

10th annual
London Regional Branch
ACO
HOUSE TOUR

EXPLORING
THE
NORTH END



Sunday, June 5, 1983
1-5 pm

THE NORTH END

This year, the 10th annual Architectural Conservancy house tour-the Geranium walk-takes place in London's old "North End"-where the city stopped and the township began and the street-cars turned around for the journey back down Richmond St. The area-considered by real estate agents the prime residential area of London-is home to many London families who built fine houses here in a random pattern from the 1880's to the 1950's and even later. Business men, professional people and university professors moved to this quiet area-attracted by boulevard streets, fine old trees, and a melange of housing in many styles. Except for a few small infill areas, most of the houses along the walk were individually designed and built as spacious, private single family dwellings with large back yards and lawn space. To a great extent, they remain so to this day.

Houses on the tour this year might be characterized by two terms-different and comfortable. Although individual taste shows through inside, the facade is probably unchanged from the time the house was built.

Although we have pointed out features on particular houses, as you walk, keep your eyes open for the added little windows, details of carving and special touches which characterize these multi-styled houses gathered into the quiet harmony of "the North End".

OPEN TO THE TOUR

The Ryerson School

326 Victoria

Morgan Gardens

"Goodholme"

290 Huron

270 Huron

1011 Waterloo

256 Regent

1057 Richmond

Robinson Memorial Church

We regret that St. Peter's Seminary is undergoing reconstruction and is not available to be visited at this time.



The Ryerson school, designed by Messrs Watt and Blackwell with local architect, William G. Murray as associate was constructed by John Hayman & Sons, London. It was opened on May 26, 1916 and cost \$56,822.00. Considered a model school at the time and visited by many educators over the years, the Ryerson school consists of a square of classrooms and offices around a central gymnasium/auditorium. The school was unique in having specialized rooms for manual training, household science and a kindergarten. All classrooms have an access to the outside for air etc. Skylights and many windows allow for light. These skylights still exist but have in all but the household science room been painted over. Built of brick covered with stucco, the school stands today much as when it was built. Rumour has it that some timbers built into the school came from the old McCormick factory previously situated at Dundas and Wellington St. For years, the front door was flanked by two coachlights. When one was stolen, the other was taken into the school and mounted in the corridor surrounding the gym.

The floating floor, as the school has no basement, covers a crawl space which still holds the many coal bins needed to heat the building.

Ryerson is also unique in having kept a log of events from its inception to the present day. A photocopy of this record is available in the library.

LEAVING THE RYERSON SCHOOL
TURN WEST ON VICTORIA AND
CROSS WATERLOO.

The house at 326 Victoria was built by the newspaper Blackburns and later owned by the Baragars, of Supertest Ltd. The handsome colonial home replaced in 1927, an earlier dwelling and has been altered since by the addition of the bay windows. Present day residents spend much labour in preserving the large old elm tree-one of few in Ontario which survived Dutch Elm disease.

VISIT 326 VICTORIA

PROCEED ALONG VICTORIA TO
WELLINGTON AND TURN NORTH.

The gracious Georgian styled home at 292 Victoria stands on a double lot and was built for the W. Smyth family. Later, managers of Simpsons occupied the home.

950 Wellington was erected in the 1920's for Israel Taylor and features a red Spanish tile roof, and a low profile with emphasis on the horizontal plane. The wide overhang suggests the Prairie style of architecture developed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Strolling up Wellington one notices the solid portico of 960 over the circular drive and the large carriage house. The elegant dormers of the Dowler home at 968 are particularly interesting.

At 991, the bright blue Dutch Colonial frame house built for London jeweler John Nash was featured in "Canadian Homes and Gardens". The intriguing entranceway and step are worthy of note.

VISIT THE MORGAN GARDENS
ENTERING BY THE DRIVE.



Behind the grey walls of the Richard Ivey home, which reflects a symmetrical balance and flat roof, bordered by a balustrade and topped by four urns, lie the remains of the 3 1/2 acres of the Morgan gardens. A.J. Morgan owned and operated Morgan's seed and supply and transformed his property into a spectacular garden showplace. Especially in the spring and fall, the public was free to walk or drive through the area of terraces, fruit trees, flowering shrubs and perennial flowers.

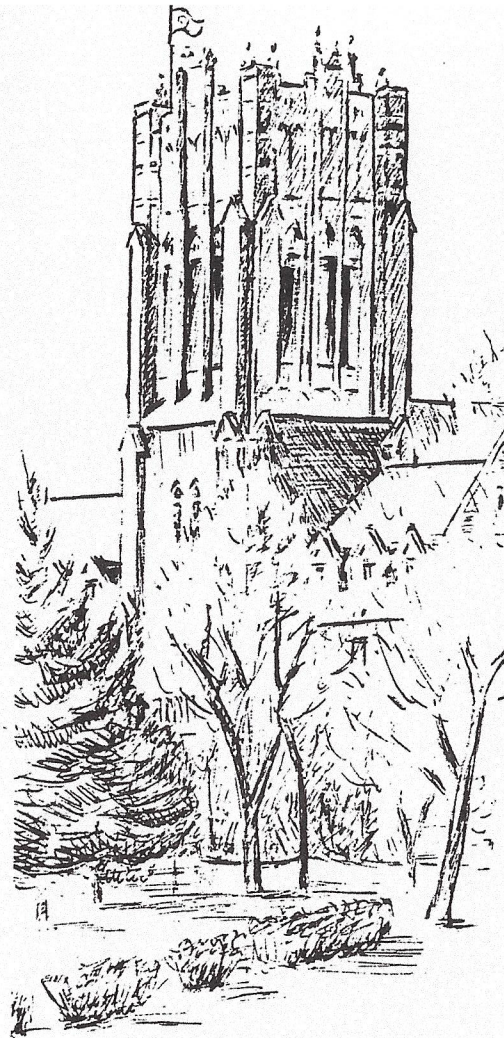
The original Morgan house was replaced twenty years ago by the Ivey mansion. Much drainage was needed in creating the gardens as the area was quite low and swampy. Today the gardens are much more passive in nature and are bordered by buildings on Regent Street and Waterloo and no longer open to the public.

Regent Street and the northern part of Waterloo Street illustrate the varied architecture of the area. Houses were originally constructed on large lots and then later a home of a different size and style would infill. Keen observers will notice everything in the area from London cottage to ranch style and even some small 1930's bungalows which have had changes to emphasize individuality.

PROCEED ALONG WELLINGTON AND
TURN EAST AT REGENT.

PROCEED ALONG REGENT AND
TURN NORTH AT WATERLOO.

* THOSE WHO WISH A SHORTER
WALK MAY TURN WEST AT HURON
AT THIS POINT, MISSING
GOODHOLME.



** HEARTY SOULS MAY WISH TO
WALK OVER TO SEE THE OUTSIDE
OF THE SEMINARY BUT WE CAN-
NOT GO INSIDE AT THIS TIME.

PROCEED NORTH ON WATERLOO
THREE BLOCKS TO DRIVE OF
GOODHOLME.

St. Peter's Seminary, located in "Sunshine Park" on property donated to the diocese by the late Sir Philip Pocock of London was erected in 1925-26; the cloister being added in 1929 and the chapel in 1930. The architects were Pennington and Boyde of Windsor, Ontario.

It is a perfect example of monastic Gothic architecture. The exterior walls are of quarry run Credit Valley stone in various colours with cut stone trimmings of Tyndall stone. The roofs are of copper and sea green slate.

In 1958 several modifications were made to the building including the addition of a new wing at the rear housing an auditorium and the conversion of the cloister to a reading room for the library.

Current construction affecting the main floor corridor prevents touring the interior today, but the grounds are open to those who wish to view the exterior of the building.

VISIT "GOODHOLME" 1071
WATERLOO.

The residential character of "Goodholme" at 1071 Waterloo St. has been carefully retained by King's College in adapting it for their use. Built in the Tudor Revival style in 1935 for James Good, a co-founder of Supertest, the building was purchased by the University of Western Ontario in 1951. It was used as the School of Business and then as the School of Music until 1982 when it was acquired by King's College.

The grand proportions of the oak panelled interior foyer and stair and the former living quarters refurbished for offices and classrooms re-largely unaltered.

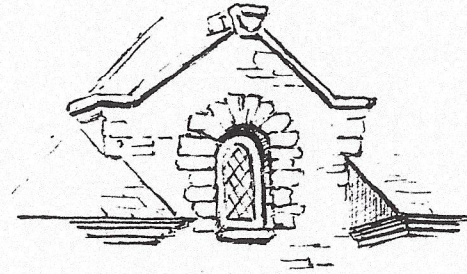
Epworth Place at 251-253 Epworth Avenue is a modern (1970's) zero lot line residential courtyard. The site is that of Burton's Green-houses and the style of the houses has been kept uniform to provide a pleasant means of high-density housing on a small lot.

*** FROM GOODHOLME, A SHORT
DETOUR WEST ALONG EPWORTH
WILL TAKE YOU TO EPWORTH
PLACE - A NOTEWORTHY MODERN

The white brick house at 1057 Waterloo was the home of Mr. Anthony Steels, master builder. Built on an 3 acre lot, the house became the focal point for a registered plan of subdivision and Mr. Steels constructed cottages on Steele, Waterloo and Patricia Streets, such as those at 1046, 1044 and 1042 Patricia.

The Gallagher house at 290 Waterloo was constructed in the 1940's. The rare garden at the side of the house is being restored to its former glory by the present owners.

Crowded onto the north west corner of the lot because it was built much later than its neighbours, the house is in the "olde Englishe" style with multi-paned casement windows and picturesque dormers.



FROM GOODHOLME, RETURN BACK
DOWN WATERLOO TO STEELE AND
TURN WEST TO PATRICIA.

PROCEED NORTH ON PATRICIA TO
HURON.

VISIT 290 HURON ST.

PROCEED WEST ALONG HURON ST.

At 274 Huron is one of the original farm-houses of the area. The circular verandah, dark brick and bevelled glass of the exterior present an appealing view as one travels up Wellington St.

VISIT 270 HURON ST.

CROSS HURON AND PROCEED SOUTH
ON WELLINGTON.

270 Huron St. was designed by William G. Murray in 1909 shortly after his return from study in New York. The white brick construction has been veneered with hand made red brick, half timbering and stucco. Inside, the present kitchen was once two rooms, a butler's pantry and a scullery. Cooking was done in the spacious basement kitchen. The house was once the home of C.J.F. Ross after whom the Broughdale Park is named. In the dining room, one can view the original plans and other documentation concerning the house.

VISIT 1011 WELLINGTON.

PROCEED ALONG WELLINGTON AND
TURN WEST ALONG REGENT.

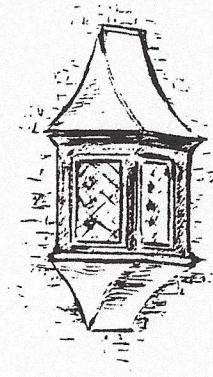
The large stucco and stone dwelling at 1011 Wellington St. was built in 1927 for John M. Moore. A striking example of Tudor style with the steeply pitched roof line copied at the entranceway. Note too the very unusual green tile roof and the long narrow window fitted to the high roof line.

These two blocks of Wellington Street have a boulevard—one of the few and perhaps the only one in the original part of London. Planted with flowering shrubs it presents one of the few pieces of public parkland. It is however maintained by the residents.

Use of stone, wood, brick and vary-coloured slates on roof, the big chimney, 16 paned casement windows and the stone fence all combine to make 268 Regent an attractive house, which was built in 1938 for the Masuret family, of French Canadian origin, who were well known wholesale

Yellow clapboard attracts attention to an old cottage at 267 Regent with Gothic style front gable. The metal work which has a clover design and fret work over the door give distinction to the house.

A named house—Woodbine Villa at 265 Regent is a red brick cottage set low from the street level. Note the square posts and colour scheme. One wonders how water is kept out of the basement. A different design again is used in the gable.



VISIT 256 REGENT.

Notice the roofscape of 256 Regent. Roofs seem to go everyway around the central chimney. Two colours of yellow brick can be seen making the house appear to have several additions through the years. The bevelled glass in windows is original.

Inside there is brass around fireplace and the old organ with beamed ceilings in living room and dining room. The many dormers and expansions which have been added give space but show lack of architectural planning. One small room upstairs has a fireplace. One original kitchen cupboard remains and the brass handle part way up the stairs is unique.

CROSS CAREFULLY AND PROCEED
SOUTH ON RICHMOND.

Richmond street honours the 1818 Governor-general, the Duke of Richmond. Mahlon Burwell surveyed this Proof Line Road from 1810-1818 as the thoroughfare north to Elginfield. Enough homes had been built by 1900 to warrant the London Street Railway's recently electrified Richmond trolley coming all the way north to Regent St., which until then, had been largely farm land. The Bennett family lived in #1083, on the north-west corner. It is an evenly-proportioned white frame cottage with Gothic trim on the modest gable.

Groceries were already being sold in the south-east corner store as early as 1896 by Elmarian H. Cowan, and the present day Variety continues to serve the neighbourhood.

VISIT 1071 RICHMOND.

At 1071 Richmond St. the buff brick Ontario cottage was built in 1890. William H. Boomer and Dumaresq were florists in this location and then the Richmond Dairy operated here from 1930 to 1942. High ceiling basements kept the milk cool.

Robinson Memorial United Church was dedicated for service on March 17, 1912. It replaced the first church on the site—a small wooden hall that had served the congregation since January, 1891. The First Methodist Church, i.e. Metropolitan, fathered this congregation as a North End Mission.

The contest for the design of the new church was won by London architect William G. Murray who drew the design for the church as you see it today. His problem was to build an inspiring edifice on a lot 68' x 124' next to a parsonage already standing. He did this by using a tall tower on the outermost corner whose height seemed increased by the long, very narrow windows and crenelated top. Looking at the church, your eyes will be carried down by the gabled roof and much shorter tower on the frontage, and, on the north side, depth is achieved by a series of diminishing gabled roofs. Buttresses decorate and support the main corners, and the wall space is broken by an interesting pattern of windows.

The interior of the church also gives the impression of height by the domed ceiling, and the light-coloured wood of the pulpits and pews. In 1912 the pulpit was in the south-west corner, and the west wall was a sliding door pulled upward by ropes in the basement. Beyond this was the Sunday School. The small room now used as a library was the north entrance to the 1912 church.

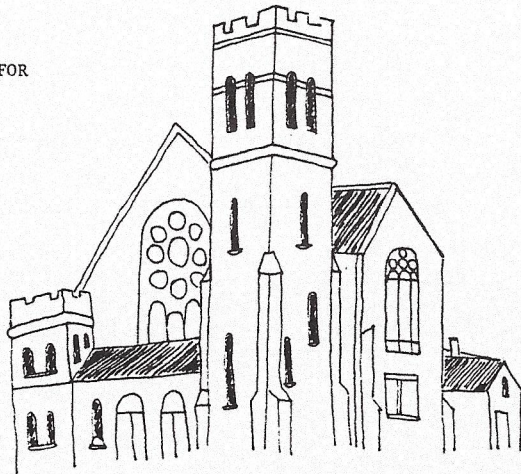
In 1916 the women's groups decided a better organ was needed and under the advice of Mr. A.D. Jordan a new Casavant organ was installed costing \$10,000— just half of what the church had cost!

In 1950 the congregation once more felt cramped for space, and, at the same time, Mr. and Mrs. H.T.N. Reynolds left the church a very substantial part of the \$155,000.00 it would take to enlarge the church and Sunday School. These alterations were completed by October, 1952, and it is this church building that you see today.

One outstanding feature of the interior of the church is the stained glass. In 1912 Hobbs Glass made the rose window and the upper side windows. In 1953, to complete the building program, a large stained glass window was put in the chancel by the Edwards Glass firm of London. All the remaining windows are the work of Christopher Wallis who is well-known for his fresh, uncluttered style, vivid both in colour and originality of design. It is suggested that you walk around the church to read the plaques which commemorate former members of Robinson Memorial to whose families the church is very grateful for their generous gifts.

VISIT ROBINSON MEMORIAL
CHURCH.

* TEA IS AVAILABLE HERE FOR
A MODEST CHARGE.



#1057 Richmond and neighbours to the south stood alongside the frame Methodist Mission Church in the 1890's when "private grounds" held as vacant lots "on spec" spread right down to Cheapside St. #1057 is recorded as the home of John Francis from 1896 to 1935. Its original attractions include the double doors with transom glass above, and a southern bay window. Today's oyster shade of paint complements the charming taupe stucco and ivory trim a #1055. Miss Fannie Sanders lived here for at least 30 years until 1919, and Gertrude Sanders lived here for eight years more. The welcoming wide door with sidelights, dainty iron cresting above the bay window, and floral cutout gable in-fill all confirm 1890 vintage.

At the north-east Richmond and Victoria corner in 1893, benefactor Thomas McCormick, of the biscuit company family, had a four-storey, white brick Aged People's Home built for the Women's Christian Association to own and operate. Residents raised fruits and vegetables in gardens along to the Wellington corner. By 1928 a large red brick front addition faced Richmond St. The present McCormick Home opened in 1967.

PROCEED SOUTH ON RICHM
AND TURN EAST ON VICTO
RETURNING TO THE RYERS
SCHOOL.

Across the street, 1000 Richmond on the south-east corner of Victoria was built by the Putherbough firm while they were erecting the first buildings on the U. W. O. campus in 1923. The first large cement equipment in use in North London for that project was brought here and poured foundations tapering from 18" wide at the bottom to 12" wide at the top in one day. Interior wood trim is dark trade walnut. The house is still occupied by some of the same family 60 years later.

Unusual features appear in houses on the next corner lots at Wellington. At 270 Victoria there is a California Spanish style of bungalow. The terra cotta tiles of the widely overhanging roof are in harmony with the stucco and brick walls, iron grilles, and round-topped windows. The high basement were a novelty then.

On the south-west corner at 267 Victoria, the rustic stonework at the foundation level accents the white stucco walls. The shallow top window enfolded in a swelling roof is a quaint touch.

Across on the south-east corner at 275 Victoria, the hipped green roof contrasts with the white stucco, and the triple windows are nicely balanced. Dr. John C. Hunt, who lived here for fourteen years after 1928, was an eminent eye, ear nose and throat specialist. He was called "Radical Antrum Hunt" from his wide use of surgical curettage of that nasal passage below the cheek bone. His home with the unusual dropped roof extensions over the flanker porch and vestibule jokingly became known as the double antra house.

In various houses of this block, one sees further use of stucco with Tudor half-timber effect in gables, or bricks laid in herringbone deagonals. Special interior woodwork of gumwood or chestnut was at first prized. As the vogue changed, in some instances light coloured paint was applied, usually to the regret of today's owners.

330 Victoria St. presents the solid, comfortable facade in rug brick typical of 1921. The hooded attic dormer allows plenty of bedroom space and repeats the hood shape over the main entry which is exceptional in being placed close to the drive at the east side of the house. Glassed French doors give verandah access from the living room.

In contrast to other areas of London, white brick is in a minority here. Red brick was popular around 1890 to 1914, and specialty bricks, such as the rough-textured rug brick, mainly in variegated dark colours, after that date. After 1920 Elizabethan domestic architecture became popular as denoting cosy home life. The idea came partly from Romantic literature and the Arts and Crafts Revival English country cottages of considerable height in England. You have seen accents of stonework, windows grouped in three or more consisting of small panes of glass, and lopsided gabled roofs thrusting steeply forward to cover the amenity of vestibule and coat closet.

As John Betjeman said, "What determines the architecture is the people who pay for it".

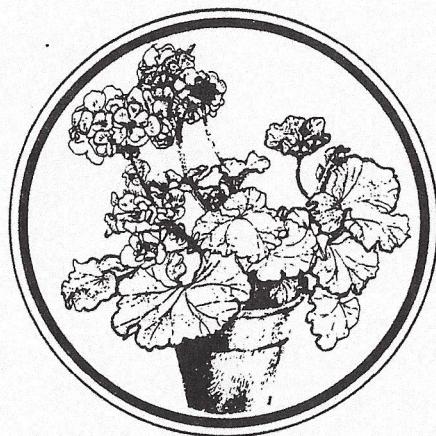
North London has remained "a good address". The builders who created a diversity of styles from architects and good designs ensured a neighbourhood without decay, where houses continue to flourish like the large shade trees in streetscapes which form an always open public art gallery.

More information about the area can be obtained by reading:

Broughdale: looking for its past.
by A.J. Shawyer

The north & the east.
by John H. Lutman and Christopher L. Hives

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR
WALK THROUGH THE "NORTH END".



BROCHURE: Netta Brandon
Shirley Edgar
Wendy Pritchard
Madeline Roddick
Marietta Smith

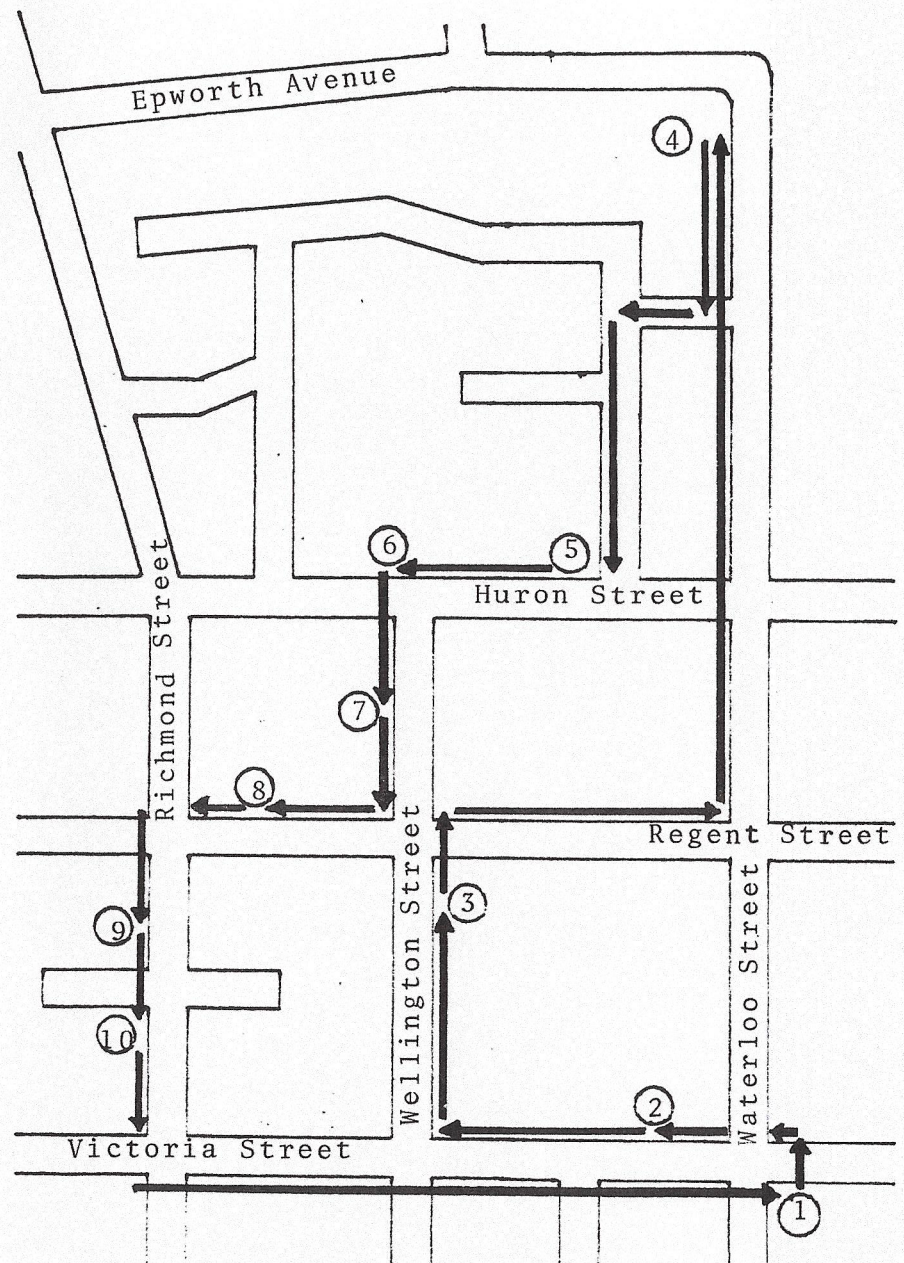
DRAWINGS: Joyce Allen
Silvia Clarke
Steve Edgar

MAP: Hamie Beck

TYPING: Monica Panyi

LAYOUT AND DESIGN: Shirley Edgar

Copyright London Regional Branch,
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
1983



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The Ryerson School | 6. 270 Huron Street |
| 2. 326, Victoria Street | 7. 1011 Wellington St. |
| 3. Morgan Gardens | 8. 256 Regent Street |
| 4. Goodholme | 9. 1071 Richmond Street |
| 5. 290 Huron Street | |
| 10. Robinson Memorial United Church | |