he turned the residence into a rooming house and managed the operation himself. He was succeeded in this capacity by Edwin D. Bullen in 1967-68.<sup>7</sup>

In the late 1960s, 435 Ridout Street North along with 443-447 Ridout and 451 Ridout were restored by John Labatt Limited and used in part by the brewery for their corporate offices.<sup>8</sup> Fittingly, 435 Ridout in its restoration was returned to its original use as a bank. When it opened for business again as a financial institution in 1971, it housed the fifteenth branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the London area.

The neighbourhood in which the Bank of Upper Canada was first constructed was an ideal location for a bank. Ridout Street North was in the 1830s the main business highway of the village. The bank was only a block from the Middlesex County Court House, which was the focal point of the community. 435 Ridout Street was one of several buildings called "Bankers Row" in which five banks were established in the complex alone. Several of their managers lived in the

upper storeys, including Hamilton.<sup>9</sup> This situation was typical of early urban morphology in that there was no delineation between business and residential areas. In later decades, when "Bankers Row" was converted to residential use, the three buildings, along with "Eldon House", became the base of a wealthy residential area that continued northwards, following the North Branch of the Thames River. The focal point of the community had gravitated eastwards along Dundas Street, and Ridout, to the north of Dundas, became a quiet, residential street. Since 1945, with the tremendous growth of the central business district, many residences in the area have been demolished for new development.

Architecturally, 435 Ridout Street North is a balanced Georgian structure.<sup>10</sup> The building is distinguished by virtue of its simplicity and direct porch columns and entablature.<sup>11</sup> It is two-and-one-half storeys in height and is constructed of local white brick.

During restoration, the exterior was discovered to be structurally sound. In contrast, the interior was in poor condition. "It had to be gutted, and working from samples of the original mouldings and wallpaper, was rebuilt and refinished. Fitted with a flooring of pegged oak planks, and wallpapered in tones of parchment and umber, it recaptures the original decor."<sup>12</sup>

The restoration of the former Bank of Upper Canada and



its two neighbouring buildings by John Labatt Limited was hailed as a major advance for historical preservation in London. Along with "Eldon House",<sup>13</sup> the Labatt, or Ridout, Restoration forms a relatively accurate picture of London during its pioneer period.

## Appendix A. Occupants of 435 Ridout Street North from 1904 to 1913.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupations</u>
1904	Basil Farrell	unlisted
1905-07	Andrew M. Postlethwaite	machinist
1907	Joseph Simpson	unlisted
1908	Thomas Oliver	insurance agent
1909-12	Mrs. S.F. McKay	widow of Adam B. McKay
1913	William W. Symons	accountant, Bank of Montreal

Endnotes:

- 1 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 12.
- 2 Clarence T. Campbell, "The Beginning of London," Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records, Vol. IX (1910), p. 73.
- 3 435 Ridout Street, London, Ontario (London, Ontario: n.p., n.d.).
- 4 B.S. Scott, op. cit., p. 39.
- 5 Anne M. Sexton, The Ridout Street Complex (London, Ontario: n.p., 1966), pp. 12-14.
- 6 This information was taken from the city directories of the period, 1917 to 1924.
- 7 Ibid., 1925 to 1968.
- 8 Ridout Restoration (London, Ontario: John Labatt Limited, n.d.).
- 9 Anne M. Sexton, op. cit., p. 2.
- 10 Terence W. Honey (ed.), London Heritage (London, Ontario: London Free Press Printing Co., 1972), plate 1.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 435 Ridout Street, op. cit.
- 13 Terence W. Honey, op. cit., plate 1.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: December 1976

Geocode: 06108002600481

City: London, Ontario

Address: 481 Ridout St. N.

Building Name: Eldon House  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1843

Architect:

Builder: Edward Matthews

Craftsmen (List Type) Carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: John Harris, Treasurer of London

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: George B. Harris, <sup>District</sup> barrister  
and real estate agent

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified: John Harris, Treasurer of London  
District.

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Wood

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Expansion	1877	Samuel Peters, Jr.	

Comments: "Eldon House" is the oldest and best known house in London. It was erected in 1834 for John Harris, a retired naval officer, who was the first Treasurer of the London District.

481 Ridout Street North

London, Ontario

"Eldon House" is the oldest and best known house in London. It was erected in 1834 for John Harris, a retired naval officer, who was the treasurer of the London District from 1821 until his death in 1850. The house was named in the honour of the Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor of England, 1801-34.<sup>1</sup>

The property consisted of 11 acres. It was originally the farm of John Kent, who came to Canada in 1823 from England. His farm extended on both sides of the Thames River and he located his home on the west side on what is now West London. In May 1830, an American, George Jervis Goodhue, purchased a segment of the Kent farm to the north of Queens Avenue as far as Maple Street.<sup>2</sup> Harris bought his land from him.

The Harris property, which flanked the North Branch of the Thames River and overlooked the Forks, was immediately north of the 1826 Burwell survey. It stretched along the west side of Ridout Street and extended west, down a steep cliff and along the flood plain to the river. The house itself rested well above the flood plain, near the escarpment's edge. Surrounding the house was a carefully manicured

lawn with trees, shrubs, and flowers. The cliff was terraced in the form of an English garden. The flood plain land was left largely wild, although now, as Harris Park, the land has been cleared and grassed. Before 1912, running along the base of the cliff and emptying into the Thames was a tail race which emanated from the Blackfriar's Mill (demolished in 1912), north of the Harris property.<sup>3</sup>

The Harrises are among London's most significant London families. Their lives and activities tell much about London life in the 19th century, as they were at the centre of it. Prior to 1834 the Harris family had continued to reside at the former London District administrative capital in Vittoria, Norfolk County.

John Harris was born at Dartington, Devon, England, in 1782 and entered the British Navy in 1803. He retired twelve years later.<sup>4</sup> While he had been in the navy he had been a member of a survey team which had charted portions of the Great Lakes. Loyal to the Crown he was naturally a violent opponent of William Lyon Mackenzie, participating in the cutting-out of the Caroline on the Niagara River during the 1837-38 Upper Canada Rebellion.<sup>5</sup>

Harris' wife, Amelia, was born at Woodhouse in the county of Norfolk, Upper Canada, in 1798. She was the daughter of Colonel Samuel Ryerse, the United Empire Loyalist who founded Port Ryerse, and cousin of the Reverend Egerton Ryerson.<sup>6</sup> The Harrises were married in 1816 and had a

family of eight daughters and four sons, two of whom died in infancy.<sup>7</sup>

On arriving in London in 1834 John Harris held several offices and operated out of "Eldon House". He was associate judge of the assize, district treasurer, clerk of the Crown and Pleas, and issuer of special marriage licences. After the 1837 Rebellion he was made a commissioner for the Rebellion losses.<sup>8</sup>

John Harris died in 1850, and Amelia Harris lived on in the house until 1882. On the death of John, the property passed to the eldest son, Edward Harris. He left London in 1889, however, and the house was taken on by his younger brother, George, a solicitor, who was the father of Miss Amelia and Ronald who jointly inherited the property in 1923. Ronald, who married Lucy, daughter of Sir George Gibbons, was an engineer and hunter; he collected most of the trophies and artifacts found in the house. After Amelia's death in 1959, the house passed to his children, George, Lucy, and Robin. Successive generations of HARRISES thus lived in "Eldon House" from the date of its construction until 1959. On 1 May 1960, the house, its contents, and grounds, were donated to the city of London by the family "to be preserved as a living memorial to the members of the Harris family who once resided there and to the times in which they lived."<sup>9</sup>

One of the interesting occupants was Charlotte Harris,

one of the daughters of John and Amelia. She wrote a very informative diary between 1848 and 1851 whose value rests in the picture it portrays of London social life at the end of the 1840s. The diary makes it apparent that "Eldon House" was the centre of the social and cultural elite of London, especially after the military garrison was established in London in 1838. Through the pages of her diary and the doors of "Eldon House" passed many officers and numerous prominent figures in the history of London, Ontario, and the British Empire.<sup>10</sup> "Among these people were Colonel Thomas Talbot and his nephew, Field Marshall Lord Airey, who wrote out the order for the charge of the Light Brigade, during the Crimean War, 1853-56."

Although outside the 1826 northern boundary of the village, today's Queens Avenue, the "Eldon House" property was included in the huge 1840 annexation of London Township land which stretched north to Huron Street. Following early urban morphological trends, until the 1860s "Eldon House" was not segregated in a residential district, but rather was integrated with other land uses. Across the street, until destroyed by fire in 1865, was the Leonard foundry.<sup>12</sup> Immediately to the south were the Georgian style business blocks now named the Labatt, or Ridout, Restoration, which at the time was called "Bankers Row". The court house, the market, and the main business section were only one block to the south. Ridout Street North, along which "Eldon House" was



located, was for London's first few decades, the main business highway to the north. Visitors and travellers, who entered the village from the north, crossed the Blackfriar's Bridge, went up Ridout Street and inevitably passed "Eldon House".<sup>13</sup>

"Eldon House" was to become the kernel from which a wealthy residential district was to spread northwards. Beginning in the 1850s and 1860s numerous large residences were built northwards on Ridout Street North and were occupied by many of London's business and political leaders. Since the 1920s the neighbourhood has suffered from the encroachment of the central business district.

"Eldon House" is designed in the Regency style. This wood-frame, white-painted weatherboard, domestic single dwelling is two-and-one-half storeys in height and possesses a low pitched hipped roof. Since 1834 the house has undergone many modifications. In 1877 the London architectural firm of Samuel Peters & Son drew up plans for a northern addition to the building. This included a large drawing room, bedrooms in the upper storey, and kitchens. Subsequent additions have been an enlarged attic, the verandah, bay windows, the greenhouse and the coach house.<sup>14</sup> The high board fence, which once separated the property from Ridout Street North, has largely been replaced by a cast iron fence.

A description of the interior would be too voluminous for a report of this length. However, the room of particular

note are the library, which was formerly the drawing room, the dining room, and the red bedroom and dressing room on the second floor.

In concluding it may be noted that, because of recent road construction along the cliff behind the house, structural weaknesses in the building have appeared.

Endnotes:

- 1 L.N. Bronson, "Older Eldon House has vanished," Free Press (London, Ontario), 9 January 1971.
- 2 Clarence T. Campbell, "Settlement of London," London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions, Part 9 (1911), p. 49.
- 3 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.
- 4 University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection, Key to the Diary of Charlotte Harris, 1848-1851, by Edward W. Harris, pp. 2-3 (hereafter cited as Diary of Charlotte Harris).
- 5 L.N. Bronson, op. cit.
- 6 Diary of Charlotte Harris, p. 2.
- 7 Eldon House, (London: n.p., n.d.).
- 8 Diary of Charlotte Harris, p. 4.
- 9 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, Reflections on London's Past (London: Corporation of the City of London, 1975), p. 19.
- 10 Fred Landon (ed.), London in the Gay Forties; Diary of Charlotte Harris of Eldon House (London, 1929).
- 11 L.N. Bronson, "Looking over Western Ontario," 18 August 1976.
- 12 Elijah Leonard, A Memoir (London, Ont., 1894), pp. 13-14.
- 13 Anne M. Sexton, The Ridout Street Complex (London, Ontario: n.p. 1966), p. 2.
- 14 F.H. Armstrong and Daniel J. Brock, op. cit., p. 19.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1976

Geocode: 06108002800471

City: London, Ontario

Address: 471 Waterloo Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction:

Architect: John M. Moore

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: Robert D. McDonald, cigar manufacturer

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Alex C. Spencer, mechanical engineer; Shriners; Siskind, Taggart and Cromarty, legal office

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Residential, single dwelling

Present: Administrative, Professional, Financial, other

Major building material: Red brick (from Hamilton and Milton, Ontario)

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 471 Waterloo Street is a symbol of the wealth generated by the cigar manufacturing industry in London, which was for a generation the city's greatest industry. It is also one of the community's most impressive Late Victorian mansions.

471 Waterloo StreetLondon, Ontario

The large, impressive mansion at 471 Waterloo Street was built in 1910 for Robert D. McDonald of Line, McDonald & Co., cigar manufacturers. Before 1910 the property was the site of another mansion, built in 1881, for James Priddis, a retail dry goods merchant (Priddis Bros.). McDonald purchased the property and had the large, two-and-one-half-storey house demolished.

From the 1880s until World War I, the business of making cigars was the greatest industry in London. London was the second city in Canada in cigar production and was not very far behind Montreal. Among the many cigar establishments in London, McDonald's firm was near the top.<sup>1</sup> Many people became prosperous in the business and McDonald's house is evidence of the money that was made. As the year 1910 was the most successful year for the industry, McDonald was justified in building one of the most expensive residences in the city.

McDonald acquired his experience in cigar manufacturing as a salesman, beginning with Hugh McKay & Co., one of the original cigar makers in London. With Harry Line, who also gained experience with Hugh McKay & Co., Robert D. McDonald

established in 1890 Line, McDonald & Co., cigar manufacturers. Their factory was on Clarence Street and they employed one hundred hands. Their cigars were sold locally and throughout Ontario and Western Canada, with a warehouse in Winnipeg.<sup>2</sup>

The industry went into decline, however, during the war years, because of high taxes on tobacco, temperance legislation (cigars were sold in great numbers in bar-rooms), and the rising popularity of cigarette smoking. As a consequence, there was a drastic reduction in cigar production in London during the 1914-18 period, which continued throughout the 1920s.<sup>3</sup> By 1918, when McDonald had withdrawn from the business, his personal fortunes had also begun to decline. In 1918-19, 1926-28 and in 1931 his occupation, if he had one, was unlisted. During 1920 he was the secretary of the National War Savings Committee; from 1923 to 1925 he was a dispatcher for the C P R; and in 1930 he was a clerk with the London Life Insurance Company. Undoubtedly because the upkeep of 471 Waterloo Street was too expensive, he moved to 130 Kent Street, a house of more modest proportions.<sup>4</sup>

Following McDonald, the next occupant was Major Alex C. Spencer, a mechanical engineer; he lived at 471 Waterloo Street only from 1932 to 1934. In 1935 the house was vacant. Harry Stokes, an employee of the London Life Insurance Company, lived briefly in the residence in and around 1936. In 1937 the building was purchased by the Shriners as a club

and was named "The Mocha Mosque." After eighteen years occupancy, the Shriners vacated their old headquarters for a new club in the old Smallman mansion at 468 Colborne Street.<sup>5</sup>

From 1956 to 1965, 471 Waterloo Street served a variety of uses, befitting its size. Collectively and individually, it was occupied by the Telephone Answering Service, the North American Automobile Association, the Dominion Auto Association, the Canadian Carbon & Ribbon Company, and the Toronto Star Limited.<sup>6</sup> In 1965 the legal firm of Siskind, Taggart and Cromarty purchased the mansion. With great care and obvious pride, they have converted the rooms to offices for the members of the firm, and for secretaries and receptionists.<sup>7</sup>

Architecturally, the feature that dominates the two-and-one-half-storey, red brick, house is a massive monumental portico, supported with paired Corinthian columns. (In London, red brick was never made locally as was white brick; it was all brought in by rail from Hamilton and Milton, Ontario.) Without a doubt, 471 Waterloo is one of the most impressive Late Victorian dwellings in London. The architect was John M. Moore<sup>8</sup> of the architectural firm of Moore & Munro, Architects and Civil Engineers. The contractor is unknown.

In 1910 the neighbourhood in which 471 Waterloo Street was built was the most prestigious high-income area in

London. Since 1945, despite the invasion of downtown functions into the district, most of the houses, amazingly, are extant, although many have been converted to non-residential uses. Thus, in 471 Waterloo Street, it is still possible to witness the wealth generated by the cigar making industry in London, Ontario.



Endnotes:

- 1 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), pp. 92-93.
- 2 Ibid., pp. 94-95, 102.
- 3 Ibid., p. 96.
- 4 From the city directories of the period, 1918 to 1931.
- 5 Ibid., 1932 to 1955.
- 6 Ibid., 1956 to 1964.
- 7 Harold S. Taggart.
- 8 University of Western Ontario, Regional Collection, Architectural Drawings in the J.M. Moore Papers.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 06108002800496

City: London, Ontario

Address: 496 Waterloo Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1893

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: Albion Parfitt, real estate promoter  
and later a stock broker

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Drs. John A. MacGregor,  
L. Dewitt Wilcox, Evans G. Davis, and William Quinn, physicians

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Doctor's office	1920s		

Comments: 496 Waterloo is one of the finest of the many sizeable residential single dwellings built in what was considered London's premiere high-income residential district.

496 Waterloo StreetLondon, Ontario

Among the most interesting, architecturally important houses in London, Ontario, is 496 Waterloo Street, located at the northeast corner of Waterloo Street and Dufferin Avenue. It was built in 1893 as a single dwelling for Albion Parfitt, a real estate agent who later became a stock broker. Since Parfitt's departure in 1920, it has been occupied by a series of physicians--Dr. John A. MacGregor (1920-40), his widow, Matilda MacGregor (1941-43), Dr. L. Dewitt Wilcox (1941-43) who occupied only the doctor's office, Evans G. Davis (1944-51), and the residence's present occupant, William R. Quinn, who has both lived and practiced medicine in the house since 1953. Thus, it is among the relatively few larger houses in the neighbourhood which has remained a single dwelling.

496 Waterloo Street was built in London's most prestigious high-income neighbourhood. The area was given its original impetus in the 1870s when several large mansions were built along Queens Avenue, one block to the south. However, the lot on which the house was constructed, like the entire east side of Waterloo between Dufferin and Princess, remained undeveloped until the 1890s. Its

neighbouring houses along Waterloo were either built in that decade or in the next.<sup>1</sup>

Architecturally, the house possesses many Queen Anne and Romanesque design features. It is a large, two-and-one-half-storey, red brick dwelling with an irregular high-pitched gable roof. At its northwest corner is an octagonal, three-storey turret. A sizeable classical verandah graces the front and east side of the house. A one-storey, matching red brick doctor's office was added in the early 1920s by Dr. MacGregor.<sup>2</sup> The architect and contractor of the original house and the addition are unknown, as the architectural specifications and drawings are lost.

Endnotes:

- 1 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.
- 2 Canada. Department of the Interior, Geodetic Survey Map of 1926 of the City of London, Ontario.



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: April 1977

Geocode: 06108003000156

City: London, Ontario

Address: 156 Wellington Street

Building Name: Wellington Street  
(if important) United Church

Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1876

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Methodist Church

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Religious, church

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Church hall	1914		

Comments: Wellington Street United (Methodist) Church was the result of the fusion of the New Connexion and Wesleyan Methodists in the city of London.

156 Wellington StreetLondon, Ontario

The Wellington Street United Church, formerly the Wellington Street Methodist Church, originated with the amalgamation of the New Connexion Methodists with the Wesleyan Methodists. The New Connexion Methodists in London had formerly worshipped at the New Connexion Church (06108004700392) on Clarence Street. This church had been built at least by 1850. In 1875, because of the amalgamation, the Clarence Street church became too small to accommodate the increased size of the congregation. This building was sold in 1875, and the net proceeds of the sale were devoted to the funds for the erection of the new structure. A lot was selected on the southeast corner of Wellington and Grey Streets, a location that was only three blocks from the South Branch of the Thames River, which then formed the city's southern boundary.<sup>1</sup>

The foundation of the church was laid in the spring of 1876 and finished later in the same year. The total cost of the building and the parsonage, immediately to the east, was \$15,000.00.<sup>2</sup>

The congregation, before church union in 1925, experienced the usual rapid succession of pastors. The

first was the Reverend John Kay who stayed only for the first year. Among his successors were the Reverend Dr. Sanderson (1877-79), the Reverend David Savage (1880-82), and the Reverend J.V. Smith (1883-86).<sup>3</sup> The present minister is the Reverend Eldridge A. Currey.

Architecturally, the church possesses many Gothic style features. Constructed of local white brick, the exterior facade is dominated by a large, stained-glass rose window, flanked by two elongated, Gothic-shaped windows. Five similar Gothic windows are set on either side of the church and are flanked by buttresses. All of the windows are topped by cut-stone, label surrounds. The main entrance is contained in a projecting front piece, beneath the rose window. The roof is of patterned slate. The architect and contractor(s) are unfortunately unknown.

In 1876 it was said that "the interior of the church was arranged more with a view of affording comfort and accommodation rather than the production of any architectural effect." Pews with a seating capacity of 900<sup>4</sup> were located on the spacious main floor and were also placed in the galleries, which surrounded three sides of the interior. The large pipe organ is set from the wall, above the altar. An intricate hammer beam ceiling supports the roof.

In 1887 the church was renovated; the interior was elaborately frescoed and painted and more furnishings were added.<sup>5</sup> Today, there is no evidence of this work, typical



of Victorian churches, as it disappeared with future redeco-  
rations. In 1888 a lot at the rear east end of the church  
was purchased in anticipation of future expansion.<sup>6</sup>

When the church first opened, the basement was utilized  
as a lecture hall and Sunday School room. This soon proved  
to be inadequate; consequently in 1914 a church hall was  
constructed at the back of the church on the lot purchased  
in 1888. It is a two storey, local white brick structure  
that makes an ill-matched attempt to emulate the Gothic  
features of the much older church. The windows are flat,  
not Gothic, in shape and are flanked by buttresses. The  
flat roof is trimmed by a crenellated parapet.

The early congregation of the church was taken from two  
drastically contrasting socio-economic neighbourhoods. The  
one was located to the south across the Thames River in the  
wealthy London suburb of New Brighton (South London), which,  
although never incorporated, was annexed by the city of  
London in 1890. The other was located in the immediate area  
of the church, which largely consisted of working-class  
housing; the workers were employed in the factories which  
lined the C N tracks to the north and the industries along  
the south side of the Thames River. Some of the prominent  
early members of the congregation were John McClary, a stove  
manufacturer, and Thomas McCormick, the biscuit manufac-  
turer.<sup>7</sup>

Today, the South London mansions have mostly disappeared

and the elite has moved further south to the hills overlooking the city below. The immediate neighbourhood has degenerated. Wellington Street, even in 1876 a major route from the south into the city, is today a much busier thoroughfare, as it is the main route to the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway (Highway 401). In consequence, commercial development has been attracted to both sides of Wellington in the vicinity of the church, and many of the houses have been demolished. However, as the Wellington Street United Church remains a healthy congregation, its future seems assured.

Endnotes:

- 1 Advertiser (London, Ontario), Quarter Century Edition, 1863-1888, 29 October 1888.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 W.A. Goodspeed and C.L. Goodspeed, History of the County of Middlesex, Canada (Toronto and London, Ontario: W.A. & C.L. Goodspeed, 1889), p. 305.



Historian: John H. Lutman  
Date: February 1977  
Geocode: 06108003000568  
City: London, Ontario  
Address: 568 Wellington Street  
Building Name:  
(if important)  
Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1907

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: Christopher A. Whitman, hardware

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Robert Coates, <sup>merchant</sup> wholesale  
boot and shoe merchant; Dr. Peter G. Gettas, dentist

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle class and middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified: Robert A. Coates, accountant, later  
a financier

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: With its two neighbours, 570 and 572 Wellington Street, 568 Wellington is the last of an entire row of mansions that once faced Victoria Park.

568 Wellington StreetLondon, Ontario

The single dwelling at 568 Wellington Street is among the few houses in the Victoria Park neighbourhood that has retained its original function. The city directory for 1907-08 lists 568 Wellington Street as "Unfinished".<sup>1</sup> However, it remained vacant until 1910 when its first owner/occupant was Christopher A. Witwar who was the vice president and secretary of Hobbs Hardware Company, Limited, wholesale hardware merchants. With the store located at 335-341 Richmond Street, Hobbs, established in 1876, was the first wholesale hardware business in London, Ontario.<sup>2</sup>

Witwar remained at 568 Wellington Street until 1920. He was followed by Robert Coates of Coates and Wanless, wholesale boots and shoes (later Coates, Burns and Wanless). He retired in 1924. His son, Robert A. Coates, who had been listed at 568 Wellington Street as an accountant with Coates, Burns and Wanless, in 1924 created Coates Bros., bond brokers. This firm represented McLeod, Yount & Weir & Co. of Toronto. Robert A. Coates moved elsewhere in London in 1939 and his father, Robert Coates, continued to live at the Wellington Street address until his probably death in 1951. Gertrude K. Coates, possibly a daughter of Robert

Coates, occupied the house until 1953.

In 1954 the residence was vacant. In the following year, its present occupant, Dr. Peter G. Gettas, a dentist, settled in the house. He has located his office elsewhere.<sup>3</sup>

The property on which the house is located was important to London's history. It has been formerly part of the military garrison, which was established in London in 1838 and occupied an area of land, bounded by Clarence Street and then Richmond Street on the west, Waterloo Street on the east, Piccadilly Street, approximately, on the north and Dufferin Avenue on the south. In exchange for these ordnance lands adjacent to central London, the city in 1869 granted to the military a site on Carling's Heights to the east of Adelaide Street along Oxford Street, the present Wolseley Barracks.<sup>4</sup>

The departure of the soldiers was gradual. In 1873 the old military barracks burned down and land on which it and the parade grounds were located was presented to the city by the governor-general from 568 Wellington Street.<sup>5</sup> The block on which the house was built, until the 1890s, was still the Artillery Grounds and before that the site of log soldiers' barracks.<sup>6</sup> In the 1890s, then, the property was divided into two city blocks and thence into building lots.

It is frequently the case that the wealthy attempt to locate their homes in the vicinity of parks. Victoria park

attracted to its surrounding streets, Wellington, Dufferin, Clarence, and Central, the high-grade residences of many of London's prominent citizens. Some of the neighbours of Christopher A. Whitwar, the first occupant of 568 Wellington Street, were Senator Sir John Carling, president of the Brewery and the former Conservative MP for London, Charles H. Ivey, a barrister, and Frank A. McCormick, a biscuit maker (see 0610800100284).

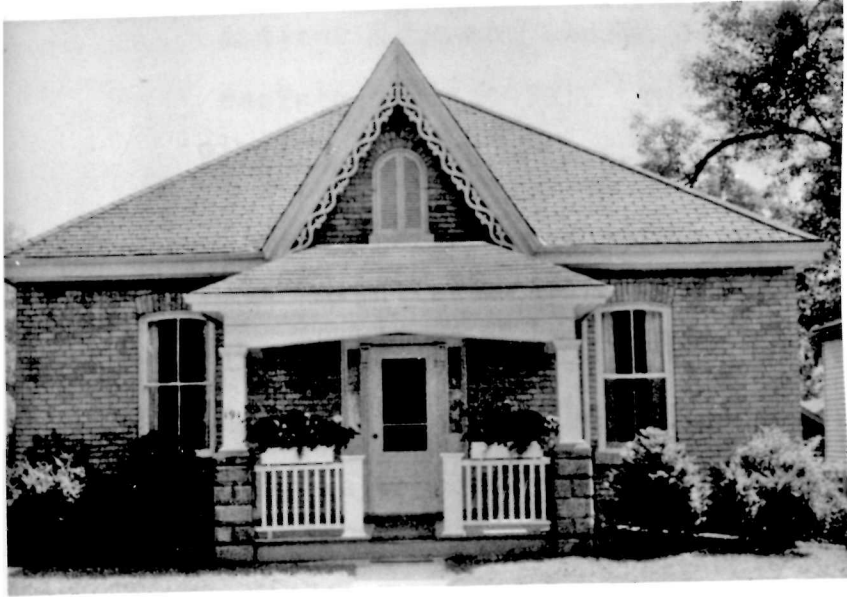
Architecturally, 568 Wellington Street is a two-and-one-half-storey, local white brick, Late Victorian, single residential dwelling with several Tudor style touches. The second storey of the front facade and its offset gable are faced with the typical Tudor pattern of wood and white-painted stucco. The first-storey facade, partially obscured by a heavy verandah, is surfaced with stucco to emulate stone blocks. The architect and contractor(s) are unknown, as the architectural specifications and drawings have been lost. Despite its seventy years, the house is in exceedingly sound condition.

Since 1945 most of the houses that faced Victoria Park either have been demolished, or have been converted to apartments or to prestige office space; 568 Wellington along with its two neighbours to the north, 570 and 572 Wellington, as a group are the last of an entire row of large mansions that made for the stateliness of Wellington Street and the entire neighbourhood.

Endnotes:

- 1 Foster's London City and Middlesex County Directory, 1907 (Toronto: J.G. Foster & Co., Publishers, 1907), p. 152.
- 2 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 53.
- 3 Most of the above information was taken from the city directories of the period, 1920 to 1974.
- 4 Archie Brenner, City of London, Ont., Canada: The Pioneer Period and the London of Today (London, Ontario: London Printing and Lithographing Company Limited, 1900), pp. 33-34.
- 5 "Controlled Expansion Constant City Problem," Free Press (London), 25 May 1955.
- 6 Violet M. Cunningham, London in the Bush, 1826-1976, (London, Ontario: London Historical Museums, An Agency of the London Public Library Board, 1976), p. 13.





Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108003400191

City: London, Ontario

Address: 191 Sydenham Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

#### Building Information

Date of Construction: 1886

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: William Taylor, clerk, Customs Dept.

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Richard E. Wilson, headmaster, St. George's School

Notable type of occupants: Lower middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature

Date

Architect

Builder

Comments: 191 Sydenham Street is architecturally typical of the many comfortable, local white brick cottages built in London in the 19th century.

191 Sydenham StreetLondon, Ontario

The single dwelling at 191 Sydenham Street was built in 1886 for William Taylor, a clerk with the local Custom's Department branch. Since 1854, London has been the headquarters of a customs district. The vibrant commercial activity of London and the vicinity in the 1850s necessitated its creation.<sup>1</sup> Taylor was employed by the Custom's Department for several years, but occupied 191 Sydenham for only one year.

He was followed by Richard F. Wilson, the headmaster of St. George's Public School on Waterloo Street in London. In 1887, when he briefly resided on Sydenham Street, Wilson presided over the school as principal during the first year in which the London Board of Education reorganized the local school system into grades.<sup>2</sup>

The succeeding occupants, as with Taylor and Wilson before them, were mostly from the lower middle class and middle class, and resided at 191 Sydenham for only short periods (see Appendix A for a complete list of occupants). They included a train dispatcher for Canadian Pacific Railways (Michael Hindy, 1891-92), a traveller for the C.S. Hyman & Co. tannery (Thomas J. Phelan, 1927-29) and an

auditor with the London Glass & Paint Co. (Saloman W. MacIntyre, 1930-39). The house is presently (1974) occupied and owned by Archie McLaren who has lived in the dwelling since 1960.<sup>3</sup>

Architecturally, 191 Sydenham Street is a one-storey, local white brick, single dwelling. Over the door is a Gothic style, centre gable, decorated by a barge-board. The door is capped by a recessed transom panel and flanked by recessed sidelights. The present verandah is possibly from the 1920s; the former verandah stretched completely across the front of the house. A single bay is located on the east side of the house and a wood frame shed is attached to the back.

The neighbourhood in which 191 Sydenham Street is located was largely a lower middle class/middle class area. However, along Richmond Street, a half a block to the east, were situated a line of large mansions in which members of London's elite resided. In dimension 191 Sydenham was typical of the twelve other houses that were built along both sides of the street from St. George to Richmond. Of the thirteen houses in the block, eight were constructed of brick and five of wood.<sup>4</sup> However, unlike other houses in the district, 191 Sydenham Street has remained a single family, detached dwelling.

## Appendix A. Occupants of 191 Sydenham Street from 1886 to 1974.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1886	William Taylor	clerk, Customs Department
1887	Richard E. Wilson	headmaster, St. George's School
1888-90	James S. O'Connell	unlisted
1893-97	Mrs. Eliza Brown	widow, Richard Brown
1898-1901	Arthur E. Danks	clerk, A. Screaton & Co., dry goods merchant
1902-04	John B. Campbell	bookkeeper, J.A. Cole Crockery Co.
1905	William E. Leng	real estate
1906-09	William M. Grey	traveller and freight agent, formerly chief clerk, P.M. Ry
1910-14	Michael P. Brennan	works, C.S. Hyman Co., tannery
1915-17	Edward J. Brennan	works, Murray Shoe Co. Ltd.
1918-19	Horace Gowdridge	salesman, Wm. Davies Co.
1920-26	James Humphreys	works, Greene-Swift Ltd.
1927-29	Thomas J. Phelan	traveller, C.S. Hyman Co., tannery
1930-39	Saloman W. MacIntyre	auditor, London Glass & Paint Co.
1940-41	George M.H. Bowey	operator, Doreen Beauty Parlour
1942	David A. Price	announcer, <u>Free Press</u>
1943-56	Mrs. Rhea Savage	widow, Robert Savage

1957-59	Terence H. Pocock	secretary-treasurer, London Concrete Machinery
1960-74	Archie MacLaren	unlisted

Endnotes:

- 1 Archie Bremner, City of London, Ontario, Canada; The Pioneer Period and the London of Today (London, Ontario: London Printing and Lithographing Company Limited, 1900), p. 134.
- 2 Orlo Miller, 100th Anniversary, St. George's School, Waterloo Street, 1852-1952 (London, Ontario: n.p., 1952), p. 35.
- 3 The above information was taken from the city directories of the period.
- 4 Insurance Plan City of London, February 1912.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108003500177

City: London, Ontario

Address: 177 St. James Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1888

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: John A. Miller, traveller

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: Albert W. Woodward, accountant

Notable type of occupants: Lower middle class, working class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 177 St. James Street is among the handsomest High Victorian houses in London, Ontario, and may possess a design unique to the city.

177 St. James StreetLondon, Ontario

The single dwelling at 177 St. James Street (formerly 179 St. James Street) was built in 1888 for John A. Miller, a traveller for Struthers, Anderson & Co., "wholesale dry goods and gents' furnishings." Miller was one among many travellers who made a good living working for the numerous wholesale houses found in London, Ontario, during this period.

From 1890 to 1899 Albert W. Woodward, an accountant with the Carling Malting & Brewing Company, occupied the house. Carling's was London's largest brewery and employed many people. His widow, Anne Woodward, resided alone in the house until 1928.

After her departure, a frequently changing parade of people occupied the house. They were either of middle class, lower middle class, or working class backgrounds. For example, Andrew Sanderson (1930-33) was a blacksmith with the C N R; Robert Wade (1967-69) was a salesman with Burroughs Business Machines of London; and Basil A. Sims (1970-73) was an administrator with the Family and Childrens' Services. As of 1974 the house was vacant.<sup>1</sup> (See Appendix A for a full list of occupants.)



The neighbourhood in which 177 St. James was located was largely made up of middle- and upper-middle-class residences. St. James Street itself connected two high-income residential districts, the one proceeding along Richmond Street and the other along St. George Street via Talbot and Ridout streets. Diagonally across from 177 St. James was the original campus of Huron College, founded in 1863 and now part of the University of Western Ontario.

Today, the area still retains much of its reputation. Modern development has been kept to a minimum. In the 1920s, a mansion across the street was replaced by a large, solidly constructed apartment building. In the early 1940s, a new house was built on the vacant lot immediately to the east, which necessitated the address change from 179 to 177 St. James Street.

Architecturally, 177 St. James Street is an attractive, High Victorian house. The one-and-a-half-storey dwelling is constructed of local white brick with liberal use of cut stone for the foundation, heads and sills. To the left of the decorated, double leaf door is a double bay, capped by a gable roof which in turn is supported by two large, intricately detailed brackets. Patterned slate covers the gable roof. Information regarding the architect and contractor(s) is not readily available. The house appears to be in very good condition.

Appendix A. Occupants of 177 St. James Street from 1888 to 1974.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1888-89	John A. Miller	traveller, Struthers, Anderson & Co.
1890-99	Albert W. Woodward	accountant, Carling Brewing & Malting Co.
1900-28	Mrs. Annie Woodward	widow, Albert
1929	Vacant	
1930-33	Andrew Sanderson	blacksmith, C N R
1934	Vacant	
1935-39	Fred W. Lupson	bricklayer
1940	Vacant	
1941	Edward Schweitzer	salesman
1942	Vacant	
1943-52	Mrs. Catherine Costello	widow, William
1953-57	Donald J. Newton	House of Newton, house furnishings
1958-64	Paul Bult	unlisted
1965	Jan Radema	technician, U.W.O.
1966	Vacant	
1967-69	Robert Wade	salesman, Burroughs Business Machines
1970-73	Basil A. Sims	administrator, Family & Childrens' Services
1974	Vacant	

Endnotes:

- 1 This information was taken from the city directories of the period.
- 2 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.

## Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 06108003600315

City: London, Ontario

Address: 315 Wolfe Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1908

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers, carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: Walter Simson, executive with a  
manufacturer of caps, hats and fursNotable subsequent owners and reason identified: Allan M. McLean, an insurance  
broker; Dr. Andrew Scott, a dentist; Reginald Morphy, a bank manager

Notable type of occupants: Upper middle and middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Red brick (from Hamilton or Milton area)

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder

Comments: 315 Wolfe Street is part of an amazingly intact Late Victorian streetscape.

315 Wolfe StreetLondon, Ontario

The handsome single dwelling at 315 Wolfe Street was built in 1908 for Walter Simson, an executive with John Marshall & Co., manufacturers of hats, caps, and furs, located at 68-70 1/2 Dundas Street. It was for many years a prominent London business. Later, again in an executive capacity, he joined the Huron & Erie Mortgage Corporation, a pillar of London's financial establishment. He was last an occupant of 315 Wolfe Street in 1924.

The next resident was Allan M. McLean, an insurance broker. His widow, a secretary for the Girl Guides, occupied the house until 1936. Mrs. McLean was followed by Dr. Andrew Scott, a dentist, whose office was at 403 Richmond Street. After Scott the house was occupied by Reginald Morphy, who was the manager of the main branch of the Bank of Montreal in the city hall, then on Dundas Street at Wellington. He died in 1967 and his widow has lived in the house to the present day.<sup>1</sup>

Wolfe Street is a short, narrow street which extends only one block, from Wellington Street to Waterloo Street. Formerly, the property had been part of the military garrison, which was established in London in 1838 and occupied

an area of land, bounded by Clarence Street and then Richmond Street on the west, Waterloo Street on the east, Piccadilly Street, approximately, on the north and Dufferin Avenue on the south. In exchange for these ordnance lands, the city in 1869 granted the military what is now Wolseley Barracks on Oxford Street.<sup>2</sup>

The departure of the soldiers was gradual. The property on which 315 Wolfe Street was built had been the Artillery Grounds and before that the site of log barracks for soldiers.<sup>3</sup> When the soldiers finally left in the late 1880s, Wolfe Street was put through and surveyed into building lots. The construction of houses began in 1888. With the exception of 320 Wolfe Street opposite, which was erected in 1928, 315 Wolfe Street was the last house built on either side of the block. Most of the dwellings were constructed in the 1890s.<sup>4</sup>

Frequently, the wealthy attempt to locate their houses in the vicinity of parks. Victoria Park, facing the west end of Wolfe Street, was laid out in 1874 and attracted to its surrounding and connecting streets many of London's wealthy residents. Wolfe Street thus became the address of upper-middle- and middle-class people.

Architecturally, 315 Wolfe Street is a late Victorian, two-and-one-half-storey, red brick, single dwelling. (In London, red brick was never made locally; it was all brought in by rail from Hamilton and Milton, Ontario.<sup>5</sup>) The

outstanding feature of the design is a large classical verandah, topped with a massive storey-and-a-half gable in which is encased another verandah. The architect and contractor(s) for the house are unknown, as the architectural specifications and drawings are lost. The house is maintained in superlative condition.

Since 1945 only one house has been demolished along either side of the block. As a fortunate consequence, Wolfe Street, with its high boulevard and stately shade trees, forms an amazingly intact picture of a typical late Victorian streetscape, and among the most picturesque of Wolfe Street's several dwellings is 315 Wolfe Street.

Endnotes:

- 1 The information in the above two paragraphs was taken from the city directories of the period, 1908 to 1974.
- 2 Archie Bremner, City of London, Ont., Canada: The Pioneer Period and the London of Today (London, Ontario : London Printing and Lithographing Company Limited, 1900), pp. 33-34.
- 3 Violet M. Cunningham, London in the Bush, 1826-1976, (London, Ontario: London Historical Museums, An Agency of the Public Library Board, 1976), p. 13.
- 4 City directories, 1881 to 1900.
- 5 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 340.





Historian: John H. Lutman  
Date: December 1976  
Geocode: 06108004500235  
City: London, Ontario  
Address: 235 Piccadilly St.  
Building Name: Eastern Star Temple  
(if important)  
Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1872-73

Architect: Gordon Lloyd

Builder: Ebenezer North

Craftsmen (List Type) Stone masons

Name and occupation of original owner: (Anglican) Diocese of Huron

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: F. Daly Tea Company; Dept. of National Defence Headquarters; Eastern Star Temple

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Original: Religious, church hall  
Present: Social and Recreational, club or lodge

Major building material: St. Mary's stone

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
Removal of roof cresting	unknown		
Covering of front entrance by wood frame enclosure	1930s(?)		

Comments: Originally the Anglican diocese of Huron chapter house for Trinity Cathedral which itself was never built. It is a symbol of the truncated ambitions of Bishop Isaac Hellmuth.

235 Piccadilly Street

London, Ontario

What is today the Eastern Star Temple at 235 Piccadilly Street was built in 1872-73 to serve as the chapter house of Trinity Cathedral (Anglican), which itself was never built.

Western Ontario in the 1860s and 1870s grew immensely in population and wealth, and the church kept pace with this growth. The rapidly increasing number of parishoners in the diocese of Huron raised the need for larger diocesan offices and necessitated a place for the cathedral chapter to meet. The bishop's seat, St. Paul's Cathedral, had been too small. Isaac Hellmuth, who had become the second bishop of Huron on the death of Benjamin Cronyn in 1871, planned to establish a new and much larger cathedral of the Holy Trinity in London.<sup>1</sup>

At a special meeting of St. Paul's vestry, Hellmuth first announced his project and declared that the new Cathedral and Chapter House "should be erected to the memory of our late reverend Diocesan, Bishop Cronyn...."<sup>2</sup> The new cathedral and its chapter house raised a storm of protest from the congregation of St. Paul's which did not wish to see the church lose its cathedral status. The Cronyn family forced Hellmuth to drop the "memorial" aspect of Holy

Trinity, as they had decided shortly after the Bishop's death to build a new church in his memory on the southeast corner of William Street and Queens Avenue. Built in 1873 it has ever since been called Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church.<sup>3</sup>

The first step in the construction of Holy Trinity was the erection of the synod hall, or chapter house, planned to be adjacent to the cathedral and connected with it by a cloister. It was built facing Piccadilly Street near the southeast corner of Richmond Street and on the north shore of Lake Horn. This body of water had been formed by the damming of the Carling's Creek, by Colonel Horn, for the use of the military who had formerly occupied the land to the south as far as Dufferin Avenue and from Richmond Street east to Waterloo Street. The cornerstone of the Chapter House was laid on 6 June 1872 and officially dedicated on 2 November 1873.<sup>4</sup>

The architect was Gordon Lloyd of Detroit, Michigan, and the contractor was Ebenezer North of London. The building, as originally constructed, was nearly sixty feet square with a height of fifty feet. It was built of St. Mary's stone quarried at the St. Mary's, Ontario, limestone quarry, which was said, correctly at the time, to be exceedingly durable. The main entrance was in the west front. The principal room was the synod hall, originally 60 feet from east to west and 35 feet in width, with a raised platform

for speakers at the north end. The room contained two galleries and had a total seating capacity of 550 persons. The building was lighted by six large Gothic windows, nearly 30 feet high.<sup>5</sup>

The total cost was \$27,000--astronomical for the day, but in keeping with Hellmuth's grandiose visions. The architect's plans for the cathedral show it a huge cruciform Gothic building dominated by a spire.<sup>6</sup>

The chapter house served immediately to raise property values in the neighbourhood<sup>7</sup> and to encourage construction in an area that had only barely been touched by development. However, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity was never built. Hellmuth resigned as bishop of Huron in 1883 and with him went the moving force behind the cathedral. On his resignation he became coadjutor bishop of Ripon in England, later retiring to a country parish and dying in 1901.<sup>8</sup> A man of great force and vision, he had unsuccessfully attempted to remake his adopted city educationally, culturally and ecclesiastically.<sup>9</sup> The chapter house is thus a truncated memorial to Hellmuth and his ambitions.

The cathedral plans were permanently dashed by what is now the Canadian Pacific Railway whose tracks were laid in 1885, immediately to the south. Lake Horn was drained and Carling's Creek was tilled over. Hellmuth's successor, Bishop Maurice Scollard Baldwin, in 1887 moved the bishop's chair back to St. Paul's, which again became the cathedral

church.<sup>10</sup> The move had come about because of a meeting of the vestry of St. Paul's Church on 8 June 1887 convened to debate a letter received by Canon Innes from Vershoyle Cronyn, son of the first bishop and chancellor of the diocese of Huron, requesting, in the name of Bishop Baldwin, that the seat be returned to St. Paul's. The vote of the vestry was in the affirmative.<sup>11</sup> On the rededication of St. Paul's on 12 November 1884, the diocesan offices were removed from the chapter house to the re-established cathedral which was expanded for the purpose.<sup>12</sup>

The former chapter house remained in the possession of the diocese for another ten years. Since its abandonment in the 1890s the building has experienced a wide variety of uses. It was first purchased by the Thistle Club and used by a Miss Zimmerman as a girl's private school for several years. In this century it has served as the offices and warehouse of the Acetylen Manufacturing Company Limited and later of the F. Daly Tea Company. For a short period it returned to religious use as a Unitarian Church. From 1925 to 1936 the former chapter house was occupied by the Department of National Defence headquarters. The building has since been occupied by the Order of the Eastern Star.

Since its demise as the Chapter House the structure has had minor alterations to its exterior and major alterations to its interior. On the exterior much of the iron cresting has been removed, the front entrance has been hidden by a

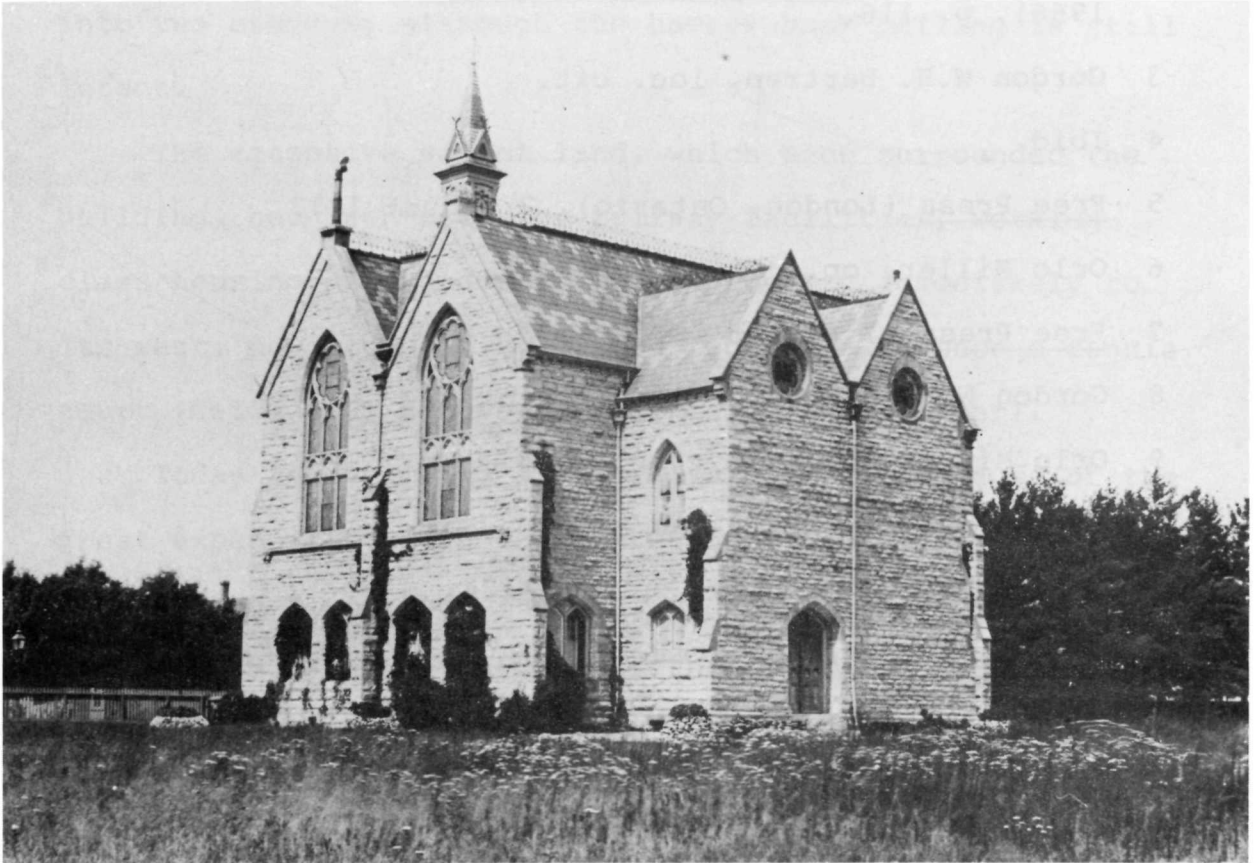
graceless wood frame enclosure, and the patterned slate roof has been replaced. The changes to the interior have been drastic. Many of the rooms have been either painted or repanelled. A new staircase has been built in the front half of the building. Finally, the synod hall has been divided into two storeys, although the hammer beam ceiling is still intact.

The extensive vacant land, which once surrounded the building, has been used for railway facilities, working-class housing, and industry. The property immediately to its west, now occupied by a shoe factory, was once a tennis court (Hellmuth's son was a talented tennis player).

Today the building's future is cloudy. Because of the great expense involved in maintenance, especially in replacing the slate roof, the ruling council of the Eastern Star Temple have indicated that they may sell the structure and its property to a developer.

Endnotes:

- 1 Gordon W.H. Bartram, A Historical Sketch of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist (London, Ontario, 1961), p. 21.
- 2 Orlo Miller, Gargoyles and Gentlemen (London, Ontario, 1966), p. 116.
- 3 Gordon W.H. Bartram, loc. cit.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Free Press (London, Ontario), 7 August 1873.
- 6 Orlo Miller, op. cit., p. 118.
- 7 Free Press, 7 August 1873.
- 8 Gordon W.H. Bartram, op. cit., p. 22.
- 9 Orlo Miller, op. cit., p. 123.
- 10 Gordon W.H. Bartram, loc. cit.
- 11 Orlo Miller, op. cit., pp. 123-124.
- 12 Gordon Bartram, loc. cit.



1 235 Piccadilly Street from the southwest, ca. 1860.  
(University of Western Ontario, Special Collections.)



Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman  
Date: March 1977  
Geocode: 06108007700036  
City: London, Ontario  
Address: 36 Grosvenor Street  
Building Name:  
(if important)  
Source of Title Photo: CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: 1886  
Architect:  
Builder:  
Craftsmen (List Type) Carpenters

Name and occupation of original owner: William Percival

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified: William Fall, accountant;  
Thomas Harry Carling, president of Carling's Brewery; John A. Carling,  
former superintendent of Carling's Brewery; J. Iness Carling, insurance  
Notable type of occupants: Upper class; upper middle class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Wood

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: The design of this wood frame house is architecturally unique in London.

36 Grosvenor StreetLondon, Ontario

Part of an impressive streetscape, the large single dwelling at 36 Grosvenor Street was built in 1886 for William Percival, whose occupation is unknown. He lived on Grosvenor until his death in 1913 and was followed by his widow, Margaret Percival, who occupied the house until 1917. She was succeeded in 1918 by William Fall, an accountant with A.M. Smith & Co., wholesale grocers.<sup>1</sup>

Fall moved to Princess Avenue in 1927, and the mansion was then occupied by its most notable subsequent owner/occupant, Thomas Harry Carling, the former president of the Carling Brewing & Malting Co. Carling's had been founded in 1840 by T.H. Carling's grandfather, Thomas Carling. His sons, William and Sir John, long the Conservative MP for London, came into the firm when the business expanded.<sup>2</sup> In 1875 T.H. Carling, the eldest son of Sir John Carling, entered the concern and, on his father's death in 1911, became the president of the Brewery.

Prohibition in 1916, however, created a tremendous problem for Canadian brewers and, in 1922, Carling's Brewery changed hands. A federal charter was obtained for the Carling Export Brewery and Malting Co. Ltd. with J. Innes

Carling, son of T.H. Carling and a later occupant of 36 Grosvenor Street, as president. Further difficulties were immediately encountered.<sup>3</sup> In 1923 outside capital was sought, and in the next year the business was disposed of in a joint stock company.<sup>4</sup> Thus, after eighty-three years, the Carling family no longer controlled the Brewery.

On his retirement, T.H. Carling eventually purchased 36 Grosvenor and lived there until his death in 1936. He was followed briefly by his younger brother, John A. Carling, the former superintendent of Carling's, and his sister, Louisa M. Carling, in 1937. J. Innes Carling became the sole owner in 1938. He founded the Carling Insurance Agency which represented in London numerous other companies, including Continental Casualty, Norwich Union, and the Toronto General Insurance Company. He lived at 36 Grosvenor until his death in 1972.<sup>5</sup>

The present owner/occupant is John M. Stevens, the president of Pumps & Softeners Ltd. of London, located at 680 Waterloo Street. This firm specializes in the manufacture of water systems and water treatment equipment.<sup>6</sup>

The house was the first residence of a row to be built on the north side of Grosvenor between St. George and Richmond Streets. The other eight mansions were built over the twenty years. The street itself formed a link with two wealthy residential sectors--the one proceeding north along Richmond Street from Oxford, and the other along St. George

Street via Talbot and Ridout, following the North Branch of the Thames River.

The house shared the neighbourhood with several institutions. Across the street was the Roman Catholic Mount Hope Convent, which is now part of the Marian Villa, a senior citizen's complex. St. Joseph's Hospital was on Grosvenor in the next block to the east. A half a block to the west on St. George Street was Huron College, founded in 1863 and now part of the University of Western Ontario.

Architecturally, 36 Grosvenor Street is a late Victorian two-and-one-half-storey, wood-frame dwelling. Its design is extremely peculiar and is unique in London. Unfortunately, no specifications or drawings are available to indicate the architect and the contractor(s).

Despite a traffic increase in the area, the neighbourhood still holds much of its original prestige. The house is well maintained and, among Londoners, continues to retain its high reputation as the former Carling residence.

Endnotes:

- 1 The above information was taken from the city directories of the period, 1886 to 1918.
- 2 Free Press (London, Ontario), 20 October 1936.
- 3 Morris Wolfe, A Short History of Carling Breweries Limited from 1840 to 1930 (unpublished manuscript, Regional Collection, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), pp. 12-23.
- 4 B.S. Scott, The Economic and Industrial History of the City of London, Canada, from the Building of the First Railway, 1855, to the Present, 1930 (unpublished Master's thesis, U.W.O., London, Ontario, 1930), p. 238.
- 5 City directories, 1936 to 1972.
- 6 Ibid., 1973 to 1974.

Canadian Inventory of Historic Building - Historical Building Report



Historian: John H. Lutman

Date: March 1977

Geocode: 06108010700575

City: London, Ontario

Address: 575 Hill Street

Building Name:  
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:

CIHB

Building Information

Date of Construction: Circa 1868

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type) Bricklayers

Name and occupation of original owner: John Housen, tailor

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants: Working class

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: Local white brick

Alterations:

General Nature	Date	Architect	Builder
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Comments: 575 Hill Street is a particularly handsome example of a workman's cottage.

575 Hill StreetLondon, Ontario

The single dwelling at 575 Hill Street may possibly have been built circa 1868 for John Housen (or Housan), a tailor. The evidence is not clear on the construction date, as street numbers were not consistently applied in London before 1880. Nevertheless, the house is certainly among the oldest residences in the neighbourhood. Housen lived at 575 Hill Street for a longer duration of time (circa 1868-80) than any of the subsequent occupants. After his departure in 1880, a long parade of people occupied the house, staying only for short periods.<sup>1</sup> (See Appendix A for a complete list of occupants.)

The working-class neighbourhood in which 575 Hill Street was located was before 1885, on the eastern extremity of the city. Adelaide Street, a half a block to the east, separated the city of London from the incorporated village of London East, which was annexed in 1885. At the time of its construction during the 1860s, the house was in the vicinity of numerous oil refineries, which lined Adelaide Street from York Street to the Thames River. When the oil industry left for Petrolia in the 1880s, the refineries were replaced by other large industries, including the McClary

Manufacturing Company and the London & Petrolia Barrel Company.<sup>2</sup> Several of the occupants of 575 Hill Street worked in these factories. For instance, James Winslow (1889-96) and Horace Clayton (1927) were coopers with the London & Petrolia Barrel Company, and William Hogg (1899-1901) assembled stoves for the McClary Manufacturing Company.<sup>3</sup> One-and-a-half blocks to the west, the combined rail line of the Grand Trunk Railway, the Michigan Central and the London & Port Stanley Railway crossed Hill Street and serviced the industries with small spur lines.<sup>4</sup> The dwelling's occupant from 1881 to 1884, Richard Johnson, was a brakeman for the G T R.<sup>5</sup> Thus, typical of the pre-automobile era, many of the occupants of 575 Hill Street lived within walking distance of their places of work.

Although the dimensions of 575 Hill Street are typical of the neighbourhood, architecturally, the house is considerably more distinguished than the plain, wood frame houses and shacks that more commonly are found in the district. A one-storey, local white brick single dwelling, its low hipped roof and large windows reveal some Regency design characteristics. In recent years, the brick has been painted white, shutters have been installed and the sidelights on either side of the door have been filled in. The house appears to be in excellent condition.



Appendix A. Occupants of 575 Hill Street from circa 1868 to 1975.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
ca. 1868-80	John Housen	tailor
1881-84	Richard Johnson	brakesman, G T R
1885-88	Edward W. Scott	machinist
1889-96	James Winslow	cooper, London & Petrolia Barrel Company
1897-98	James Wyatt	shipper
1899-1901	William Hogg	stove assembler, McClary Manufacturing Company
1902	David J. Ritchie	machinist
1903	John C. Clarke	labourer
1904	Edward F. Housen	lithographer, Lawson & Jones
1905-06	Peter Ecker	moulder
1907-17	John McAlpine	painter, Lewis Bros.
1918-24	John E. Chick	chief clerk, C N R
1925	Anne Robertson	widow, Andrew Robertson
1926	Vacant	
1927	Horace Clayton	works, London & Petrolia Barrel Company
1928-29	Gordon McFadden	chfr., City Storage
1930	Mrs. Elizabeth Ewan	widow, George Ewan
1931-32	Alex Forbes	orderly, Westminster Hospital
1933	Vacant	

1934	James A. Dingman	works, City
1935	John Lindsay	salesman, Canada Bread Company
1936-40	John Brown	mixer, Imperial Cone
1941-42	Wallace Sutherland	tinsmith
1943-44	John McFarquhar	pipefitter
1945-49	Leonard Noble	orderly, Westminster Hospital
1950	Mrs. Elizabeth Keningham	widow, Howard Keningham
1951-52	Harry Jackson	operator, Kemp Products Limited (plastics)
1953	Lloyd Fortner	gas station attendant
1954-63	Wallace Sutherland	tinsmith
1964-65	Stephen A. Woodward	serviceman, Northern Electric
1966-67	Vacant	
1968	David Dodd	works, Post Office
1969-70	Mrs. Pearl Tobin	unlisted
1971-74	Margaret Woodward	r.n.a., Victoria Hospital
1975	Margaret Newbould	works, Victoria Hospital

Endnotes:

- 1 The above information was taken from the city directories of the period.
- 2 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.
- 3 City directories.
- 4 Insurance Plan, City of London, February 1912.
- 5 City directories.

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