

ACO's 37th Annual  
Geranium Heritage House Tour

# ELDON EXCURSION



**Sunday June 6, 2010**  
**1:00 to 5:00**

Walk begins at Eldon House  
481 Ridout St. North

*Refreshments are available from 2:30 to 5:00*

**Architectural Conservancy of Ontario—London Region Branch**  
**[www.acolondon.ca](http://www.acolondon.ca)**

*“preserving London’s heritage”*

## **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Founded in 1933**

### **Aims**

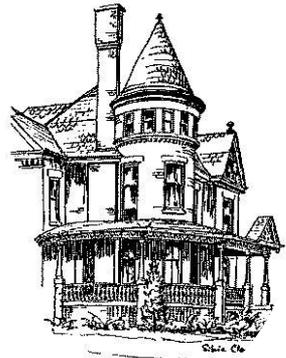
- To preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province.
- To protect its places of natural beauty.
- To preserve significant buildings regardless of age, style and size.
- To protect such buildings from unsympathetic alteration
- To preserve the architectural integrity of streetscapes.
- To protect places of natural beauty from destructive uses.

### **The London Region Branch Founded in 1966**

When faced with the probable loss of the buildings in London's earliest and professional areas on Ridout Street, concerned citizens and groups combined to form the London Region Branch of the ACO. As a branch of the Provincial ACO it serves to further the *aims* of the parent organization in the London Region.

### **Activities**

- Organizing walking tours, lectures, bus trips and work-shops.
- Providing financial assistance to owners of selected properties.
- Influencing public policy at local and provincial levels.
- Holding an annual architectural tour on the first Sunday in June.
- Appointing a representative to the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH).



## Introduction

Welcome to the 37th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. This year's tour features London's oldest remaining residence, Eldon House, and the neighbourhood which grew up around it. Eldon House is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, and ACO London Region Branch is joining in the celebration by hosting the walk in this area. These streets feature a great variety of architectural styles, from grand mansions to humble cottages. While many of the houses have been adapted for use as businesses, others remain as residences. This mix of commercial and residential has existed in this area from the beginning, and the tradition continues.

One of the main aims of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is "to preserve the finest examples of architecture in the province". Our annual heritage house tour provides an opportunity for Londoners to appreciate the richness of our built heritage. To further the preservation of our built heritage, proceeds from today's tour will help fund two ongoing ACO heritage projects:

- a \$2000.00 grant to homeowners to help preserve or restore heritage features of their home
- a \$2000.00 grant to a student enrolled in a heritage trades program at Algonquin College

Enjoy your stroll through the Eldon House neighbourhood today. You will find a map on the back cover of this booklet, but remember that the route shown there is just a suggestion. The sites are open from 1:00 to 5:00 (except Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute which opens at 2:30), and they can be viewed in any order. To avoid long lineups you may wish to use a different route from that suggested. A potted red geranium marks each house open for viewing (hence, the name of the tour!).

Thank you for your participation.

Geraniums for today's tour have been provided by Van Horik Greenhouses and Garden Centre.

Free parking has graciously been provided by Impark in their Ridout Street lot.

## HISTORY

The Talbot Street/Ridout Street area is home to one of London's most historically dynamic neighbourhoods. As the village of London grew after incorporation in 1826, Ridout Street by the forks of the Thames became home to London's original financial district. Consequently this area also became an early residential neighbourhood with farmland being divided and sold to the town's financial elite. London's oldest remaining home, Eldon House, constructed in 1834 by the Harris family, illustrates this demographic trend.

The village of London became the city of London in 1855 and the Talbot/Ridout area was sustained as a place for London's elite to reside. The city continued its rapid development and before long the nature of the Talbot/Ridout area changed with it. In the northern area of the neighbourhood, more middle and lower class residences began to spring up, creating a diverse neighbourhood by the turn of the 20th century. The street today displays this 19th century mix of socio-economic classes with the number of historic homes that are still present in the neighbourhood.

Along with the rich history of the area, the Talbot/Ridout neighbourhood displays a rich diversity in architectural styles. There were three main building periods in the neighbourhood: Early Victorian (1820's-1870's), High Victorian (1870's-1890's) and Late Victorian (1890's - 1930's). Among the many styles of Victorian architecture during these three periods were Gothic, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, and Queen Anne as well as the non-Victorian Ontario Cottage and Georgian styles. The Talbot/Ridout area highlights many of these styles of architecture in excellent condition. The multitude of historic homes, classic styles of architecture and rich history of its residents clearly designate this neighbourhood as one of London's most historic and best preserved.

## Eldon House 481 Ridout Street



*Priority 1 - Designated*

Eldon House is London's oldest residence and contains family heirlooms, furnishings and priceless treasures of the Harris family as well as a beautiful 19th-century style garden. Built in 1834 for John Harris, treasurer of the London district and his wife, Amelia, this historic home remained in the family until 1960 when their descendants donated it to the City of London.

For many years during the mid nineteenth century Eldon House was the centre of London society. Young officers from the garrison courted the Harris daughters, Colonel Talbot was a frequent visitor and local political opponents often met in the drawing room.

Built in the Georgian style, with a centre hall plan, and low hip roof, the square frame house, covered in white painted weatherboard had few embellishments. The most striking feature was a portico with Tuscan style columns. Prior to 1859 a verandah was constructed along the west side of the house then later extended around the front and the windows overlooking it converted to French doors. Dormers were installed at the front of the house to accommodate servants' quarters. In 1877, local architect, Samuel Peters designed a sizeable addition to the home that added a large drawing room and master bedroom to the rear and the entire kitchen wing was rebuilt. Later additions included the greenhouse, coach house and verandah enclosure.

The evolution of Eldon House from pleasant farmhouse to elegant town home reflected the growth of London from frontier settlement to thriving city. Although surrounded by the city today, the house and its gardens are a place of beauty and tranquility.

**Exit Eldon House and cross to the east side of Ridout Street. Proceed north on Ridout Street.**

On your right is The Harriston, a new luxury apartment complex. The three lower storeys are faced in red brick. Some heritage features, such as the elongated windows which possess distinctive headings with keystones, have been incorporated into the façade. These features are an attempt to combine in a pleasing way the old and new elements of the streetscape.

**At the corner turn right (east) on Dufferin Avenue (formerly Maple Street) and continue towards Talbot Street.**

93 Dufferin Avenue (c1868) was the home of Samuel Peters, architect and surveyor. The residence at 95 Dufferin Avenue was attached in the 1890s. Both houses have brick coursing separating the first and second storeys and interesting brick and bracket detail under the eaves. Note the wreath around the round attic window on 95 Dufferin as well as the oval window on the second floor façade.

At the corner of Talbot Street and Dufferin Avenue look south to view Camden Terrace on the west side of the street. This handsome example of row housing was built in the 1870s by Samuel Peters.

**Turn left (north) on Talbot Street.**

505 Talbot Street (c1880) is a good example of the Italianate style of architecture. Note the low hipped roof, large paired eaves brackets, and elongated windows. Bay windows, with eyebrow-like hood moldings above them, are located on both sides of a two storey projection on the front façade. This house, built by a justice of the peace as a residence for his family, was regarded as one of the finest of its day.

507 Talbot Street, a modest building, has attractive bargeboard in the gable and stained glass in the transom over the door and front window.

## First Christian Reformed Church 531 Talbot Street



### *Priority 1 - Designated*

In 1881 the Baptist congregation housed in a chapel at the corner of York and Talbot hired architect George Durand to design a new church. It was built to hold 920 persons on the main floor and U-shaped gallery. The façade of the Gothic Revival church was planned to emphasize its vertical expanse with the polygonal stair towers at either side of the façade disguising the broad hall of the interior. Originally, two buttressed pinnacles stood at either side of the central projection and the slightly projecting central bay rose to a central gabled bell-cote. These features were removed during roof renovations. Notice the original, decorated windows which are tall and narrow. The vertical lines are balanced by the stringcourses along the front façade and the horizontal rooflines of the side chambers.

The bichromatic brick window surrounds and side exterior walls are striking features. Around 1900 during interior renovations, the congregation followed the developing fad for red brick buildings and painted the bichromatic exterior in a single red hue.

In 1953 the Baptist congregation moved to the new First Baptist

Church near Victoria Park. The building was sold for \$50,000.00 to the First Christian Reformed Church, a congregation of post war Dutch immigrants, many of whom did not own a farm, house or property.

In 1959, structural problems were found in the church's roof and the building was condemned by the City Engineer's office. The church decided on expensive renovation work and to stay downtown. The congregation has maintained the building admirably, cleaning the painted white brick and exposing the bichromatic brick. This summer the church will undergo another renovation which will accommodate the expanding congregation and its large outreach program in the downtown. The renovation plans are sympathetic with the heritage of this fine building.

### **Exit the church and continue to stroll north on Talbot Street.**

You will pass a number of large, rather imposing structures. In the second half of the 19th century this area was home to many of London's most prosperous and prominent citizens.

537 Talbot Street was built in the mid-1850s. Early occupants included a dry goods merchant and the founder of the University of Western Ontario's medical school. Boxlike in shape, the building features a hip roof, broken at the front by a centre gable with a round-arched window. Note the corner quoins and the brick coursing between the first and second stories and between the foundation and the first storey.

**Turn right (east) and carefully cross Talbot Street. Continue to walk east along Kent Street** (named after John Kent, who owned the farm where much of the Talbot area of to-day is located).

On your left, you are now passing what was once a fine streetscape of comfortable and substantial residences. To-day it is considerably faded. The handsome High Victorian double house at 126-128 Kent, with its numerous bays, attractive bargeboard and double-leaf doors was built c1883. 130 Kent Street (c1863) is an example of Georgian Revival architecture.

136 Kent Street was designed by the architect George F. Durand and built c1880. It was occupied by William Gunn and his descendants, a family who were engaged in the insurance business, for over 100 years. Note the decorative bargeboard, the unusual dormer, and slate roof.

## 142 Kent Street Villa Cornelia Restaurant



### *Priority 1 - Designated*

142 Kent Street was built c1892 for Alfred Smart, president of Ontario Loan and Debenture at the time of his death. The house ranks among London's best examples of Queen Anne architecture.

Note the gambrel-shaped, shingle-clad gables. The oriel window of the front gable end is balanced above by an oval window and to either side by trefoil windows. The large pane of the top sash of the oriel window is bordered by smaller panes. A course of square, rusticated tin panels edges the bottom of the gable. A tall elaborate brick chimney projects from the roof. The side (red brick) gable ends reflect each other in mirror image: paired windows separated by a decorative panel, oval window above and rusticated tin panel coursing.

Balancing the front gable end is a red brick (1st storey) and shingle-clad (2nd storey) octagonal turret with a conical roof topped by a finial. A swag and garland appliqué adds a classical touch to the cornice frieze.

**Exit the building and walk west along Kent Street.**

Take another look at the craftsmanship in the woodwork at 176 Kent as you pass by, especially the ubiquitous spindle detail.

**Return to Talbot Street and turn right (north).**

568, 570 and 572 Talbot Street (c1884) is a triple house. Observe the twelve rows of bichromatic coursing, and voussoirs above the windows.

**Turn right (east) on Albert Street.**

The white brick double cottage at 119 and 121 Albert Street was constructed c1878 and is possibly the only example of a brick double cottage in the city. The plain, symmetrical fronts and steeply pitched roof give dignity to the small structure. The original doorways with transoms have survived.



136 Kent Street

135 Albert Street, built c1878, is Italianate in style. Pause to appreciate the bichromatic brick, the two-storey bays on the front and west facades, the double bracketing under the eaves and the double-leaf door.

176 Albert Street is a High Victorian gem with some exquisite features. The two-storey porch is pleasing and unusual. Two tall chimneys on the west side are decorated with a simple but effective detail of five rows of brick increasing in width, capped with rusticated stone. Note the triple front window divided by columns with Ionic capitals. The wood shingled gable on the east side contains an oval window. This building is a good example of adaptive reuse.



176 Albert Street

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## 180 Albert Street



### *Priority 1*

In the late 1800s this property was owned by the Phalen (or Whalen) family. The family's original frame house was replaced by the present white brick home c. 1891 when the property was owned by Thomas Phalen. Thomas didn't live here himself, choosing to live at the City Hotel and rent the home to others. In the 1920s the house was duplexed with one apartment upstairs and another on the main floor. The current owners have been here since the early 1980s. They describe the house as having been "a total wreck" at the time they acquired it. This lovingly restored gem shows what can be done for an older home with restoration skills and plenty of imagination. In addition, the owners have created a magnificent formal garden in the back yard.

The residence was built in the High Victorian style, really a conscious, picturesque combination of several styles. It might be described as Queen Anne, having an irregular outline with gables, and using a variety of building materials. Note the stone arches over the windows, wrap-around wooden verandah, stained glass windows, double-leaf doors and transom.

**Exit the house and walk west along Albert Street, returning to Talbot Street. Turn right (north).**

## 590 Talbot Street



Talbot Street features a variety of double houses mixed in with single family homes, and the building at 590 is a blending of the two. A single hipped roof tops what appears to be a double residence below. Notice the elegant central gable with its geometrical design elements, fishscale shingle infill and double window. The geometrical patterns are repeated beneath the roofline in a decorative cornice which livens up the flat façade. Notice the symmetrical features of the double house, including a matching set of double-leaf doors and large round-headed windows. A wide front verandah has been removed.

Built circa 1880, the home's first owner was Ephraim Plummer, a manufacturing chemist who made baking powder in a factory on the east side of Ridout Street at Fullarton. He became secretary of Plummer Wagon and General Manufacturing located at the same site on Ridout in the early 1880's. Today this building has been converted into office space, as have many heritage homes in the area, and the owners have lovingly restored the heritage features. It is an excellent example of adaptive re-use of a building.

**Exit the building and continue north on Talbot Street.**

On the southeast corner of Talbot and Central a condominium development stands on the site of the Talbot Street School. The original school, a two-room frame structure, was built in 1858. In 1882 this building was replaced by a two storey brick structure. In 1892 the school caught fire and was gutted – fortunately all 500 children escaped due to fire-drill training.

The school was rebuilt and boasted bichromatic brickwork, a symmetrical façade with a variety of pointed and segmental arches crowning the windows and centre gable and intricate bargeboard. In the same way that modest homes frequently had stained glass windows and decorative bargeboard, so, too, the schools were expected to manifest architectural beauty. – a far cry from today's often drab public architecture.

Talbot Street School was demolished in 1981.

**Turn right (east) on Central Avenue.**



Former Talbot Street School

135, 143 and 145 Central Avenue are all examples of Queen Anne architecture. Observe the stained glass, bargeboard and spindle detail.

149 Central Avenue (1874) is an example of Georgian Revival style and is probably the oldest house on this part of the street. Note the shallow roof and straight shape of the windows. The facades of Georgian houses are symmetrical, windows are plain and there are few decorative features.

**Turn left (north) on St. George Street.**

8 and 10 St. George Street are similar in design and may have been built by the same builder. Observe the rounded windows with stained glass and semicircular brick work.

Note the unusual brick treatment of the door and window surrounds on the house on the south-east corner of John and St. George.

**Turn left (west) on John Street.**

The red brick detail above the second storey on 154-156 John Street is noteworthy. Observe the round window in the projecting front gable and the metal cresting.

145, 141 and 137 John Street are similar in design. Observe the gable detail, rounded window on the second floor and double-leaf doors. Also note the rusticated brick work above the windows.

129 John Street (1878) is a combination of several styles and may be referred to as High Victorian. Interesting features of this house include the unusual treatment of the second storey windows and the generous central doorway exiting to a full width verandah.

**Continue on John Street to Talbot Street.**





## 652 Talbot Street



### *Priority 2 - Designated*

The residence at 652 Talbot Street began its architectural life in 1868 as a probable one story Ontario Cottage constructed of yellow brick. A verandah formerly extended in both directions and around a portion of the south elevation from the still existing front elevation storm porch; a door on either side of the storm porch provided access. The house sprouted a frame second story c. 1912, which is suggestive of Tudor Revival half timbering; the first story brick was covered with stucco veneer most likely at this time.

The front and side elevations are divided into distinct bays separated by pilasters. An elaborate dentil pattern string course divides the first and second stories; originally, it formed a portion of the cornice of the one story house. Entrance to the interior is through a storm porch. Note the oval windows of all three doors and the dutch-door main door. Speculation is that the house was greatly altered c. 1912 when the second and attic stories were added.

The house was occupied first by William C. Furness, Manager of the Montreal Telegraph Co. From 1912 to 1946, the residence was the home of four of the six daughters of Josiah Blackburn, owner and editor of the London Free Press (which may explain the c. 1912 addition and the need to provide additional space). One daughter, Grace (1865-1928), wrote reviews, poetry, novels and newspaper

articles under the name "Fanfan"; another, Susan (1871-1946), was an editorial writer and the first woman to graduate from The University of Western Ontario in 1894. In the 1980s, a noted resident was Mayor Tom Gosnell, who divided the house into two apartments. A subsequent owner in the 1990s returned the house to a single family dwelling.

**Exit the house and carefully cross the street.**



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**651 Talbot Street***Priority 1*

The expansive house at 651 Talbot Street is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture built in the early 20th century. Its asymmetrical design elements include, at left, a grand entrance and spacious verandah supported by decorative columns atop rusticated stone mounts, and at right, a dramatic trio of arched windows with stone surrounds. The prominent high chimneys, conical turret, and Palladian window at roof level complete the exuberant elements of the Queen Anne style. This is one of a triad of grand homes, along with 653 Talbot and the now demolished Locust Mount at 661 Talbot, that were built overlooking the river from Talbot Street for some of London's urban elite.

Built around 1905 and owned originally by the Whitwam family connected to Hobbs Hardware, this house was purchased three years later by Thomas P. McCormick, son of the founder of McCormick Manufacturing Company, producer of cookies and candies. The younger McCormick expanded the cookie business and was the chief architect of the socially innovative and influential factory, built in 1914 on Dundas Street East and known as the "White Palace".

651 Talbot Street, home to one of London's industrial giants, exemplifies the historic nature of the neighbourhood. Used today for professional offices, its interior features have been proudly retained by the current owners. The splendid arched doorway and windows are complemented by superb landscaping.

**Exit the house, turn right and walk south on Talbot Street.**

Look across to 628 Talbot Street (just south of 638 Talbot) which was built c1893. This is an example of a Queen Anne Cottage, a style of home well represented in London. For over 100 years the



home was occupied by members of the Birrell family. Robert Birrell, the home's first owner, joined the London Police Force in 1886 and became Chief of Police from 1920 – 1930. The home is representative of the area's transition from an elite subdivision to a more typically working-class/middle-class neighbourhood.

619 Talbot Street is a frame Ontario Cottage. It is slightly asymmetrical, a not uncommon variation on the traditional design. Notable Ontario Cottage features are a hipped roof, central doorway, and a generally square plan.





## 607 Talbot Street



### *Priority 1*

The elegant Ontario cottage at 607 Talbot was built about 1874. Typical of Ontario cottage style, the home has a pyramidal hipped roof with a central gable and symmetrical windows on either side of a central doorway. Notice the gracefully curved porch and well-proportioned doorway with leaded glass. Decorative stonework emphasizes the corners of the façade. Residential buildings from the nineteenth century often adopted features of prominent architectural movements, and a Gothic Revival influence can be seen in the central gable with its finial and pendule.

Mrs. Hannah Nixon, widow of Walter Nixon, was the first resident listed at this address, but John Siddons of Siddons and Dawson (printers and publishers) may have been the original owner. The brick rear addition was added to the house just before the turn of the 20th century and a garage was built in 1923 by owner Albert Templar, a well-known London artist. The two storey back addition was made later by the same owner to accommodate his studio.

## 601 Talbot Street



### *Priority 1*

Built around 1875, this Ontario cottage was first occupied by David Bruce who was a fire department engineer. He sold it in 1882 to A.S.K. Barclay, an inspector for the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company (later Canada Trust). The home's façade is somewhat obscured by the addition of a partially covered porch and fieldstone wall, dating possibly from the 1920s, which likely replaced a smaller porch.

Like its neighbor, this Ontario Cottage has Gothic Revival features such as the pointed pendule in the steep gable and the ornamental round window with decorative molding. The entranceway contains a pair of recessed doors with etched glass set in a paneled frame. Notice the gargoyle perched above the entry, adding a whimsical touch to this charming cottage.

**Exit the house and continue south on Talbot Street.**

The double house next door to 601 Talbot Street (1884) is well-balanced with the bay windows, upper storey doors and front doors. The end walls project above the roof line and are called parapet walls. They were used to prevent the spread of fires in the cities.

The handsome white brick Italianate building at 585 Talbot Street, built in 1877, is one of London's finest examples of the Italianate style of architecture. Typical of the style, the building has a low-pitched roof, wide eaves and decorative double brackets. Note the wonderful upper storey windows with heavy stone semi-circular headings and ornamental keystones and the intricately carved bargeboard. This building is another excellent example of adaptive reuse.

### **Continue your stroll on Talbot Street to Kent Street and turn right. (west)**

Notice the rusticated brick detail on 92 and 84 Kent Street.

### **Turn left (south) on Ridout Street.**

A trio of grand mansions once stood along this section of Ridout Street. The location provided a pleasant view of the Thames River as well as summer activities on the river.

Only 530 Ridout Street remains. It was built c1903 for John Green, a wholesale milliner, and later occupied by the Hobbs family who owned the hardware company. Its design is a spectacular example of Late Victorian architecture. A shallow bay extends two floors with beautiful leaded and stained glass windows. The bay turret dormer is unusual and pleasing. In addition to the classical verandah there is a small second storey balcony. The Doric columns of the verandah are reflected in the columns separating the three windows on the first storey. The stone of the foundation extends to the upper part of the three-part Gothic style window and the doorway is encased in a substantial cut stone archway. Pause to appreciate the elegant architectural design of this fine example of London's past.

### **Continue south on Ridout Street.**

**Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute  
The Ridout Restoration: London's  
Early Financial District  
451 Ridout Street**



*Priority 1 - Designated*

In the 1960's the buildings on Ridout Street which had been the commercial heart of early London had fallen into disrepair and were in danger of demolition. The University Women's Club and the London and Middlesex Historical Society became involved as did other concerned citizens, some of whom formed the London Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 1966. John Labatt Limited with leadership from its Chair, Mr. Jake Moore, purchased and restored the buildings which were used as the company head office. When Labatt's moved their head offices the buildings were used by Weldon Academy.

Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute has occupied the buildings known as the Ridout Street Restoration since 2003. Offering programs ranging from preschool to grade 12, NCCI has adapted the buildings interiors to provide facilities such as science and computer labs, music rooms and a dance studio. While the interior of the buildings have undergone many changes, the exteriors are largely as they were 175 years ago.

The building at 451 Ridout Street was constructed in 1836 to house

London's first bank, the Bank of Upper Canada. The two-storey building was the first brick building to be built after the Court House and Gaol. It is an excellent example of Georgian style, with its central doorway flanked by windows on either side, and its symmetrically placed upper windows. The Georgian style is also evident in the Doric columns of the porch. The columns are painstakingly crafted reproductions of the originals which were too deteriorated to be saved.

The Gore Bank and the London Savings Bank first occupied the Georgian style white brick terrace building at 441-443 Ridout Street built in 1846 for Dr. Alexander Anderson. A carriageway, now enclosed by a wooden door, originally separated the two units. It is a well proportioned building with paired windows on the second and third storeys, a simple cornice formed of brick dentils and parapet walls.

With the proceeds of his rental property at 441-443, Dr. Anderson built 451 Ridout Street which he called Walmington House, as both residence and office. This building appears to be an attempt to design a house in a more unique style than others of the 1840's. While it keeps the symmetrical façade of the Georgian buildings south of it, the masonry pilasters which extend three storeys and end in an elaborate parapet are not part of the Georgian style. Notice the several styles of double hung windows, including a Gothic window over the central doorway.

**Proceed inside the school for a brief tour and then head to the cafeteria for some refreshments. We hope you have enjoyed today's Eldon excursion.**

Geraniums for today's tour have been provided by Van Horik's Greenhouses and Garden Centre.



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## Glossary

**Bargeboard:** board, usually ornamented, under a gable.

**Bay:** a division of a façade usually indicated by an opening such as a door or window; or projection, as in "bay window".

**Bell-cote** - small belfry.

**Bichromatic brick:** brickwork laid in two colours.

**Bracket:** a projection from a wall, usually beneath the eaves.

**Buttress:** an exterior mass of masonry bonded into a wall which it supports.

**Column:** tall, cylindrical support, usually with details from Classical orders (Doric - plainest with a simple capital, Ionic - decorated with scrolls on the capital).

**Cornice:** the decorative termination to a wall; transition between wall and roof.

**Coursing:** continuous horizontal row of brick or stone.

**Cresting:** ornamental finish along the top of a wall or roof, usually decorative and sometimes perforated.

**Dentil:** small rectangular block, similar to teeth; usually a number of blocks repeated as a band in a classical cornice.

**Dormer:** vertical window in a projection built onto a sloping roof.

**Dutch door:** a door with upper and lower halves that can be opened separately.

**Finial:** ornament ending the top of a gable or turret.

**Frieze:** part of cornice below roofline, often decorated.

**Gable:** the triangular portion of a wall between the enclosing lines of a sloping roof.

**Gambrel Roof:** a gable roof having two slopes on each side.

**Georgian** - a style originating in England whereby a building is symmetrical around a central doorway and has simple decoration.

**Gothic Revival:** a style developed in reaction to the restraint of Georgian; defined by steeply pitched rooflines, pointed arched windows and picturesque decoration.

**Half-timbered:** timber framing with plaster or masonry infill.

**Hip or Hipped Roof:** a roof sloping on all four sides.

**Italianate:** a style originating in rural Italy which features shallow rooflines, tall arched windows and deep overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets.

**Keystone:** the stone at the top of an arch or window surround.

**Lintel:** horizontal structural member at the top of a door or window.

**Ontario Cottage:** a popular style among Canadian settlers; featuring one-and-a-half storey design, large windows and small gable over a central doorway.

**Oriel window:** upper-floor bay window supported by corbels.

**Palladian Window:** a three-part window with the centre section larger and arched at the top.

**Parapet:** part of a wall that extends above the roofline.

**Pendule:** hanging ornament.

**Pilaster:** rectangular feature in the shape of a pillar, projecting from a wall.

**Pillar:** square column.

**Pinnacle:** small decorative shaft.

**Portico:** small porch with columns or pillars supporting a roof.

**Queen Anne Style:** a style originating in England and popular in London in the early 1900s; featuring irregular rooflines and house footprints, gables, towers, and intricate decoration.

**Quoins:** stone or brick used to reinforce a corner.

**Rusticated:** rough or grooved masonry.

**Segmental arch:** a gentle arch formed of bricks or stone over a window or door

**String coursing:** continuous projecting row of bricks.

**Transom:** a glass panel above a door or window.

**Trefoil:** an arch or window having three lobes

**Turret:** a small tower often containing stairs

**Voussoirs:** wedge-shaped stones or bricks used to form an arch.

## Designation

Some of the buildings described or noted in this booklet are on the City of London's *Inventory of Heritage Resources*. The *Inventory* is a list, compiled to date by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH), and the Planning Department. It consists of nearly 2,000 buildings and structures located throughout the city, which have architectural or historical significance. Many of them are eligible for designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act or may already be designated. Some are part of a designated heritage conservation district.

Owners of any property can request designation by City Council through LACH and the City of London's Heritage Planner. Designation, which is done through the passage of a by-law, provides some protection for buildings against alterations and demolition. Copies of the *Inventory* can be viewed at the City Clerk's office, in libraries and is available online through the City's website.

**Priority 1** buildings are London's most important heritage structures and merit designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. This group includes landmark buildings and other structures with major architectural and/or historical significance. On Council's recommendation they may be designated without the owner's consent.

**Priority 2** buildings merit evaluation for designation because of their significant architectural and/or historical value.

**Priority 3** buildings may merit designation as part of a group of buildings or as part of a Heritage Conservation District.

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## Bibliography

These works have been consulted in the preparation of this booklet:

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## Acknowledgements

We wish to show our appreciation to all the volunteers who make the annual Geranium Heritage House Tour possible. Special thanks go to the homeowners who have allowed us access into their buildings. Without them this event would not be possible.

We would also like to thank the following individuals for their contributions:

### **GHHT Organizing Committee**

Sylvia Chodas (chair), Marlyn Loft, Sharon Lunau, Ken Fitchett, Bob Porter

### **House Captains**

Genet Hodder, Jenny Grainger, Steve Liggett, Susan McKillop, Theresa Regnier, John Lutman, Kris Sikkema, Karen Moore

### **Brochure Producers**

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**Consultants:** Anne McKillop, UWO Public History students (see below)

**Map:** Chris Howell

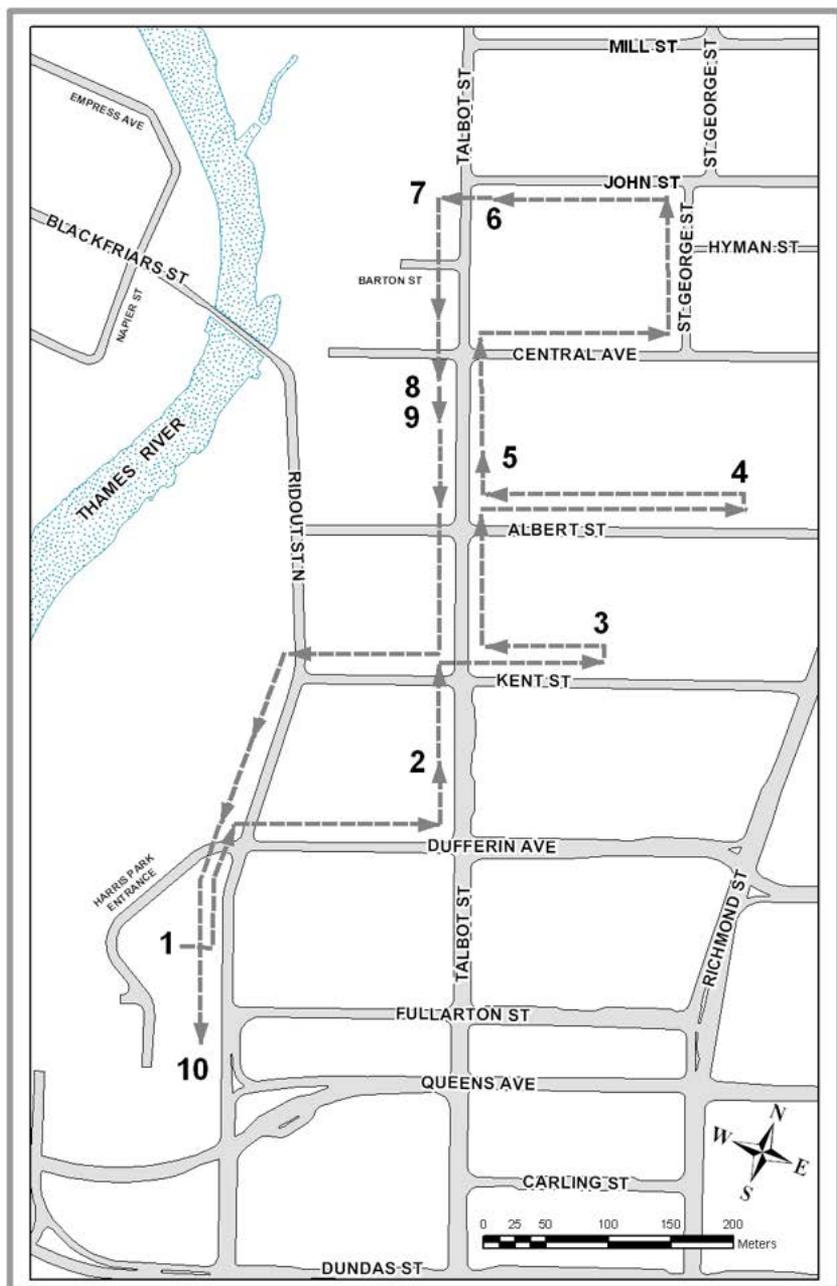
**Layout:** Marty Peterson, Sylvia Chodas

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The students in UWO's Public History masters program 2009-10 recently curated an exhibit stemming from their research on historic homes in the Talbot and Ridout Street area. The students evaluated their findings for local heritage significance based on the London Built Heritage Resource Evaluation, and presented the results to the Stewardship Committee for the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH) this past fall. The GHHT Committee would like to thank the students for their excellent research which was a valuable resource for the information included in the Eldon Excursion brochure. Special thanks to Jordan Goldstein for providing the History introduction.

Best wishes for their future employment in public history to Megan Arnott, Catherine Caughell, Tasha DiLoreto, Jordan Goldstein, Dana Johnson, Braden Murray, Tim O'Grady, Rebecca Rahey, Sara Sirianni, and Shelagh Staunton.





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