

A photograph of a red door with a transom window and a house number 149, set in a brick building with green foliage.

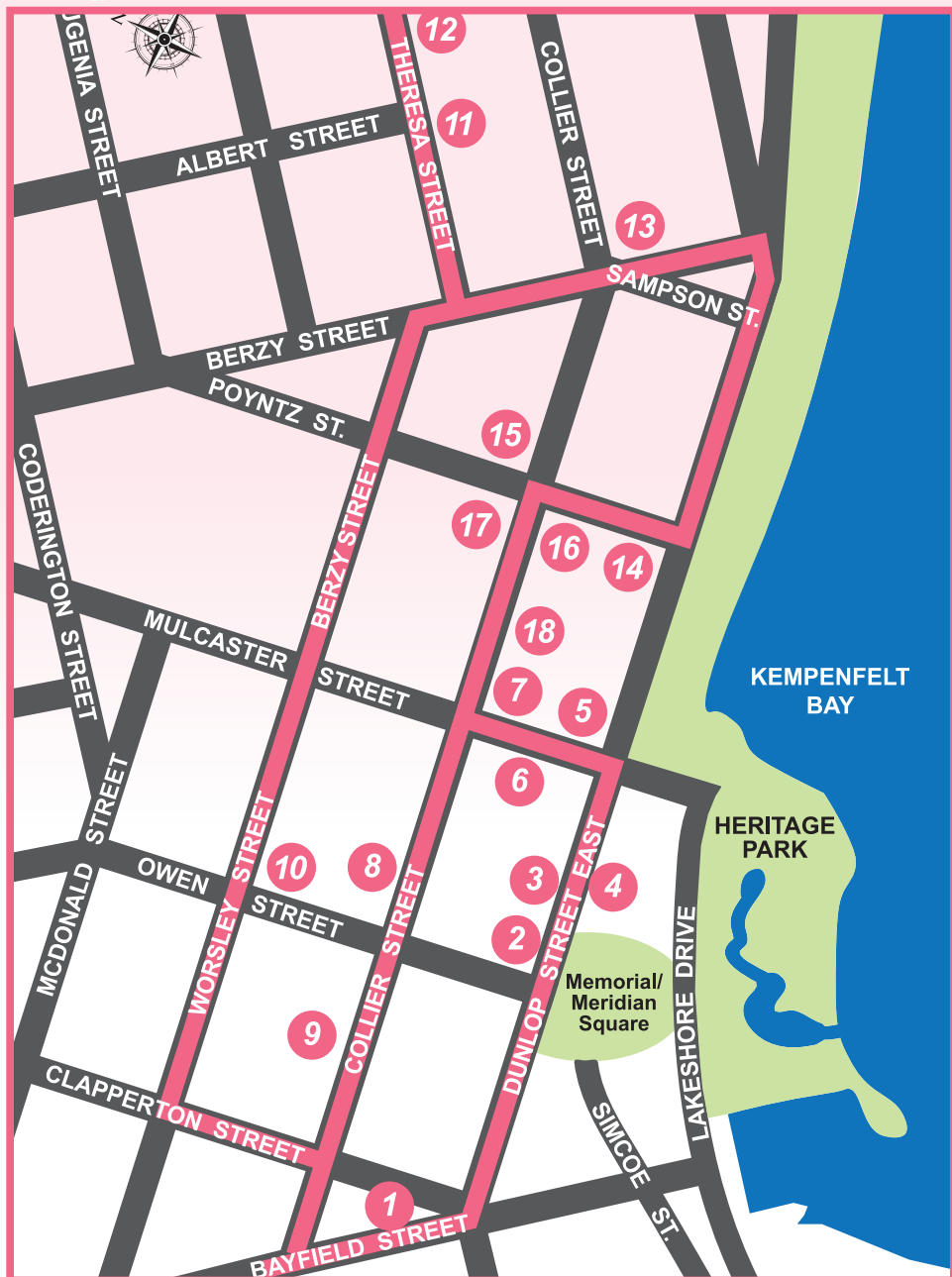
Tour 2

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Downtown East
WALKING TOUR

Tour 2 MAP

Downtown East WALKING TOUR





1 31 Bayfield Street

Built for Michael Shanacy to replace a hotel destroyed in the Bayfield Street fire of 1876, the Simcoe Hotel is designed to fit its wedge-shaped lot between Clapperton and Bayfield streets. Local builder George Brown is attributed with the Second Empire style design. Barrie's George Ball, possibly with help from the Davenport brothers of Hillsdale, is believed to be the builder.

A 1908 gazetteer about Barrie claimed that the town was known for its hard drinking and many taverns. It was condemned in 1875 by the Young Men's Christian Association as the worst town east of Winnipeg.



2 74 Dunlop Street East

This commercial, was built in 1880 for a jeweller, Leander Sanders, who had his name spelled in brick in the cornice. Sanders Block, its companion on the east known as Bothwell Block, and a corner building at Owen (demolished) were designed by the noted Barrie architect, Thomas Kennedy. The imaginative treatment of the windows and playful manipulation of proportion and decoration make this one of Barrie's finest facades. The metal clad finials at the roof are still intact. The property is designated for its historical and architectural significance under the Ontario Heritage Act.



3 94 Dunlop Street East

The Queen's is Barrie's oldest hotel and also its most handsome. Called the Barrie Hotel until 1924, this Georgian style building has been in continuous operation as a hotel since it was opened by Edward Marks in 1850. In a village filled with frame and log structures, and still without a brickworks, Marks made a bold (and likely expensive) decision to use buff coloured brick for his hotel. A passage on the west, bridged by an addition in 1866, led to the rear stable yard. A slight setback from the street still draws attention to the location. The Queen's is an important part of Barrie's built heritage.

4



South Side Dunlop East

The area known as the Boys Block, running west from Mulcaster on the south side of Dunlop, burned in 1873. Henry R. Boys then sold the land to several owners who agreed in 1876 to build one block of nine stores. The first three from Mulcaster had one owner, Samuel Wright, who instructed mason Robert Orr to create matching street facades for each of his three units. The various owners of the other stores hired mason William Macey to design a grouping of six facades, each with minor variations. Numbers 123 and 125 have unique terracotta keystones in the form of scowling human heads looking out from between the window openings. The Block is supported by Corinthian style iron columns that were cast locally at the Sewrey Foundry.

5



130 Dunlop Street East

The former Clarkson House Hotel at the northeast corner of Mulcaster and Dunlop is a plain, frame and roughcast structure in a Georgian style. It was built in 1871 for local dry goods merchant and politician, Thomas "Oily Tom" McConkey. The first proprietor of the hotel was Joshua Clarkson. A two-storey verandah added in 1872 must have been both decorative and useful for watching regattas on the bay. The Clarkson has been renovated several times but retains its original form and architectural elements.

36 Mulcaster Street

The unusually shaped building on the west side of Mulcaster was erected in 1888-89 as a military drill hall, company armoury, orderly room, quartermaster's stores, and band room. A project of Barrie, Simcoe County, and the federal departments of Public Works and Militia, many were critical of its size, comparing it to "the historic black hole of Calcutta." It was the headquarters of the 35th Battalion Simcoe Foresters until 1914 when it became auxiliary to the new Queen's Park armoury. In 1948, it was transformed into a farmers' market location. In recent years, the building was revitalized by a committee of City Council and is designated for its architectural and historical significance under the Ontario Heritage Act. It is now the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum.

6





37 Mulcaster Street

The unique Beaux Arts Classicism style building was built as a public library in 1915 using a \$15,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Industrialist Andrew Carnegie believed that libraries should be free and he sponsored their construction in hundreds of locations across North America. Designed by Toronto architect Alfred H. Chapman, the structure features large Romanesque style windows, a patterned frieze under the eaves, and glazed tile. The building was vacated in 1996 when a new library opened at Owen and Worsley. It reopened in 2001, as a gallery and office space for the MacLaren Art Centre and is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for its architectural and historical significance.



58 Collier Street

In 1845, John Weir bought a lot on the north side of Collier, west of Mulcaster, and had this elegant townhouse built as his residence. Many long term residents recall that, during and after the Second War, it was the home and office of Dr. MacPherson. In the Georgian style, the house has an unusual four bay front façade. An 1870's photograph reveals decorative brackets along the eaves, three roof dormers, and a two storey verandah with handrails, columns, and bargeboard that probably was added to update the style. There is evidence in the attic of fire damage to the roof structure. This dwelling dates from Barrie's early history and, although altered, is still characteristic of the period.



24 Collier Street - Trinity Anglican

The first Anglican church in Barrie was erected in 1835 near Poyntz and Worsley. When that frame building proved too small (and cold) for the growing congregation, a new church was built in 1864. has occupied its prominent hilltop site on the north side of Collier, between Owen and Clapperton, since that date. It is Gothic Revival in style and has traditional tower-nave-chancel plan. In 1934, lightning ignited a fire that destroyed the tower and caused extensive damage to the interior. The structure is now topped by a castellated parapet.



10

47 Owen Street - St. Andrew's Presbyterian

This historic church built in 1882-3, has imaginative masonry with corbels, panels, checkerboards, and bricks cut into circular and rhomboidal shapes, accented with spire-like roof finials. Buff brick is used as a foil to the predominantly brown orange façade. Following its construction, there was surprising criticism and disappointment at its plain appearance. This is a well preserved and attractive landmark in downtown Barrie.



11

23 Theresa Street

This residence on the south side of Theresa, east of Berczy, was built about 1863 for Henry and Sara Creswicke. Henry was an engineer and surveyor for Simcoe County and also served on Barrie Council. He died in 1883, but the family owned the property until selling in 1924 to Henry's executor and son-in-law, Charles Hewson. In 1950, Hewson sold to Ralph and Valerie Snelgrove, the founders of Barrie's CKVR television and CKBB radio. Although new wing sections and a garage partially obscure the original design, the house still has many classic Gothic Revival elements such as the steep pitched roof, bargeboard, finials, gables, and shaped window openings.



12

33 Theresa Street

William D. Ardagh returned to open a law practice in 1856 on Dunlop Street. Two years later, he was appointed Deputy-Judge for Simcoe County by his brother-in-law, Judge James Gowan. In 1873, he began construction of his large dwelling known as The Hill, on the south side of Theresa Street. The design is attributed to Barrie architects Gaviller and Thomson. Although Ardagh left Barrie in 1882 to become the Deputy Attorney General of Manitoba, then died in 1893, the family owned The Hill until 1968. Even without its expansive verandah, and with a modern kitchen addition, this is an extraordinary Gothic Revival style house. Built of earthy-orange brick, it has sophisticated window labels made of cast stone. The variety in gable ornamentation appears like elegant trusses.

14



13

149 Collier Street

This house was built in 1865 for William and Jane Caldwell. William operated a blacksmith and carriage shop on the east part of the lot, which may explain why the house seems crowded to the west. It is in the neoclassical style, rare for Barrie, with a dentil cornice at the eaves and a graceful doorcase with a fanlight transom. Paired and arched window openings over the entrance and in the gables are a pleasant window variation. The gable roof has raised parapet ends, which in a more tightly packed urban setting, offered some fire protection from abutting structures.



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158 Dunlop Street East

Known as a doctor's house, Barrie's first medical doctor, Dr. Alexander Pass, had a frame house on this site. Dr. Edward D. Morton bought the property in 1865 and ten years later had the Pass house demolished to make way for this bright, buff brick residence. Dr. Morton died in 1916 and there is a tradition that his widow and son opened a guest-house. In 1934, Dr. Ernest Turnbull established his medical practice there, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. A. Ross Turnbull. This is a stately and elegant residence that blends Gothic Revival with Italianate style elements, and features a traditional side verandah overlooking a garden setting. The property is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for its architectural and historical significance.



15

118 Collier Street

This traditional Georgian style house was built for Edmund and Anne Lally about 1847. Edmund was an agent for the Bank of Upper Canada and an early treasurer for Simcoe County. The characteristic Georgian elements of a rectangular form with a balanced façade, medium pitched roof, central door-case with sidelights and a transom window, and generously sized multi-paned window sashes, represent the best of this early Ontario style. The ground floor has casement or French doors designed to lead into a now vanished verandah.



111-113 Collier Street

This striking dwelling on the south side of Collier, west of Poyntz, is believed to have been partially destroyed by fire about 1890, while owned by barrister and Barrie mayor, Francis Pepler. The reconstruction above the second floor introduced an expressive example of Gothic Revival style with sharp gables and an unusual three-storey bay window. The patterned stonework and pairs of pointed arch windows are particularly engaging. The building was duplexed about 1909 and has accommodated several owners and tenants since then. The east side was an office for Barrie's Gryphon Theatre during its foundation years.



112 Collier Street

The spire of Collier Street United church, embellished with tiny dormers and fleur-de-lis, is the lone survivor among the four church spires that once delineated Barrie's skyline. It tops a firmly buttressed tower centered in the plain but impressive Gothic Revival façade. This 1864 church, which replaced an 1841 frame building to the east, was later enlarged with shallow transepts. This changed the linear plan of the building and introduced the present collection of windows, including two fine rose windows.



101 Collier Street

Across the street at 101 Collier Street is a charming gable-end cottage with lace-like bargeboard trim. There is a tradition that this was the coachman's house at the rear of Judge John Ardagh's residence, Blythe Cottage, which fronted on Dunlop. Blythe Cottage is remembered by many after it was converted to Mayor's Motel, later Bayshore Landing Motel. It was demolished about 1987 to build the Bayshore Landing condominium complex.