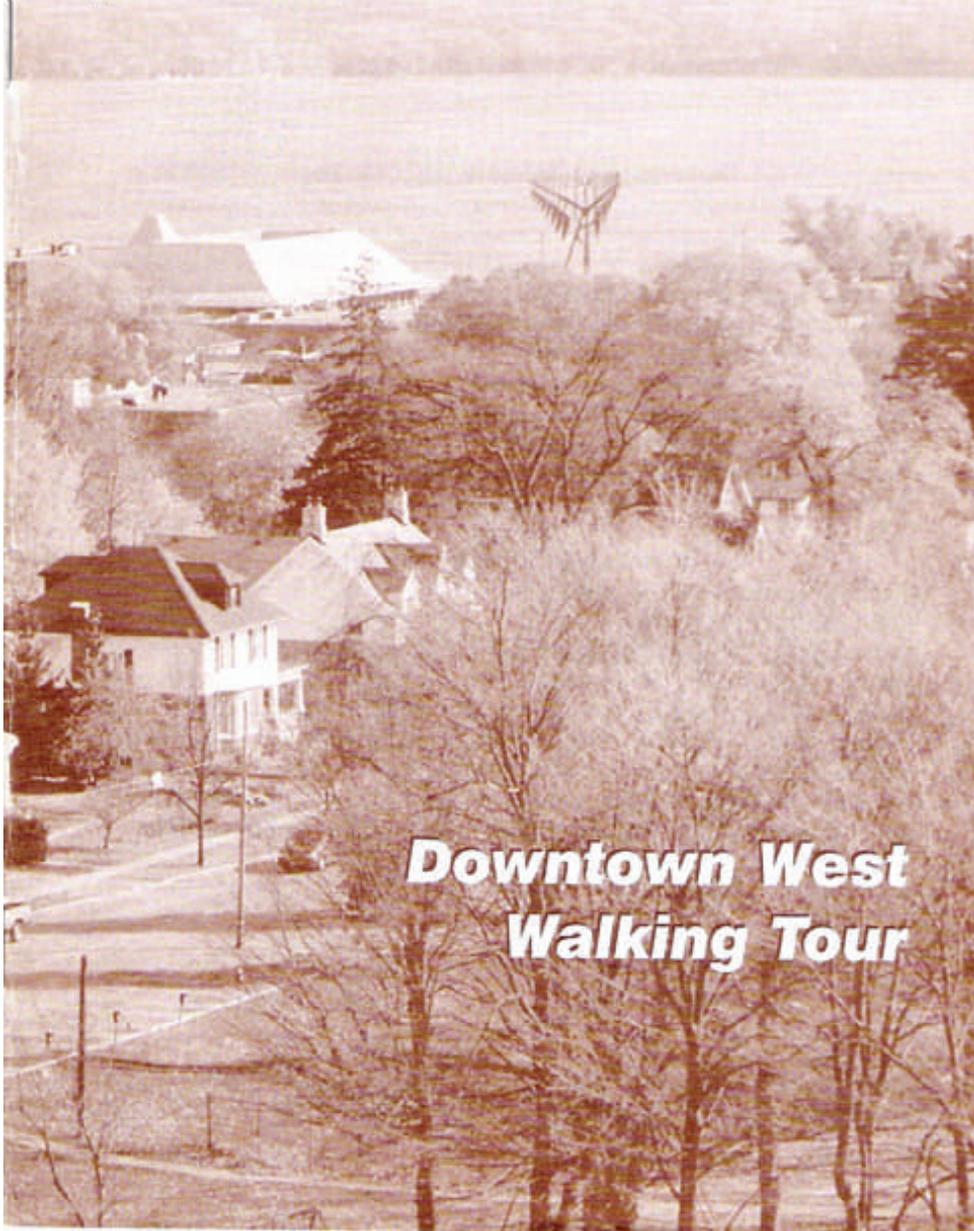




**Heritage Barrie
Walking Tours**



**Downtown West
Walking Tour**



Downtown West Walking Tour

The *Downtown West Walking Tour* is a self-guided tour sponsored by Heritage Barrie to highlight the heritage of the City of Barrie. It was published in 1983, reprinted in 1989, and revised and updated in 1999 for Heritage Barrie by Su Murdoch Historical Consulting, with electronic imaging and composition by Kurt Harding Schick. Other tours available include *Downtown East*, *Downtown West*, *Allandale*, *Rodney and Blake Streets*, and *Discovering the Waterfront*. Copies can be obtained from Barrie City Hall, PO Box 400, Barrie, ON, L4M 4T5, Barrie Public Library, and can be downloaded from Tourism Barrie's website at www.tourismbarrie.com. Information and photographs on any of the buildings and sites featured in this tour or on other aspects of Barrie's architectural heritage are welcomed.

What is Heritage Barrie?

Heritage Barrie was established in 1977 by a City of Barrie bylaw as the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Its role is to advise Council in heritage conservation matters and to implement the heritage policy of the Official Plan. Members are volunteers appointed by Council, an alderman, and a liaison from the Planning and Development Department. Funds for Heritage Barrie are provided annually as part of the city operating budget.

What is a Heritage Designation?

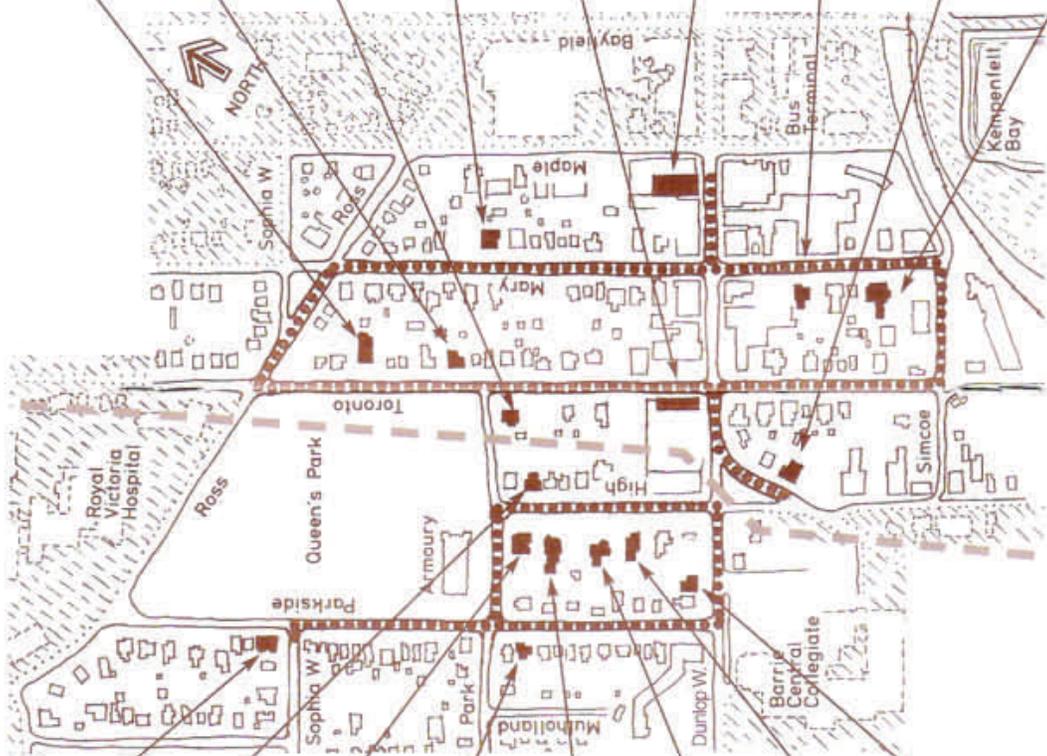
Heritage designation is an important aspect of the mandate of Heritage Barrie. Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* allows municipal councils to pass bylaws to protect properties that have architectural and/or historical significance to the community. The designation bylaw does not prevent alteration nor does it require the owner to restore the building. Its purpose is to ensure that any proposed changes to the designated features are in keeping with, or are sympathetic to, the reasons for designation. For further information and the list of properties designated or on the Cultural Heritage Resources Inventory, contact Heritage Barrie, c/o Planning and Development, Barrie City Hall, PO Box 400, Barrie, ON, L4M 4T5.

Tour A

- 3 68 - 70 Parkside Drive
- 5 73 - 75 High Street
- 4 74 High Street
- 2 32 Parkside Drive
- 6 72 High Street
- 7 62 - 64 High Street
- 8 60 High Street
- 1 124 Dunlop Street W.

Tour B

- 7 105 Toronto Street
- 8 91 Toronto Street
- 9 80 Toronto Street
- 6 77 Mary Street
- 2 94 Dunlop Street W.
- 5 46 Dunlop Street W.
- 4 30 Mary Street
- 1 9 Bradford Street
- 3 16 - 18 Mary Street



Downtown West Walking Tour

The tour consists of two 20 minute walks, the area west of Queen's Park (Tour A), and the area east of Queen's Park (Tour B)

TOUR A

1. 124 Dunlop Street West

In 1864, William Manly Nicholson established the *Barrie Examiner* newspaper. After his death in 1871, his son Byron took over the business and became Editor. The following year, Byron had this handsomely detailed Classic Revival style dwelling built at **124 Dunlop Street West**. Against the background of light coloured plaster, dark colour highlighted the heavy cornice supported by large brackets, neatly integrated with the window frames and the decorated gables. Due to renovations, this contrast in colours and texture has been lost. The exterior plaster is covered with siding and what may have been the original open verandah is enclosed.



1

124 Dunlop Street West



2

32 Parkside Drive

2. 32 Parkside Drive

This is an example of the L-shape plan, Gothic Revival dwelling popular in Ontario from the mid nineteenth century. Built about 1890 by mason Charles Lightfoot, it features a bow window, steep gables, segmental window openings, and the desirable element of working shutters. Renovations that removed the verandah and added stone veneer have not improved the house, but a Classical door-case is oddly attractive. Nearby, note numbers 26 and 34 Parkside with their sunburst gable ornaments.



3

68 - 70 Parkside Drive

3. 68 – 70 Parkside Drive

This 1875 duplex is an interesting vernacular style featuring end gables with three instead of the usual two window openings on the upper level. On the front façade there are two gables, not centered over a lower opening, but at the third points in the length of the structure. This technique gives a visual unity to the double house. Number 68 was the boyhood home of Andrew F. Hunter, Editor of the *Barrie Examiner* newspaper, noted historian, and author of *The History of Simcoe County* as well as other historical and scientific publications.



4

74 High Street

4. 74 High Street

Now a retirement home, this house and its neighbour at 72 High Street were associated with Simon Dymont, son of the lumber magnate and industrialist Nathaniel Dymont. The family's Brookdale Stables horses won the King's Plate race several times in the early twentieth century. Simon, who was living at 72 High, had this house built in 1907 as a wedding gift for his son Harold M. Dymont and his bride Agnes L. Campbell. This stylish dwelling with its impression of Tudor sports a second level shingled bow window or oriel on its north facade, a five-sided bay facing High Street, a large verandah, and parapeted gables. The building has been reclad using matching brick and extended to the West. The neighbouring baronial armoury in Queen's Park was built at the beginning of the First War to replace the undersized armoury that stands at 36 Mulcaster Street.

5. 73 – 75 High Street

Typical of functional workers' houses, this duplex was constructed early in the twentieth century. It and its slightly smaller twin next door are a contrast to the genteel and stylish dwellings across the street. Their bold, three storey towers, large window openings, and high, semi-hipped roofs, give them a solid presence and allow each occupant privacy in their defined quarters.



5

73 - 75 High Street



6 72 High Street

6. 72 High Street

Maplehurst was built in 1883 by Nathaniel Dymont for his son Simon and daughter-in-law Annie. Although Simon's endeavour into manufacturing the Barrie Bell automobile ended in his financial ruin, the family owned this residence until 1967. This fashionable dwelling has impressive bracketing at the eaves, a semi-circular ornament capping the stacked bow window, a sunburst gable decoration, and attractive barge-board. The sweeping verandah and second storey, closed porch are twentieth century replacements of the originals. The grey paint hides the red brick and contrasting buff brick accents. The property is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its architectural and historical significance.

7. 62 – 64 High Street

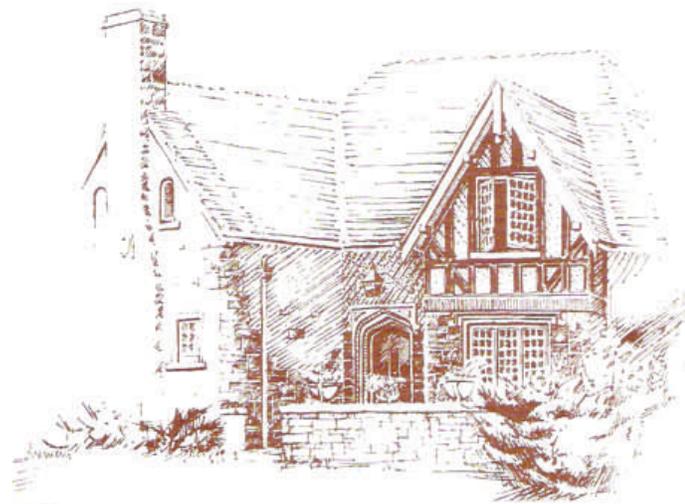
Lawyer George Willet Lount had his dwelling, Glenholme, built in 1872. An unusual form of the Gothic Revival style, the house may be modelled after a design in an architectural pattern book. George was brother to lawyer and high court justice William Lount, who built the Second Empire style dwelling known as Lount's Castle at 25 Valley Drive. Their uncle was the famed Samuel Lount who was the Reform member for Simcoe County in the 1834 to 1836 Legislative Assembly. Samuel was hanged for treason following the 1837 Rebellion of Upper Canada. This romantic house has several steeply pitched gables, tall-windowed turrets, and pointed arch windows. When owned by Judge Marjorie Hamilton, Barrie mayor from 1951 to 1952, it was divided into a duplex and the brick was covered in stone veneer.



7 62 - 64 High Street

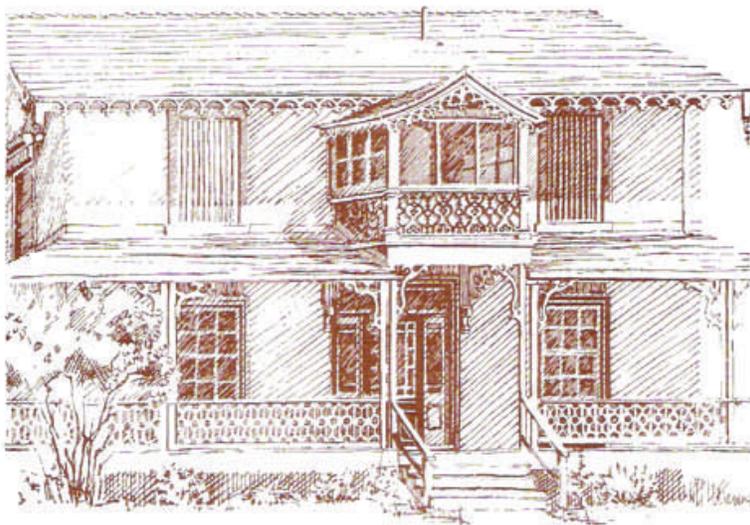
8. 60 High Street

Shoe factory owner, Ross H. Underhill, built this home in 1929 in a pleasing English Tudor or Romanesque style popular for substantial dwellings. The rustic stone base has a classic Tudor-arch doorway; the upper floor contains imitation half-timbering; the windows flank the chimney. This style is also referred to as Stockbrokers' Tudor as it was the choice of many financial brokers interested in expressing their success, that is, before the historic crash of the stock market at the end of 1929.



8 60 High Street

TOUR B



1

9 Bradford Street

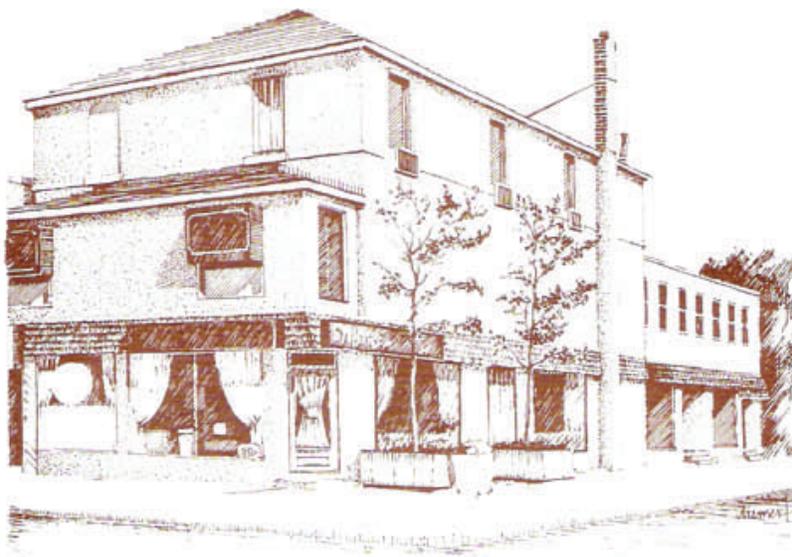
1. 9 Bradford Street

Known as Roselawn, this attractive dwelling was built about 1865 by Major Joseph and Ann Rogers. From the moment he arrived in Barrie in the early 1850s, Joseph was a key figure in the community. His various roles included bailiff, copyist for the Land Registrar's Office, auctioneer, member of the member of the Simcoe Foresters militia, warden of Trinity Anglican Church, and fore brigade captain. In 1864, Joseph was appointed High Constable for Simcoe County, a position he held for fifty years. Interviewed just before his death in 1930 at age ninety-eight, it was noted: "There are the settings and characters for half a dozen real Canadian novels in the memories

of Major Joseph Rogers." Joseph and Ann's son, "Big Joe," was the second constable appointed when the Ontario police force was organized in 1884. He became a detective and rose to the position of Superintendent of the Ontario Police. Roselawn is delightful with its proportioned symmetry, verandah featuring a bell-cast (concave) roof and decorative railing, Classical door-case, second floor balcony, and bargeboard with drop finials – much of which is a sensitive reproduction of the original.

2. 94 Dunlop Street West

Known as the Royal Hotel, the local newspaper described this business as "excellent and well-established" when bought by James Johnson in 1870. Later the King Edward Hotel, then Lowe & Son Furniture, this unassuming building shows traces of its former self through the hip roof, outline of the original window openings, and closed-in verandah. In its heyday, the hotel laid claim to a well-stocked bar and excellent stables, rented pleasure boats and fishing tackle, and offered vehicles for the conveyance of summer guests and tourists to nearby steamboat wharves.



2

94 Dunlop Street West

3. 16 –18 Mary Street

This symmetrical, Georgian with Regency influence style house is one of the oldest in Barrie. It was built in the early 1840s as a residence and possibly model home for John Pearson, an English-trained builder who constructed several buildings during Barrie's early history. When Pearson chose the location, it was nearly at the water's edge. For a brief period in the 1840s, the basement was used by the headmaster and students of the Barrie Grammar School. Later noted occupants include James Patton, Sheriff B. W. Smith, George Cook, and James Vair. Sections to the rear

and north of the original building were added about 1900 and other changes have taken place since 1990. The house features nine fireplaces, a rare basement bake oven, Classical door-case, low-pitched roof, eave brackets, multi-paned sash windows, and attractive double stack chimneys. A glance into the front hall reveals panelled doors, moulded trim, and a curved staircase. The prosperity is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its architectural and historical significance.



3

16 - 18 Mary Street

4. 30 Mary Street

This example of a vernacular style popular in the Victorian period was built in 1874 for Robert Simpson. Simpson's earlier Georgian style house was a few doors south, nearer to his brewery business, but now a municipal parking lot. The L-shaped plan, stacked bay window, segmental window openings, eave brackets, gable treatment, and complex roof are typical of the style. The missing element is the porch that would have tucked within the L-shape to protect the main entrance door. Robert Simpson was the first mayor of Barrie.



4

30 Mary Street



5

46 Dunlop Street West

5. 46 Dunlop Street West

In December 1930, Barrie fruitier John Saso retained Collingwood architect John Wilson to design “a wonder screen palace” patterned after Toronto’s renowned Hollywood Theatre. The following Spring, the warehouse on the west side of Saso’s fruit store at Maple Avenue (John Street) was demolished to make way for contractors M. Sullivan & Son of Arnprior to begin construction. The palatial new atmospheric Picture House opened in August with the latest technology in the talking film industry. With entrepreneurial spirit, John and Gaetana Saso extended their fruit store hours to midnight so patrons could make purchases when the movie

ended. They also opened a pool hall at the rear of the theatre building. The Roxy was a movie theatre and occasional venue for live entertainment until the early 1980s.

6. 77 Mary Street

In 1896, Alfred J. Carson, a grocer specializing in teas (who later moved to Haileybury), had this Tudoresque house built under the supervision of local architect Eustace Bird. Typical of the style are the imitation half-timbered second floor, leaded art glass windows, sculptured chimney, and Romanesque-arched entry. The original open side porch has been bricked closed. Variations of this Queen Anne influenced design by Bird stand at 11 Rodney Street, 88 Sophia Street East, and in Elmvale. Across the street is 76 Mary, the childhood home of Dr. William Edward Gallie. Born in 1882, Gallie was a pioneering surgeon and medical educator at the University of Toronto who achieved notoriety in Canada, England, and the United States. At 82 Mary is another modest Georgian style house with an uncharacteristic but charming leaf-bracketed verandah.



6

77 Mary Street



7

105 Toronto Street

7. 105 Toronto Street

This is a graceful example of the Second Empire style of architecture. The work is attributed to architect George Brown and builder George Ball, as they were responsible for most of the Second Empire style buildings in Barrie. Built in 1872 for American stove manufacturer Charles W. Robinson, it was sold in 1887 to Martin Burton. Burton, in partnership with his brothers, was a lumber dealer, pioneering public utilities entrepreneur, and owner of the steamer *Ida Burton*. The trademark mansard roof, pierced by elaborate bent-corniced window openings, is missing its patterned slate shingles and cast iron cresting. The dwelling has lost its landscaped gardens, complete with a fountain, but continues to enjoy a view of Queen's Park.

8. 91 Toronto Street

John Laidlaw, a carpenter, built this fine Gothic Revival style house in 1873 for himself, his wife Elizabeth, and their young children. Its high centre gable with vine-like bargeboard trim frames a pointed arch window typical of the style. These elements, along with the segmental window openings with contrasting brick voussoirs above, and the door-case with sidelights and a transom, are also traits of this style. An added feature is the bay window.



8

91 Toronto Street



9

80 Toronto Street

9. 80 Toronto Street

This remarkable house is believed to have been built in 1876 By John Palmer for William F. A. Boys, a barrister, judge, and mayor of Barrie. Designed by Boys, it reveals several stylistic influences that might best be described as Italianate. It is a frame structure, clad in plaster, and fronted by a relatively plain verandah. The zigzag frieze encircling the eaves contrasts with the soft round of the window mouldings. Farther on at 79 Toronto is an early Regency or Ontario Cottage style dwelling, upgraded with a gambrel roofed centre gable enclosing an oriel window.