



Downtown East Walking Tour

Downtown East is a self-guided walking tour sponsored by Heritage Barrie to highlight the heritage of the City of Barrie. It was first published in 1985, and revised in 2002 by Heritage Barrie member Dr. John Anders and Su Murdoch Historical Consulting, with electronic imaging and composition by Kurt Harding Schick. Other tours available include *H-Block and Court House Hill*, *Downtown West*, *Allandale*, *Rodney and Blake Streets*, *Discovering the Waterfront*, and *Grand Homes*. Copies are available 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.

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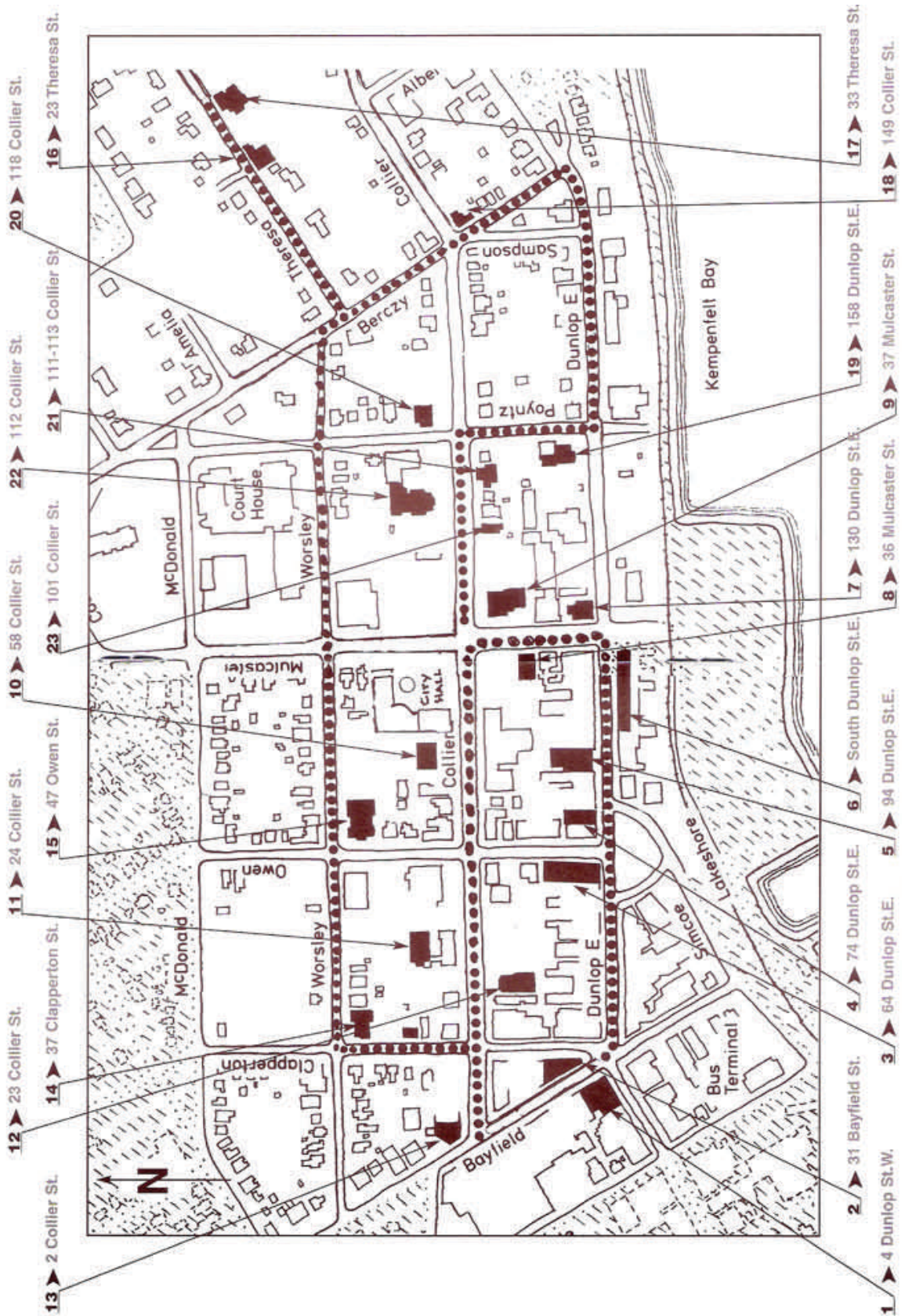
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°DOWNTOWN EAST TOUR MAP



Downtown East Walking Tour

The Downtown East Walking Tour begins at the Five Points intersection of Dunlop and Bayfield and ends at City Hall at Mulcaster and Collier. Approximate walking time is 90 minutes.



1 ➤ 4 Dunlop Street West

1. 4 Dunlop Street West

About 1841, David McCausland built a frame and roughcast plaster hotel at the northwest corner of Elizabeth Street (Dunlop Street West) and Bayfield. It was later enlarged and known as Summersett Hotel. A fire in July 1876 along Bayfield destroyed the building and several others on the north side of Dunlop West. The following year, the brick, box-like Wellington Hotel was built at the corner. Although

no longer a hotel, this building is a landmark at Barrie's unique intersection known, even in the nineteenth century, as Five Points.

2. 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 ➤ 31 Bayfield Street

3. 64 Dunlop Street East

Barrie's first merchant, Sidney M. Sanford, built a store at the northwest corner of Dunlop Street East and Owen in 1833, the year the town was first surveyed into lots. In 1875, a fire leveled the entire block between Owen, Dunlop, Clapperton, and Collier. It was then that Jonathan Henderson built his brick hardware store at the northwest corner of Owen and Dunlop. The attractive orange-red brick was a local product that contrasts nicely with accents of buff brick.

Like many other commercial buildings on the main street, it once featured a wood verandah over the sidewalk.



3 ➤ 64 Dunlop Street East

Opposite the store, within Memorial Square, is a plaque commemorating that site as the terminus of the nine-mile portage that took travellers from Kempenfelt Bay, west to Willow Creek, and on to Georgian Bay.



4 ➤ 74 Dunlop Street East

4. 74 Dunlop Street East

This commercial building on the north side of Dunlop, east of Owen, 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*.



5 ➤ 94 Dunlop Street East

5. 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.

6. South Side Dunlop East, West from Mulcaster

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



6 ➤ South Side Dunlop Street East, West of Mulcaster

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.



7 ➤ 130 Dunlop Street East

7. 130 Dunlop Street East

Typical of Barrie's nineteenth century buildings, the former Clarkson House Hotel at the north-east 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

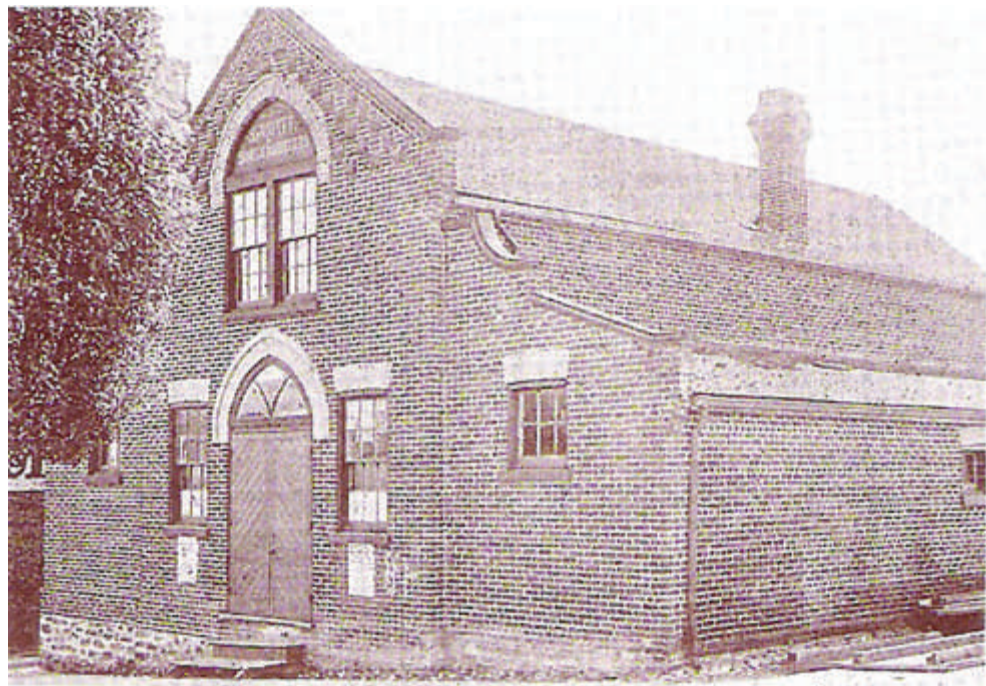
two-storey verandah added in 1872 must have been both decorative and useful for watching regattas on the bay. The Clarkson has been renovated several times but retains its original form and several architectural elements.

8. 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

farmer's market location. In recent years, the building was revitalized by a committee of City Council. It is designated for its architectural and historical significance under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The southwest corner of Mulcaster and Collier was dominated until 1978 by the fire hall, which also contained the first town hall and lockup. A monument now commemorates its location.



8 ➤ 36 Mulcaster Street

9. 37 Mulcaster Street

The unique Beaux Arts Classicism style building at the southeast corner of Mulcaster and Collier 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



9 ➤ 37 Mulcaster Street

reopened in 2001, with a modern addition, as gallery and office space for the MacLaren Art Centre. The former library building is designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its architectural and historical significance.



10 ➤ 58 Collier Street

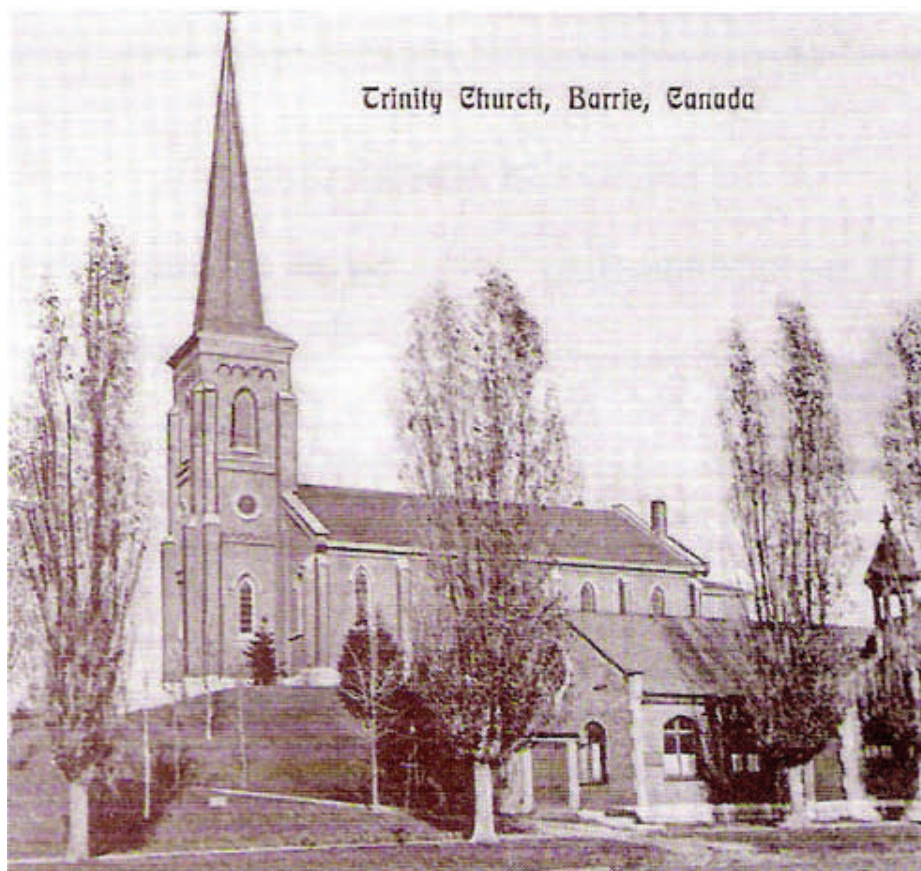
10. 58 Collier Street

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. Although there have been several owners, 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 (three windows

and a door). An 1870s 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.

11. 24 Collier Street

The first Episcopal or 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. Trinity Anglican has occupied its prominent hill-top site on the north side of Collier, between Owen and Clapperton, since that date. It is Gothic Revival in style and possesses a 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. A new parish hall was added in 1957.



11 ➤ 24 Collier Street

12. 23 Collier Street

On the south side of Collier, just east of Clapperton, are the ground floor remains of Barrie's magnificent Grand Opera House. Simcoe County treasurer Sidney James Sanford financed the construction of the Opera House in 1895. His gift to Barrie was later revealed to be a \$63,000 shortfall in the County's accounts. Sanford moved to South America where he made a fortune in mining and repaid all his borrowed wealth. Professional and amateur theatre, vaudeville, and silent films were popular at the Opera House. Talking films were new when the building was partially destroyed by fire on November 6, 1926.



12 ➤ 23 Collier Street



13. 2 Collier Street

In 1873, James Barr and William Henry began crafting wood parts for horse-drawn carriages. About 1881, they built a two-storey, brick blacksmith shop on Bayfield Street. Two years later, they began construction of the handsome commercial building snugly fitted to its obtuse angled corner at Collier and Bayfield. When completed in 1884, the three-storey brick structure boasted the latest in carriage manufacturing technology. The ground floor contained the showroom and office. The elevator at the northeast corner was large enough for an entire wagon or carriage to be hoisted from the cellar to the paint and varnish room on the second floor. The top floor was a trim shop and storeroom, with access to the second level of the blacksmith shop at the rear. Occupied by Steele's China and Gift Shop for several decades, the building is a significant anchor to Collier Street. As the route running through the central Market Square at Mulcaster, Collier is ninety-nine feet, rather than the standard sixty-six feet wide. It could easily accommodate the fine new carriages produced at Barr & Henry's.

13 ➤ 2 Collier Street

14. 37 Clapperton Street

The Baptist congregation in Barrie had this brick church built in 1878, at the southeast corner of Clapperton and Worsley. Like most early churches, the spire was damaged and never rebuilt to its original height. With its pointed arch window openings and dichromatic brick-work, the church served the Baptist congregation of Barrie until 1997 when it was sold and converted to commercial use.

The brown-maroon brick house at 33 Clapperton Street has a front gable filled with delightful bargeboard.



14 ➤ 37 Clapperton Street



15. 47 Owen Street

Another of Barrie's historic churches is St. Andrew's Presbyterian at the corner of Owen and Worsley. Built in 1882-3, it 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.

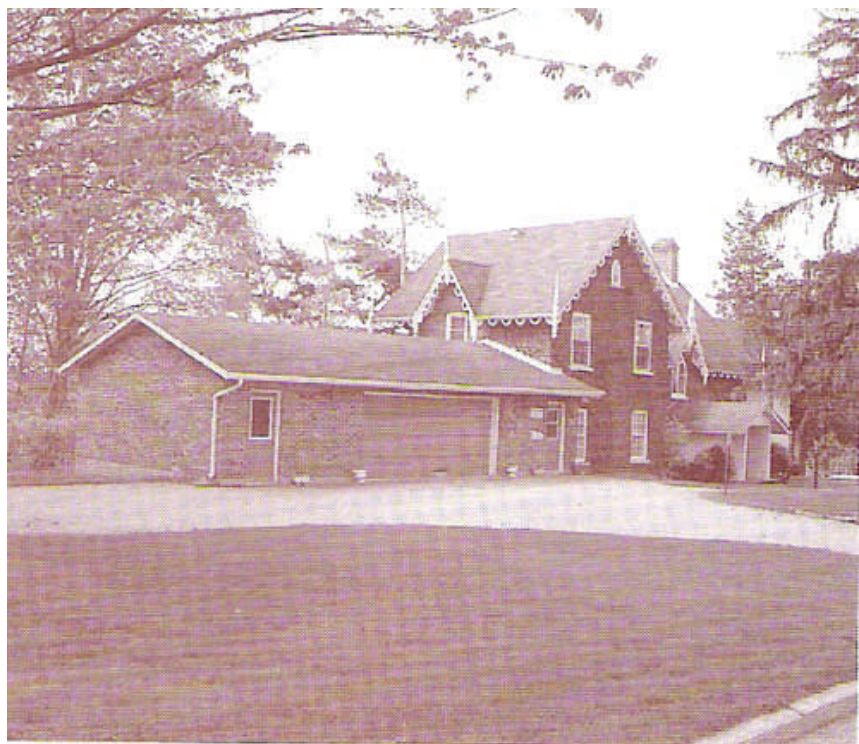
15 ➤ 47 Owen Street

Watch for the appealing facades of the dwellings along the north side of Worsley. When crossing

Mulcaster, look northeast to the oldest public building in Barrie. This unusual stone structure is the jail, completed in 1842 as one of the requirements for the village to become the administrative centre for the newly created County of Simcoe. The other requirement was for a courthouse, which although not the 1841 building, still stretches along the original location on the north side of Worsley toward Poyntz.

16. 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.



16 ➤ 23 Theresa Street



17 ➤ 33 Theresa Street

17. 33 Theresa Street

Although William D. Ardagh spent part of his youth in Barrie, it was in 1856 that he returned to open a law practice on Dunlop Street. Two years later, he was appointed Deputy-Judge for Simcoe County by his brother-in-law, Judge James Gowan. Ardagh's career was varied. He was in the legal profession, banking, politics, and pursuits such as real estate development, railways, and operating a sawmill at Victoria Harbour. 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.

18. 149 Collier Street

Retracing the route to Berczy brings into view the dwelling at the southeast corner of Berczy and Collier. This house was built in 1865 for William and Jane Caldwell. William operated a blacksmith and carriage



18 ➤ 149 Collier Street

shop on the east part of the lot, which may explain why the house seems crowded to the west. It is in the Neo-classical style, rare for Barrie, with a dentil cornice at the eaves and a graceful door-case 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.



19 ➤ 158 Dunlop Street East

19. 158 Dunlop Street East

The northwest corner of Dunlop and Poyntz has been known by generations as the location of 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. The family owned the house and the vacant lot on the west, until 1994. 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.

Across Poyntz Street at 162 Dunlop East is a Tudorish Queen Anne style house built for Dr. Richard Raikes in 1898. The architectural design, which includes a third floor lookout toward the bay, is attributed to the renowned Barrie architect Eustace Bird.

20. 118 Collier Street

This traditional Georgian style house at the north-east corner of Collier and Poyntz 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. His dwelling would have been impressive in a backwoods village of predominantly log and frame buildings. The characteristic Georgian elements of a rectangular form with a balanced façade, medium pitched roof, central door-case



20 ➤ 118 Collier Street

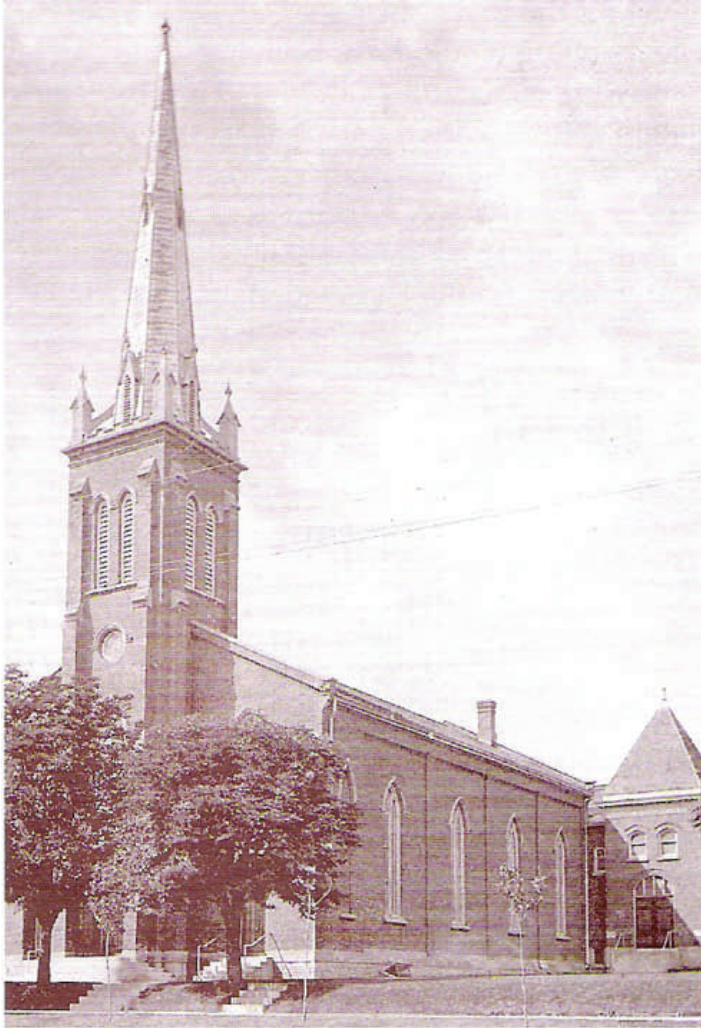
with sidelights and a transom window, and generously sized multi-paned window sashes, represent the best of this early Ontario style. The ground floor has casement or French doors designed to lead into a now vanished verandah. This significant dwelling is rooted in an early period of Barrie's development.



21 ➤ 111-113 Collier Street

21. 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.



22. 112 Collier St.

The spire of Collier Street United church, embellished with tiny dormers and fleurs-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.

22 ➤ 112 Collier Street

23. 101 Collier St.

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.



23 ➤ 101 Collier Street