

THE CHATHAM-KENT MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER



Listed Properties in the Community of Thamesville

Community of Thamesville

59 Ann Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1895

Historical Significance: This is one of the oldest brick homes remaining in Thamesville. The opulence of this home suggests that one or several of the communities leaders have resided at this address over the years. Reeve Walter Ferguson is a former owner of this residence.

Architectural Significance/Description: Few homes in Thamesville are better examples of Queen Anne architecture. The asymmetric proportions, bay windows, dual chimneys, and brick work are exemplary. The decorative wood work that has been painted and carved under the front gable are exceptional pieces of folk art.

Contextual Significance: The home is located at the corner of Mary and Anne Streets. It was erected in the vicinity of several other large historic homes and illustrates an important area of Thamesville's early settlement.

Legal Description: PART OF BLOCK H, PLAN 144 THAMESVILLE



Community of Thamesville

60 Ann Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1885

Historical Significance: The “Mill Site”, as it was called, later became the residence of Robert Ferguson. Ferguson represented East Kent, in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, from 1885-1901, as a Liberal Minister.

Architectural Significance/Description: This structure is very difficult to see from the road. However, when one gets up close it is hard to overlook the stunning Italianate details. The cornice, brackets, veranda, and dormers are outstanding characteristics.

Contextual Significance: The house is on a large estate surrounded by an iron fence. It is located in the vicinity of several other large historic homes and illustrates an important area of Thamesville’s early settlement.

Legal Description: PART OF BLOCK I, PLAN 144 THAMESVILLE



Community of Thamesville

73 Ann Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1870

Historical Significance: According to the local Registry Office the land was obtained from the Crown for \$100 in 1881 by Lemuel Sherman, a pioneer of the Village of Thamesville. There are many, many streets in the village named after Lemuel Sherman and his family.

Also, according to the records in the Registry Office this property changed hands just two times until purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Read in 1907. They, in turn, probably sold it in 1913 (recordings are very faint in viewing), to Mr. Wesley B. Albertson.

As an additional item of interest, in April of 1968 the great granddaughter (and her family) of John C. and Mary Ann Read purchased this home and still owns and reside in it today. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Nichols (nee Marney Read) and family bought this home from the estate of George and Lyda Pavey after their death. Mr. and Mrs. George Pavey purchased the home from the Ontario Odd Fellows Association who had been left the home when Mr. Albertson gave up housekeeping.

Oddly enough, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Nichols (nee Marney Read) had no idea that 61 years prior to their purchase, the house had been the home of Marney's great grandparents. This had been a complete surprise to them until the local lawyer who handled the Pavey Estate brought this information to the Nichols attention. Thus, prompting a visit to the local Registry Office. There have been a few changes to the home since 1907 – the most obvious was the raising of the home to accommodate a basement (done by hand by George Pavey), and the replacement of the front bay window. Inside, there would not be any problem recognizing the previous rooms other than updating the decorations (painting/maintenance/etc.) plus the addition of a sun room added at the back.

Architectural Significance/Description: This home features a steeply pitched gable to the right of the home which is a Picturesque features, but also shows signs of Classic Revival architecture with the front gable plan with the entrance on the right-hand side of the gable.

Contextual Significance: This home is located in proximity to a number of significant homes within the community.

Legal Description: PLAN 145 BLK T LOT 9



Photographs and Historical
Significance courtesy Marney Nichols

Community of Thamesville

145 Elizabeth Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1900

Historical Significance: The original owner of the home was Rupert Davies, editor of the *Thamesville Herald* and well-known in the community. His son, Robertson Davies, one of Canada's most important novelists, was born in this house, and lived here for six years. Davies' most important trilogy of novels, called the Deptford Trilogy, "Goodbye Little Town", was set in Deptford, his fictional name for Thamesville.

Architectural Significance/Description: The front gable appears to be a Classic Revival feature with a medium pitched gable and the elaborate low-pitched veranda is significant as well.

Contextual Significance: This home is located on a significant heritage street in the community.

Legal Description: PLAN 144 BLK M LOT 12



Community of Thamesville

36 Lemuel Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1870

Historical Significance: More historic information is currently being compiled for this property.

Architectural Significance/Description: This residence is a well preserved frame home with a combination of Gothic Revival and Italianate features. The large front veranda and steep front gable suggest Gothic design. However, the details around the windows are more commonly used on Italianate structures. The double-level bay windows are a unique feature for this area of the municipality.

Contextual Significance: This home is deceptively large. The front façade covers up how far back some of the period additions go on the property. The home is on a large double lot and is adjacent to several other historic homes in the area.

Legal Description: LOT 8 & PART OF LOTS 7 & 9, BLOCK E, PLAN 144 THAMESVILLE



Community of Thamesville

62 London Road



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1899

Historical Significance: The Tecumseh House is a reasonably well preserved example of a late nineteenth century hotel. It was constructed by George Watts to accommodate travellers on their way to London, Chatham, or Windsor among other destinations. It was the first hotel in the area to have running water, steam heat, and electricity. These amenities were great for business. In 1905, local option was passed by municipal government. This law disallowed the legal sale and consumption of alcohol in Thamesville. The vote was promoted by some of the community's temperance leaders and was a hindrance to the hotel's finances. The hotel survived local option, temperance supporters, and the Depression. It is a great testament to Thamesville's successful early businesses.

Architectural Significance/Description: This three story brick complex has an eclectic assortment of influences. The bracketed cornice and window hoods highlight Italianate design elements.

Contextual Significance: The Tecumseh House is a landmark in Thamesville.

Legal Description: LOTS 1, 2 & 14, BLOCK E, PLAN 144 THAMESVILLE

Additional Notes: The bottom photo to the left is an old post-card found during research.



Community of Thamesville

67 London Road



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1870

Historical Significance: This building illustrates that Thamesville had a vibrant early commercial sector. There are few commercial buildings that are older in Chatham-Kent.

Architectural Significance/Description: This structure has a number of Renaissance Revival design features. The arched windows, brick work, brackets, and cornice, are of note.

Contextual Significance: This structure is a landmark in downtown Thamesville.

Legal Description: PART OF LOTS 7 & 9, BLOCK B, PLAN 144, DESIGNATED AS PART 1, 24R-2323, TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOTS 6 & 10, PLAN 144, DESIGNATED AS PARTS 2, 3 & 4, 24R-2323, AS IN 380836 THAMESVILLE



Community of Thamesville

145 London Road



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1871

Historical Significance: When the survey was made for Thamesville land was set aside for a church and on November 7, 1864 an "Indenture of Bargain and Sale" was made between the owner and the Church Society of the Diocese of Huron in the said Province of Upper Canada, under the jurisdiction, control and supervision of the United Church of England and Ireland. The 1/5 acre was sold for \$ 1.00 "upon trust to hold and have forever hereafter the said lands and premises designed for the express use and benefit of a Church."

The present church building of hand carved red bricks was built in 1871; it was the first brick church erected in Thamesville. The church has been in continuous use ever since, and if those who were present at the opening service could return, they would readily recognize the building even though they could not the surroundings. Apart from continuous maintenance and repairs there have been no alterations. With the passing of the horse and buggy days, the sheds and stable have disappeared long ago and the church property now borders a busy highway where cars are constantly passing.

According to records of the first parish register known to exist, the first marriage in St. Stephens was between John Thompson and Mary Jane Lawrence, a very quiet affair taking place after the regular Sunday service on July 25, 1875. The first public wedding was between Edward Thomas Watts and Mary Dickson, on June 26, 1877. The first burial recorded was that of Ella Eugenia Lawrence, aged four. The first baptisms were those of Eliza Hampton and George McGaffery. (Courtesy Marney Nichols)

Architectural Significance/Description:

Contextual Significance:

Legal Description: PLAN 144 BLK N LOTS 13 TO 15



Community of Thamesville

64 Mary Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1900

Historical Significance: Frank Watson was the original owner of this home. Watson purchased Cyers Flour Mill on Victoria Street after it was wrecked in a fire. Watson re-opened the factory as a Grist Mill where local farmers could take their corn, wheat, etc... and grind it into grain for their livestock (pigs, cows, horses, etc...) The Grist Mill ran for many years until it burnt down as well.

Architectural Significance/Description: This home features low-pitched roofs supported by large, unique columns on the front veranda. The residence has an eccentric shape.

Contextual Significance: This residence is located on a significant heritage street within the community.

Legal Description: PLAN 145 BLK T PT LOT 3



Community of Thamesville

10 Sherman Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1890

Historical Significance:

Architectural Significance/Description: This white vinyl home features a unique sloped roof and a front porch with a low-pitched roof. It also features a white picket fence in the front yard.

Contextual Significance: This house is located on a significant street in the community, one named after the notable Sherman family in the Community of Thamesville.

Legal Description: PLAN 300 LOT 67

