



35 70 Main Street South (c.1872)

The original owners were Alonzo D. Williams, first and long-time clerk of the town of Uxbridge, and Mary (Bascom) Williams, daughter of Dr. Joseph Bascom. It is possible that Dr. Bascom built this home for his daughter when she married. The house has had considerable alterations over the years. It has been suggested that the front part was originally a wooden farmhouse style that was later bricked. The back of the house was probably an addition.

36 51 Planks Lane (early 1870's)

This house is noteworthy for the porch's decorative wedding cake effect. The highly decorative ornate features of this porch are reminiscent of the Victorian Italianate period combined with the Queen Anne style of fish scale shingles on the upper dormer.



37 34 Planks Lane (c.1873)

Franklin E. Davis bought this lot from John Plank and built this house. Mr. Davis was associated with the Uxbridge Piano and Organ Company and became the agent in western Canada for the company. The house combines two styles of architecture. The highly decorative corbels, keystones above the windows and linear projecting two storey bay windows are of the Italianate style. The multiple corbels and high-pitched roof are Victorian.



38 21 Planks Lane (c.1877)

This house has unusual brackets on the upper windows. There are about six houses in Uxbridge with these brackets. The late Napier Simpson Jr., an architect who designed additions to historic buildings, once did a walking tour of Uxbridge houses. He had commented that he had never seen these brackets anywhere else. Look next door at 27 Planks Lane and the same feature can be seen.



39 38 Main Street South (1863)

The house before us bears little resemblance to the original frame Bascom-Mellow House. In 1873, the roof was raised, the doctor's office added, and considerable ornamentation applied. The ornate wooden valances over the windows are very rare. Note the decorative wooden panels flanking the entrance to the doctor's dispensary. Two Doctors Bascom and a Dr. Mellow practised here over many years. The house is still in the Mellow family and the interior of the dispensary is preserved as it was in Dr. Mellow's time.



40 Main Street South (1890's)

In 1908, Dr. Shier bought this house as well as 2 lots near the Music Hall. He built an office addition on the north side and modernized the house. The small barn behind the house would have been where he kept his horse, buggy and cutter. Walter Shier had taught school before entering the medical profession. He had a general practise in Uxbridge from 1907-1916, was coroner of Ontario County from 1908 to 1944, and Grand Trunk Railroad and C.N.R. surgeon from 1907 to 1944. After 1916 he devoted his attention to eye, ear, nose and throat consultations and anesthetics. He was a member of town council.



41 23 Main Street South (1874)

J. P. Plank is considered to be one of the early founders of Uxbridge. He arrived from New York in 1826. Near this site he built the first inn and tavern in the town. Since settlement of the area was just starting, it was a popular place for people to stay. In 1828 he built the first store in town and the first sawmill at Elgin Pond, which he subsequently sold to Joseph Gould. By the 1840's, J. P. Plank built a brick inn just north of where the Music Hall stands today. This was the first brick building in Uxbridge. Plank owned 200 acres, all east of Main Street and in the 1850's he subdivided the land and started selling the lots. In the 1870's he built a large hotel called Plank House on the southwest corner of Brock and Main Streets. Plank's residence at 23 Main Street was destroyed by fire in 1873 and was rebuilt in 1874. Its Victorian Gothic style includes some earlier Georgian traditions that are seen in the symmetry of the house and projecting frontispiece. The home was in the Plank family until 1969. The house was divided and used as apartments in the 1970's and is now Low & Low Funeral Parlor.



42 Uxbridge Music Hall (1901)

The Uxbridge Music Hall was built on the site of an earlier facility called the "Ontario Hall" that was destroyed by fire. The boomtown front of this historic hall gives a rather formal appearance, reflecting its importance to the community. Another clue to the public nature of this building is the pilastered frontispiece punctuated by grand second floor windows. The balconied interior has been host to minstrel shows, historic pageants, Shakespearean plays and personages such as Sir Wilfred Laurier, Sir Robert Borden and Premiers E. C. Drury and C. H. Ferguson. Today, after complete interior restoration, it is frequently used as a concert hall and theatre and is a local landmark. Look carefully at the brickwork on the right of the front door and above the corner stone and notice imprints of cats' paws. The clay bricks were poured into forms in nearby Greenbank where the precocious feline stepped into a place in history.



Maker settlers from Pennsylvania began arriving in the northeast corner of old Uxbridge Township immediately following the 1804-1805 survey. By 1830, a hamlet had been established, and Uxbridge Post Office opened in 1836. Settlers with English, Irish and Scottish backgrounds swelled the community. The railway arrived in 1871 and the hamlet shortly became a village. Prosperity took it to town status in 1885. Major industries included the railway car factory, the Uxbridge Piano and Organ Company, and the Gold Medal Furniture Company. In 1956, Uxbridge became the second town in Canada to receive an official coat-of-arms which is displayed on the town's entrance signs. Although this coat-of-arms depicts an ox and bridge, indicating "Oxbridge", the name Uxbridge originated in Middlesex England, where it is thought to have been derived from "Wixanbridge", the home of a Saxon tribe called the Wixan.

Historical synopsis

Cultural Heritage Walking Tour

Legend

1. Library	22. 7 Dominion Street
2. Anglican Church	23. 49 Dominion Street
3. 89 Toronto Street South	24. 50 First Avenue
4. 92 Toronto Street South	25. 41 First Avenue
5. 38 Church Street	26. 37 First Avenue
6. Presbyterian Church	27. 32 First Avenue
7. 80 & 82 Brock Street West	28. United Church
8. 188 Brock Street West	29. 35 Brock Street East
9. 54 Cedar Street	30. 122 Brock Street East
10. 185 Cedar Street	31. 112 Brock Street East
11. 13 Young Street	32. 23 Franklin Street
12. 203 Brock Street West	33. 30 Franklin Street
13. 175 Brock Street West	34. 68 Reach Street
14. Railway Station	35. 70 Main Street South
15. 60 Brock Street West	36. 51 Planks Lane
16. C.I.B.C. Building	37. 34 Planks Lane
17. Artist's Window, Brock & Bascom Streets	38. 21 Planks Lane
18. 11&13 Brock Street West	39. 38 Main Street South
19. 12 Main Street North	40. 20 Main Street South
20. 27 Main Street North	41. 23 Main Street South
21. 37 Main Street North	42. Uxbridge Music Hall

HERITAGE UXBRIDGE

Space does not permit the inclusion of other locales of interest.

✦ **Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act**

• **Heritage Pride Plaque Building**

Written and illustrated by Sharon E. Nielsen and Wendy E. Auger.

This brochure is provided courtesy of Heritage Uxbridge, (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee), and the Township of Uxbridge, 2002.

For more information about designation or the Heritage Pride program contact: Heritage Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S. ON Canada, L9P 1T1

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1 Library (1887)

At the southeast corner of Brock and Toronto Streets stands the Uxbridge Public Library. Beautifully restored in 1985, this building captures much of our town's history. Uxbridge's pre-citizen, Joseph Gould, commissioned it as Mechanics' Institute and John T. Stokes of Sharon was the probable architect. The importance of this High Victorian Gothic building is reflected in its picturesque roofline, impressive clock tower and lavish attention to detail. Notice the effort to enliven the wall planes with such varied techniques as projecting brick courses, buttresses, bricks set in a diagonal pattern, decorative red brick, ornate chimneys and dropped brick keystones over the windows. Moffat Kinoshita of Toronto designed a functional and elegantly sympathetic addition. Housed inside the library are the original wooden clock works and the restored Gould Family Bible.

2 Anglican Church (1888)

St. Paul's Anglican Church is a true heir to the Gothic Revival style. It replaces the original frame church built in 1834. Built in a traditional Anglican form with a clearly distinguished hall and tower, this is an ecclesiastically correct building, with the altar oriented toward the east and every church function expressed in subsidiary volumes (tower, nave, chancel, vestry). Note the beautiful Rose Window and Gothic Revival window and door treatments. Walk down the south side of the church to the back of the property to view an unusual feature. At the east end of the church is the unique double chimney coming up on either side of the nave to a single outlet in the form of an inverted "Y" or wishbone shape. The front stone entryway dates from 1893 and a new addition on the south side was completed in 1998.

3 89 Toronto Street South (1878)

Joseph Gould, an early town founder, owned and developed most of the west side of the town. His home was on the site of the current township offices. It is assumed that he built this house in 1875 for his daughter Elizabeth (Libby) who had married the Presbyterian Minister Reverend Edward Cockburn. Reverend Cockburn was minister of the Chalmers Church in Uxbridge and the St. Paul's Church in Leaskdale. In 1881 the house became the manse and remained a manse until 1981. The manse was often where marriages were held. In the 1920's, Reverend Ewan MacDonald, husband of Lucy Maude Montgomery, would visit the Uxbridge Presbyterian Minister at this manse.

4 92 Toronto Street South (c.1871)

Joseph Gould owned this property until he sold it to his son Charles in 1872. The Goulds rented out this property until it was sold in 1884 to Samuel and Mary Jane McKinnell. Mr. McKinnell, a merchant who had arrived in Uxbridge in 1874, died the year he purchased the house. The family continued to live in the home until 1938.

5 38 Church Street (c.1870)

This one and a half storey frame house has been nicely restored. Many fine details result in a delicate appearance with cornices projecting over windows and doors, slim Gothic windows and matching shutters to enhance the gables. This home once had a substantial verandah and perhaps barge-board decorating the gables.

6 Presbyterian Church (1869 & 1884)

On this wedge-shaped lot, St. Andrews-Chalmers Presbyterian Church presents an intriguing sight. Careful examination of the façade will reveal that a contemporary brick "skin" has been laid over the original structure while the date that is visible over the door is of the building hidden beneath! Considerable period detail can be seen in the two wings (1884) projecting from either side of the church. Compare the contrasting colour and texture of the bricks, and the use of the bricks themselves as decorative elements in the "new" and old areas.

7 80 & 82 Brock Street West (1876)

The shop at 80 Brock Street West has an abundance of original detail and is a charming example of a shop front from the 1870's. Once part of a row of 4 identical shops, time and renovations have changed the others. Note the large letter "B" on one of the large glass windows and imagine the days when Bronscombe's Department Store displayed plumes and parasols here. Cast-iron pillars, wooden spool work, and inside, a pressed tin ceiling are delightful period touches which endure. In the upper storey the original tall windows are intact. 82 Brock Street West has been restored and illustrates the character of what once was a grocery and dry goods store in the late 1870's.

Self-Guided Walking Tour

Uxbridge, Ontario Canada

Provided courtesy of Heritage Uxbridge (the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) and the Town of Uxbridge.

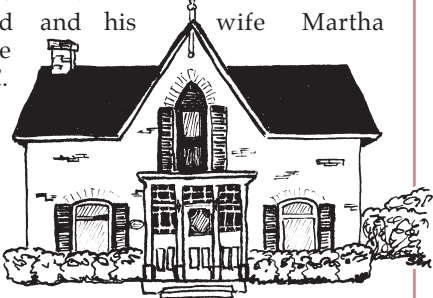


8 188 Brock Street West (1876)

Thomas Boyd, a carpenter, built this house. The main house is a wood frame structure with a high-pitched roof that sits on a traditional field stone foundation. The cladding is original shiplap boarding covered by vinyl siding and the roof is asphalt shingles on wood planking. The rounded porch is a good example of a Classical Revival style.

9 54 Cedar Street (1877)

In 1886 Harvey Gould and his wife Martha purchased this house built by John C. Widdifield. The Gould family owned this home until 1930. Harvey Gould, son of Joseph Gould (one of the original founders of Uxbridge) was a merchant, mill owner and also a member of the private banking firm of Gould Brothers. He was active in municipal affairs and was mayor for several terms. The two upper gothic doors open onto balconies. Much of the interior and exterior of the house has been restored. The front verandah is original to the house, as are the window frames and sashes all with original hand-rolled glass.



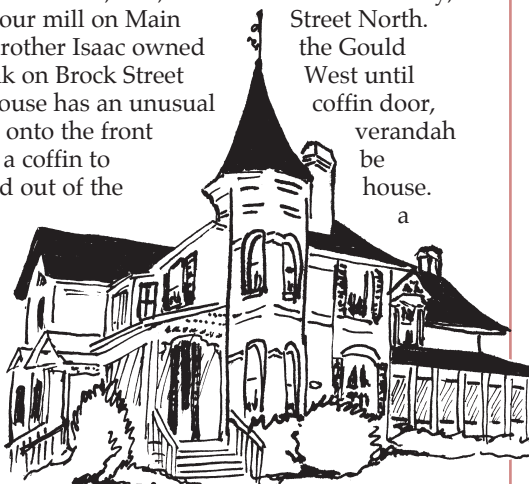
10 185 Cedar Street (c.1880)

This Gothic Revival house is asymmetrical in design and this facilitates the unusual corner entrance. Note the treatment of the hip dormer for the doorway on the upper porch. The house has many embellishments such as different window shapes, corbels and bargeboard.



11 13 Young Street (1884)

Charles was the third of eleven children born to Joseph and Mary Gould. Charles inherited the northwest farm from his father in 1886, and, with his brother Harvey, owned the flour mill on Main Street North. He and his brother Isaac owned Brothers Bank on Brock Street West until 1908. This house has an unusual verandah which opens onto the front and allowed a coffin to be carried in and out of the house. It was a common practice years ago to have funerals and wakes in the home. The small outdoor room at the end of the side porch, surrounded by 2 outer brick walls, is believed to have been the privy. It has been incorporated into the side porch and serves as a storage room. This house is typical of the Queen Anne style with flared eaves on the tower, top-heavy multiple chimneys, multi-sloped roofs and decorative brick work. The original architectural drawings, dated 1884, are still in the home.



12 203 Brock Street West (1866)

Johnston Brown, architect, designed and built this house. In 1869, Benjamin Davidson, and his wife Elizabeth bought this home and the same family owned it until 1918. In 1873, Davidson built his fanning mill factory just to the east of the house. Benjamin also cultivated bees and for years many beehive boxes could be seen on the property.



13 175 Brock Street West (1875)

John C. Widdifield built this home. It has interesting symmetry illustrated by the two Gothic windows and matching dormers. Contemporary gingerbread has been added to enhance the original Gothic style of the house.



14 Railway Station (1904)

Erected to replace an earlier station this is an excellent example of the "witch's hat roof" style, a unique Victorian design. The foundation wall of the building is brick and the rest of the building is board and batten with clapboard on an upper wall. The interior has wainscoting and elaborate woodwork and an example of the original wall stenciling still exists. The interior and exterior were restored as closely as possible to the original. A railway museum is now housed in the baggage room.



15 60 Brock Street West (1880)

This is another example of a shop front that preserves the character of the past. Large glass display windows and supporting cast-iron pillars proclaim its commercial status. Look upward to see decorative wooden brackets still in place under the eaves. Earlier alterations completely removed the original windows as well as a decorative wooden cornice at the roofline. The store just to the east was originally an open carriage way for horses and buggies to reach a rear parking area for the hotel once located on the corner of Toronto and Brock Streets.



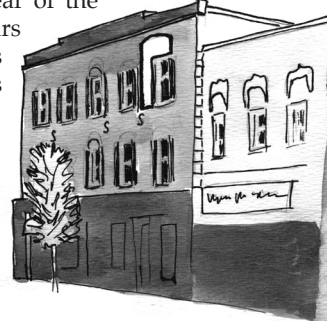
16 C.I.B.C. Building (1919)

This building reflects the tradition that banks had imposing columnar fronts. However, costs may have dictated the use of red brick pilasters for a similar but more restrained effect. Nevertheless the combination of stone and brick distinguishes this structure as a public building of some importance.



17 Window at Brock Street West & Bascom Streets, south side (1870)

In the 1940's Canadian artist, David Milne, had his studio in the room with the large window that has been partially bricked in. Duncan Macpherson, cartoonist with the Toronto Star, used the same studio in the early 1950's. Earlier occupants of the store below sold baked goods made in a bakery in the rear of the building. The room upstairs with the large window was used for banquets. This building was known as the Parish Block and was one of the very first blocks of brick structures to be built in Uxbridge. Note the 'S' shaped building-washers used to stabilize the building.



18 11&13 Brock Street West (1887)

The polychromatic brickwork of the upper story in red, black and yellow brick visually enlivens the surface in a sophisticated fashion. At one time this building possessed a wooden peak with ornate carving over the centre. At street level much of the wooden façade remains intact in what was once a harness shop.



19 12 Main Street North (1862)

Built by merchant Andrew Cowan, this building is a fine example of an early commercial building. On the east side of the building there is a very balanced arrangement of door and windows. Note the date plaque and the roof "returns" on the gable ends that illustrate an early style.



20 27 Main Street North (c.1880)

In 1867, the Uxbridge House, or Annand's Hotel, (run by William J. Annand) sat on this property. The owner was James Ruddy. The hotel burned down in 1868, was rebuilt and burned again in the major town fire of 1874. William J. Annand's father was rescued from the last fire but was badly burned. He was carried to the Plank House Hotel at the corner of Brock and Main Streets where he wrote his will on a page torn from the hotel register book. He died soon after. That year James Ruddy sold to John Ruddy who may have been the builder of the present home. Joseph Reeves, owner and occupant from 1896 to 1928, was also the owner of a shoe business in Uxbridge for 50 years.



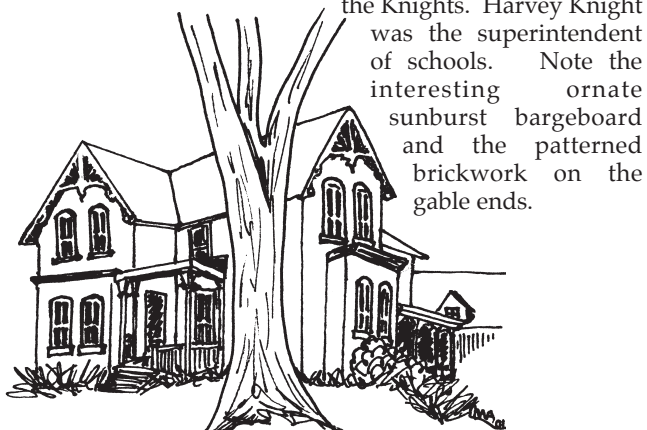
21 37 Main Street North (1868)

The Hobby Horse Arms, previously known as the Commercial Hotel, was originally located around the corner on Brock Street East near First Avenue. This structure had a long history as a hotel and later a livery stable and home in that location. In 1981 it was purchased and moved to its present site to avoid demolition.



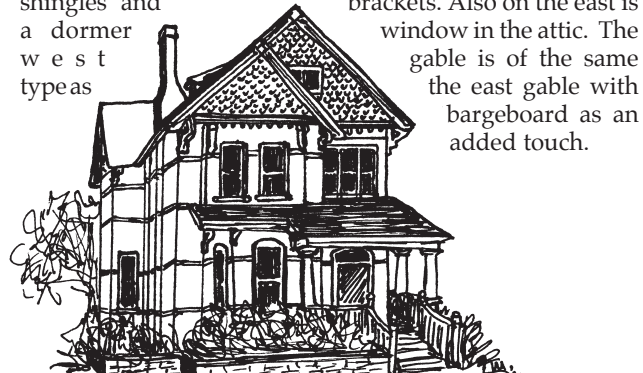
22 7 Dominion Street (1888)

Andrew Patterson built a tannery in 1876 just north of this house on Main Street North. Many additions to the tannery made it one of the important industries in town. The tannery was sold in the 1890's and in 1912 it burned down. In more recent years the base of the tannery chimney could be seen with a plow sitting on it. The Patterson family lived in this house until 1918 when it was sold to John C. Paxton who also bought the Gould flour mill. In 1924, Paxton sold to Joseph and Bertha Murray. Mr. Murray operated a hardware store in Uxbridge from 1916 to 1928 and was also night constable in 1941 and then chief constable in 1945/46. Other owners were McMurtry, Ken Noble, Walter Simpson and the Knights. Harvey Knight was the superintendent of schools. Note the interesting ornate sunburst bargeboard and the patterned brickwork on the gable ends.



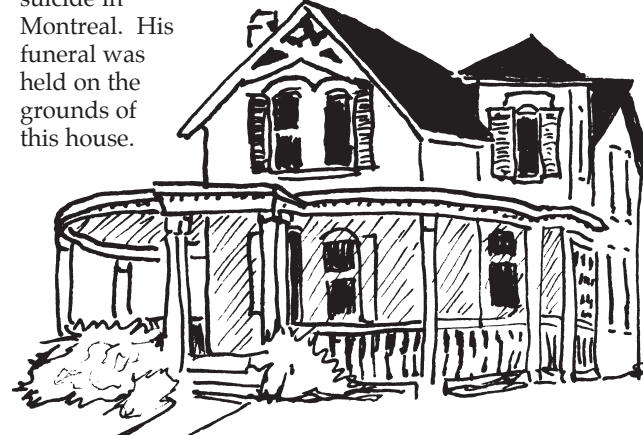
23 49 Dominion Street (c.1887)

E. R. Anderson built this house, which was bought by Sarah Chinn, wife of an Uxbridge innkeeper. Mr. Anderson also built 55 Dominion Street, which is very similar in design. The house is two storeys and is made of double brick. "Fish scale" shingles, brackets and bargeboard decorate the south gable in the traditional Queen Anne style. An oriel window with brackets is partially obscured by a verandah. A two storey square oriel window protrudes out slightly from the east gable embellished by "fish scale" shingles and brackets. Also on the east is a dormer window in the attic. The gable is of the same type as the east gable with bargeboard as an added touch.



24 50 First Avenue (1877)

Emmanuel Maunder designed and built this home in 1877 in the style of an Italian Villa. At that time a tall tower predominated on the right while the conservatory and imposing Classical Revival verandah would have been later additions in the early 1900's. A notable resident of this home was Samuel S. Sharpe. He grew up locally and became an Uxbridge lawyer, serving 3 terms as a Member of Parliament. During WWI, he raised a battalion from the area and led it overseas. Unable to face the parents of the young men killed in combat, Col. Sharpe committed suicide in Montreal. His funeral was held on the grounds of this house.



25 41 First Avenue (1860)

Edward Wheeler built this home likely using lumber from his own mill. This home was originally sited on Brock Street but was moved here in 1871-72 when that area was changing from residential to commercial. The original dwelling would have been much plainer, almost Georgian in style with a symmetrical treatment of multi-paned sash windows around a wide entryway. The unadorned "Quaker" appearance would have been relieved only by a front gable and round-headed window. The decorative bargeboard and finials were the result of the Gothic Revival influence and were likely added in the 1870's or 1880's. The porch, which would have been added in the early 1900's, illustrates the Classical Revival influence.



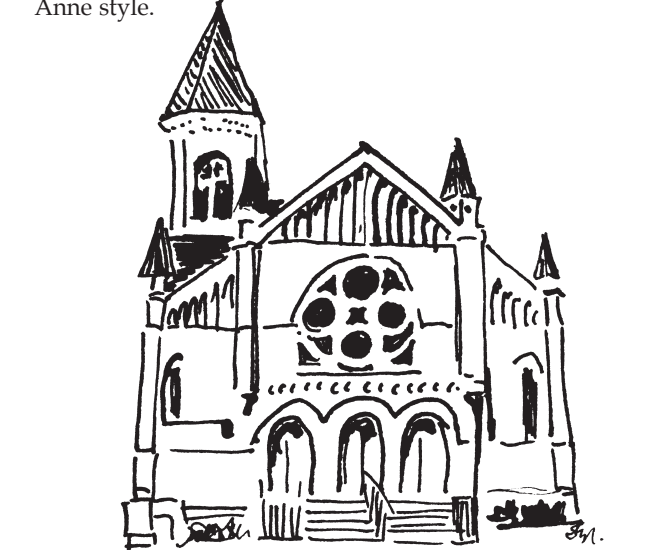
26 37 First Avenue (1885)

George A. Long (mason and builder) and his wife Mary were the first owners of this house. It is a yellow brick, one and a half storey, and "L" shaped house. The bargeboard at the peak of the west gable is of the heavy type common in the 1880's. The smaller west gable also has bargeboard as well as a door that opens onto a verandah. Only the east gable lacks bargeboard decoration. A verandah runs along most of the south side. Note the decorative fretwork on the top. Two small gables have doors that open onto the verandah. The windows have a slightly rounded top. At the gable doors there are small brackets.



27 32 First Avenue (1872)

Built by Silas Beebe, a blacksmith, this asymmetrical farmhouse was originally covered with beveled siding. In 1893 the 2-storey oriel window and white brick veneer were added. The variety of detail results in a very pretty, picturesque effect. Note the use of delicate bargeboard, turned posts, "fish scale" shingles and large brackets supporting the canted roof - all elements of the Queen Anne style.

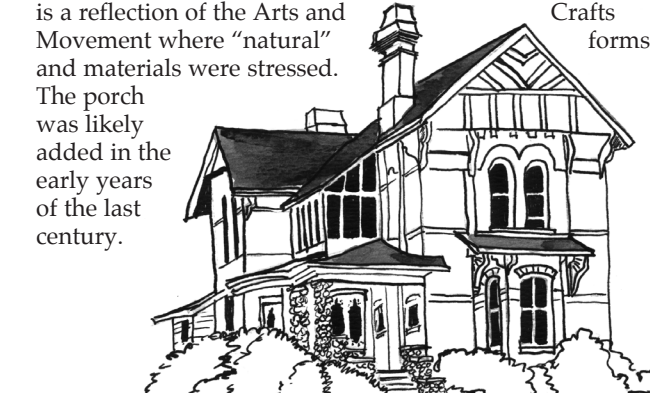


28 United Church (1888)

The Trinity United Church solidly proclaims its Methodist heritage. The Methodists consciously made an effort at self-determination by breaking away from what was seen as a Catholic style of architecture, such as Gothic inspired tall spires and pointed windows. Instead, they chose a solid, down to earth style enlivened by Romanesque elements. Round arches predominate in the triple front portal, in most windows and brick detailing on the façade. There is a consistent use of complex detail: the way the stone string courses contrast with the smooth brickwork, the use of wooden dentils at the roofline, and the use of round arches. Although the off-centre tower is stylistic, the result is a harmonious whole.

29 35 Brock Street East (1885)

This 2-storey yellow brick house has been well sited to its corner location as it provides two equally interesting facades. Many details enliven this busy building; bay windows, round-topped windows, hipped roof on east and west gables, decorative wooden roof brackets and string courses of brick. The interesting cobblestone porch is a reflection of the Arts and Crafts Movement where "natural" materials were stressed. The porch was likely added in the early years of the last century.



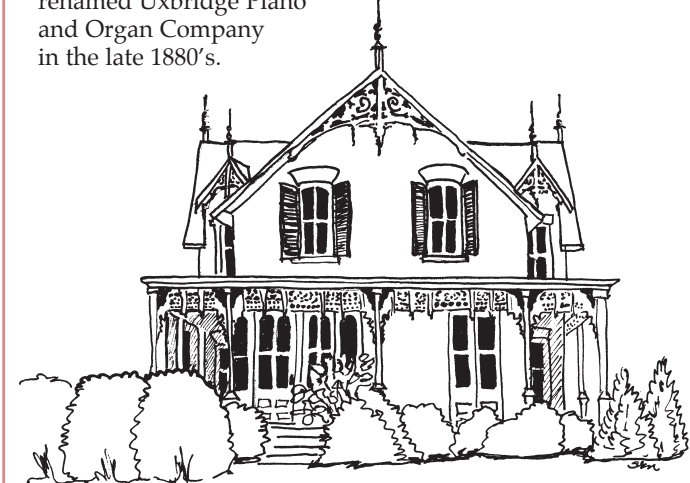
30 122 Brock Street East (c.1874)

The original owners of this house were Robert Mooney, a local merchant, and his wife Elizabeth. Local homebuilder and architect Johnston Brown built the home under the direction of Mr. Mooney. It is a one and a half storey, "T" shaped, red brick house on a stone foundation with white brick to accent the windows and quoins. The north gable has a Gothic style door that opens onto the verandah. Carved brackets and entablature beautifully embellish the verandah. There are gables at the east, west and south. No bargeboard or finials decorate the gables. The small west gable has a Gothic window. There is a sun porch on the west side.



31 112 Brock Street East (c.1871)

Samuel and Elizabeth Umphrey built this Victorian Gothic house. The decorative frieze on the verandah and ornate bargeboard at the gable ends create an overall pleasing impression. Mr. Umphrey and his brother-in-law R. P. Harman bought a planing mill and sash/door factory on Bascom Street. Mr. Umphrey had previously been a merchant in Udora. He was a director of the Uxbridge Cabinet Organ Company when it was formed in 1873 and was president and manager of this company for several years. This company was renamed Uxbridge Piano and Organ Company in the late 1880's.



32 Franklin Street (1901)

Charles Small, owner of the Uxbridge Piano and Organ Company, built this home known as "Gleeholme". It is likely that lumber for the interior woodwork was obtained through the piano company. This early 20th century house has a wraparound corner verandah, a "Juliet" balcony and dentil moulding under the massive pediment entrance to the porch. The origin of the name of "Gleeholme" is unknown.



33 30 Franklin Street (c.1875)

Albert S. Hardy, who built this house, worked for the Uxbridge Piano and Organ Company as a piano tuner. This house is a very fine example of the Second Empire style and is unusual in the Uxbridge area. A straight-sided mansard roof punctuated by two hooded dormers with enriched surrounds characterizes the style. Similar to the Italianate, the cornice is embellished with scrolled brackets and a plain frieze. Note the indented double entryway with rounded lights and the raised brick quoins. The home has several lovely interior details.



34 68 Reach Street (1871)

William and Mary Darlington built this house. The house is a one and a half storey yellow brick dwelling with a fieldstone foundation. The corners of the house have decorative features and above the porch roof is a decorative row of bricks forming crosses. Around the windows the same type of yellow brick was used in accents. The small north gable originally had a Gothic window that has been obscured by the bricks. Most of the 1870's style of window frames remains. There are large gables at the east and west ends of the building. The verandah, designed by Napier Simpson Jr., was added in the 1970's to reflect the architectural style of the 1870's. It is decorated along its entablature with wooden spokes making a sunburst design.

