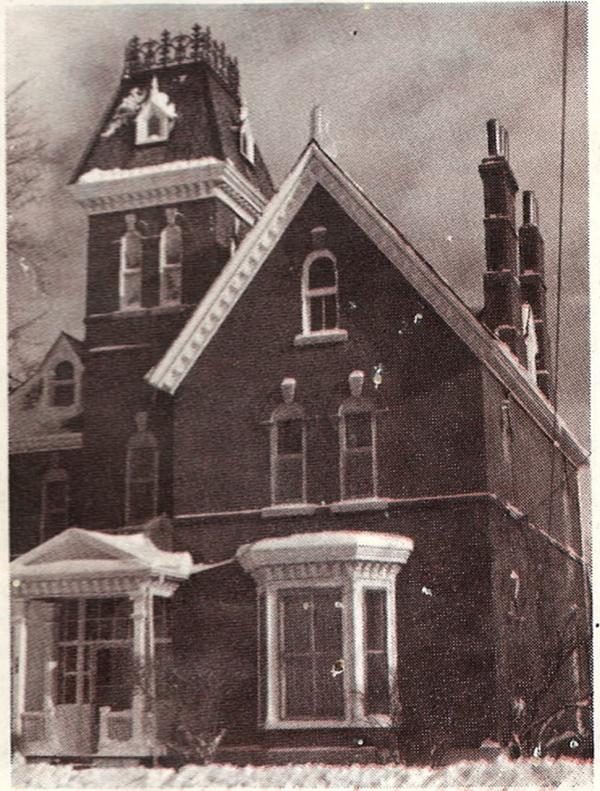


Belleville's Heritage



A PARTIAL INVENTORY
OF OLD BUILDINGS

Published By
THE HASTINGS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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INTRODUCTION

Early settlers made their home at the mouth of the Moira River as early as 1780. By 1878 Belleville was a city.

The main purpose of this booklet is to make us all more aware of the remaining buildings that were built by our forefathers - be they simple dwellings or homes of grandeur. This is only a representation of the many fine structures in our city; space does not allow us to include all of the interesting buildings. We wish to present buildings that have either historical and/or architectural interest. If you wish to seek further information regarding a building that is not included in this booklet, it will be available through the Hastings County Historical Society.

We Canadians have no original architecture. We have no Christopher Wrens, nor have we built the Parthenon. Ours is a "borrowed" architecture, borrowed from Europe or America, as the new Canadians looked behind them to the place of their origin to influence them in the design of their buildings.

If we have created an interest in and an appreciation for our early architecture, as well as pointing out some historical facts, then our goal has been achieved.

Most of these buildings are privately owned. We ask you to respect the privacy of the owners.

Elaine Preston
Chairman
Historic Structures Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a real pleasure to be able to offer this booklet to the public in Belleville's Centennial Year. There are many aspects of this production that must evoke pride in our hearts. The first is that we have people interested enough to spend the many hours required for research. The fact that for many of these dedicated people, Belleville is not their birthplace, should increase our appreciation for what they have done. We should also take off our hats to the owners of these properties for the care they have provided for these historical structures and for their willingness to co-operate with the Historic Structures Committee of the Hastings County Historical Society. It is a booklet of which we can all be proud. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Sincerely yours,



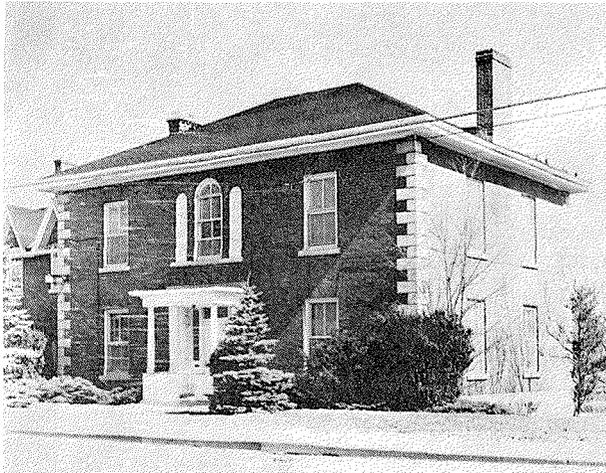
FEATURED ON THE COVER

THE LEWIS-WALLBRIDGE HOUSE
197 Charles Street

Building No. 18

TABLE OF CONTENTS

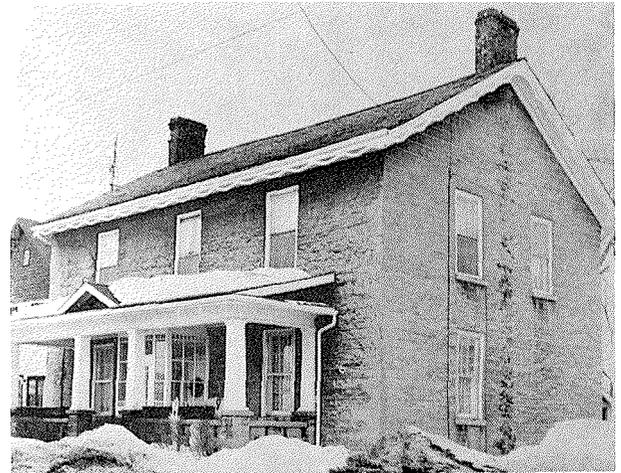
1. 15 East Moira Street
2. 16 East Moira Street
3. 44 Station Street
4. 325 Church Street
5. 44 Great Saint James Street
6. 393 Front Street
7. 20 Victoria Avenue
8. 2 Forin Street
9. 24 Hillcrest Avenue
10. 15 Mount Pleasant Road
11. Tabernacle Church, Church Street
12. 200 John Street
13. 208 John Street
14. 100 Bridge Street East
15. 194 William Street
16. 184 William Street
17. 144 Bridge Street East
18. 197 Charles Street
19. 201 Charles Street
20. 64 Queen Street
21. 21 Queen Street
22. 231 John Street
23. Bellevue Terrace, Patterson Street
24. 207-211 Front Street
25. City Hall
26. 155-163 Front Street
27. 121 Front Street
28. 75 South Front Street
29. 109 Dundas Street East
30. 103 Dundas Street East
31. 30 West Moira Street
32. 93 West Moira Street
33. 164 West Moira Street
34. 193 West Moria Street
35. 50 Octavia Street
36. 114 Bridge Street West
37. 43 Bridge Street West
38. 23A Charlotte Street
39. 190 James Street
40. 153 Dundas Street West
41. 250 Dundas Street West



BLEECKER-ROSS HOUSE
15 East Moira Street

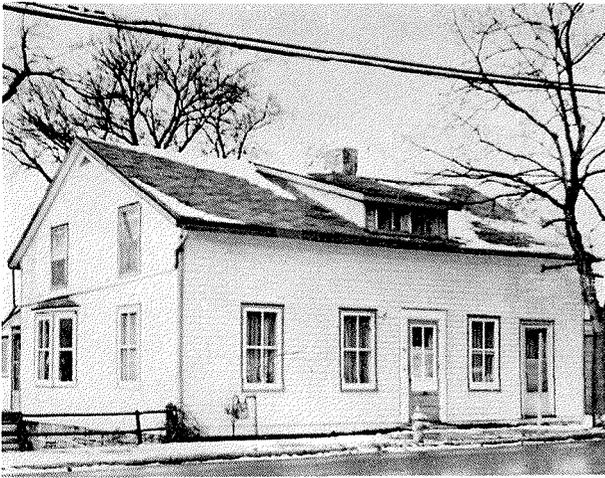
Built by William Bleecker about 1867, this red brick residence stands on land originally part of Tobias Bleecker's Mill Reserve. William, son of Tobias Bleecker, operated a sawmill on his father's land for several years before he purchased the land south of the mill on which to build his home. The small stone house at 68 East Moira, built on Tobias Bleecker's barn lot, dates from the same period and is said to have been originally built, not as a home, but as a supply depot for the loggers. William Bleecker's brother-in-law Ellis Burrell operated an axe factory on this same property until 1870 when he moved to a new location across the river on the Meyers Mill property.

One hundred years ago in the area along both sides of the river were situated various mills, forming the town's first industrial complex. Further north on the east side of the river at the foot of Reid Street, the Hydro Stores Building was formerly part of John Lazier's flouring and woollen mills. The red brick house beside this stone building was Lazier's office.



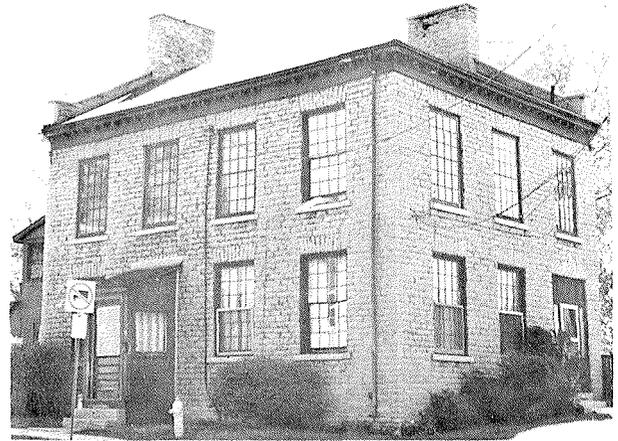
HUNT-STEWART HOUSE
16 East Moira Street

An article entitled "Editor's Walk" in the Hastings Chronicle for August 5th, 1863 states that "a large two storey house near Grove Mills commenced by the late Burleigh Hunt has been roofed with slate by Mr. Boswell. The total cost of the house is \$1600." Mr. Hunt, an American carpenter, came to Canada where he pursued his trade in western Ontario until the war of 1812, at which time he returned to the United States. On the restoration of peace he returned to Canada, settling in Belleville. Here he married Mary, the daughter of John Row, one of the original settlers in Sidney Township. His family continued to occupy this house until 1900 when Robert Ogilvy Stewart, Superintendent of Bridge and Building on the Grand Trunk Railway, purchased the home, and it remained in that family until recently. The rubble stone surface of this house was originally plastered over and the surface marked out to suggest ashlar blocks (a squared and hewn building stone) to make it look less countrified and informal. This was typical of the Regency taste. Situated at the rear of this house is a small stone building, part of which was once used as a family washroom. The front portion of this little building has several hooks hanging from the ceiling indicating that it was once used as a smoke house.



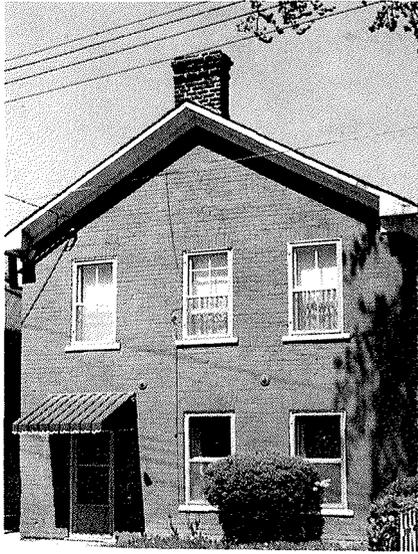
THE HELLER HOUSE
44 Station Street

This white frame house was built by Andrew Heller a few years after he emigrated from Germany in 1850. He was a dyer by trade. The cleaning and dyeing operation was located in the north end of the house. Steps led down from the kitchen to the board floor of the dye house. Here were the large copper kettles, one used for mixing and another for the first rinsing. The final rinsing was done in the river. The floor sloped away from the kettles to a trough on the river side. There was no second floor in the dye house as the height was needed for hanging the yarn to dry. Mr. Heller dyed both yarn and woven goods and also did attractive block prints. Mrs. Heller did the pressing in the kitchen. Mr. Heller bought his dyeing ingredients from Geen's Drug Store. He adapted the dyeing recipes he had learned in his native Germany to local conditions. The books containing the recipes have been preserved by the family. To the north of the house were situated in 1871, Ellis Burrell's carding factory, grist mill and foundry, all adjoining his axe factory. The existing limestone building was used for packing the axe handles.



THE COULTER-TENNANT HOUSE
325 Church Street

John Coulter, a blacksmith, probably built this house c. 1840. Legend has it that he had a very ambitious dwelling in mind, intending eventually to have a house with a centre door plan. After building one half of the house he found that in 1852 the Survey for the Grand Junction Railway planned the track so close to his present home that it would be impossible to finish his dream. The house was sold in 1871 to William and Margaret Tennant. William was a moulder with Brown's Foundry. Their son, Dr. Robert Tennant, had his medical practice and surgery here. Dr. Tennant was seeking larger premises and exchanged homes with Dr. McColl's widow who resided on the south west corner of Victoria Avenue and Church Street. This house obviously had an expert as a stone mason. After all these years there is not a crack or a sagging stone in the soldier lintels above the windows. The pyramid corbels, which we see on several of Belleville's very old stone buildings, support parapets on the south and east with wide chimneys. The street facades are well lighted with large windows evenly spaced, and with the glazing bars probably containing some of the original panes. Where the eaves project are rows of dentils simply placed.



DAFOE HOUSE
44 Great Saint James Street

This house, along with 42 Great Saint James Street was built by William Dafoe, who along with his brother Zenos built the three storey stone hotel named the Dafoe House in 1847. After a disastrous fire in the hotel, a brick building now known as the Quinte Hotel was erected. The house at No. 44 has been in the Dafoe family since it was built in 1861 and was usually handed down from daughter to daughter. In this house we sense Greek Revival elements. Much as the pediment crowned the front of the Greek temple, so here above the facade the gable with the slight eaves return echoes the Greek pediment. If this house had been built for a client of more wealth there would have been more concern with proportion and perhaps sidelights and transom to light the hall. Let the viewer observe other houses in the city which follow the Greek Revival Style with the gable end to the street.



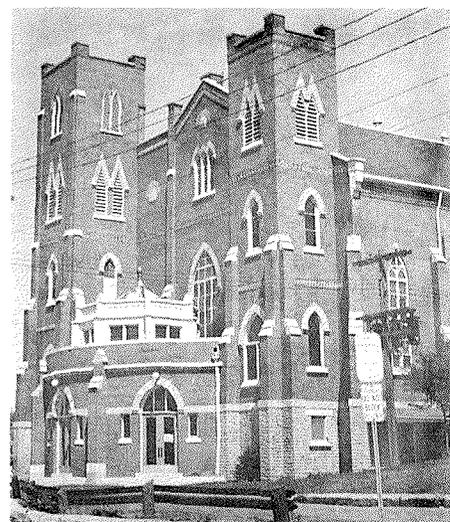
MARBLE HALL
393 Front Street

The Marble Hall, according to the Hastings Chronicle, was built in 1857. It was the first building in Belleville to be constructed from marble. In 1862 it was the home of the Cherry Furniture Factory, Warehouse and Sales Room. The Quinte Cigar factory, known for its "Old Homestead" brand cigars, was located here as was a grocery store at a later date. It is now Templer Flower Shop. In 1861 it was used as the meeting place for the congregation of Christ Church Anglican Church until 1864 when the original church was built on Moira Street near the Upper Bridge. In 1868 the Marble Hall was used as the "Working Man's Temperance Hall".



ORCHARD HOUSE
15 Mount Pleasant

This house was built on property purchased by Captain John Meyers in 1789. The Teal plan was commissioned in 1829 by Jacob, son of John Meyers, to divide "Meyers Orchard" into 39 lots for his heirs. This house was built in two stages. The original north half was built between 1845 and 1860. The south half was added after 1895 by Donald Waters, a druggist and a man of means having been a partner in the marketing of Dodd's Liver Pills. An old foundation discovered by the present owners under the southern portion may have been the "Orchard House" referred to in Captain Meyers' will dated in 1822. This is one of the original crown grants in Belleville and was passed down from daughter to daughter until 1949 when it was sold out of the family to E. Guss Porter, lawyer. Mr. Porter's daughter and her husband are the present owners. The Orchard House was part of John Meyers estate which included his large brick home built in 1794 (destroyed in 1876) on the brow of the hill overlooking his mill site on the river.



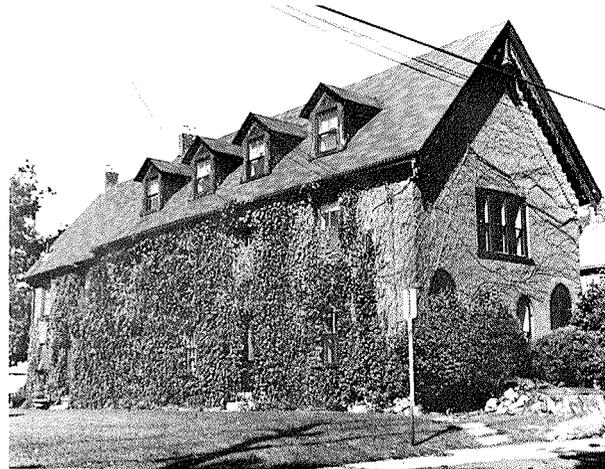
TABERNACLE UNITED CHURCH
Church Street

The church history goes back to 1834 and the Union of the Canadian and British Methodist Churches. A minority of the membership withdrew and formed a new body under the old title "The Methodist Episcopal Church". As a result they received no share in the denominational property. Realizing a need for a college to train their ministers and young people they erected the old Albert College in 1857, open to all denominations. The local congregation met in a building on the north side of Victoria Avenue between Pinnacle Street and Front Street, built by John Everett as a tavern. In 1845 the congregation purchased land on the north east corner of Church Street and Great Saint James Street and constructed a brick church. The old church is still standing. Although much altered, it is now the business location of Canadian Pittsburg Industries. The congregation grew until in 1875 the cornerstone was laid for their new church on the east side of Church Street. Two years later in January 1878 the first service was held in the "new Tabernacle". It was a magnificent red brick structure with two high towers, topped by tall slender spires. Steps led to each of the tower entrances. The damage to the towers caused by the swaying of the spires in the wind forced the congregation to have the spires removed in 1950.



THE BOGART HOUSE
200 John Street

In 1852 David D. Bogart bought the land for his home from George Taylor, who along with his brother William owned most of the East Hill. About 1855 Mr. Bogart built this large home, which included a carriage house and stable extending from the south end out to John Street, for him and his wife. Their only child, Emma, had died at 10 months of age seven years earlier. Mr. Bogart was a lumber merchant who operated one of the first steam saw mills in the district. He died in 1877 and Mrs. Bogart lived here alone until her death in 1904. Mr. Steven Lazier, lawyer, raised his young family here. In 1920, Dr. Frank Wallbridge made this his home until Dr. and Mrs. R. Scott bought it in 1953. It is a brick building covered with stucco, a bulky square with applied pilasters very much like the Springer-Burns house on Dundas Street East, but with the centre door suggesting the British influence. When mansard roofs became fashionable around 1870, the Bogarts added one to their home, later adding the mansard to the kitchen wing. The pink colour is reminiscent of the chateaux in southern France and Italy.



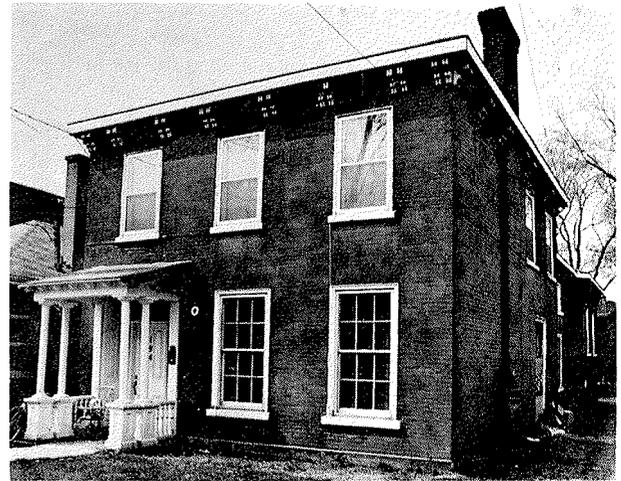
THE LODGE
208 John Street

Dr. Daniel Henry Ackerill, a veterinarian and also a carpenter, erected this building for the Loyal Orange Lodge about 1846. Originally it was two storeys with Dr. Ackerill and his family living on the first level and the Lodge Room above. In 1876 when St. Thomas Church burned, the Lodge was extensively damaged, but rebuilt in the same plan; such details as the stepped brickwork emphasizing the lines of the gable were added. By 1881 the Orangemen had moved and Dr. Ackerill and his family used the whole house, changing it to three storeys. The front retains the original aspect except that the large Gothic arched window of the Lodge Room has been partly filled in. Dr. Ackerill's son, Daniel Henry, was one of the first students to attend the Ontario Veterinary College in Toronto, receiving his diploma in 1879. His practice extended from Oshawa to Brockville and north to Madawaska. He was veterinarian for the farm at the School for the Deaf. His horse and cattle remedies "Ackerill's All-Round Linament" and "Ackerill's Powders" had a high reputation and were sold by druggists and blacksmiths everywhere.



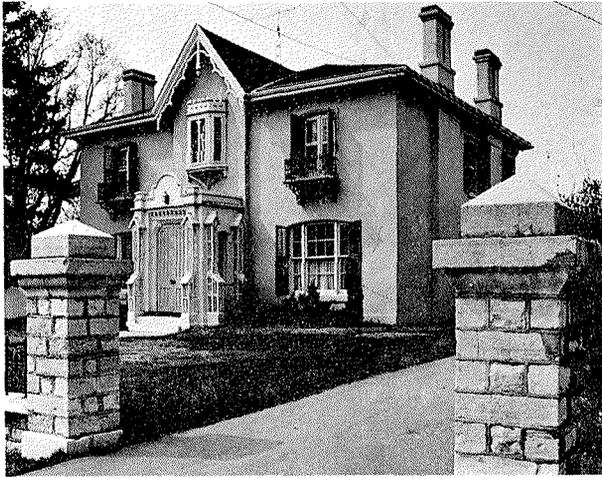
NATHAN JONES-BRIDGE STREET MANSE
100 Bridge Street East

This home was built for Nathan Jones in 1856. He came from New Hampshire as a boy of 15, to live with his cousin Phoebe, wife of Billa Flint Jr. He worked for the Flint family until he opened his own dry goods business in 1847. In 1863 he built an imposing block at 292-296 Front Street. He is best remembered for his work in the Methodist Church. He played the first musical instrument ever used in a Methodist Church in Canada - a bass viol. Another first was the pipe organ that he and his brother-in-law Benjamin Nutter assembled for the Pinnacle Street Church. He was organist and chorister here and later at Bridge Street United until he retired in 1875. He not only gave his services without remuneration, but he supplied nearly all the tune and anthem books. Both he and his wife Jane dedicated their lives to the betterment of the community and church. Jane was one of the founders of the Women's Christian Association which founded Belleville General Hospital. Bridge Street United Church (completed in 1865) purchased the home in 1904 as a residence for their minister, Rev. J. P. Wilson. It was built in the typical "British Classical Tradition", but were there sweeping changes made around 1900? Perhaps, Mr. L. W. Yeomans, druggist who married Florence Jones and lived here added the bay windows with the concave glass.



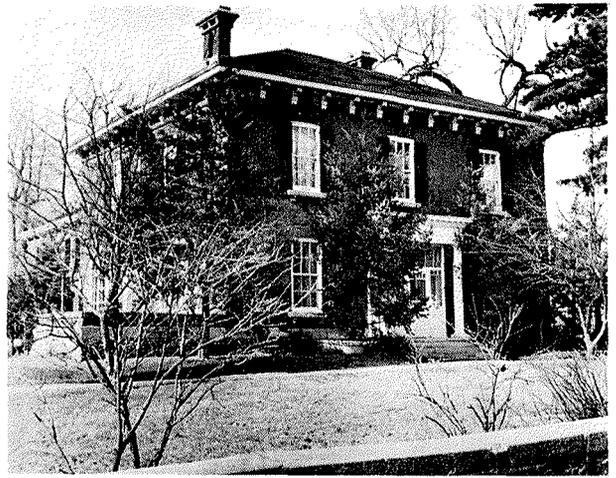
SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL HOUSE
194 William Street

This is the residence of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Prime Minister of Canada in 1894. Born in England in 1823, he came to Canada with his family at the age of ten and settled in the Belleville area. In 1834 he became a "printer's devil" in the office of the *Intelligencer*, owned by George Benjamin. Because of Bowell's ability and enthusiasm he rose swiftly to become editor, then owner of the newspaper by 1850, always promoting the growth of the city and county. He, along with Billa Flint and Henry Corby, started the Belleville Chamber of Commerce in 1865 as the Belleville Board of Trade. In 1867 he was elected to the House of Commons as a Conservative member for North Hastings, which Riding he represented for 25 years, at which time he was appointed to the Senate. In 1878 he was appointed Minister of Customs in Sir John A. Macdonald's Cabinet. At the age of 70, upon the death of Sir John Thompson, Bowell was sworn in as Canada's fifth Prime Minister. In 1847 he married Harriet, daughter of Jacob Moore of Belleville and lived here until his death in 1917. Imagine this home with a wide verandah on the front and north sides, shaded comfortably with Indian Pipe Vine. He was proud of his formal gardens extending to Bridge Street with a bed of peonies surrounding a sundial.



WALLBRIDGE-ROBERTSON HOUSE
184 William Street

This house was built in the 1850's for Adam Henry Wallbridge, law partner and brother of the Hon. Lewis Wallbridge, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Canada during the debates leading up to Confederation. When Adam's wife died, he moved with his three young children into the "White House", home of the Hon. Lewis, which stood from 1820 until 1973 at the north east corner of Front Street and Dundas Street. The next owner was his youngest brother, Thomas Campbell Wallbridge, a member of the Legislature in 1863. The home remained in the Wallbridge family until 1921. Although built of stone, one imagines that it must always have been stuccoed. Its owners have carefully preserved the Gothic features: the graceful vergeboard, the romantic oriel window above the front door and the elaborate porch with its trellis work buttresses. A more recent owner, the Robertson family, once added to the Gothic look with a clan crest painted on a shield over the door. It is one of the few houses in Belleville to retain its iron fence, the pillars of which are made from the stone fence that once enclosed the gardens of St. Thomas Anglican Church Rectory.



HOLDEN-JENKINS HOUSE
144 Bridge Street East

Dr. Rufus Holden built this house around 1855. Arriving in Belleville as a young man, he established a drug store in 1835. Merrick Sawyer who lived at 173 William Street became his partner allowing him to pursue the study of Medicine in Philadelphia and at McGill University. Dr. Holden practised medicine in Belleville from 1844 until his death in 1876. He was mayor of the town of Belleville in 1864. His son, J. C. Holden, built his home next door at 134 Bridge Street East in 1863. Thomas Ritchie of the George Ritchie Dry Goods business married Mary, one of Dr. Holden's daughters. George Wallbridge established the wholesale grocery firm of Wallbridge and Clarke in 1870. He was also one of the founders of the Ontario Business College. He bought Dr. Holden's home in 1876 and sold it to the Jenkins family of the Quinte Hotel in 1927. One hundred years ago dances with a three piece orchestra providing the music for the waltz and the two step were held in the drawing room on the east side of the house. We have many houses of this general type throughout the city, though few so carefully kept or so nicely situated. It is in the "British Classical Tradition" - the hipped roof, boxy proportions, five window front with door in the centre. Originally there were verandahs around the front and west side with french doors in place of the present bay windows.



THE LEWIS-WALLBRIDGE HOUSE
197 Charles Street

COVER HOUSE

John Lewis, hardware merchant, built his home around 1865. His store on the east side of Front Street was first opened in 1849. It flourished and was granted a warrant by Queen Victoria as suppliers to government agencies. A coat-of-arms, symbolizing the royal favour is still in possession of the Doyle family who owned the store after Mr. Lewis's death and until a few years ago, when the business was closed. As the years went on Mr. Lewis expanded his business to include a Spring Factory and in 1868 he also had a steam saw mill on the Front of Sidney. In 1908 Fred Wallbridge, a wholesale grocer, who had married John's daughter Ella, bought the house. The two storey brick carriage house faced on to Bridge Street. After many years and many changes it is now Zegouris Food Stores. The house is a mixture of architectural styles. The high tower is topped with a Mansard roof, lighted by small Gothic windows and decorated with cast iron cresting. The Gothic gable of the roof and the tall paired chimneys on the south side add charm and balance.



POTTS-GRAHAM-BONE HOUSE
201 Charles Street

"Picturesque Canada", a travel book of 1882 features a picture of Charles Street and comments on our streets in general, "Hard by these aisles of towering maples are the domestic sanctuaries of wealth and fashion". The home of E. F. Potts built in 1878 fits this description. He was a successful merchant in Stirling, moving to Belleville in 1873 to continue his business as a grocer and liquor merchant on the west side of Front Street. His only son, Dr. James Potts became house surgeon at the Montreal General Hospital. Upon the death of Mr. Potts in 1890, Mr. R. J. Graham purchased the home. Mr. Graham, whose father had begun the first co-operative cheese factory in Canada on the Front of Sydney in 1864, continued in the cheese and butter exporting business. He built one of the largest refrigeration warehouses then known in Ontario, equipped with a railway siding on Pinnacle Street. He was mayor of Belleville for three terms. Jamieson Bone, owner of a local Insurance Co. married Mr. Graham's daughter and lived here for many years. The home is still owned by the descendants of R. J. Graham. Let the viewer pause to observe the interesting detail in the trim on the slated mansard roof, around the attic windows and the panelled effect of the brick work on the chimney. Although the iron cresting on the roof has disappeared, one can still imagine the gracious life style as you enter the fenced lawns (fence posts are original) and approach the shaded verandahs.



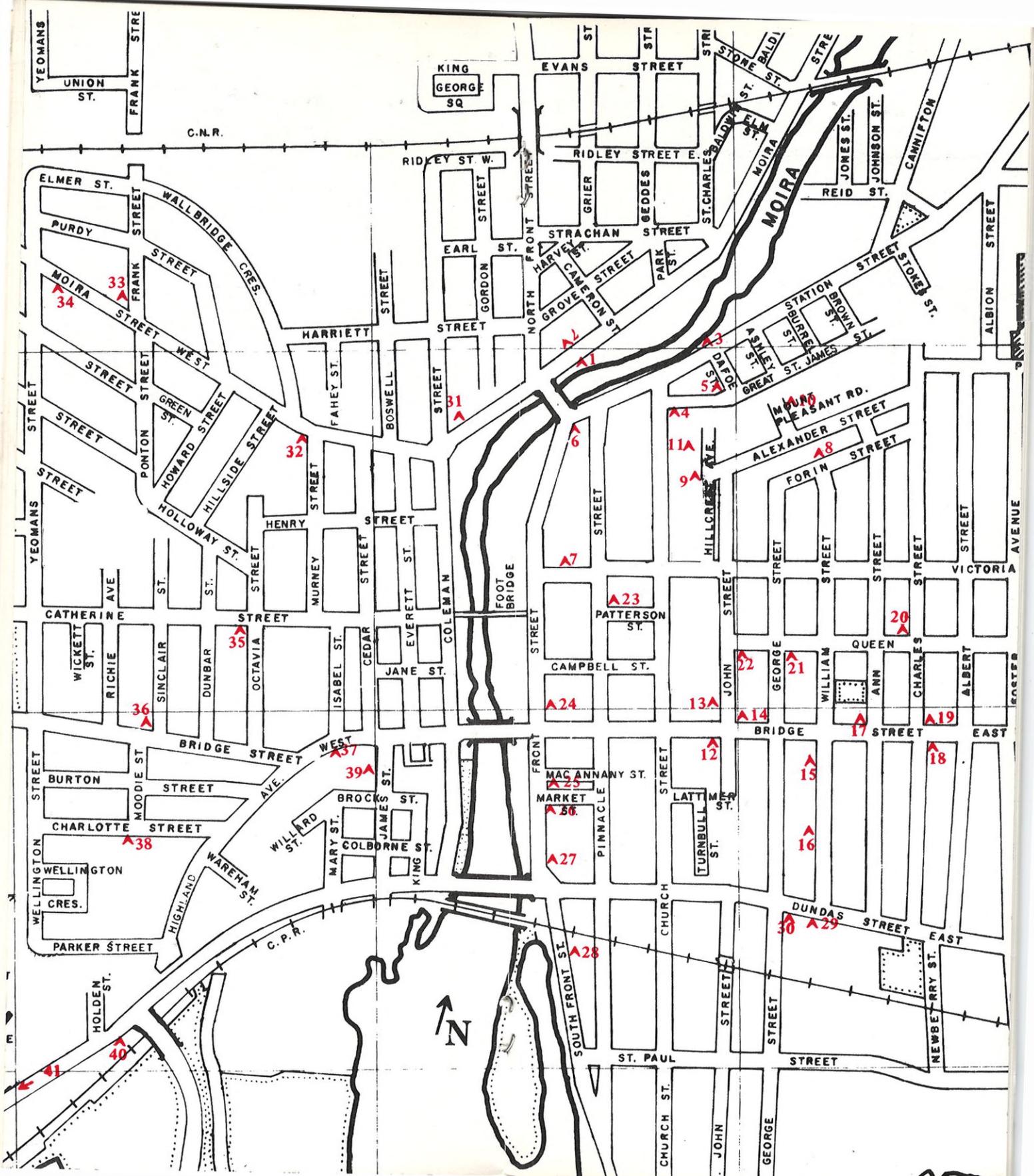
COOK-BRANSCOMBE HOUSE
64 Queen Street

The Hastings Chronicle for August 5th, 1863, on microfilm at the Corby Library, tells us that "Mr. John Cook has built a stone cottage on Charles Street, Taylor's Hill. It is two storey, roofed with slate by William Boswell - the first dwelling house slated on the hill. The mason work was done by Thomas Todd and the Joiner work by Thomas Rutherford. The cost is \$1500". At this time Mr. Cook owned the Glasgow Tea and Coffee Warehouse on the south side of Bridge Street. Later the business relocated at the north-east corner of Front and Victoria Streets in the Victoria Building which burned in 1972. Again the business moved to the George Vair block, the present site of McNeill's Fabrics at 210 Front Street. Dr. and Mrs. M. E. Branscombe moved here after World War I. The exterior is the same now as when Mr. Cook built it in the "British Classical Tradition", which is marked by the hipped roof and a five window front with central doorway. Although it is a two-storey house, it suggests a Regency Cottage by the general broadening of its proportions as well as the informality of the rubble stone surface.



BELL-RIGGS HOUSE
21 Queen Street

John Bell, solicitor for the Grand Trunk Railway which was completed through Belleville in 1856, built this home around 1855. According to an article in the Belleville Sun, Mr. Bell was the leading railway counsel for America. His office was at the corner of Bridge and Pinnacle Streets. The design of the house might have been taken directly from Andrew Jackson Downing's "Designs for Cottage Residences" of 1852. Outwardly the appearance is unchanged. This is one of Belleville's finest examples of the popular Tuscan Villa with the off-centre Italianate tower. The Riggs family, who has lived in the home since the early 1930's, became well known in Belleville as early as 1881 when W. B. Riggs came from the U.S. to lead the Oddfellow's Band. He opened a music store on Front Street about 1888, selling pianos throughout the area, then making a big switch in 1914 to selling Ford automobiles. Mr. Bell built the double house across the street for two of his children. His son, R. J. Bell, Notary Public, lived in the corner half. His daughter, Mathilda Jane, wife of Andrew Thompson manager of the Merchant's Bank, lived at 32 Queen Street. This is an interesting example of a double house built almost 100 years ago.



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GEORGE
SQ

MOUNT
PLEASANT RD.

MAC ANNANY ST.
MARKET

DUNDAS STREET EAST

C.N.R.

C.P.R.

RIDLEY ST. W.

ST. PAUL

STREET

CHURCH ST.

ST. JOHN

GEORGE

SOUTH FRONT ST.

STREET

CHURCH

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KING
GEORGE
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RIDLEY ST. W.

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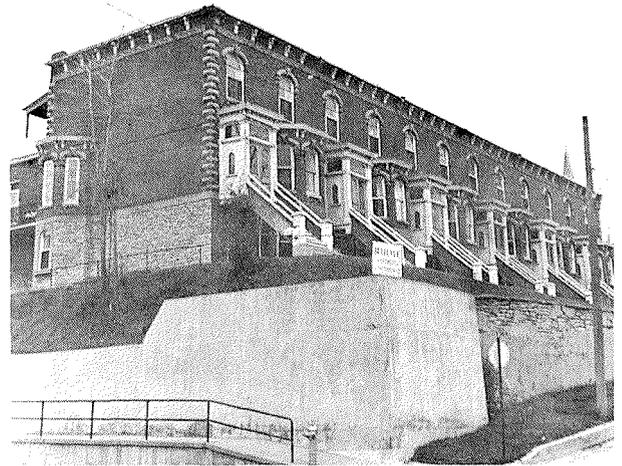
ST. STREET

ST. STREET



O'HARE-CHANT HOUSE
231 John Street

This house was built in 1855 for John and Delia O'Hare by Delia's father, Mr. Buell, a lawyer from Brockville. It is a home befitting a prominent former mayor of Belleville and a very busy public figure. According to the newspapers of the time, Mr. O'Hare's name was included in nearly every committee established in Belleville. Mrs. O'Hare was interested in the occult and she and several prominent people in Belleville, such as Susanna Moodie, held seances in their homes. The property included a large section of the block including 223 John Street which may have been the gardener's home. "Delia O'Hare" is scratched in a pane of glass in both houses. Dr. Joseph Chant, physician, moved to Belleville in 1913, and purchased this home which is still owned by the Chant family. The somewhat Gothic style lintels over the windows and the window sills appear to be carved stone, but are in fact cast iron covered with oil paint mixed with sand. They have never been repainted. They seem to match exactly the lintels on the building occupied by Geen's Drug Store. The handsome porch is not part of the original design. The vertical accent of the windows is carried over into the arrangement of the lights around the front door. The American influence is shown in the many windows and the boldness of the dentils under the eaves. However, the house itself has a Georgian or Loyalist air.



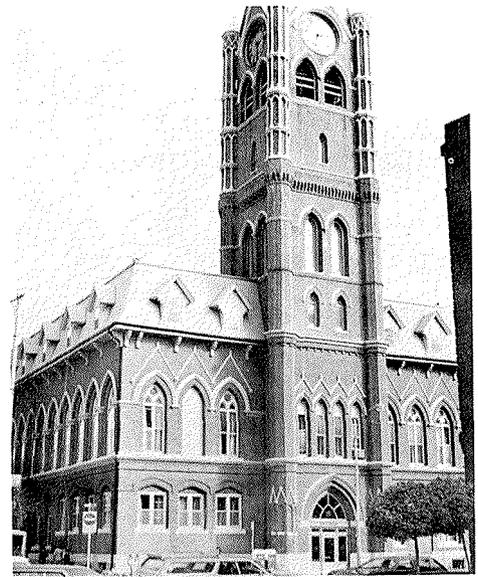
BELLEVUE TERRACE
10 Patterson Street

Although an economic slump that hit Canada in 1876 was severely felt in Belleville, Mr. Isaac B. Graham and his brother who were Front Street clothiers, ventured to build a block of private residences consisting of six tenaments, comparable to to-day's luxury apartments. The kitchen and dining room were in the basement, the drawing room and sewing room were on the main floor, the bedrooms and bathroom occupied the top storey. Every tenant at Bellevue Terrace was expected to have a maid, and bell pulls and speaking tubes were installed to summon her. The ultimate in luxurious living was to have hot and cold running water piped to the bathroom. White Italian marble fireplaces and coal stoves provided the heat. The exterior of the building has changed very little since 1876. The introduction of cement for exterior decorative mouldings was used by architect James A. Davis for the window caps, sills and patterned frieze. The scroll design of the frieze is repeated in the woodwork of the covered porches. Mr. Graham's terrace was built for \$12,000; it cost 4 or 5 times that amount in 1929 to convert it into 18 compact apartments. The steps were not always so high, the ground being cut away to brighten the basement apartments.



JOHN TURNBULL BUILDING
207A-211 Front Street

John Turnbull's building was erected around 1833, about five years after he bought Lot 24 on Front Street at the north-east corner of Bridge Street. Mr. Turnbull was a gentleman of considerable property holdings throughout the town. He is described in the 1851 Canadian Directory as a "dealer in dry goods, groceries, hardware, crockery and country produce". Mr. Turnbull was Treasurer of the County of Hastings in 1838 and on the Town Council for Ketcheson Ward in 1853. This well-constructed limestone building with parapet gable ends has a firewall dividing the two sections. It is typical of the British Regency period in the north section, with three second storey windows which are quite large with small panes surmounted by soldier lintels. The southern section may be a later addition, but bore the same builder's "signature" in the chamfered pyramid design on the corbel stone at the southern parapet termination. The missing corbel stone matched those still in place on the north section. The windows in this section have slightly arched top sash and lintels. Originally there was a carriage-way opening where Hamilton's Jewellers is now located. Wesley Bullen, grocer, was a long time tenant in the south section.



CITY HALL

In 1850 a Town Hall and Market was built on the Market Square. When the community outgrew the old hall, the council appointed a Market Building Committee with Alderman George Henderson as chairman to supervise the erection of a combined Market House and Town Hall. They chose a local contractor, John Forin, as their architect and builder. By 1874 the new building was occupied with the Market House on the main floor and the Police Court and City Council in session in their new quarters. In the eclectic Gothic Revival style so popular for Victorian public buildings, it was solidly constructed with red brick walls eighteen inches thick. The trim is applied masonry bolted to the brick. The original design called for a shorter tower, but Mr. Forin's ideas prevailed and the graceful tower, 144 feet from ground to peak became a landmark in the Bay area. The clock, when installed, had a cast iron bell imported from England. Originally the lighting was by gas lamps and the heating by coal stoves in the various departments. The market is now close by, at the rear of the building and the "City" Hall continues as the heart of public function and concern.



CORBY-BONE BUILDING
155-163 Front Street

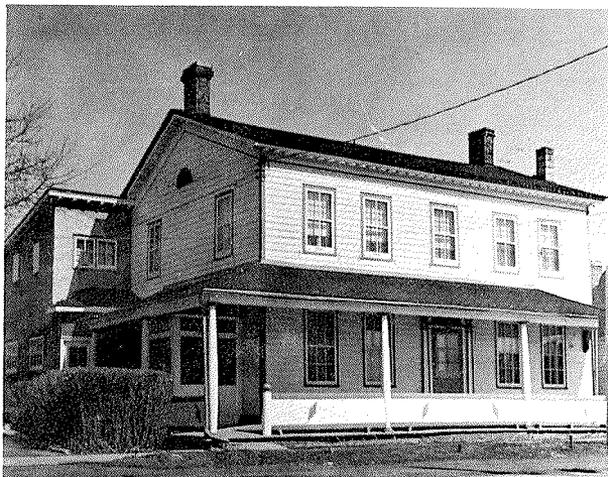
In 1844 Henry Corby gained possession of the portion of the lot upon which this building now stands. Mr. Corby's own offices were originally on the north side of Bridge Street just east of Front Street. When he built on the Front Street property in the early 1850's he leased it to Philip Hambly as a bakery and saloon. Some of the wide stone walls of this building remain inside the present building at the lowest level. The building we see now was built as Henry Corby's new office between 1868 and 1872. The second storey was greatly altered from the original brick facade after Henry's son, Henry Corby (commonly known as Harry) took over the business in 1881. The lower storey of dressed stone is in the English Italianate style of classical round arched windows and doorways separated by rusticated stone piers. The central carriage-way is now enclosed. The tradition of public service and business acumen begun by Henry Corby as an early councillor, reeve, mayor and member of the first Legislature of Ontario in 1867, the importance of the distilling and milling industry he founded, were carried on and greatly extended by his son Harry, later Senator Corby.



COMMERCIAL HOTEL - O'NEIL SALES
121 Front Street

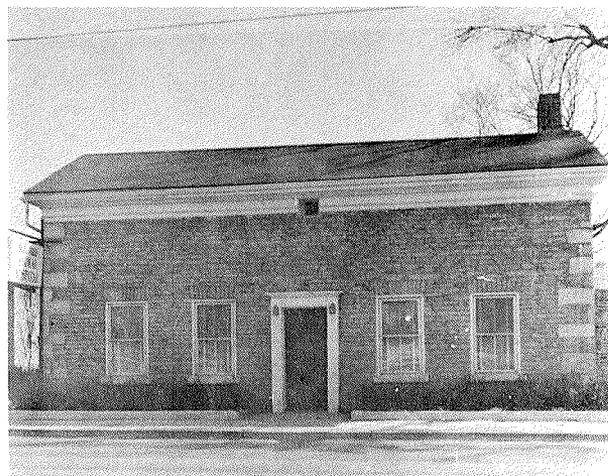
The Crown grant for this lot was not awarded until 1835 to Thomas O'Brien. In 1836 it was sold to Matthew Rourke, a Kingston merchant, who probably built it in the late 1830's or early '40's. Of coursed rubble stone, brick faced, with a brick warehouse at the rear, it was advertised as a hotel when Edmund Murney bought it in 1845. It sheltered various agencies and commercial trades including Patrick O'Neil's dry goods house advertised in 1855. The window divisions and the "chamfered pyramid" design on the square corbel stones indicate a builder or stone mason connected with several other old downtown buildings, and possibly with George Browne, the first official architect for the United Canadas in Kingston. Browne favoured a window arrangement of regular sized lights in the middle and very narrow lights at the sides. The present windows are not the originals but the sash may be - or a copy.

Edmund Murney, a prominent Belleville lawyer, who was four times Belleville's representative in the Legislature of Upper Canada, was an elected member of the Upper House at his death in 1861.



LYNCH HOUSE
75 South Front Street

This is a typical Loyalist Neo-classical house probably built about 1830. It was one of the first of 150 homes built in the Belleville area. The nine windows and a central door are symmetrically arranged. Downstairs, the windows are evenly spaced; upstairs the central window is isolated from the other four. An elliptical shaped fan has been applied to the north gable. James Lynch purchased the house in 1907 and his son lives here at the present time. Further south at 45 South Front Street, Captain John McIntosh, one of Belleville's earliest citizens and an officer in the Militia, started to build his home on Belleville's main street. Unfortunately, he was drowned in 1815 leaving his wife Martha to complete the building. In 1829 the house was purchased by Dr. George Neville Ridley, whose medical practice extended from Kingston to Cobourg. He was a surgeon to the First Hastings Regiment of Militia. In 1840 he was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor as one of four to form the Board of Education for the district of Victoria. The Ridley family retained possession until 1900. Originally similar in style to the Lynch house described above, the one-time spacious home has been allowed to deteriorate. For over forty years this has been the site of several commercial enterprises, one of the most recent being MacKenzie Feeds.



THE MAYBEE HOUSE
109 Dundas Street East

This property was originally part of the farm of George Taylor, deeded to him by the Crown in 1804. Road Commissioner John Way Maybee purchased a part of the farm in 1833 and probably built his house and General Store in the 1830's. Remains of a blacksmith shop found at the rear indicate that this may have been a Stage coach stop on the route between Kingston and Toronto. The building was placed close to the street to attract people using the highway. The original building was a simple stone cottage of pleasing proportions. The size of the cut stone has been graduated, with large blocks at the base and small ones at the top. The cornice board is wide and flat. One of the occupants of this house was the district lamp-lighter. Children living nearby gathered here in the evening to follow him on his rounds as he lit the gas street lamps.



HENDERSON-SPRINGER-BURNS HOUSE
103 Dundas Street East

George Henderson, a lawyer, purchased this property in 1852 and it is believed that the house was built shortly after. Mr. Henderson was at one time the Crown Attorney, and also served as Alderman for Samson Ward between 1864 and 1876. As Chairman of the Market Building Committee, he chose the design and supervised the building of Belleville City Hall. In 1914 the house was bought by William C. Springer who began the Springer Lock Company now known as International Hardware. It remained in the Springer family until 1960 when Dr. and Mrs. H. Burns purchased it. Here we have an example of "Canadian Classic", retaining some of the Greek tradition, although Greek columns have been reduced to pilasters placed at intervals along the exterior stucco walls. An asymmetrical effect is achieved in the facade by the use of three openings, one a door which is set in at the side. Atop the house is a "Roof Walk" with a decorative balustrade.

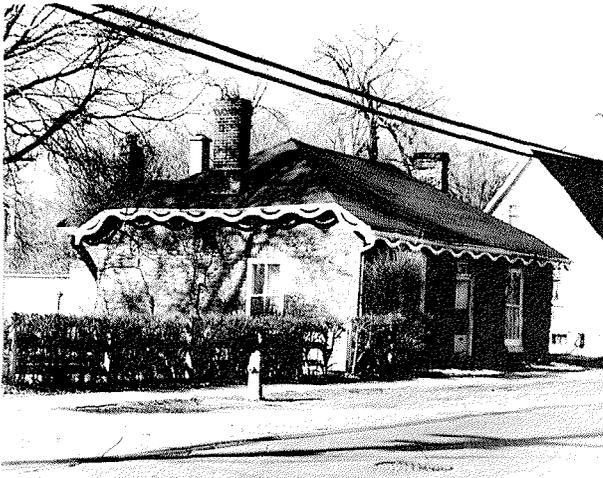
Building No. 30



THE COLEMAN-COOPER HOUSE
30 West Moira Street

Thomas Coleman was the owner of a mill and a house in 1816, according to the Wilmott Survey of that date. However, on the early map of Belleville, it would appear that the Coleman house was located on the South side of West Moira Street. In 1851 Robert F. Coleman purchased land from Thomas Coleman on the North side of the street and took out a mortgage. It would seem that the present stone house might date from this time. In 1879 the mill and the house were purchased by Reuben B. Cooper, who was from Prince Edward County, and who had been in the milling business for half a century. The mill burned in 1884 but was rebuilt. His son, Luke B. Cooper, worked with his father and after his death operated the mill and occupied the stone house. A grandson, Reuben B. Cooper (still living in Belleville) lived in the house until 1922, when the mill again burned and Luke B. Cooper moved to Toronto. In 1949 the house was bought by George O'Brien and has been a Funeral Home since. Although many changes have been made, the house is an example of the simple form of Colonial Georgian style. The front door with side lights is a Classical Revival Square Head.

Building No. 31



THE FAHEY HOUSE
93 West Moira Street

In 1844 Sir Edmund Murney had his estate sub-divided, resulting in the formation of Murney Street; Cedar and Everett Streets were put through at a later date. Peter Fahey, an Irish stonemason, built this house between 1847 and 1851. The census taken in 1851 shows him and his family living there. Research has revealed that Peter Fahey built homes on the east hill of Belleville as well as store blocks on Front Street one of which was known as the Neilson Music Hall. The Fahey house is reminiscent of the Regency Cottage form found in Canada in the 1830's with central doorway (here shrunk to a simple doorway with transom lights) symmetrically flanked by large front windows with low sills, which in earlier examples might often have been French windows opening out onto a verandah. The clipped gable roof, fashionable in larger and taller houses of the 1850's, is unusual in a small cottage. The large scale of the Gothic Revival vergeboard lends added charm. Note the similarity between the vergeboard on this dwelling and that on the Hunt-Stewart House at 16 East Moira Street.

Building No. 32



THE YEOMANS FARMHOUSE
164 West Moira Street

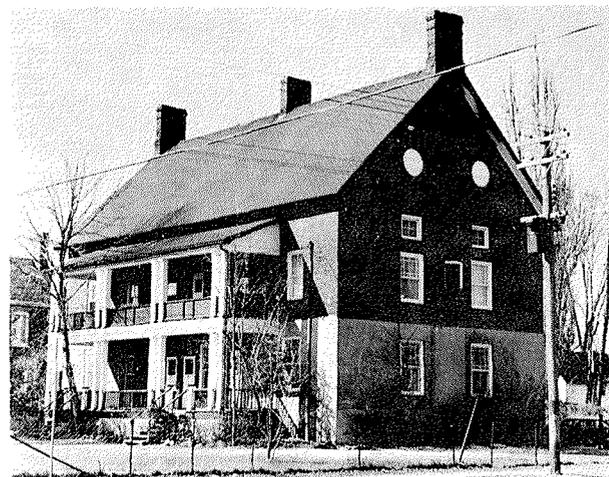
This is the original farmhouse of Asa Yeomans, built about 1850. He purchased 100 acres of land from Philip Zwick in 1833. Asa Yeomans was a carpenter and it is said that the front door of Mrs. Simpson's Inn, which was built in 1820 was an example of his skill. He did his own carpentry and also managed his farm. In 1836 Asa Yeomans was on the Board of Police for the First Ward and was a member of Council in 1838. The City Directory of 1868 lists Mrs. Asa Yeomans, a widow, at this address. In the year 1879 the house was bought by Gilbert Vanderwater. It subsequently passed to the City of Belleville in 1908 and was used as an Isolation Hospital for some time. After being sold in 1940, it was divided into apartments. The house is a rubble stone construction covered with stucco. It boasts lovely French casement windows. Originally, it was encircled by a Regency verandah.

Building No. 33



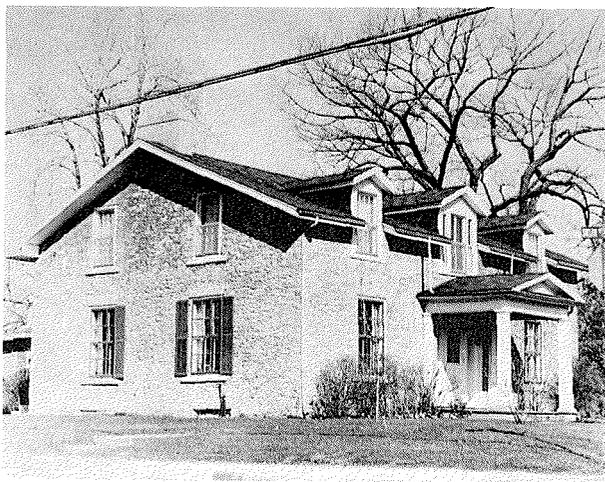
MARCHMONT HOME
193 West Moira Street

The Marchmont Home was established as an institution under the direction of Miss Annie MacPherson, a strong-willed Scottish philanthropist in 1870. The Home was operated by Miss Ellen Agnes Bilbrough of Croydon, England. She was assisted by Rev. Robert Wallace, whom she later married. It was maintained as a receiving centre for orphans from England, Wales and Scotland, until a new home could be found for them in the surrounding area. These orphans, who crossed the Atlantic by boat and arrived in Belleville by train, could be heard singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as they marched up the street to their new Canadian home. Many of these children were welcomed as members of the family; however, others were not so fortunate. The first two homes were destroyed by fire. The present building was built in 1875 by donations from "friends in Great Britain and Canada". Outbuildings housed the animals and the large garden and orchard grew produce for their own use. A chapel, built for their spiritual needs still stands, but is now a private home. The last group of children arrived in 1920. By 1925 the Marchmont Home was closed and the Dr. Barnardo Homes Organization took over the records.



NO. 2 COMMON SCHOOL
50 Octavia Street

The Common School Act of 1840 made primary education free and compulsory. By 1860 five common schools were built in Belleville. No. 2 Common School is the only known one remaining. It is also known as the Octavia Street School. It was the educational centre for Murney Ward for over sixty years. In 1920 Queen Mary School was built and No. 2 Common School closed its doors to pupils. Earliest records available at the Hastings County Board of Education, in the Journal of 1869-1911, show that Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia for the Dominion Government during World War 1, taught at this school in 1869-1870 for the sum of \$300 per annum. The Common School register records names of several well known west hill residents whose children attended this school. Among the more familiar names appearing in the register are Canniff, Panter, Woodley, Deacon, Meyers, Zwick, Orr and others. The steep roof and remaining bits of vergeboard reflect the Gothic period. This building has recently been divided into apartments.



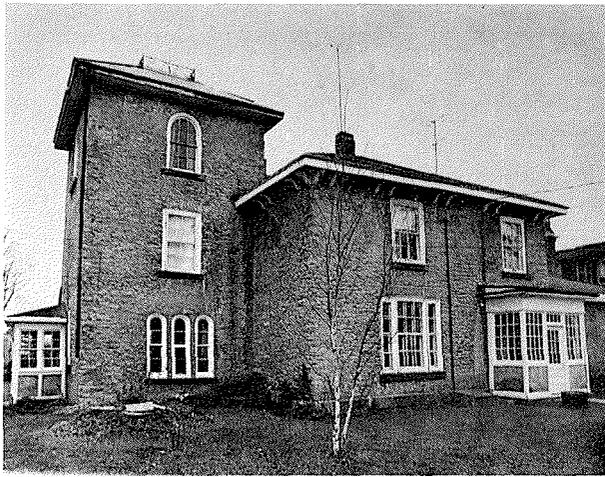
THE MOODIE COTTAGE
114 Bridge Street West

This Regency style cottage of rubble stone was built in the late 1830's. Susanna and J.W.D. Moodie bought the home in 1842. They had moved to Belleville in 1840 from Douro Township when Moodie was appointed the first Sheriff of Hastings County. He presided over the first court ever held in Victoria District, later to become Hastings County. Susanna was an early writer of important historical books, such as "Roughing it in the Bush" and "Life in the Clearings". The Moodies often entertained the Hon. Robert Baldwin in their home. In the election of 1841 Baldwin was the Reform candidate in Hastings County. Later, along with Louis Lafontaine, he headed up the Canadian government for five years. In 1870 Rev. Albert Geen, who established the Geen Drug Store, purchased the home. The rubble coursed stone was originally plastered over and marked to imitate ashlar masonry. The dormer windows are a later addition. An old photograph shows the cottage with a verandah with trellis work supports that ran across the front and around one or possibly two sides. The house was heated by stoves. The rear apartment is in the original kitchen wing. The rooms over the kitchen were added in 1870. The Regency Style originated in England during the period 1811-1820 when George, Prince of Wales (George IV) was the British regent.



THE McNABB-YEOMANS HOUSE
43 Bridge Street West

Familiarly known as the "river boat house" because the ornate porches resemble the deck rails of a river steamboat. This house was built about 1832 on one lot of the 20 acres purchased by James McNabb, a Scottish miller. Originally, it was an unadorned stone rectangle in the British Regency style with cut stone quoins at the corners and 12-paned double-hung windows. The main entrance with its square-headed transom over the door was upstairs opening off the upper verandah. It was a centre hall plan with the kitchen on the ground floor. Horace Yeomans bought the house in 1859 and made the changes which give the house its unique appearance. These are an interesting mixture of architectural periods and styles. The verandahs are typically Victorian in their trim and treillage; the bracketed cornice is Tuscan Italianate; the scalloped vergeboards are medieval but the columns supporting the porches are copies of Renaissance stonework. Captain McNabb carries the dubious distinction of being Belleville's only casualty of the MacKenzie Rebellion of 1836-37. Running through the unlighted hall of a local hotel during the midnight alarm, he was impaled upon the bayonet of one of his own men.



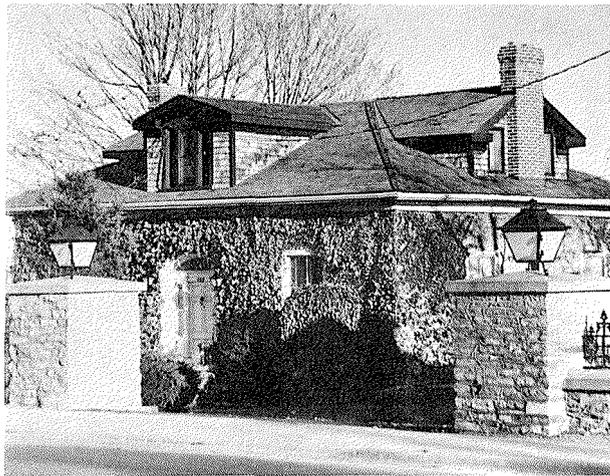
THE TURNBULL-CAMPBELL VILLA
23A Charlotte Street

This rambling irregular and picturesque house with its Tuscan tower is one of the first houses of an Italianate style in the city. The style was derived from the villa architecture of Italy and became very popular in this area around 1861. However, the Turnbull-Campbell house dates back to sometime in the 1850's. Built by John Turnbull for his daughter, the villa was a departure from the centre hall plan so popular in earlier times. Because of its asymmetrical composition, this type of house could easily be added onto or ornamented with various balconies or scalloped vergeboards. However, the builder of this house did not indulge in these whimsies. The large square tower is of a size to enclose rooms that are large enough to be useful. The round-headed windows are grouped together in two's and three's for maximum light and ventilation. The exterior is of rubble stone with a rough stucco covering. The mixture of square twelve-paned double-hung windows with the round-headed Italianate windows adds to the picturesque quality of this unusual house.



THE WELLBANKS HOUSE
190 James Street

As the only well-preserved Greek Revival type house remaining in Belleville, it is representative of a style that was immensely popular around the middle of the last century. The Wellbanks house, circa 1845, is oriented on its lot so that the gable end is toward the street with the front door on the shorter side of the rectangular house, resulting in a side-hall plan. The extended roof is supported by pillars forming a portico. The cornice returns on the gable suggest the triangular shape of a Greek pediment. Four evenly-spaced pillars supported the upper gallery but when one rotted away the Wellbanks moved one to the centre of the facade. The diamond-patterned treillage on the upper gallery is original but the lower porch railing is more recent. The square-headed transom with sidelights and glazed box lights above the door add to the Classic look. There are no fireplaces - it was heated by stoves and bracket chimneys. Long the home of Dr. Hedley Wellbanks, it is now owned by Dr. Wellbanks' nephew and his wife, John and June (Smith) Wellbanks.



THE ZWICK HOUSE
153 Dundas Street West

John Chisholm, one member of a family that settled in the area around 1780, built this house on an original grant of 200 acres. It was acquired early in the 1800's (circa 1810) by Zwick. The Georgian styled cottage is two storeys high on the side facing the Bay and the original kitchen was on the basement level after the British manner. The exterior is rubble stone. The loyalist front door of six panels, elliptical fan transom with sidelights, fluted columns flanking the door, low-pitched hip roof with gables and symmetrical balance of the two chimneys are all in the typical Georgian tradition. The house underwent extensive renovations in the 1850's and it was during this period that a two-storey wooden verandah of the elaborately scalloped, lacy type was installed across the entire side of the house facing the Bay. This Victorian addition was completely replaced by the present owner with an enclosed double porch. The original bake ovens and fireplaces are still in use.



THE HUTTON-PONTON HOUSE
250 Dundas Street West

Also known as "Sidney Cottage", this house was purchased in 1834 by William Hutton. He was a prolific writer of early Canadian life as he saw it, as well as the First Warden of Victoria District (as Hastings County was named in the 1840's). Hutton purchased it from a Dr. Meachum, who bought it in 1806. The farm on which the original farmhouse (which was incorporated into the enlarged house as the kitchen wing) stood was at one time 271 acres. The Hutton farm has long since vanished and is now the site for the Belleville Exhibition Grounds, Northern Electric, as well as many separate houses. The house was once a perfect example of a Regency style cottage - an English style square, one and one-half storeys high with a hip roof, large windows and a wide vine-covered verandah on three sides. The house was built in several parts. The oldest part at the rear of the house was rebuilt about 1836. The elliptical fan transom above the door and the slender columns flanking it are in strange contrast with the bracketed Tuscan-type tower with its round-headed windows. This was a Victorian addition at which time the spacious verandahs were also removed.

NOTICE

The information in this publication has been gathered as a result of extensive research by the Historic Structures Committee of the Hastings County Historical Society.

Anyone wishing to make use of this information in anyway is to contact the Society for consent.

APPRECIATION

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