

1 The Orillia Opera House

Built in 1895, the Opera House currently serves as a theatre, but at one time was used as a municipal office, police headquarters and jail. More recently, it housed the City's Council Chamber. A fire in 1915 destroyed the interior and the roof of the building which were rebuilt in 1917. The nameplate "City Hall" was erected decades before Orillia became a City. The building is renowned among performers for its superior acoustics and is still a hub of the community today.

Designation: September 11, 1978
Address: 20 Mississauga Street West
Coordinates: N44.36:492 / WO79.25:189

2 The Kean's Block

This building, built in 1872 and opened in 1873, was owned by Frank Kean. Extensive restoration of the second floor uncovered the old Kean's Music Hall, which was the main meeting place in Orillia, prior to the Opera House being built in 1895. A portion of the second floor was used for various businesses and organizations. The first telephone exchange in Orillia operated here from 1884 to 1887.

Designated: March 3, 2003
Address: 19-27 Mississaga Street East
Coordinates: N44.36:509 / WO79.25:135

3 The Gribbin (McMaster) Building

Francis Joseph Gribbin purchased lot 3 (parcel a) in 1873 after losing his clothing store due to a fire in 1872. The replacement building was of frame construction, 1-1/2 stories high, 26' by 40' and was used for the winter. Mr. Gribbin built a new building the following year, three stories high made of red-orange brick accented with buff-yellow brick used as quoins (corners), voussiors or heads over each window opening and Greek or Battlement-style and plain banding, which was typical of the commercial buildings being erected throughout Ontario in the second half of the nineteenth century. The building measured 26' x 90' and the brick was laid in common bond.

Designated: March 3, 2003
Address: 45 Mississaga Street East
Coordinates: N44.36:524 / WO79.25:113

4 The Sir Sam Steele Memorial Building

This building was designed by Dominion architect Thomas Fuller, as Orillia's Post Office and Customs House in 1894. It became the City's police station in 1954 and was renamed the Sir Sam Steele Memorial Building after Samuel Benfield Steele, Major General of the North West Mounted Police and Lieutenant Colonel and Commander in the British and Canadian Military Forces. Built in Richardson's Romanesque style, the building features heavy rounded arches over the windows and stone string courses made from local limestone. It was recently (2004) renovated and restored and now houses the Orillia Museum of Art and History.

Designated: March 4, 1996
Address: 30 Peter Street South
Coordinates: N44.36:513 / WO79.25:022



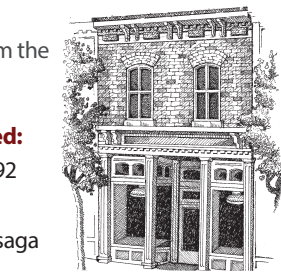
Orillia's Heritage Properties

Properties designated for cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, C. 0.18

5 The Centre of King Block

The building at 103 Mississaga Street is the centre building of a block of three, two story buildings numbered 101 -105 known as The King Block, built by Athenias King circa 1870 and is a typical example of the fine brick facades that still dominate Orillia's historic downtown commercial district. This three building block has 60 feet of frontage and it's facade is flush to the public sidewalk, with a one story addition at the rear. The foundation is mixed limestone and granite with random coursed stone in original condition and the basement floor is dirt. The brickwork on the upper facade is red brick, laid stretcher bond with yellow brick accents and the mortar is uncoloured. A raised brick pilaster separates this centre facade from the end units.

Designated: June 1, 1992
Address: 103 Mississaga Street East
Coordinates: N44.36:569 / WO79.25:023



Map Legend

Numbers (●) = Orillia's Heritage Properties
Letters (■) = Undesignated Properties of Interest

6 St. James Court

Built in 1906 by J.R. Eaton, St. James Court served thousands of Orillians in its 75 years as the YMCA. By 1912, it housed the only indoor pool north of Toronto. The building was damaged by fire in 1982 and was rebuilt and repurposed for affordable housing by 1985. A classical portico, similar to the original design, has been reconstructed over the main entrance. Many well-known athletes, such as world champion sculler, Jake Gaudaur, have passed through this entrance.

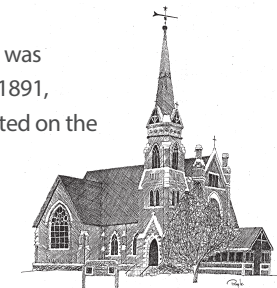
Designated: July 25, 1988
Address: 18 Peter Street North
Coordinates: N44.36:579 / WO79.25:090



7 St. James Anglican Church

This brick, Gothic Revival style church was designed by W.H. Croker and built in 1891, replacing a smaller stone church erected on the site in 1857. Limestone adorns the Gothic openings and buttresses.

Designated: September 8, 1980
Address: 58 Peter Street North
Coordinates: N44.36:593 / WO79.25:096



8 Central Public School

This building was designed by architects Kennedy & McVittie and erected for \$12,000. It was opened in 1882 with a principal and eight teachers. It's most outstanding Victorian feature is the multi-coloured, decorative brickwork. In the centre of the roof is a large wooden bell cupola which was replicated to scale in 2014. Italianate features include ornamental wood brackets at the eaves and grouped, round-headed windows.

Designated: May 14, 1979
Address: 26 Coldwater Street East
Coordinates: N44.36:589 / WO79.25:195



9 St. James Anglican Church Rectory

Built in 1874 on land purchased from a parcel set aside for the use of First Nations, this lovely house with a centre hall plan was occupied from 1888 - 1911 by incumbent rector Canon Richard Greene. Greene was immortalized as "Dean Drone" in Stephen Leacock's "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town".

Designated: October 24, 1988
Address: 57 Neywash Street
Coordinates: N44.36:704 / WO79.25:133



10 The Tisdale House

This dwelling was built in the Queen Anne style, which is an eclectic mix of decorative elements. Most of these houses were built in the period 1880 to 1910 and the Queen Anne style is quite varied between examples. The typical attributes found in this dwelling are the irregular outline, consisting of a corner tower, randomly spaced and different style windows around the exterior, projecting two story bay and multiple roof lines. The two broad pediments on the north and east faces are also a prominent feature of this style, where the two story bay or wall dormer projects through the cornice or eave. The foundation consists of rough-faced dress limestone blocks likely cut from Ramara Township. The limestone foundation on the facade extends about eight feet above grade and is capped with a large limestone band that imparts a very solid and sturdy appearance.

Designated: February 5, 1996
Address: 63 Neywash Street
Coordinates: N44.36:714 / WO79.25:110



11 The Green House

Built in 1883 for the retired Rev. Dr. John Gray, first incumbent of the Orillia Presbyterian Church, the house features complex brickwork, round gable windows and ornately scrolled eave brackets.

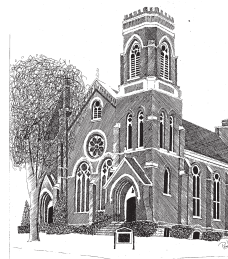
Designated: March 14, 1988
Address: 77 Peter Street North
Coordinates: N44.36:679 / WO79.25:172



12 Orillia Presbyterian Church

The Orillia Presbyterian Church has its origins in Orillia dating back to 1834. The current structure was built in 1888, replacing a smaller one erected in 1852 on this site. It was designed by architects Gordon and Helliwell to seat 1100. In 1920, the pipe organ, considered one of the most outstanding in Canada, was installed as a memorial to those who died in World War I.

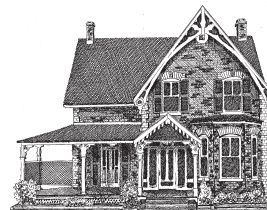
Designation: December 10, 1979
Address: 99 Peter Street North
Coordinates: N44.36:684 / WO79.25:192



13 The Begg House

Built in 1876 by Alexander Begg and his wife Emily, this house features decorative brickwork, Gothic Style barge board trim and ornately etched, curved glass panels in the vestibule. Begg was a famous publisher, teacher, public servant and author.

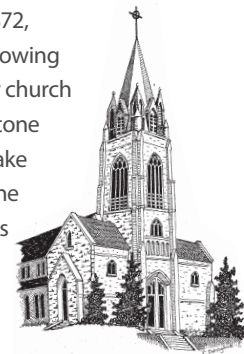
Designated: July 24, 1989
Address: 9 Neywash Street
Coordinates: N44.36:651 / WO79.25:263



14 The Church of the Guardian Angels

By 1909, the brick church that Father Kenneth Campbell had built on this site in 1872, was found to be too small for the growing Catholic community. This large new church was built entirely of Longford limestone that was horse drawn over frozen Lake Couchiching from Longford Mills. The church seats 1000 and the organ has 902 pipes. The large spire and cross were added in 1926.

Designated: December 10, 1979
Address: 115 West Street North
Coordinates: N44.36:660 / WO79.25:320



15 The Lynch House

This Victorian pine clap-board house was built by Thomas Mulcahy, an Orillia merchant, in 1874, for his cousin Julia Coleman. The front gable is decorated with open-cut bargeboard.

Designated: October 14, 1986
Address: 22 Tecumseth Street
Coordinates: N44.36:738 / WO79.25:296



16 The Wilmot House

Built by Jackson Wilmot, circa 1880, this home is the best-preserved example of a Board and Batten exterior in Orillia. The Gothic features include a steep pitched roof, arched bay windows and bargeboard or gingerbread. The style typifies those houses popular throughout Ontario during the mid-1800s.

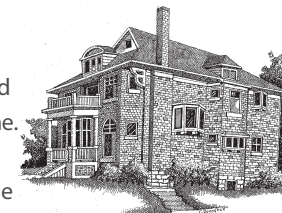
Designated: May 14, 1979
Address: 30 Tecumseth Street
Coordinates: N44.36:743 / WO79.25:276



17 The Macnab House

The Macnab house was built in 1905 and is a good example of two story brick buildings erected by the merchant class at the time. The property is a corner lot with a steep slope and high limestone retaining walls at the rear. The building may be described as basically a Classical Revival style of architectural design with many of its Queen Anne elements either adapted or modified. The Queen Anne style (1880-1910) was a predominant domestic building style of the late nineteenth century. Many were large single-family residences erected by prosperous businessmen. The foundation of this house is random course, squared limestone in original condition. The whole house is in its original condition both on the exterior and the interior with the exception of the wide soffits being re-clad in aluminum, the cedar shingles being replaced with asphalt and the reconstruction of the chimney.

Designated: July 11, 1994
Address: 82 Tecumseth Street
Coordinates: N44.36:815 / WO79.25:107



18 The Dunn House

This circa 1880 house, built by Edward J. McCrohan, a harness maker, is of the Second Empire style. The mansard roof, elegant dormers and arched French doors on the upper and lower levels are notable features. The century-old gas lamp and iron fence enhance this lovely building that has been home to three of Orillia's mayors.

Designated: November 7, 1988
Address: 84 Brant Street East
Coordinates: N44.36:891 / WO79.25:155



Please respect private property. Many of these designated buildings are privately owned.

Thank you to Pat Pringle, Isobel McCreight and Clayton Donoghue for the architectural illustrations.

Today, Orillia is as popular a vacation spot as it was a century ago. It retains much of the wonderful architecture and charm from its boom years, welcoming thousands of tourists each year who delight in the local attractions and natural beauty.

gatherings at Couchiching Beach Park.

Orillia also brought thousands each summer for social unparalleled in the province. The three railways servicing none north of Toronto, along with industrial growth almost construction. The town boasted an opera house second to used red brick and limestone quarried from Longford in their Ontario. Many of the commercial and residential buildings By 1900, Orillia was one of the most bustling towns in shipping base.

opened his Longford saw mill in 1868 using Orillia as a first millionaire. Across Lake Couchiching, John Thompson Company. Tait was a major employer and said to be Orillia's followed by Andrew Tait, president of the Huntsville Lumber Orillia's dwellings and commercial buildings. Mulcahy was sons were responsible for the construction of many of with the opening of his California Store. Mulcahy and his Mulcahy launched his mercantile career in dry goods as part of a conglomerate of businesses. In 1866, Thomas Andrew and Colborne Streets. By the end of the century, William Tudhope opened a blacksmith shop in 1864 at

effect to the present day.

area. They would leave a legacy that would have a lasting some of the City's most significant citizens were drawn to the It was incorporated as a village in 1867. Around that time, settlers.

By First Nations, fur traders, explorers and early European here made it a popular historical gathering place used the former Wendat Confederacy, now known as Huronia. The Orillia is situated in the eastern-most portion of the lands of

A Brief History of Orillia

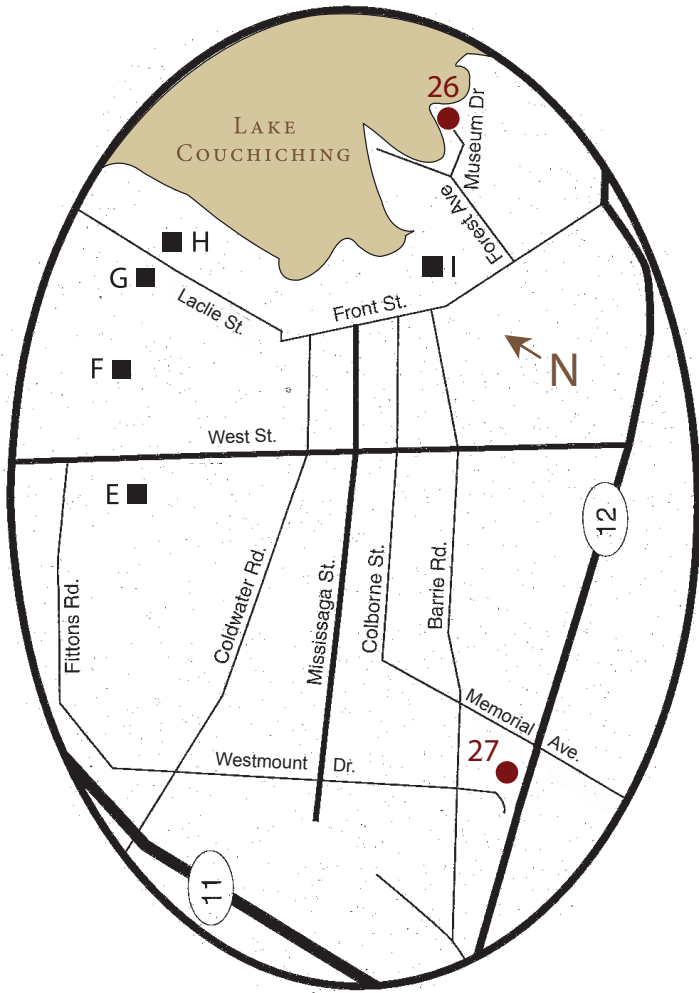
Walking Tour of Heritage Orillia



Presented by the Orillia
Municipal Heritage Committee

orillia.ca/heritage

Printed on June 8, 2015



A Little Further Out

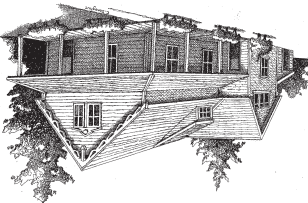
About the Orillia Municipal Heritage Committee

The Orillia Municipal Heritage Committee is a group of people interested in the preservation of Orillia's heritage, particularly its buildings, structures and streetscapes. Appointed by City Council, the committee gives advice on heritage matters and makes recommendations for the designation of buildings under the Ontario Heritage Act. Since its inception in 1977, 27 properties have been designated by City Council on the advice of the Municipal Heritage Committee, with more currently in the works. Visit orillia.ca/heritage for details.

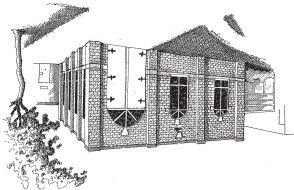
Thank you for choosing to view our heritage properties. We hope you enjoy our beautiful city. Please pass on your experiences to other heritage enthusiasts.

The Barney-Bell residence was built between 1884 and 1885 by James Barney, a carpenter born in Scotland, but of English origin. The exterior of the building is a simple combination of Classic and Gothic Revival styles of architecture along with a few personal additions. This 1-1/2 story house is of frame construction with a gable roof and original V-joint horizontal wood siding. This building is a simple, elegant example of a tradesman's house in which the original design is still largely intact.

Designated: February 5, 1996
Address: 57 Jarvis Street
Coordinates: N44.36:922 / W079.25:308

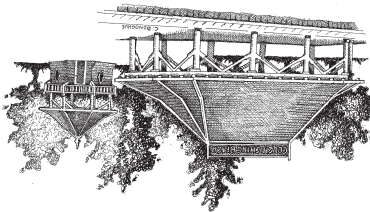


The original building design is laid out in a classic "bay" pattern in that the structural layout of brick pilasters makes a pattern of 5-12' by 3-12' bays. Built in 1914, it measures approximately 72' x 42' and stands more steel joist structural system built at that time where the steel joists are riveted together. The most beautiful and charming characteristic of the building is the windows - elegant brickwork with curved edges for the sills and window edges. Limestone, keystones and the heavy arched shape that has been retained.



21 The Picnic Pavilion

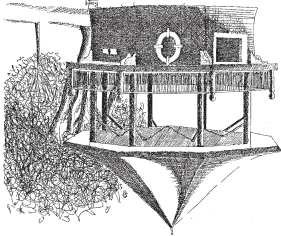
This elegant pavilion originally was accessible by a small bridge from the shore, when it was built around 1912. Over the years, the park has expanded around it. The simple Doric columns and gently curved roof complement the Bandstand and suggest that it was likely designed by the notable Orillia architect, W.H. Croker.



Designated: June 27, 1988
Address: Couchiching Beach Park
Coordinates: N44.36:979 / W079.24:779

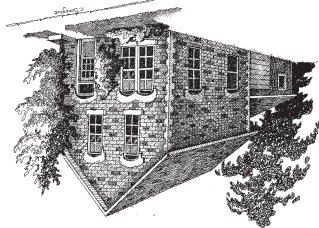
This delightful bandstand was designed by W.H. Croker and built by W.L. Bennett for \$495 in 1909 for the Orillia Citizens' Band, later known as the Kiltie Band. The second story was enlarged in 1928. Concerts and speeches by dignitaries could be enjoyed both in the park and in small boats offshore from the octagonal structure. It served as a focus for social and cultural events for many years.

Designated: May 14, 1979
Address: Couchiching Beach Park
Coordinates: N44.36:979 / W079.24:817



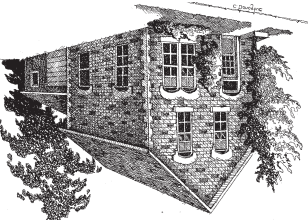
23 The Tait Mill Worker's House

This house, circa 1889, is typical of most of the houses built on Scott Street by Andrew Tait and constructed by carpenter Henry Scott. It was built using massing and gable end form for the main construction with a red brick and the top of each door and window opening is trimmed in a yellow brick flattened arch, with "eared" or shouldered corners and lateral projections of the trim brick around the top. The building also has yellow brick projecting quoins. The brickwork and mortar is original and uncleaned and the mortar is uncoloured. The windows, doors and all the facade on the north and east walls are original with double-hung "one over one" sash windows, (with mostly original cylinder glass). The front door is a typical neo-Classical style opening.



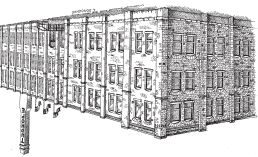
The dwelling at 55 Scott Street is one of many homes built by local lumber merchant, Andrew Tait commencing in 1889. All of these homes were detached 1-1/2 story dwellings, built to provide quality affordable housing to the working class in Orillia. Early occupants of this dwelling were Orillia blacksmith, David Graham Carmichael, his wife Ann, and their two sons, Clarence and Franklin. Although not his birthplace, the property is significant for its association with Franklin Carmichael, a noted Canadian painter and designer, and a founding member of the iconic Group of Seven.

Designated: August 19, 2013
Address: 55 Scott Street
Coordinates: N44.36:543 / W079.24:759



24 Franklin Carmichael House

Constructed in 1909, this building stands as an important example of early 20th century industrial architecture in the City of Orillia. When built by local contractor Edward Webb, the building was the largest carriage factory in Canada, key elements of its design are the large, multiple panel windows and interior framing using heavy, squared timbers. The building stands as a landmark of the industrial history of Orillia, having housed both the Tudhope Carriage Works and the Tudhope Motor Company among many other enterprises. Today it houses our City Hall.



25 Orillia City Centre (Tudhope Factory) Building

26 The Stephen Leacock Memorial Home

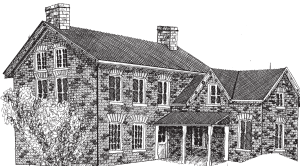
The Leacock Museum is a National Historic Site and was the summer residence of Stephen Leacock, a world famous humourist, economist and author of 61 books. The home was built in 1928 and designed by Leacock and architects Noxon and Wright. The Museum is open year round for visitors.



Designation: July 24, 1978
Address: 50 Museum Drive
Coordinates: N44.36:501 \ W079.23:644

27 The Mill House

Built in the early 1840s by Frederick Dallas, a mill owner, this neo-Classical house is an example of post and beam construction. To adapt the house to a more Victorian style, the shiplap exterior was covered in brick and a bay window and bargeboard trim were added to the structure.



Designated: October 14, 1986
Address: 231 Westmount Drive South
Coordinates: N44.35:584 / W079.25:674

Be sure to check out the Properties of Interest as well. These are listed in the chart to the right and on the maps as letters.

Undesignated Properties of Interest

These properties have been identified by the Municipal Heritage Committee for their cultural, historical, or architectural value but are not designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

	Description	Address	Coordinates
A	Huronian Trust Building	2 Mississauga Street East	N44.36:507 W079.25:166
B	Former Abbatoir	Rear of 14 Matchedash Street	N44.36:633 W079.24:942
C	The Fire Hall	27 Peter Street North	N44.36:593 W079.25:106
D	The Baillie House	187 Peter Street North	N44.36:872 W079.25:335
E	The Issac Day House	349 West Street North	N44.37:132 W079.25:709
F	Classic Ontario Board & Batten Style House	341 Peter Street North	N44.37:166 W079.25:582
G	The Bucko McDonald House	319 Lacie Street North	N44.37:190 W079.25:284
H	Northcourt Motel	320 Lacie Street North	N44.37:193 W079.25:273
I	The CNR Train Station	150 Front Street South	N44.36:405 W079.24:617
J	Bell Telephone Building	35 Colborne Street East	N44.36:468 W079.25:019
K	Orillia Worsted Building	105 Wyandotte Street	N44.36:266 W079.25:289
L	The Cavana House	241 Mississauga Street West	N44.36:265 W079.25:732
M	The Leef House	120 Mary Street	N44.36:456 W079.25:466
N	The Lavalee House	92 Mary Street	N44.36:479 W079.25:412

Please Note: The GPS coordinates used above are curb-side readings in front of each respective property.