

THE CHATHAM-KENT MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER



Part II – Listed Properties Properties Listed under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

THE CHATHAM-KENT MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER



Listed Properties in the Community of Blenheim

Photo Credit: W.J. Bolton/Canada. Dept. of Manpower and Immigration/Library and Archives
Canada/PA-031130, 1923-1924.

Community of Blenheim

54 Chatham Street North



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1880

Historical Significance: The construction date of this home sets it apart from most residences in the municipality, particularly Blenheim. Additionally, the ornate wood work suggests that the initial owner was either a skilled craftsman or had the means to hire one. The home is a great example of Blenheim's nineteenth century affluence.

Architectural Significance/Description: The mansard roof, cornice, dormers, and wood detailing make this house an exquisite example of Second Empire design. The hearts that were cut in the front entrance are a great illustration of architectural folk art. The residence is unique by both municipal and provincial standards.

Contextual Significance: The house is a landmark driving into Blenheim from the countryside.

Legal Description: PT LOT 1, SOUTH OF MCGREGOR STREET PLAN 88 AS IN 441258 BLENHEIM



Community of Blenheim

59 Ellen Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1885

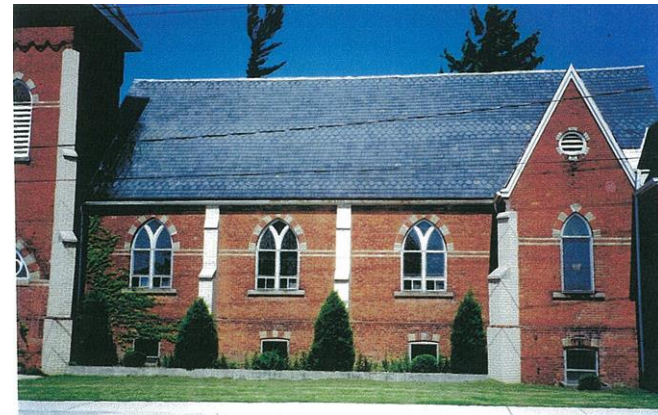
Historical Significance: Trinity Anglican Church is one of the oldest and most decorative buildings in Blenheim. It was constructed by mason and general contractor, Joseph J. Cookson. Cookson built several other important properties in Blenheim. In his later years he served the town as mayor.

Architectural Significance/Description: The design features of this building include Romanesque Revival and Gothic Revival influences. The arched stained glass windows are unique. The polychromatic brick work adds detail and accentuates the rest of the building. The Chancel was extended in 1904 and 1925. In 1969, a new entrance was created.

Contextual Significance: The building is at a prominent location on Ellen street. Moreover, the church's steeple can be seen from a noticeable distance around the community. It is a landmark in Blenheim.

Legal Description: PLAN 91 LOT 49 PT LOT 54 PLUS RP 24R889 PART 3 RP 24R2615 PART 1

Additional Notes: Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little



Community of Blenheim

46 George Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1865

Historical Significance: This home was the residence of three local doctors: Dr. James Samson, Dr. Charles B. Langford, and Dr. John Graham. Samson built the residence for his family and his practise in 1864. There are few structures that date back to the 1860's in the Blenheim area and even fewer in the municipality that housed three different family practises.

This residence acts as a busy vendor unit for the annual Art in Garden that takes place as part of Cherry Fest for the community.

Architectural Significance/Description: The house is a massive brick mansion. The verge boards, steep sloping gables, and lancet windows are an outstanding display of Gothic Revival design. Other features include: slate roof, five dormers, painted wooden brackets, corbelled cornice, and two chimneys. This structure is very rare by municipal and provincial standards.

Contextual Significance: The residence is located on a particularly visible corner lot in Blenheim: George & McGregor streets. It is also close to three different early church establishments.

Legal Description: LOTS 5 & 6, & PT LOT 7, PLAN 88, SOUTH OF MCGREGOR STREET & ALL OF LOT 39, PLAN 91 AS IN 225476 BLENHEIM

Additional Notes: Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little



Community of Blenheim

49 George Street



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1895

Historical Significance: Blenheim United Church is one of the oldest religious structures in the community. It was originally the Erskine Presbyterian Church from 1895-1925. It did not become the Blenheim United Church until 1932. The architects/contractors for the project were J.L. Wilson and W.C. Craddock. Joseph J. Cookson was the builder and Rev. Waddell was the pastor for over 36 years. A stained glass window stands in the pastor's memory.



Architectural Significance/Description: The architectural design of this building is extremely rare and eclectic. The building's most dominant influences appear to come from Queen Anne architectural features. The asymmetrical layout, bell tower, and large turret are distinct elements of this structure.

Contextual Significance: The residence is located on an extremely visible corner lot in Blenheim: George & McGregor streets.

Legal Description: LOT 2 & PT LOTS 3 & 4, SOUTH OF MCGREGOR STREET PLAN 88 AS IN BL3454, BL 3455, BL10443 BLENHEIM

Additional Notes: Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little



Community of Blenheim

19 Hannibal Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1900

Historical Significance:

Architectural Significance/Description: This residence is designed in the Victorian architectural style. This style includes a variety of different architectural styles from the Victorian era. This particular residence incorporates features associated with the Gothic Revival and Queen Anne architectural styles: portico; asymmetrical plan, broad veranda and lacy details, respectively.

Contextual Significance:

Legal Description: PLAN 93 LOT 5 PT LOT 7 N
HANNIBAL & PT LOTS 6 & 8 S MAXWELL RP
24R4194 PTS 1 & 4



Community of Blenheim

19 McGregor Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1920

Historical Significance:

Architectural Significance/Description: This residence is designed in a manner that projects an influence of the Beaux Arts architectural style. Some of the more notable features associated with this style are the classic decorative trim incorporated into the portico, balanced façade, and sunroom setback slightly from the facade.

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

Legal Description: PLAN 94 LOT 3 PT LOTS 2 & 4



Community of Blenheim

58 McGregor Street



Date Added to Registry: 8-Sep-2014

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: 1870

Historical Significance: This beautiful home was constructed in 1870 as a residence and office for local physician, Dr. James Samson. The third storey of the residence served as the living quarters for the coachman employed by Dr. Samson; coach and buggy being the predominant form of transportation for Blenheim's upper class in those days. Dr. Samson relocated to Windsor after being married later in his life. He subsequently sold his home to Dr. C.B. Langford, a graduate from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1888 who moved to Blenheim and became a busy and much-loved general practitioner. As the automobile became more common in communities, the coachman was released from his quarters and the room on the third floor became a popular club room for the Langford children and their friends. When Dr. Langford died in March 1939, the practice and home were sold to Dr. John Graham, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario Medical School. Graham served on town council, the local school board and represented the Kent County Medical Association on the Ontario Medical Council for four terms.



Architectural Significance/Description: This residence is designed in the Gothic Revival architectural style. Some of the more notable features associated with this style include the finely scaled gingerbread, brick hood molds, and sharply pitched gables.

Contextual Significance:

Legal Description: PLAN 88 PT LOT 7 PT LOT 8

Community of Blenheim

141 Park Alley



Date Added to Registry: 18-Jan-2010

Historic Period and/or Date of Erection: Circa 1885

Historical Significance: This residence was home to one of Blenheim's wealthiest settlers in the late nineteenth century. In more recent years it has been converted from a private residence into a funeral home. Previous owners included Abigail Wixon, George Thompson, and Hamilton Needham. George Thompson was one of Blenheim's mayors and a long time councillor.

Architectural Significance/Description: The design features of this building are highly unique. The steep gables and verge boarding, in combination with brackets under the eaves, and asymmetrical layout provide an original mix of Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne architectural styles. The dormers placed on the turret draws ones eyes upwards. It reflects the extraordinary amount of detail put into the structure. The house is unique by both municipal and provincial standards.

Contextual Significance: Unlike many funeral homes in the municipality this building retains much of its original façade. It is placed on a large double lot.

Legal Description: LOTS 5,7 & 9 & PT LOTS 6,8 & 10
BLOCK AZ, PLAN 102 AS IN 443773 BLENHEIM

Additional Notes: Photos courtesy of Mary Lou Little

