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Discovering the Waterfront

Allandale



ALLANDALE walking tour

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, a councilman, and a liaison from the Planning Department.

The Allandale walking tour is a self-guided tour sponsored by Heritage Barrie to highlight the architectural and historical heritage of the City of Barrie.

For more information:

Heritage Barrie
www.heritagebarrie.com

Barrie City Hall
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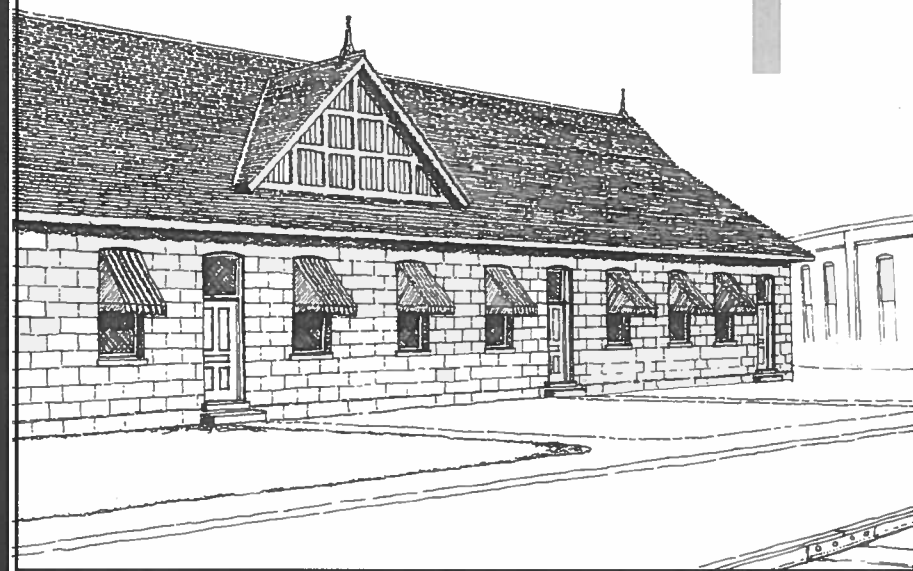
Barrie Visitor and Convention Bureau
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Revised-Reprinted 2008

TOUR 1

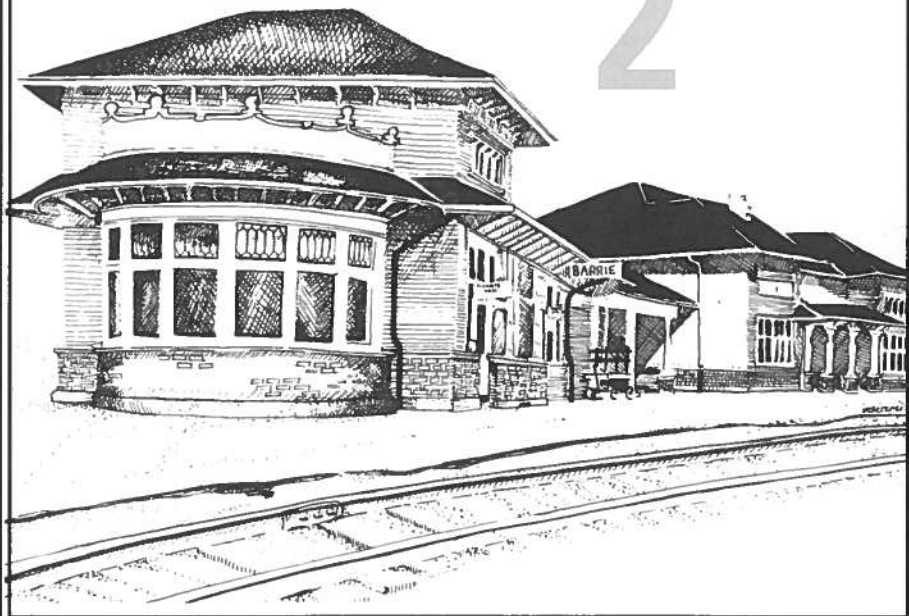
GTR Office and Stores Building

Built in 1903 by the Grand Trunk Railway, this building accommodated the offices of the Master Mechanic and clerical staff as well as the parts (stores) department. Each department had its own entrance. Essentially a modified railway station plan, this is an early example of poured concrete construction. In 1994, the building was extended on the Bay side by a complementary addition with both nautical and railway expression. Now owned by the City of Barrie, the building is known as the Southshore Community Centre.



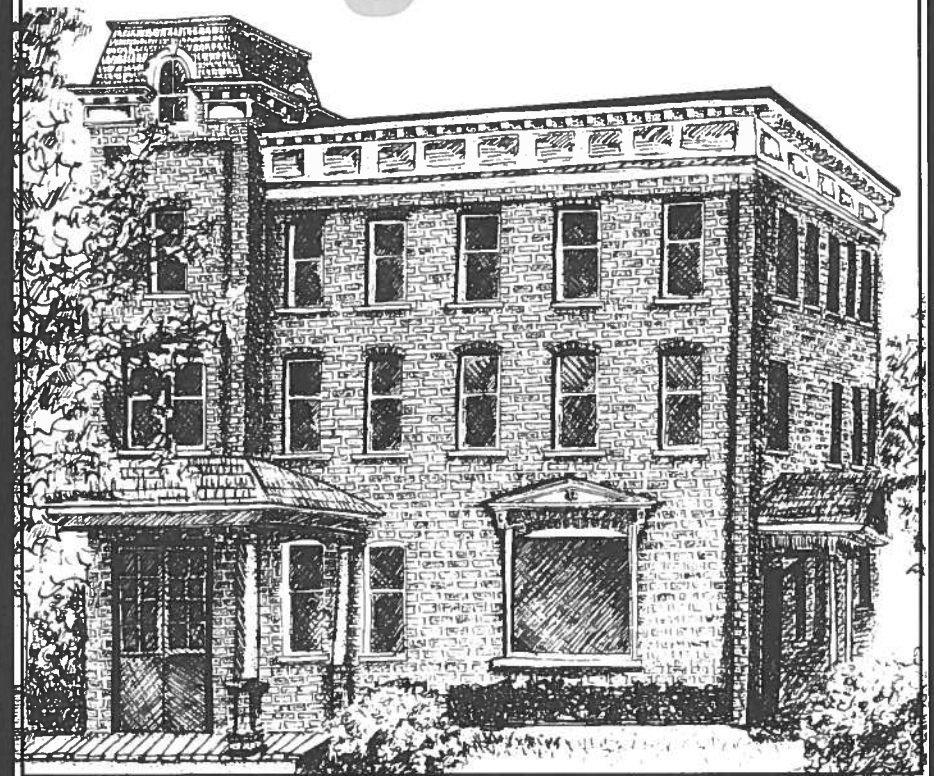
Allandale Station

Allandale's future was guaranteed when the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Union Railroad Company line, known affectionately as "Oats, Straw and Hay", reached here in 1853. The OSH became the Grand Trunk Railway which built the present station in 1905, the third in the vicinity. The brick section predates 1905 but was incorporated into the design by architects Spier and Rohns of Windsor. Following the curve of the original shoreline of Kempenfelt Bay, this lovely, three-building composition with its wide eaves, finely detailed windows, columns and breezeways is in an Italianate/Prairie School style. The coronet-ringed waiting room commands views of both the water and approaching trains. A lavish, wood panelled restaurant once occupied the centre block. The design was unified by bands of intricate stencil or screen work around each opening and along the eaves.



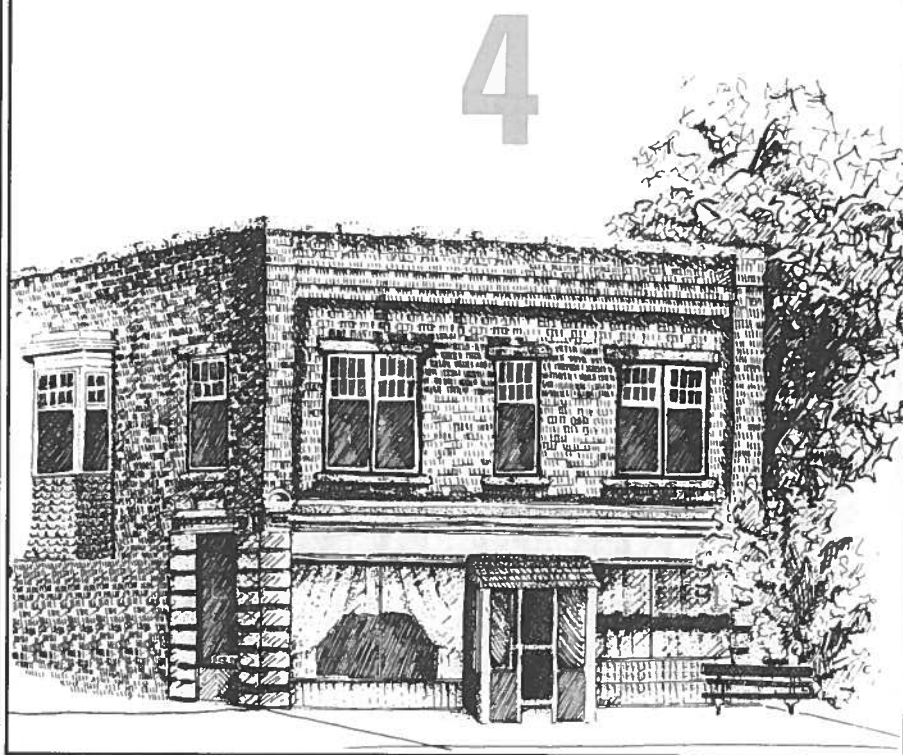
268 Bradford Street

Completed in 1907, the Railroad YMCA was built and administered by local citizens primarily to offer overnight accommodations to 'deadheading' railway men. Until 1942, the YMCA supplied a secretary to run the programmes. As part of the deal, the Grand Trunk and later Canadian National Railway supplied fuel and water until 1950 when beds were no longer required. Now a restaurant, this is a handsomely restored late Victorian structure with an exceptional panelled cornice butting into a mansard-roofed tower.



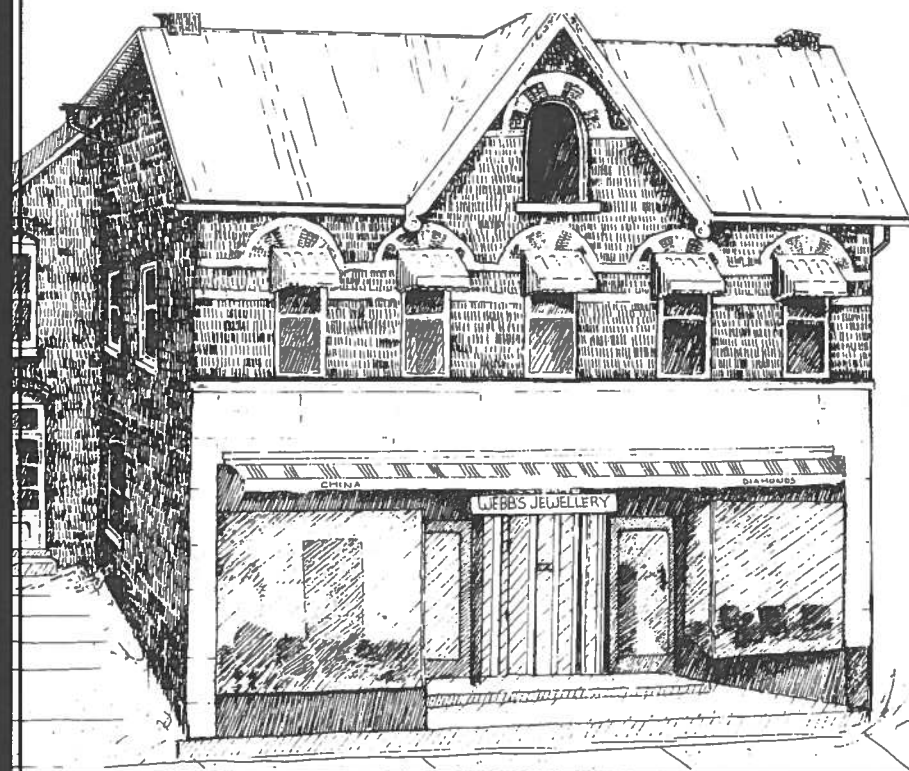
4 Essa Road

This is an example of a building made to fit its irregular-shaped lot. George 'Doc' Patterson established his "most complete" drug store on this site in 1896 in the former Fisher Brothers Brewery. Here he concocted such remedies as "Patterson's Cough Balsam" and "Rhubarb and Dandelion Bitters". His son, Arthur, continued the business and constructed this "quite palatial" Edwardian Classicism style building in 1914. Noteworthy features are the generous number of windows, the shingled oriel windows, a cornice, and stone and brick quoin trim.



8 Essa Road

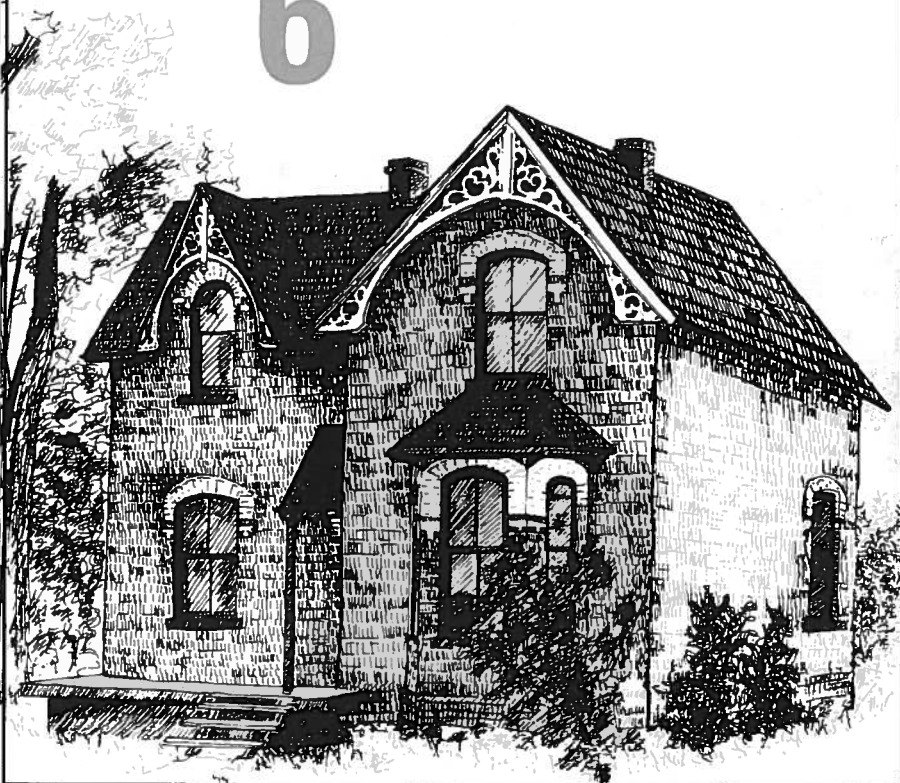
Wesley Webb, a graduate of the Ontario Horological Institute in Toronto, opened these fine premises in 1893, adding the family residence to the back about ten years later. He began watch inspection for the railway in 1898, a task which Webb's Jewellery continued for many decades. The store, built of earth-orange tone brick with contrasting buff trim, features a centre gable, unusual on a commercial building of this date. The street level has been renovated several times.



27 Gowan Street

This attractive Ontario Gothic Revival style house dating from the 1870s is one of countless examples in Ontario based on plans found in popular journals such as *The Canadian Farmer*. Although missing the characteristic verandah, the house retains its fine bargeboard decoration on both gables, the bay window and buff brick voussoirs, or 'eyebrows', over each window.

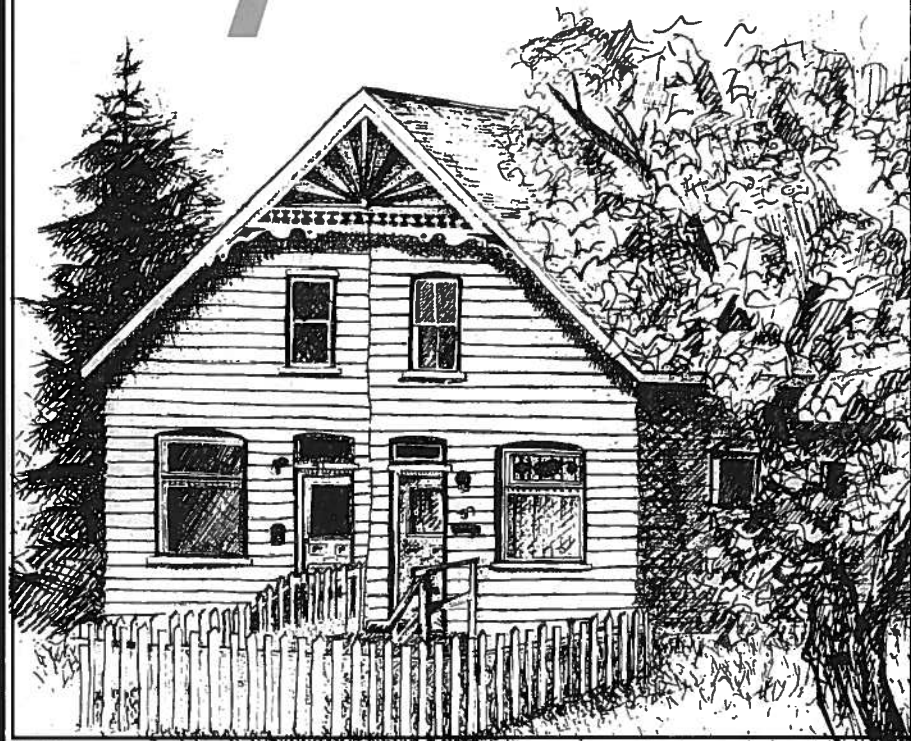
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39 - 41 Gowan Street

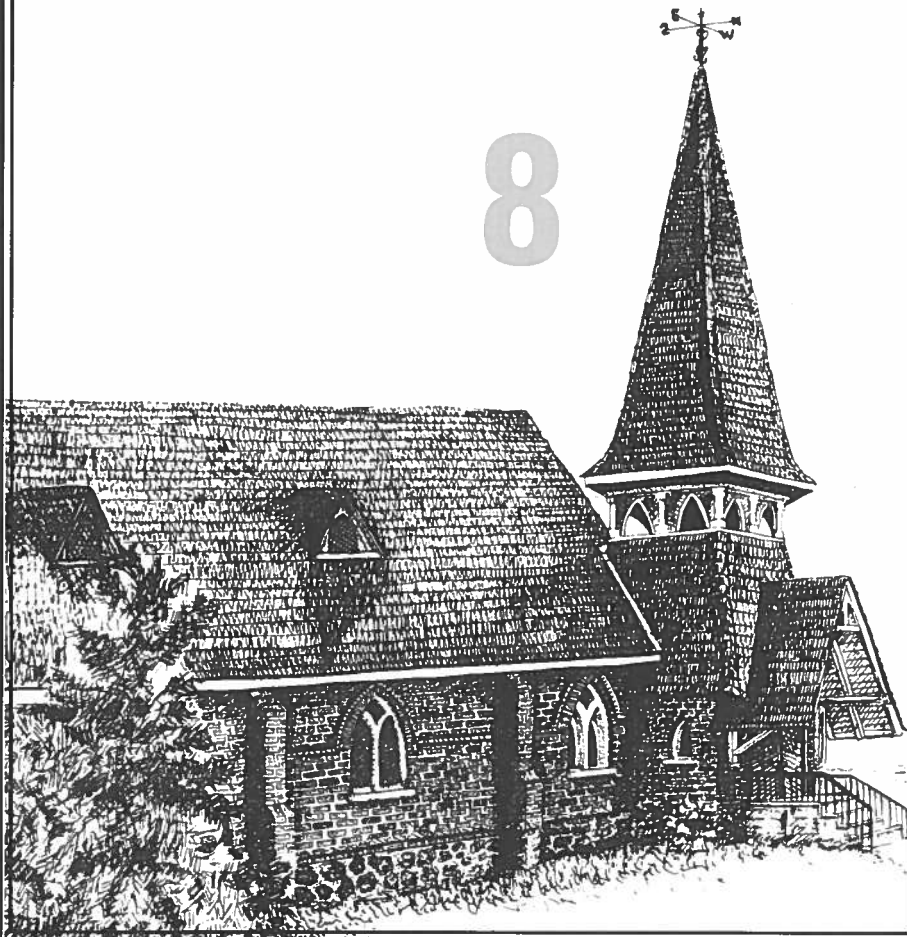
Built in 1873 on what was Allandale's main east-west street, this frame building began as the meeting place for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation. A larger brick church, now Burton Avenue United, was built in 1895 and the meeting house was converted into a two-family dwelling. The broad sunburst and spindle gable gazes across the tracks to the Bay.

7



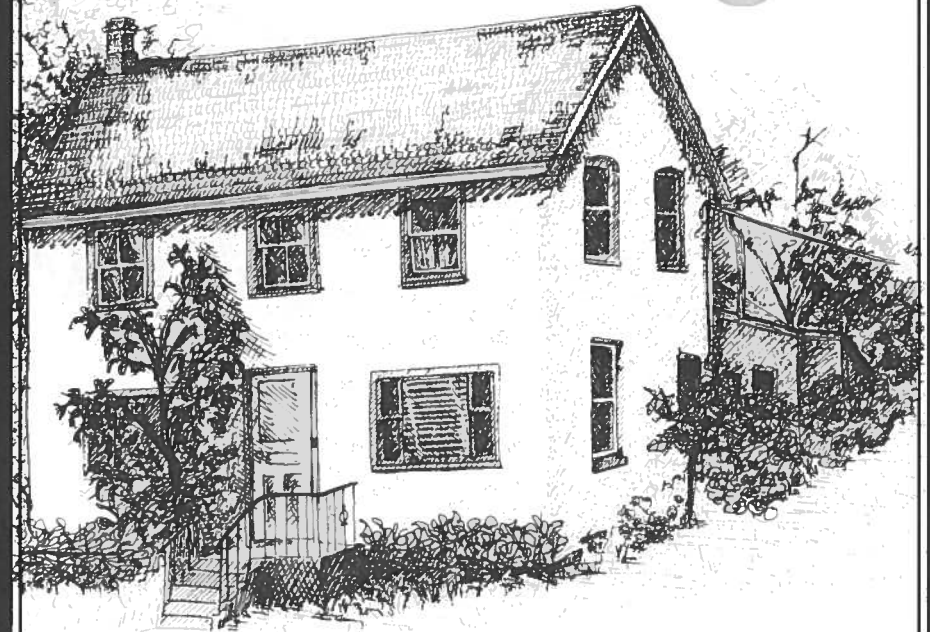
24 Burton Avenue

After meeting for twenty years in various buildings around the village, Allandale's Anglican congregation built their homey English Gothic parish church. St. George's was constructed in the short span of four months at the end of 1892. Built at grade level, the broad expanse of the roof rests on low walls punctured by small, arched windows. The belfry and spire rise immediately above the main door. The parish hall was built in 1918.

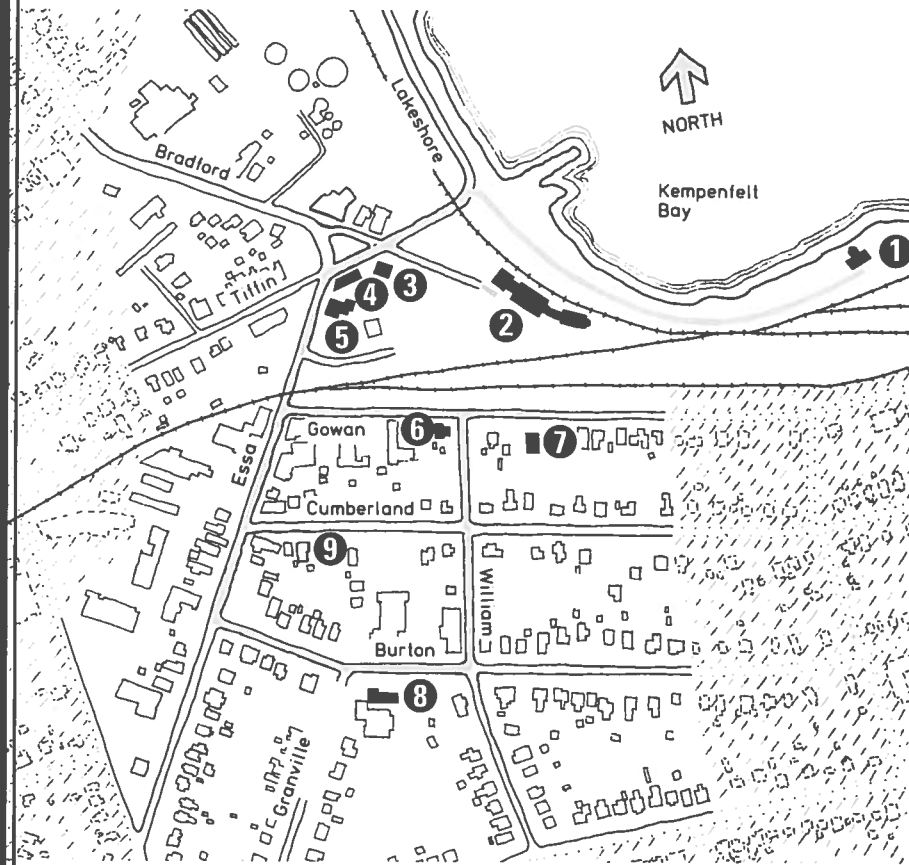


8 Cumberland Street

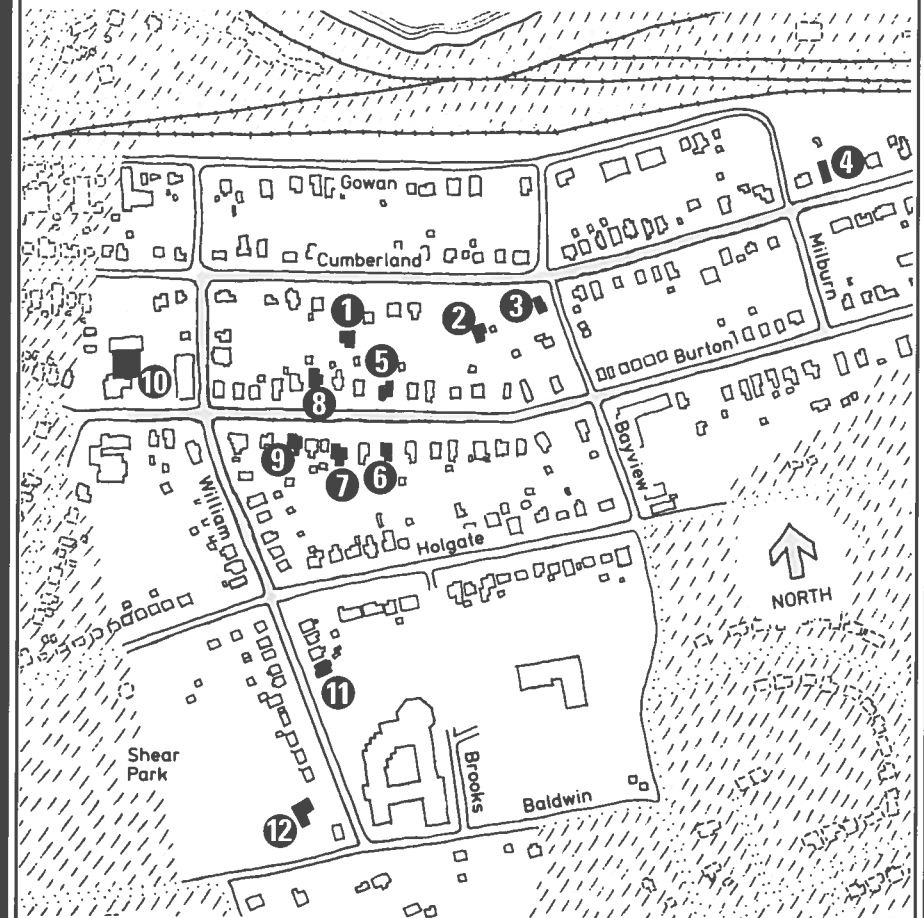
This plain but sturdy dwelling demonstrates a type of construction known as 'rough cast', or stucco on frame. It was built in 1879 by James Gibson, a plasterer, to house the eight members of his family. Its appearance is a little jarred by the two modern picture windows. Nearby, Numbers 10 and 19 Cumberland Street have exquisite spoolwork in their verandahs.



MAP OF TOUR 1



MAP OF TOUR 2



TOUR 2

56 Cumberland Street

In the 1870s, quarter acre lots on Cumberland Street sold for approximately \$100.00. At that time, a railroad labourer earned about fifty cents per day and a tradesman up to a dollar per day. In 1879-80, John and Isabella Brunton built this house on a quarter acre lot for their family of eight children. John was a weaver and kept his looms in sheds located just to the west of the house. The earth-orange tone brick effectively shows off the buff brick voussoirs ('eyebrows') above each window and the buff bands encircling the house. The centre gable was a popular feature. The original verandah has been replaced several times. Number 41 Cumberland Street features decorative crushed stone in the gable.



82 Cumberland Street

This house appears to be a miniature version of the classic Ontario Gothic Revival farmhouse. The familiar gable, now unadorned by any decoration, frames a pointed (lancet) window. Richard Perry, a carpenter, and his wife Margaret built the house shortly after their marriage in 1873. Originally of frame construction, it was later clad in brick.



88 Cumberland Street

James Brunton, a son of John, and his wife Adelaide built this house in 1887. James had been an engineer with the Grand Trunk Railway and later was a partner in a local grocery store. The house has nicely detailed brickwork featuring alternating colours and a decorated gable. By facing one end of the house to the street, the Bruntons were able to use the depth of the lot to gain additional square footage. Note the cast iron cresting and bold bargeboard at 96 Cumberland Street, the sunburst gable at 114 Cumberland Street and the well maintained house at 122 Cumberland Street with its fine verandah.

3



129 Cumberland Street

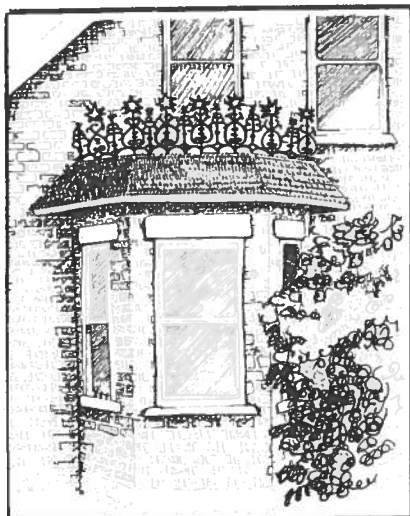
The use of the grand Second Empire style with its characteristic mansard roof is quite charming in such a small house. The height of the roof gives the owner the full use of the upper storey. Likely built in the 1880s, this stucco finished house is thoroughly detailed with a roof cornice, dormer windows with their small pediments and shaped surrounds, a bracketed and paneled frieze under the eaves, a bay window with brackets and window trim and an entrance pediment.

4

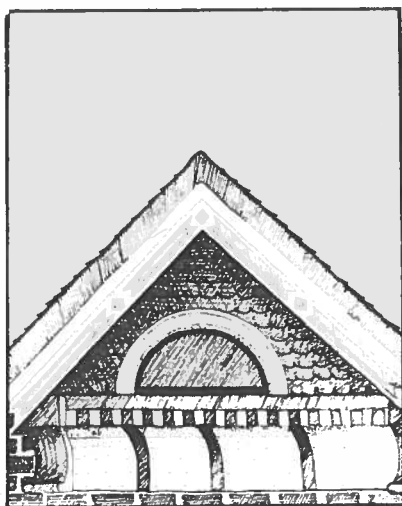


67 and 68 Burton Avenue

Along Burton Avenue watch for the verandah, cast iron cresting and scalloped fascia at 132 Burton Avenue and the attractive gable with its stone-filled geometric tracery at 75 Burton Avenue. The houses at 67 and 68 Burton Avenue exhibit two interesting architectural details of the late nineteenth century. The cast iron cresting capping the bay window at 67 Burton Avenue was once available by the yard but is now rarely seen due in part to war time scrap drives. The shingled gable framed by embossed bargeboard at 68 Burton Avenue is pierced by a half round window resting on an elaborate wooden projection.



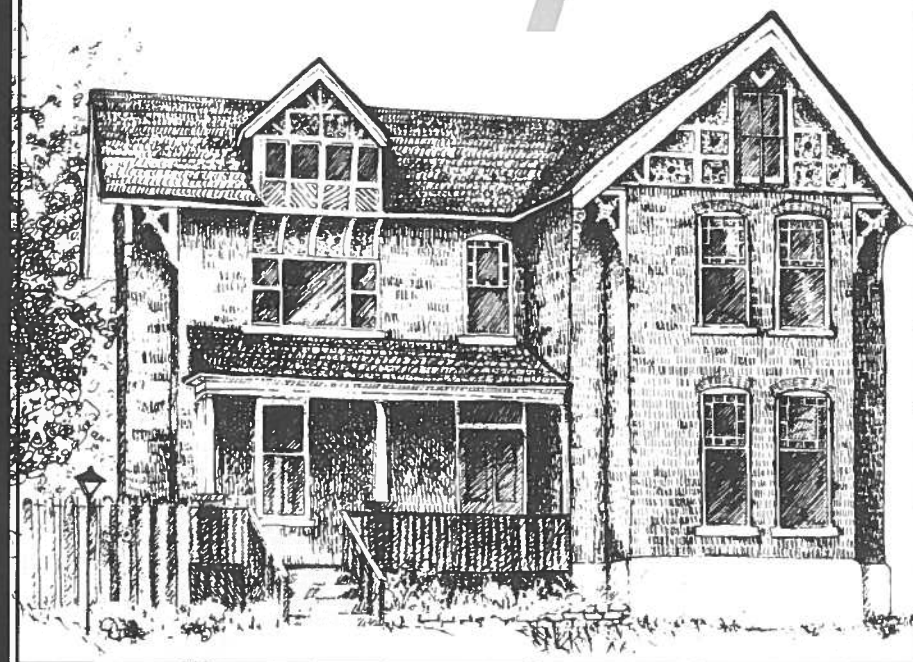
5&6



60 Burton Avenue

Occupying land once part of lumberman James L. Burton's farm, this distinctive house was built around 1891 for Dr. Patrick C. Armstrong. It is a sombre Queen Anne vernacular style with stone mosaic gables incorporating crushed glass. Also of note are the turned, cross-shaped corner eaves brackets and the projecting Tudoresque third floor dormer with its panels of stone and diagonal wood.

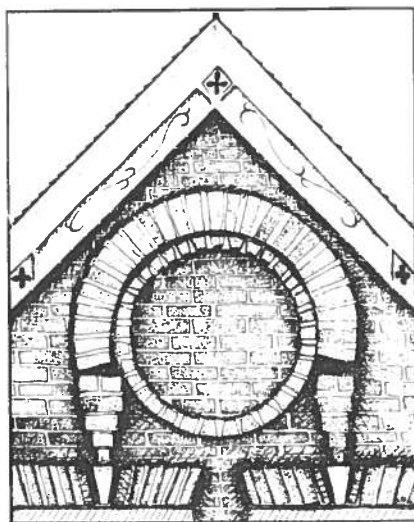
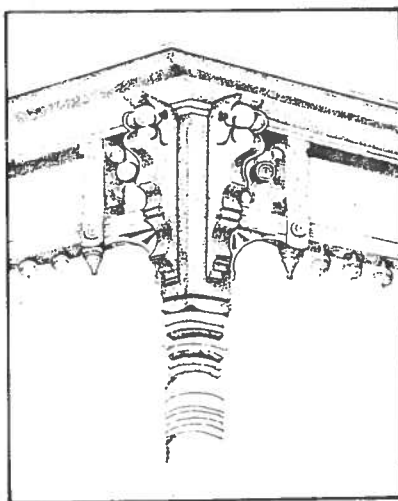
7



52 and 55 Burton Avenue

These two details are indicative of the high standard of craftsmanship found in houses of the late nineteenth century. The fanciful verandah woodwork on 52 Burton Avenue is still a visual treat even though its original row of spindles is missing. The brick arch and circle in the gable of 55 Burton Avenue create a pleasant relief and the delicate fascia scrollwork complements the masonry.

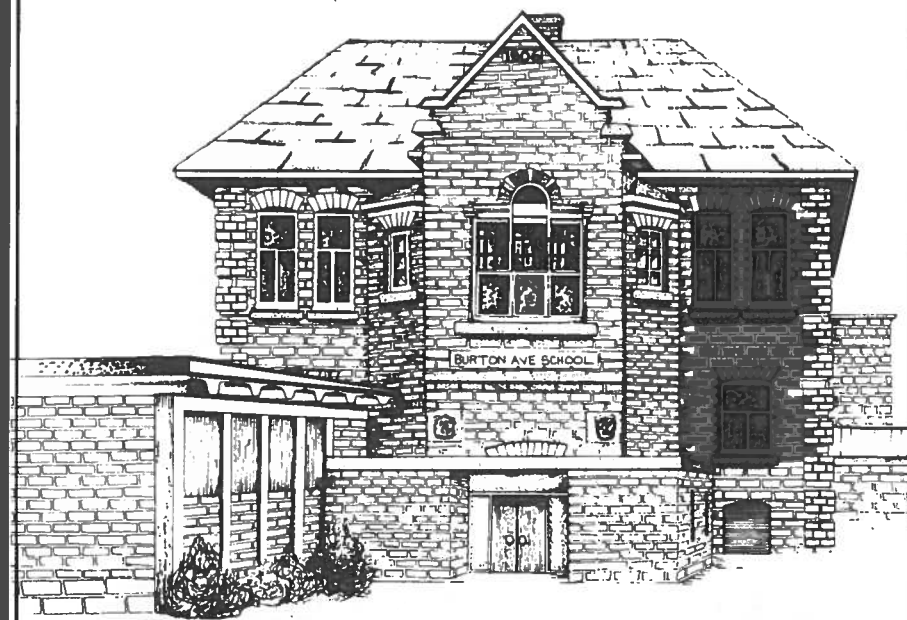
8&9



19 Burton Avenue

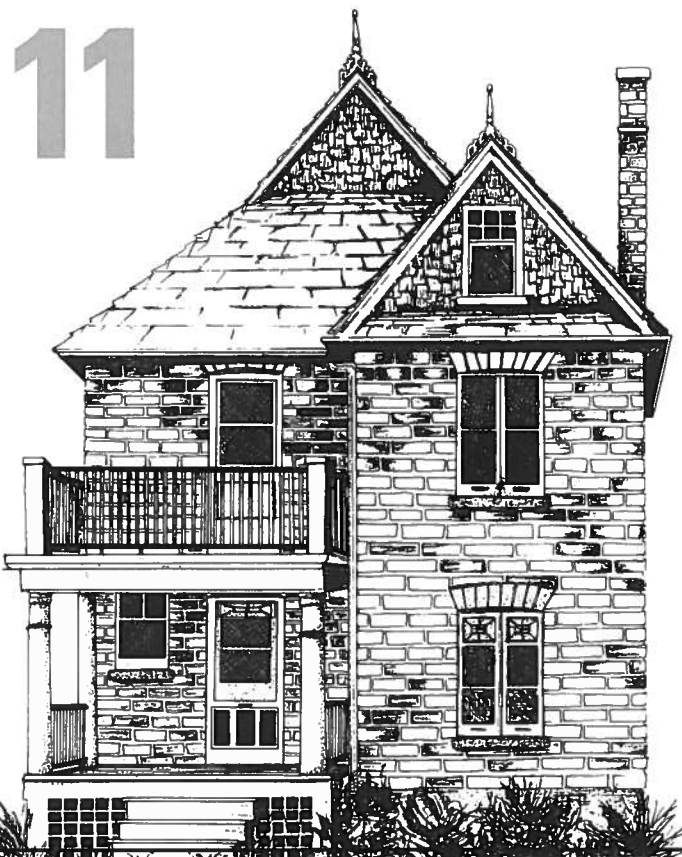
Although altered, King Edward School (Burton Avenue School) clearly shows itself to be one of the eight-room, centre hall schoolhouse plans popular at the beginning of the twentieth century. The pedimented central bay has a nice Palladian window flanked by angled walls, all with orange-red brick masonry. Edward Shear was principal at the time the school was built in 1906 and for thirty-four years in total. Shear Park located at Innisfil and Holgate Streets is named in his honour.

10



73 William Street

Built in 1908, this building is typical of many tract houses of its era, tending towards bulkiness with a minimum of decoration. When built, that familiar and friendly space, the verandah, was beginning to disappear, here being reduced to a porch. It is now missing the upper level porch railing. The house was bought in 1915 by railway engineer Archibald Marshall and was occupied by the family for several decades. The original wood shingling and decorative roof finials of each gable have been removed. Looking back down the street, the tower of Burton Avenue United Church nicely terminates the view.



90 William Street

Henry Holgate bought this property in 1888 from James Burton and soon after built this "nice tasty residence", as the local paper described it. The house has two fronts, one facing the street and the other, as seen here, facing the garden. The garden front appears to be symmetrical but has subtle variations on each side. The street facade presents a fine verandah with striking, geometric woodwork. This is the birthplace in 1892 of Group of Seven artist Edwin Holgate. In 1899, the Gibsons purchased the house and their daughter, Jenny, is remembered as the Allandale night telephone operator.

