

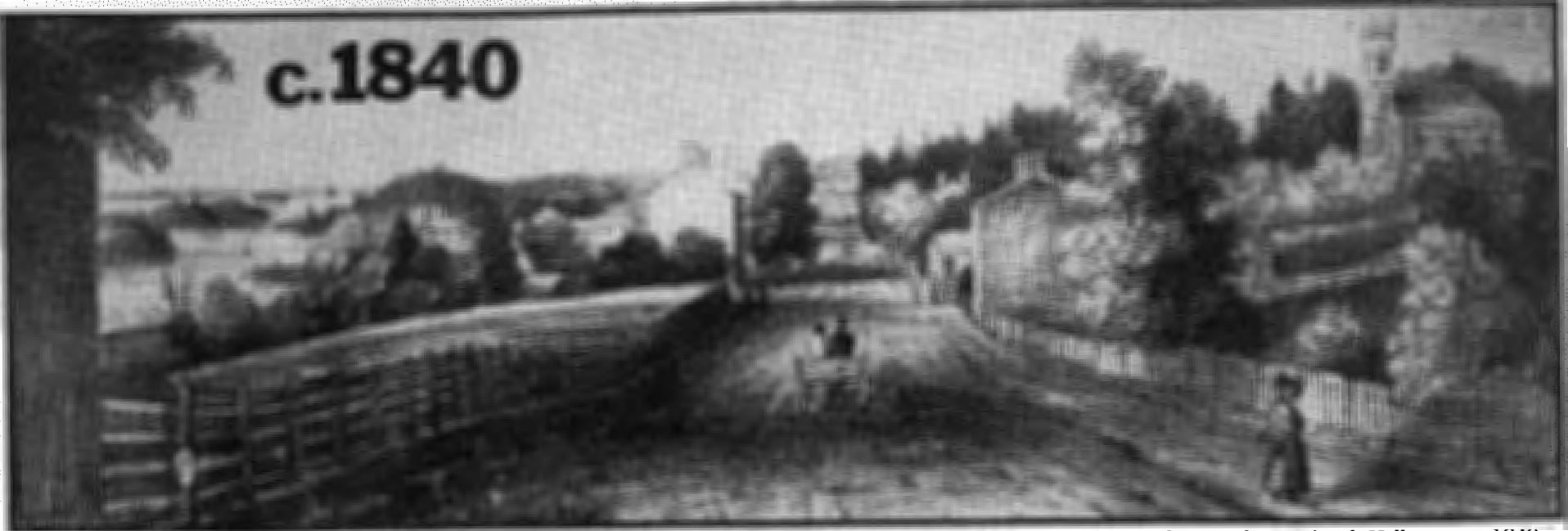
Brockville's  
**King Street  
East**

**A WALKING TOUR**

\$3.00



c.1840



*King Street East looking westerly toward downtown Brockville.*

*a drawing by Frederick Holloway c. 1840*

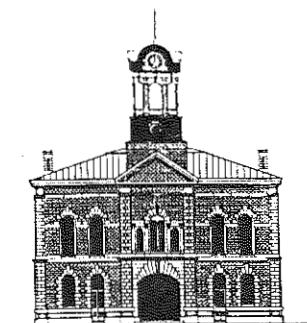
# A WALKING TOUR OF **King Street East, Brockville, Ont.**

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*© Brockville LACAC 1989*



*Part of the bird's eye view map of Brockville, published in 1874.*

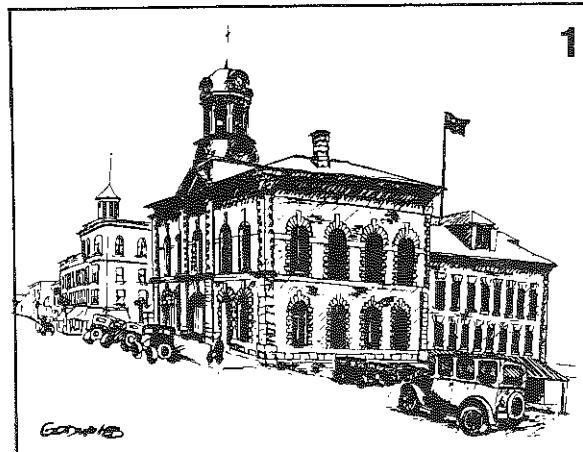
Drawn by H. Brosius, Chicago

## Introduction

Brockville's interesting background is reflected in the many well-preserved homes erected by its early citizens. The area's first residents were United Empire Loyalists who arrived here in 1784 or shortly thereafter. Free land grants enabled the new settlers to gain a foothold in what was then wilderness, and from which there gradually grew a small village.

The main street (King St.), on which this tour is located had, in 1811, 26 buildings including barns. King Street, stretching through the heart of the city, was first named The King's Highway, and many of Brockville's earliest residents built their homes and businesses on or near this road. Today we have an impressive collection of historic buildings spanning the length of King St. This walking tour, however, will concentrate on the eastern end.

We begin at City Hall and travel east on the south side of King Street as far as Fulford Place, a distance of three-quarters of a mile. At that point you may cross the street and come back on the north side to the place of beginning.



*Victoria Hall in the 1920s*

### 1. Victoria Hall

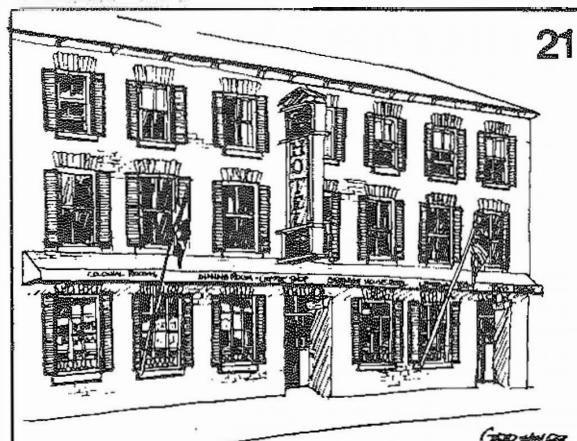
**1862-64**

Victoria Hall, the location of Brockville's city government, was erected during the years 1862-64. This site had been used as a market since 1835, and in 1859 plans were initiated to have a new Market House built. By 1861 architects had been approached and the design of Henry H. Horsey of Kingston was chosen. Work began in 1862 on the rear portion which was designed to enclose the indoor butchers' market. By 1864 most of the Hall at the front was completed. Victoria Hall contained a concert hall on the second floor, and part of the main floor housed the Post Office until 1884. The style chosen for this showpiece design is considered Italianate, tall and square, as seen from the main street, and is topped by a well-designed clock tower. Over the years this building was renovated to replace the Town Hall in the west end of Brockville, and all the town offices were moved here. In 1904 two floors were added onto the original Market House at the rear.

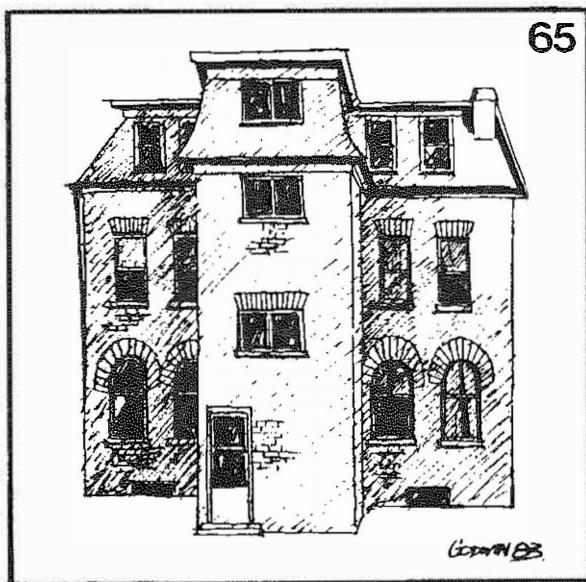
## 5. Manitonna Hotel

1929

The Hotel we see here today was completed in 1929. The Manitonna Hotel succeeded a number of earlier hotels located at this corner, for example, the Ontario Hotel and the Queen's Hotel, dating back to about 1871, when the property was owned by the Jones Family. The Brockville Board of Trade had spearheaded efforts to have a large hotel built in the downtown area. Property for the new hotel was purchased from three owners in 1928 by the newly formed Brockville Hotel Co. Ltd. and a design was commissioned from one of the foremost hotel architects, John S. Archibald of Montreal. He was assisted by local architect, Benjamin Dillon. The name Manitonna is the Indian equivalent of *Garden of the Great Spirit*.



**The Albion Hotel**



**Minister's Manse for St. John's Church**

## 65. Minister's Manse for St. John's Church c. 1890

This lot was purchased by the trustees of St. John's Presbyterian Church from Thomas Kerns and Van Rensselaer Marshall, lumber dealers, in 1890. Shortly thereafter, the parsonage or manse was built. This tall stone building was built of stone perhaps to emulate the church which is across the street. The main facade shows squared, uncoursed grey limestone, whereas the other elevations show rougher stone work. In 1922 the manse was sold to Loretta Blaine, who converted the building into apartments. To enclose a new stairway an addition was added to the front of the building. The masonry matches in colour, the texture and method are similar, but the proportions of the addition and the shape of the windows dramatically alter the appearance of the building.

## 21. Albion Hotel

c.1830

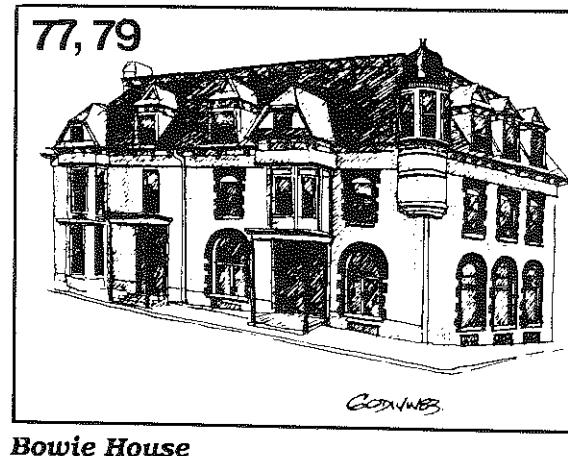
This little stone tavern is the oldest hotel operating on a continuous basis in Brockville. It is supposed that the first hotel proprietor to make use of this building was Eri Lusher. He operated *Lusher's Hotel* out of the earliest part of this building in the 1830s. The property itself was owned by Charles Jones and his family from 1805 to 1845. The first stone building was enlarged about 1846 for the opening of John McKenzie's *North American Hotel*. For a long period between the years 1875-1916 the name *Albion Hotel* was applied to the business. Other names used over the years were *McKenzie's Hotel*, *Brockville Hotel*, *International Hotel*, and *Garbutt's Hotel*. It became the *Carriage House Hotel* about 1965.

## 67-75. Cossitt Terrace c. 1894

In 1894 Newton Cossitt Sr. purchased this land from V.R. Marshall. Cossitt had the terrace designed by Brockville architect George A. Allan, and construction took place that year. Throughout the years the individual units of the terrace were rented. Eventually in 1950 the Cossitt family sold the terrace to Wilfred and Reba Argue, who then sold off each part. Today the units have been altered to suit the many businesses that now occupy this once impressive structure. Some of the architectural style is hidden or removed, but if you glance upwards you will find traces of its past beauty.

**77,79. Robert Bowie House**  
**c. 1851**

This double house seems to have been built partly as a store or warehouse by James Wylie and Robert Watson of Wylie, Watson & Co. around the year 1851. Its early history is hard to determine and its present appearance is the result of later renovation work. Robert Bowie, mayor of Brockville, and partner in the Bowie & Bate brewery and malt house moved here in 1884. He and his family lived in both parts of the building for many years. It is said that he covered the stone walls with stucco during his occupancy. The building was converted into apartments about 1959.

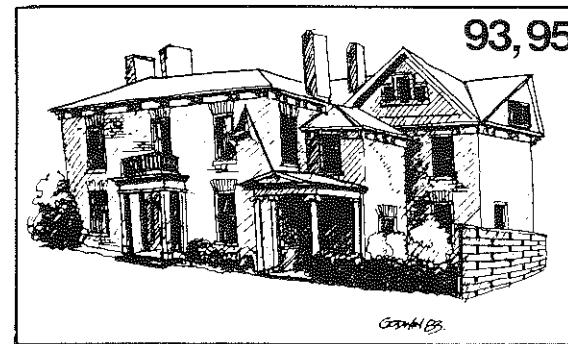


**Bowie House**

**93,95. Thomas & Christina Campbell House**  
**c. 1830**

Charles Jones sold this property to Thomas Campbell in 1822. This stone house was built by Campbell sometime after the date of purchase. It appears on a map of Brockville in 1853. An 1827 census describes Campbell as unmarried; however by 1833 he was married, as his 2 year old daughter, Mary Hannah, had died on October 29, 1833. In 1856 Campbell willed the house to his wife, Christina, and she in turn deeded it to the Rev. James Bogert and David Bogert in 1863. The main structure is made of grey, evenly-coursed limestone walls, and there is a rear addition of brick. There are two main entrances of differing style. No. 95 has a rather plain, functional doorway while 93 displays a beautiful Greek revival type portico, supported by ionic columns. It also has an impressive door

and sidelights. This building was sold in 2 parts by John Ryan - the east half to Edwin Sinart of Smart's Hardware in the late 1890s, the west half to Alson Fisher, a lawyer and Judge in 1901. At that period the two new owners created the separate entrances. Later, in 1911 William A. Lewis, mayor of Brockville and his wife Anna purchased 93 King East.



**Campbell House**

**87. Steacy House**

**c. 1847**

This fine old house was built perhaps as early as 1847 when the property was purchased for £175 by Edward Kersten. He is listed as a Gentleman in the 1848 census. By the time he sold the property in 1856 it was worth £1000. Architecturally, the house is fairly common in Brockville. A tall square stone building with a hip roof, its main entrance is central to the front facade and is protected by a strong portico supported by no less than six heavy wood Ionic columns. In the 1860s this house was owned by Frederick Dickinson, the Counties' sheriff. One family was connected with this home for over 60 years beginning in 1894 when it was purchased by George Steacy. Various members of the Steacy family lived here until about 1952. It was purchased from Adiel D. Steacy in 1960 by Glynn and Ida Perrin who make it into an apartment building.

**117. James Reynolds House**

**c. 1876**

For many years this house was the home of James Reynolds, secretary and manager of the Central Canada Coal Co., who bought the property in 1899. It remained in the Reynolds family until 1920. The house was built in the late 1870s when the property was owned by Richard Woods of R. & P.R. Woods, cigar manufacturers. Along with No. 119 King, these two very similar styled brick houses share the same type of classic revival details, including heavy bracketed eaves and hip roofs, which might indicate they were designed by the same person and built near the same time. 117 King is presently divided into apartments.

**119. George Smart House**

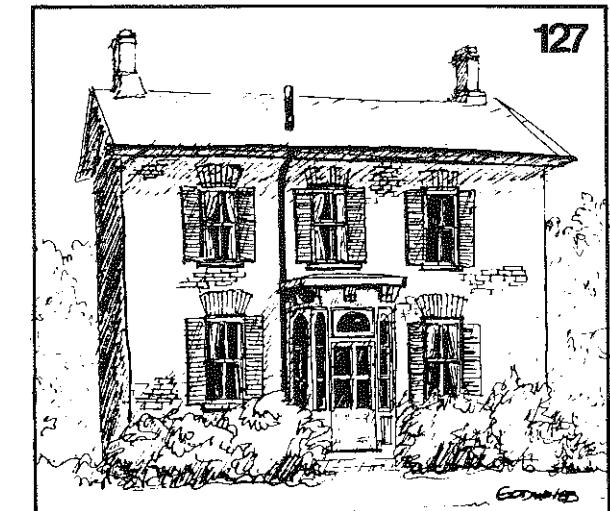
c. 1876

This house next door is now a duplex. From 1859 to 1940 it was the home of George E. Smart and family. Smart was a partner in D. Derbyshire & Co. of Brockville, one of the largest dairy supply houses in Canada. He died in 1927 and his wife continued to live here until 1940. The house was most likely erected by Ezra Halladay, an early land developer who sold it in 1877, for a great increase in value, to his associate William H. Comstock, from whom George Smart purchased it in 1895. Although hard to characterize according to architectural style, it is a very handsome part of this area of King East.

**127. Charles & William Dyer House**

c. 1830

This home was erected by two blacksmith brothers, named Dyer, who purchased this lot from Charles Jones in 1828. It was then located on the King's Highway some distance from the centre of town. The simple and low-slung two-storey dwelling is built in the Georgian style with a handsome finished central doorway. Also noticeable are two pairs of quarter-circle gable windows tucked high under the eaves at each end. The house remained in the Dyer family until 1875. It was rented out for many years while owned by the Williams family until purchased by George M. and Irene Beley in 1949. George Beley, the local manager of the Royal Bank, was very active in community affairs and Scottish heraldry. On the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary in 1975, the Beley's donated their home, then named *Griffin Gables*, to the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

**Dyer House****129. Richard Bradfield House**  
c. 1852

Prior to 1851, this property was owned by the family of the late Hon. Charles Jones. That year Richard H. Bradfield purchased this corner lot from Charles E. Jones, the son of Charles Jones. In 1856 Bradfield split the property by selling the east part of the lot to Joel P. Easton. The western part, including this stone house, became the property of Robert Bell that same year. It was occupied for a great many years by George Easton, who died at age 97 in 1909. In 1871 one of his daughters, Ann, later the wife of Edward Clouston, scratched her initial "A" on the window with a diamond, and it is still there over a hundred years later. Architecturally stylish and functional, this stone house was equipped originally with the kitchen, including bake ovens, in the basement and servants' quarters in the attic.

**131-135. Brace Terrace c. 1895**

This terrace is named for Dr. William Brace and his wife, who owned it shortly after it was built. He purchased this row of three houses in 1896. Brace was a dentist and is known to have lived at 133. In 1905 Adelia Brace, his widow, willed the property to her children. The family over a period of years sold off each house. For example, in 1908 William F. Phippen was granted the westerly house for \$2400. In 1911 Walter T. Rogers, principal of the Brockville Business College, purchased the most easterly section, and in 1913 Harry B. White bought the middle unit. Architecturally these houses are interesting for their individuality of design, with the corner unit being given prominence, with a round turret running up the wall. This part has been referred to as the *Baby Bottle House*. The same developer, William G. Tompkins, was responsible for the construction of the Brace Terrace and the St. Lawrence Terrace across the

street, but the architect is unknown at the time of writing.

**149. David & Elizabeth Simpson House**  
c. 1876

This home was built around 1876, and is representative of a change in architecture in Brockville. As a result of increasing industry and population, the need for better housing increased. The construction of heavy stone buildings declined and buildings of solid brick such as this one were more common. Henry Soper, a painter by profession, is considered responsible for having this house and 151 next door built during the time he owned both lots, 1876-1881. David Simpson purchased this home from John B. Arnold in 1882. A prominent cheese manufacturer, Pitt W. Strong was the owner for a number of years, followed by Fannie and Julia Ward until 1958.

## **151. Henry & Ellen Soper House c. 1876**

The construction of this brick house appears to be historically and architecturally linked with the previous one at 149. Both lots were vacant in 1874 according to a map published that year. In 1875 Henry Soper and his wife Ellen purchased the land on which both houses stand from John & Ruth McKenzie, who lived in the stone house to the east. John B. Arnold purchased the entire lot from the Sopers in 1881 but only retained No. 151 for himself. George E. Smart was the owner from 1904 to 1911, from which time it was the home of the Dana family.

## **155. Bartholomew and Ruth Ann Carley House c. 1830**

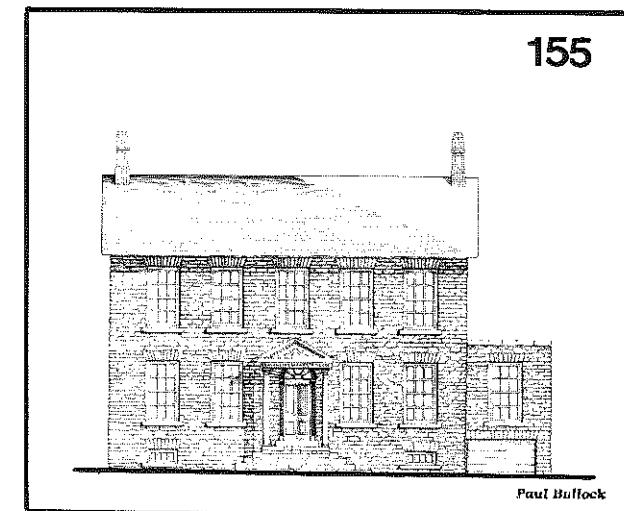
The property upon which this house stands was part of the land granted to Bartholomew Carley UEL by the Crown in 1803. It is not believed to be an early Carley homestead but more likely the house built by his son and namesake, Bartholomew Carley, Jr. about 1830. Much of the surrounding lands owned by the Carley family was sold off about that period on both sides of the road. This stone home is very typical of Georgian-styled Brockville and contains some very fine workmanship on both interior and exterior. The basement, which was the original kitchen, still contains the large fireplace including the iron crane to hang cooking pots on. At the front entrance the portico is well designed and serves to enhance the design of the house although it was no doubt added at a later time. Ruth Ann Carley outlived her first husband and later married Benjamin

Dickinson, the deputy-sherrif of the Counties but he in turn died in 1856. She subsequently became the wife of John McKenzie. She also lived here with her fourth husband, Christopher Fletcher, a general merchant. For 34 years after 1888, the property was owned by Lizzie Ault and was at times rented out to a number of different tenants or was vacant. This was also the situation from 1922 to 1957 when owned by Mary McLeod.

## **159. Last Camp, Thomas A. Reynolds House 1890**

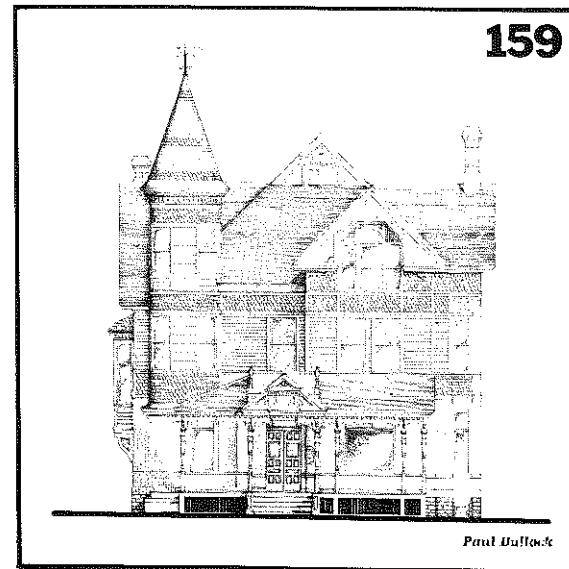
This fine example of the Queen Anne style with its rounded tower and its use of the fan motif, on the gable at the front as well as the porch, illustrates the shift from the rather austere simplicity of the Loyalist style to the exuberant love of decoration characteristic of the late Victorians. Interestingly enough, this house was

**155**



**Carley House**

**159**

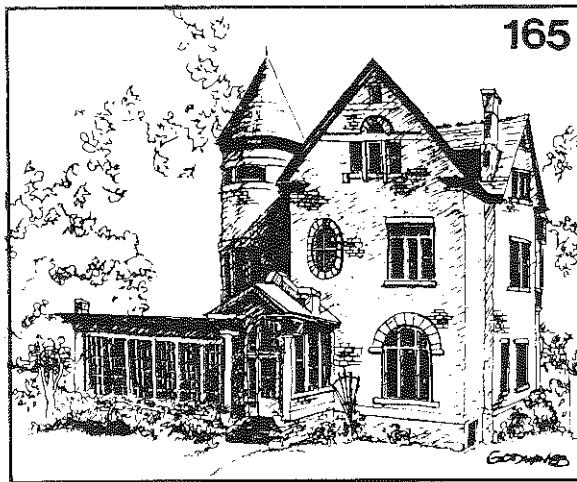


**LAST CAMP**

built for Elizabeth and Allan Ault who first lived in the stone house next door. Ault was a partner in the Ault and Reynolds coal business. In 1903 Thomas A. Reynolds, a retired chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, bought the house and brought his wife, who was alleged to be an Indian princess to live there. Reynolds was the author of several books about his life in the wilds, writing under the pseudonym *Martin Hunter*. *Last Camp* was the name he gave to the house. The architect was George A. Allan of Brockville.

**165. Charles and Kate Cossitt  
House c. 1898**

This house was built about 1898 for Kate Comstock on the occasion of her marriage to Charles Cossitt, a union of two very prominent Brockville families. It has the distinction of being the only house in Brockville built of red granite, and also shows the love of grandeur and decoration of its period. Built in the Romanesque Revival style with its oval window, rounded tower, round arched windows set against rough masonry, it presents an aura of solid endurance typical of the period.



**Cossitt House**

**181. John and Mary Gill House  
c. 1840/1878**

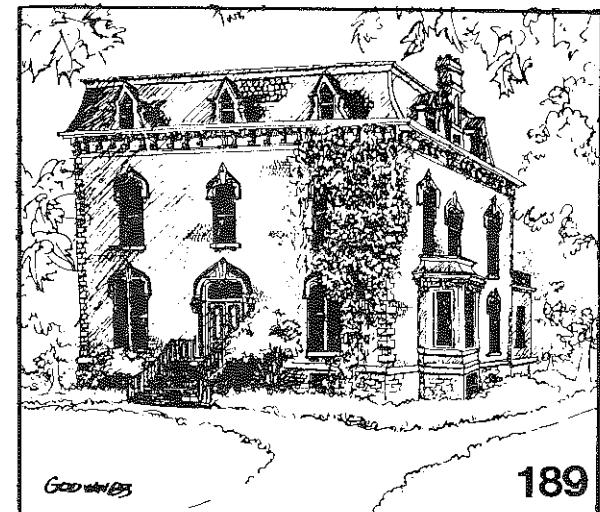
Another example of the diverse and uninhibited approach to architecture of the Victorians, this house was originally a much smaller and simpler one until 1878 when it was bought by John M. Gill, later head of the James Smart Manufacturing Company. He renovated it extensively, adding the mansard roof and extra wings, thereby transforming it into Second Empire style. Gill's grandson, former Mayor John Gill Broome and his wife Valerie became the owners in 1957 and the house remains in the family.



**181**

**189. Richard and Mary Field  
House c. 1876**

This house, and the one next door at 201, are so similar that it suggest that they were designed by the same architect. They are examples of a more restrained 2nd Empire style, with echoes of the Gothic in the arched window pediments. Built for Richard A. Field, a successful hardware merchant, it has been owned by the Comstock family since 1931, the Comstocks being a prominent Brockville family of proprietary medicine fame.



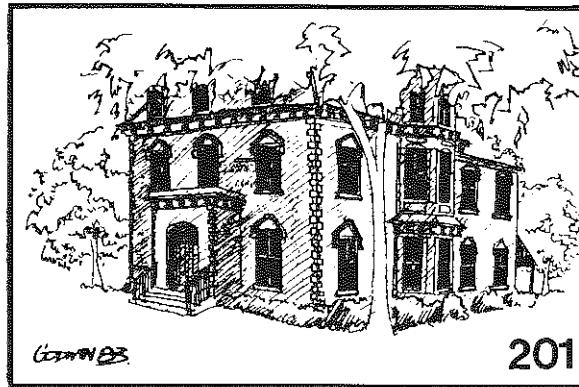
**189**

**Field House**

## 201. Edwin Clayes House

c. 1871

Edwin Clayes (pronounced "Cloyes"), who built this house about 1871, was a very successful produce and wool merchant and, at the time of his death, was considered to be one of the wealthiest men in Brockville. The house remained in the Clayes family until 1937 when it was bought by Judge Donald Lewis and his wife Griswoldene, who was a Comstock before her marriage.



Clayes House

## 207



INDIAN CLIFF, Major Walsh House

## 213. Thomas and Janet Gilmour House

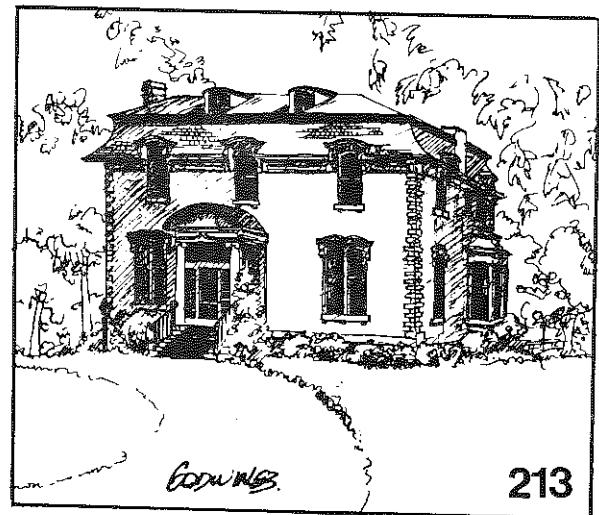
c. 1873

The similarity in style of this house to 189 and 201 King Street East is not immediately apparent because the bricks are painted but the mansard roof, the ornamental pediments, centre door plan with three bays at the front, bay window on the west side, and the cut stone quoins are features common to all three houses. Probably built around 1873, it was the home of Thomas Gilmour, of T. Gilmour and Company, wholesale grocers, and his wife, Janet, until 1895 when it was sold to lumber merchant John Maclaren, in whose family it remained until 1951.

## 207. Indian Cliff, the home of Major James Walsh and his wife, Mary

c. 1882

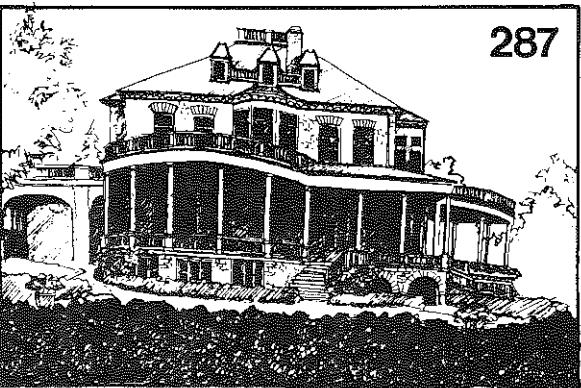
This was the home of one of Brockville's most famous residents, Major James Walsh of the North West Mounted Police who tamed the Indian Chief Sitting Bull and later became the first administrator of the Yukon. After retiring from the N.W.M.P. in 1883, Major Walsh returned to Brockville where, in 1884, he and his wife purchased the property at 207 King Street East. They named their new house Indian Cliff, that being the name of a large outcropping of rock at the eastern end of the Cypress Hills, Alberta, near Fort Walsh, used by Walsh as a landmark on his many journeys into the Wood Mountain Sioux territory. When Walsh died in 1905 at the age of 65, his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Brockville, attended by dignitaries from coast to coast.



Gilmour House

**223. William H. Jackson House**  
**c. 1867**

This house, built in the late 1860's, is a classic example of the Italianate style, with its wide-bracketed eaves, round-headed windows, a belvedere and verandahs. Built for William H. Jackson, a local sadler and harness maker, it eventually, in 1904, became the home of George I. Mallory, Vice-President of the W.H. Comstock Company, and remained in the Mallory family until 1951.



FULFORD PLACE

**225. Cedar Cliffs, Richard P.  
Cooke House c. 1869**

This house is also in the Italianate style and, in fact, is very similar to 223 but it has been altered considerably over the years. The east wing was added sometime after 1874 and by 1902 there were extensive verandahs on the south and west side of which only the south one remains, the west one being replaced by a conservatory. From old photographs, it would appear that it has always been stuccoed. It was originally the home of Richard P. Cooke, engineer and contractor, who built it around 1869.

**The tour now crosses to the north  
side of the street and returns  
toward the place of beginning.**

**280. The Fulford Home for  
Ladies 1917**

The land on which this property stands was part of crown grant to Col. Edward Jessup Jr. in 1801 and changed hands many times thereafter until 1908 when Mary Fulford, widow of George T. Fulford I, bought it and, under the provisions of her husband's will, built this home for "aged women". Of no particular architectural style, it nevertheless presents a pleasing facade with its varied masses combining harmoniously in a way reminiscent of English Tudor.

**287. Fulford Place, George T.  
Fulford House 1902**

One of Brockville's grandest houses, Fulford Place was built from 1900-1902 for Senator George T. Fulford, manufacturer of proprietary medicines. This property was originally the site of an earlier house built about 1850 for William Matthie. George T. Fulford bought the property in 1895 for \$10,000. No expense was spared in this building, and the interior is remarkable for its wealth of carving and beautiful woodwork. The architectural style is somewhat eclectic, although the extensive verandahs on the south side were a feature of the Queen Anne Revival style. Following the death of his son George T. Fulford II who lived here until 1987, the Fulford home was donated to the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

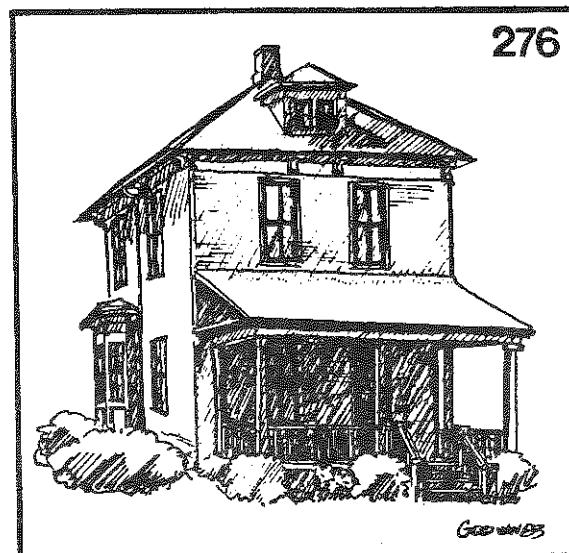
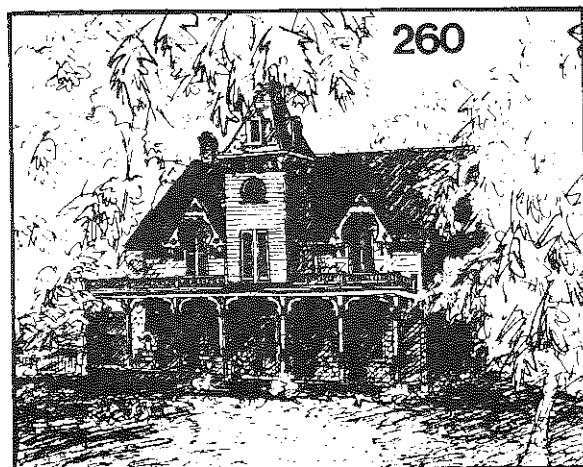


*The Fulford Home for Ladies*

**276. Charles Evans House****272. William Evans House**

c. 1895

These two houses were probably built around 1895 by two brothers, Charles and William Evans. Charles Evans sold his house in 1900 to William A. Millen whose widow subsequently sold it to Frederick D. Wolthausen, Vice-President of the Wolthausen Hat Company, later to become the Stetson Hat Company. William Evans sold his house in 1897 to William McEathron, and it remained in that family until the 1940's. Built in the four square style of the period, with frame construction, hip roof with a central dormer, two bays and covered verandah, these houses represent the movement away from the sometimes excessive decoration of the preceding era.

**Charles Evans House****276****Kincaid House****260****254. Thomas Sheridan House**

c. 1887

The land on which this house stands passed through several owners before 1887 when it was bought by Thomas Sheridan, a tinsmith, who probably built the house shortly after. It remained in the Sheridan family until 1948, and has had several owners since then. A frame house, with hip roof, and three bays, it is in direct contrast to the excesses of No. 260, and was a harbinger of a return to simpler styles.

**260. Fordyce L. Kincaid House**

c. 1891

The lot on which this house stands was bought in 1891 by Fordyce L. Kincaid, owner of a fancy goods, book and stationery store. It seems likely that the house was built shortly after, and it remained in the Kincaid family until 1966 when it was sold to Lillian and Stuart Cuthbertson. Built in the vernacular style of the 1890's, this house nevertheless has echoes of the Italianate with its square tower, and of the Gothic in its bracketed eaves on the second storey windows, and represents a last fling before the pendulum swung back to simpler styles.

**252. Mary Jane Reynolds House**

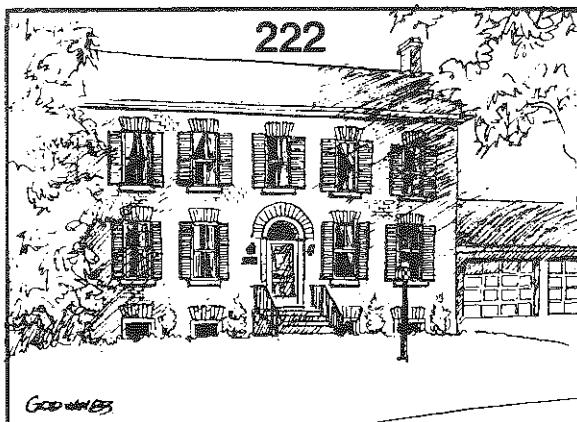
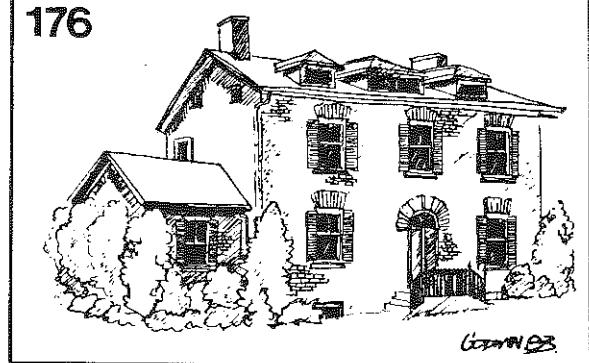
c. 1887

This house was built around the same time as No. 254, and also by a Sheridan. James Sheridan bought the lot in 1887, and sold it the same year to Robert Sheridan. It remained in the Sheridan family until 1919 when it was sold to Nellie E. Dyer, who sold it in 1920 to Mary Jane Reynolds. It remained in the Reynolds family until 1979. A frame house, built in the vernacular of the day, it presents a gable end to the street, and its simplicity of style indicates a move away from the more ornate.

**222. Patrick Murray House**

c. 1830

The lot this house stands on was part of an original Crown grant to U.E.L. Truelove Butler in 1803. The exact date of construction is not known but the Butlers lived there until 1839, when the property was sold to two butchers, Patrick Murray and John Cowan. It appears to have been the home of the Murray family from then until 1937. Patrick, and his son John, operated a slaughter house in a building to the rear of the house, and were stallholders in the East Ward Market in the 1850s and 60s. The house is in the neo-classical style, as interpreted in the Brockville area, with a narrow doorway without sidelights but with deep reveals and semi-circular transom, a style peculiar to this area.

**Murray House****176****Reynolds House****176. Samuel Reynolds House**

c. 1833

The land on which this house stands was bought in 1833 by Samuel Reynolds from Bartholomew Carley. Reynolds, an Irish immigrant, resident in Brockville by 1827, is said to have been involved in the building of St. Peter's Church, which was under construction from 1826-1831. Later it appears that he ran a general store in the building which stands at 25 King St. E. The house appears to have been built shortly after the land purchase. It had various owners until 1892 when it was bought by John Gill, remaining in the Gill family until 1963. This house is another example of the neo-classical style with the distinctive *Brockville door*. The dormer windows and west wing were later additions.

**166. Robert Easton's  
Blacksmith Shop 1883****164. Joel P. Easton House c. 1844**

Built on land that was part of a Crown grant to Bartholomew Carley Sr., this stone building at the front was erected in 1883 to replace an older wooden Blacksmith's Shop. The lot was bought by Joel Easton, a blacksmith, in 1843 and it is likely that the house and original wooden shop were built shortly after. The properties passed to Robert Easton, also a blacksmith, on the death of his father in 1881 and remained in his possession until 1929 when it was sold to Kate Cossitt. The shop was used as a private garage until 1953 when Lawrence Redman acquired it and turned it into a photographic studio. Its present front facade is the result of renovations carried out in 1985. The older wood and stone house, tucked away in the back of the lot, presents a charming country cottage image.

**162. Carley/Dyer House c. 1820**

This small stone house may prove to be the oldest building in this neighbourhood. The property was owned by Bartholomew Carley, the original patent holder, who was given official possession on 20 May 1803. He was a Loyalist soldier and settler who had lived here on his 100 acres since 1784. This is probably one of his later homes but it is hard to determine the exact date of construction. As an early Brockville stone house, its use of an off-centre entrance differs from the Georgian and Neo-classical house built here in the 1830s. The doorway, however, is deep and round-headed, as found in many other examples in this area.

In 1833 Carley sold a large piece of land at this corner to Richard Dyer, who may have lived here until about 1845. In that year Dyer sold part of his property here, including his house, to Robert

S. Wade, a carpenter and joiner from Ireland. He lived here and built the brick house next door where he later moved. Wade died in 1877 but his wife, Rose lived until 1888. Wade's son, John Thomas Wade, who inherited the stone house from his father, lived in Walkerton, Ont. He eventually gave possession to his sister Annie (Wade) Davis and her husband George E. Davis. He was an accountant and later Assistant County Registrar. They lived here until the 1930s. The property was sold to William J. Manahan in 1936 and was retained by his daughters until about 1979.

### 160. Robert Wade House c. 1850

It is believed this small brick house was built by Robert S. Wade, a carpenter, who first lived next door in the stone house. He purchased the

corner lot in 1845. Wade later took the job of Collector of Taxes for Brockville after reaching retirement age. Wade died in 1877, but his wife Rose lived here until about 1888. Her daughter Anna Davis inherited all the Wade properties.

The ground floor of this brick building was used as a small grocery store in the early 1900s. *Cheetham's Grocery* run by Mrs. Jane Cheetham, and later *Simpson's Grocery* under the proprietorship of Mrs. Hannah Simpson served this neighbourhood for many years. From about 1929 to 1957 Adam Dalgleish, a gardener at Fulford Place, and his wife Jessie were the upstairs tenants. The property was owned by William J. Manahan from 1936-1950 after which his married daughters shared ownership until 1979. The house has received some attention and renovations recently from the present owner who has added new entrance trim and small-pane windows.

152



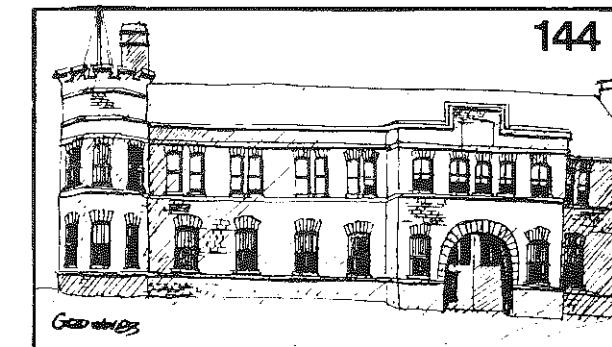
York House

### 152. Catherine & Edward York House c. 1884

The property on which this house stands was purchased by Catherine and Edward York in 1884. He was an engineer. It is probable that the house was built by them. It went through various owners until 1932 when it became the property of Hazel and Albert Kyle, later proprietor of Kyles' Restaurant. It remained in the Kyle family until 1969 when Albert's son William and his wife Nancy sold it to Muriel and George Stanford. Built in the style of Western Queen Anne Revival, which was simpler than the Eastern version, it nevertheless presents an imposing picture with its many and varied facets, and its use of gables and steep hip roofs.

### 144. Brockville Armouries 1902

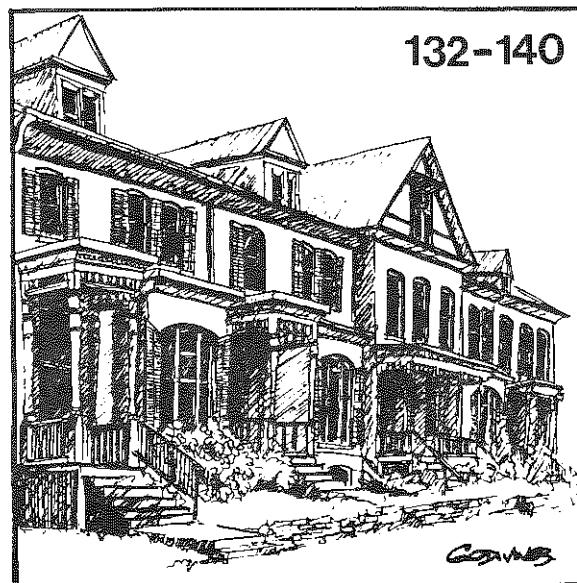
Built by the Dominion Government from 1900-1902 this imposing structure, in the Baronial Gothic style, is typical of many Ontario armouries of the period. The home of the *Brockville Rifles*, it encompasses a large drill hall, officers' and sergeants' messes, and various offices. The regiment has a long and distinguished record of service, originating in the 1st Battalion of the Leeds Militia, founded in 1796, and it has been active in all wars in which Canada has been involved. Among its commanding officers was James Morris, who became Canada's first Postmaster General.



The Brockville Armouries

**132-140. St. Lawrence Terrace**  
c. 1894

The land on which this row of houses stands was owned from 1805-1849 by Charles Jones, a member of one of Brockville's founding families. He sold it to John Crawford, town councilor and postmaster. After passing through two more owners it became in 1893 the property of contractor William G. Tompkins who built the terrace. In 1895 Robert Sheridan, founder of the Sheridan Furniture Company, bought the row for \$10,300, and it remained in the Sheridan family until 1971. The terrace consists of five houses, 2 at each end identical and central one with a gable presented to the street and larger front porch. The row's charm and unity has been enhanced by a co-ordinated colour scheme.



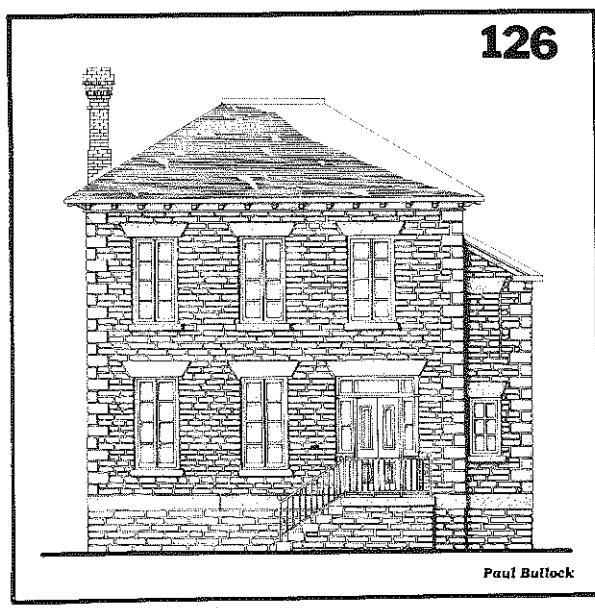
**St. Lawrence Terrace**

**126. Sheffield-Senkler House**  
c. 1863

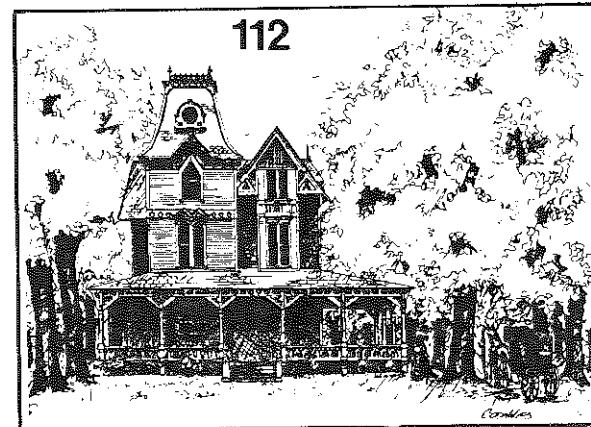
Also part of the original Jones' land, this lot appears to have remained empty until 1863 when Thomas R. Sheffield, a local merchant, bought it and built this house. Following his wife's death in 1869, Sheffield sold the house to the Rev. Edmund J. Senkler, a Church of England minister, and his wife, Eleanor. Following the death of the Senklers, in 1872 and 1873, their daughter Eleanor, widow of Dr. Thomas Reynolds, became the owner of the house. It remained in the Reynolds family until the death, in 1935, of Eleanor's son, Edmund J. Reynolds, a county court judge. It was thereafter bought by another Reynolds, although unrelated, Hugh Reynolds, President of Reynolds Coal Co. Built in a version of the Neo-Classical style, this house differs from others of that period in having a hip roof, three bays instead of five, and an off-centre door with sidelights, without the curved transom and deep reveals.

**112. Alexander & Eva Allan  
House** 1880

This house was built in 1880 for Alex Allan, son of Sir Hugh Allan, head of the Allan Steamship Co. of Montreal. Sir Hugh died that same year and left the house and land to his son, who was already occupying it. At that time there were stables at the back and a paddock on the east side along Ormond Street. This is a beautiful example of the Italianate style in what is sometimes called the Eastlake or Stick style. Apart from the general features of the Italianate, such as heavily bracketed eaves, a square tower, rounded off windows, the features of the Stick style are seen in the narrow elongated windows and preponderance of vertical lines. It would have been, in its day, a grand house befitting the son of a wealthy family. It is now divided into apartments.



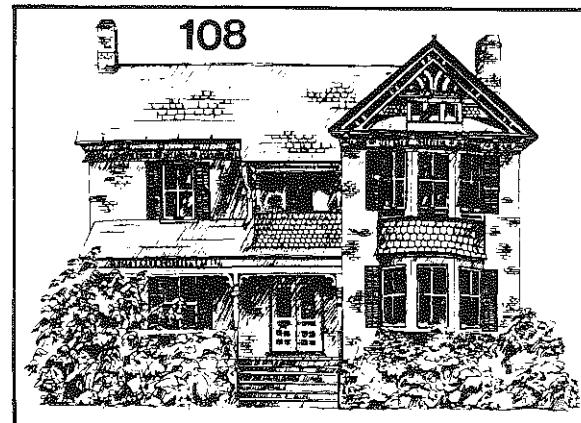
**Allan House**



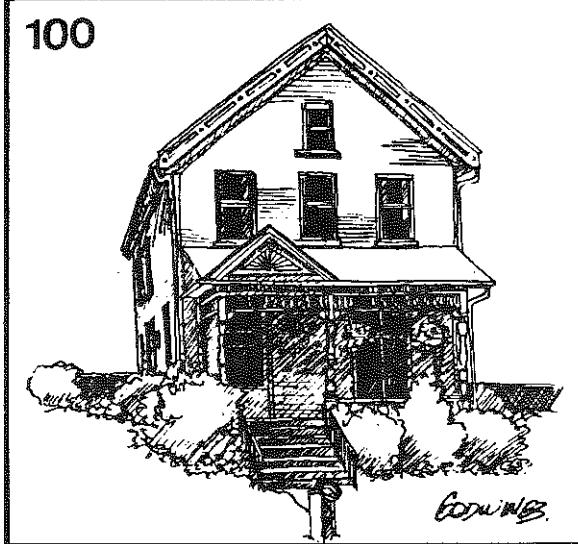
**Allan House**

**108. Richard & Eliza Blake  
House                    1890**

This house was designed and built in 1890 for Richard Blake. The architect was James P. Johnston of Ogdensburg. In 1914 the executors of Eliza Blake's estate sold the property to Robert Sheridan of the Sheridan Furniture Co. and it was occupied by various members of the Sheridan family from then until the death of Miss Susan Sheridan, daughter of Robert, in 1981. In style it is very similar to the York House at 152 King, although simpler. There is enough similarity in the use of materials to suggest the same architect.



**Blake House**



**Swift House**

**100. William & Augusta Swift  
House                    1871**

This house was built in 1871 by William Swift, an insurance agent, and his wife Augusta. For reasons unknown to us, it was sold in 1872, but it is possible that Swift had fallen on hard times. This is substantiated by the fact that a "mechanic's lien", placed on the house by a carpenter for non-payment, was not cleared until 1880. Subsequent owners may also have been plagued by financial troubles, as the house changed hands frequently until 1889, when George R. Webster, a local lawyer, bought it. The Websters lived in the house for ten years and on the death of George, his widow Sarah sold the house to George H. Brown, a merchant in flour and feed. It remained in the Brown family until 1935 when R. Herbert Sheridan, son of Robert, bought it. It remains in the Sheridan family. Built in a simple, unpretentious style,

with little or no decoration except on the front verandah, it nevertheless provides a pleasing contrast to its larger neighbours and the charm of the narrow clapboard siding endures.

**80. Paul Glasford House c. 1826**

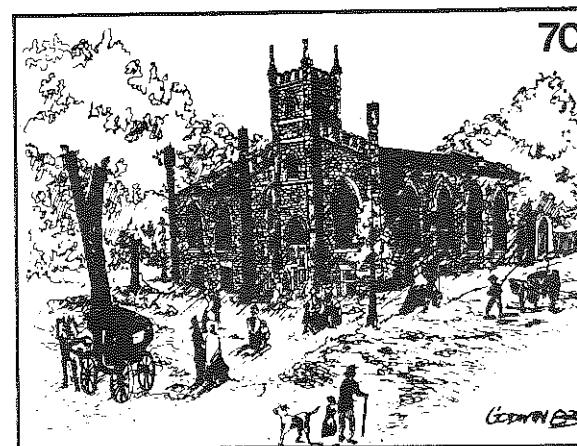
A plot of land 80' by 150' on this corner was sold by Charles Jones in 1825 to Paul Glasford, a Brockville merchant, who was later to become chairman of the building committee for the District Court House. The house is thought to have been built about 1826, which would make it one of the oldest on the tour. After Paul Glasford's death in 1858, the house remained in the Glasford family, being owned by Glasford's daughter Eliza until her death in 1903. The condition of the house had deteriorated very badly when, in 1983, Dr. Sandra Best, a local family doctor, bought and restored it, turning

the ground floor into her office, and making a separate apartment upstairs. It subsequently won the Brockville L.A.C.A.C. award for sympathetic conservation. Although the windows would originally have been small-paned, and the front porch is a later addition, the house has retained its character. An interesting architectural feature is the pediment with the floating transom, not a common characteristic of the Brockville area.

## **70. St. John's United Church 1900**

In the winter of 1835-36 several Brockville families, mostly recent immigrants from Scotland, decided to form a Church of Scotland congregation, separate from the existing Presbyterian Church. The first minister of St. John's was the Rev. P.C. Campbell, who came from Scotland in 1837. He stayed until 1842. The congregation first met in the old Court House and later in Mair's Hotel on Church St. A church on the present site began to be planned about 1846. Because of a shortage of funds the first church was not completed until 1851. The original stone church was enlarged and redecorated in 1882. In 1899 the building was gutted by a fire and the construction of the present church was started immediately, using the stone walls that were still standing. It was opened a year later in 1900. Built largely in the

Gothic Revival style, it has a sturdy Scottish air about it, and the lack of ornamentation plus the square tower without a steeple harks back to even earlier times.



**St. John's United Church**

## **62, 64. Jonas Jones House c. 1820**

probably the design of a local architect. After Dr. Horton's death around 1927, the house was rented for about 10 years. In 1938, Charles and Rachel Johnston purchased the house and converted it into the C.E. Johnston Funeral Home. Johnston carried on his undertaking business here until his death, at which time his two sons, Bob and Ernie, continued the funeral business. When George R. Judson bought the business and property in 1972, it was renamed the Johnston-Judson funeral Home. In 1980, the business was taken over by James O. Barclay and he renamed it the Johnston-Barclay Funeral Home.

The land on which this house was built was part of a large estate owned by Charles Jones, one of Brockville's founders. This block of land was sold in 1818 to his younger brother Jonas, a lawyer and politician who was later to become a Superior Court Judge. The house he built, around 1820, was a two-storey, single dwelling in the Georgian style. In 1839 it was sold to John Bogert, son-in-law of Jonas Jones, and it remained in the Bogert family until 1874, when it was bought by Sheriff James Smart, formerly the owner of Smart's Foundry. He added the third storey with a mansard roof and divided the house into two, thereby sacrificing the elegant simplicity and symmetry of the Georgian style to the more ornate style popular at that time. An interesting feature of this house is the dressed stone used for the front, which is not as common as the local rough limestone normally used in Brockville's stone houses.

## **68. Dr. Nelson Horton House c. 1895**

The land for this house was purchased in 1895 by Dr. R. Nelson Horton from sheriff James Smart. Dr. Horton had this large brick house built on the vacant lot here between James Smart's stone house and the St. John's Presbyterian Church, during that year or early in the next. Dr. Horton was a valued physician in Brockville for many years. The house is still an impressive part of the main street, with its asymmetrical massing, eclectic design and beautiful stained glass windows. It was

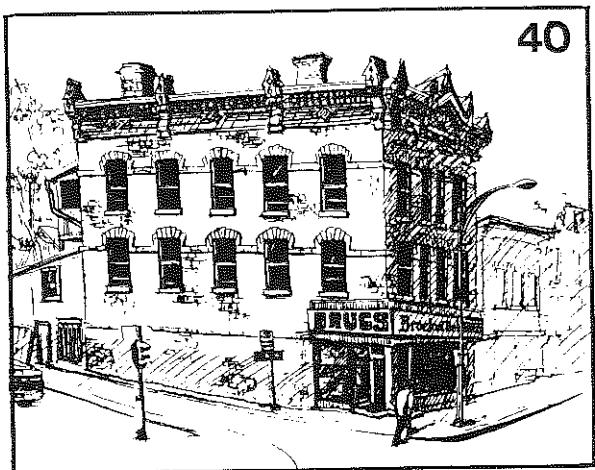
## **40. Sheridan Building      1885**

This building also stands on part of Charles Jones' land holdings. Robert Sheridan bought the land from the Jones family in 1885 and built a store for his tinsmith business, with living quarters above. He remained there until 1893 when he moved to King St. West and founded what was to become a very successful furniture business. This building passed through many different hands in the ensuing years until 1959, when it became Brockville Drugs. Although the ground floor has been totally changed, the upper storeys retain a pleasing dignity and the most striking feature is a very ornate cornice which, being made of tin, is possibly the work of Robert Sheridan. This building was included in an Ontario Government poster called "Ontario's Main Street Heritage", which is a composite picture of eight interesting main street buildings from various communities in the province.

**18-22. Charles Field House and  
Shop**

c. 1842

This small stone building is one of the last of its type on the commercial part of King Street. Charles Field, a cabinet maker, built this house and shop here in the early 1840s, having purchased the land in November 1841. The house passed to his widow, Annis, while his son Charles E. Field carried on the cabinet making and upholstery business during the 1850s. The Field family sold this property in 1867 to Charles H. French an ornamental and house painter, and his wife Sarah. They lived here for over 50 years until his death about 1920. The ground floor for many years housed two stores, among which were Clutterbuck's Confectionery, Bussens' Butcher Shop, Gibson's Grocery, and Stagg's Meat Store. In 1925 William R. Henderson became the owner and subsequently opened Henderson's Butcher Shop, in this building.



**Sheridan Building**

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**Important Notice:**

**Inclusion of a building in this walking tour booklet in no way indicates that the property is open to the public. Please respect the privacy and rights of owners and tenants by restricting your viewing to the public sidewalk.**

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- B. Over the years the facilities and resources of the *Leeds County Registry Office* have proved valuable in searching for the deeds, mortgages, and wills related to property transactions in Brockville. The co-operation of the staff there is appreciated.
- C. The facilities of the *Brockville Public Library*, and in particular their newspaper collection on microfilm have contributed to the accuracy of information used in this booklet.
- D. The *Ontario Archives* and the *Public Archives of Canada* have been consulted on an ongoing basis for a number of years. We acknowledge the valuable information contained in their files which has been used here.
- E. The *Brockville Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee* was set up by Brockville City Council in 1976. The members of the LACAC have provided input and inspiration for a work of this kind for over ten years. We thank them.

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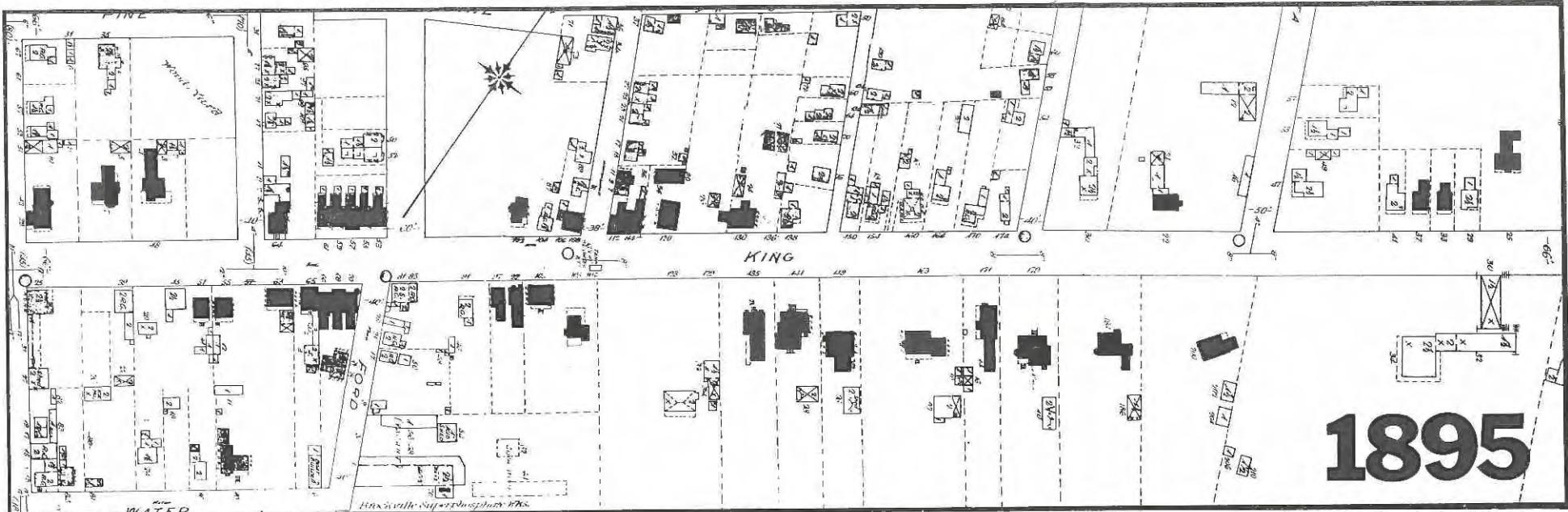
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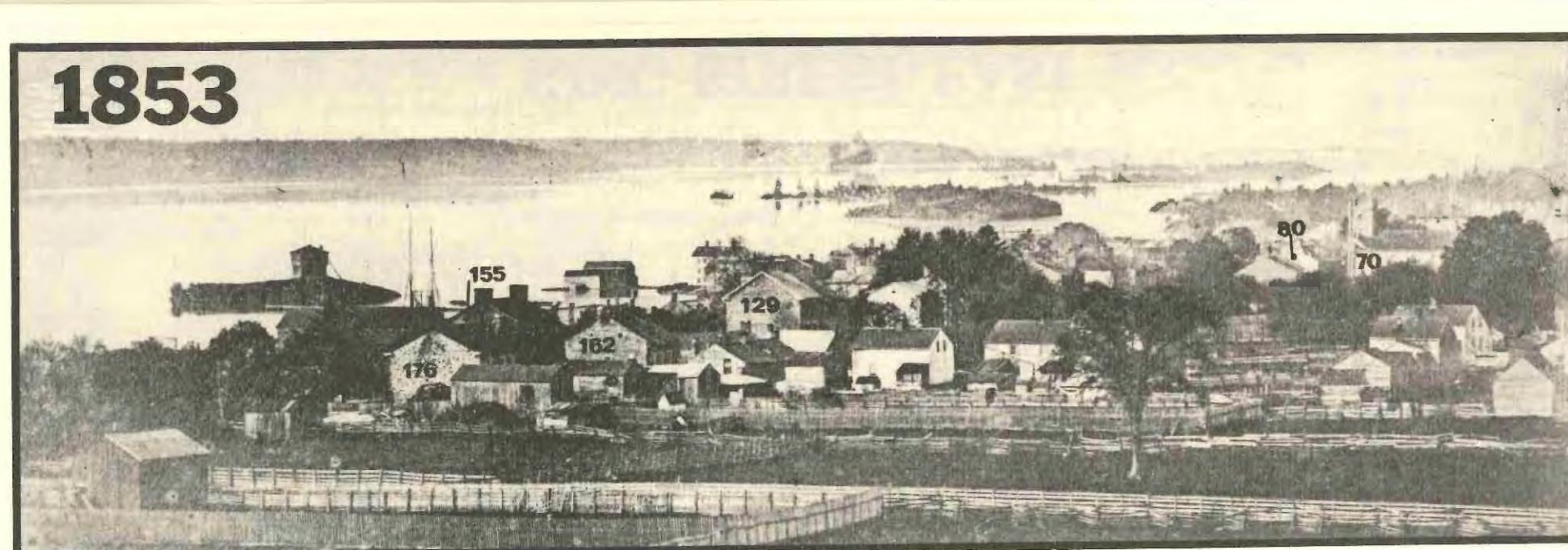
## Financial Support:

Funding to bring this project to completion was provided by the Brockville & District Historical Society, the City of Brockville, and the Downtown Brockville Board of Management.

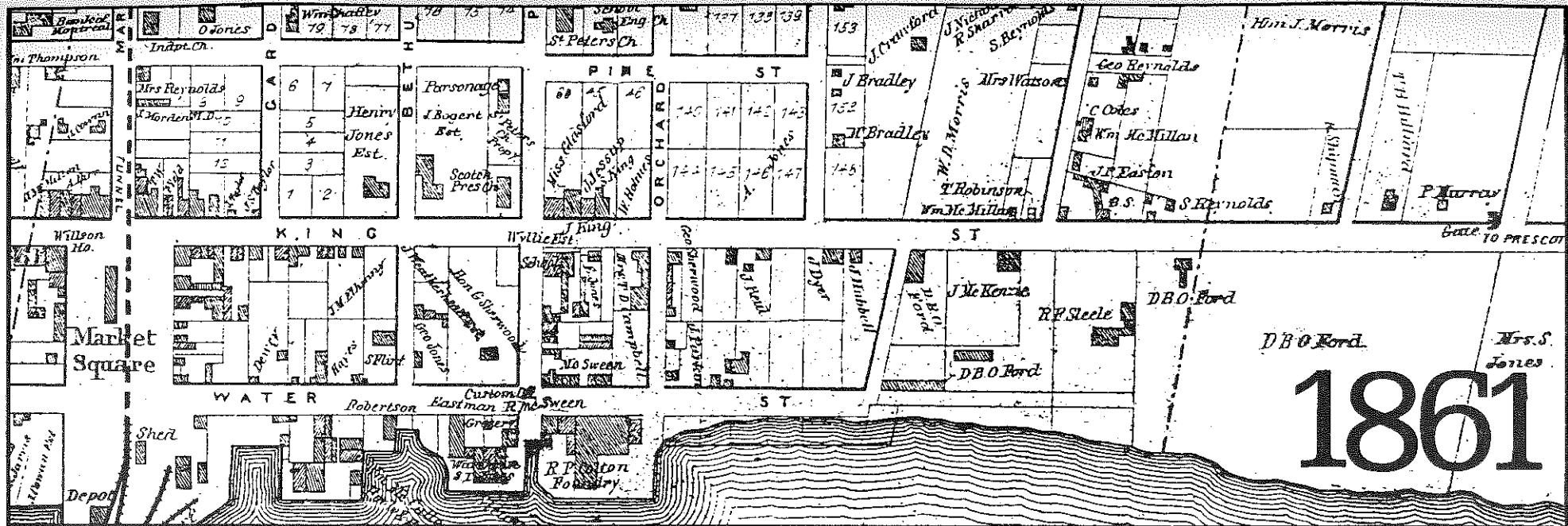


*Part of an 1892-95 Insurance Map of Brockville*

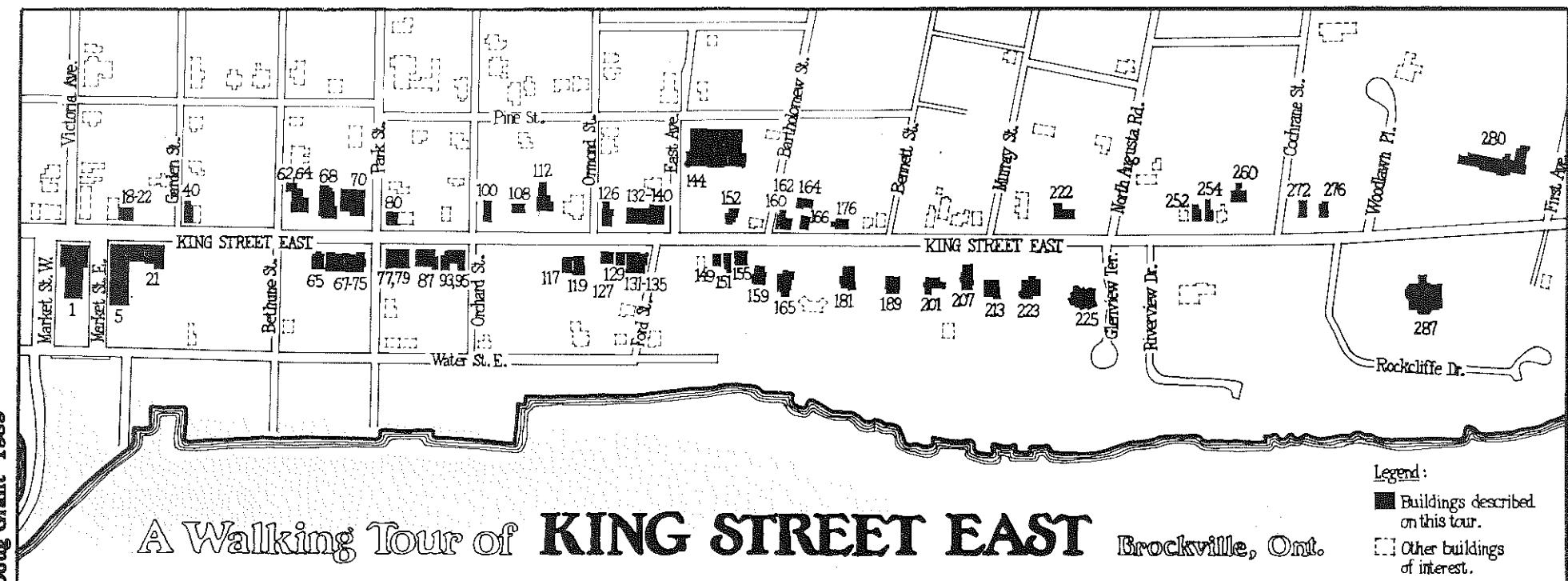
Drawn by Charles E. Goad, Civil Engineer



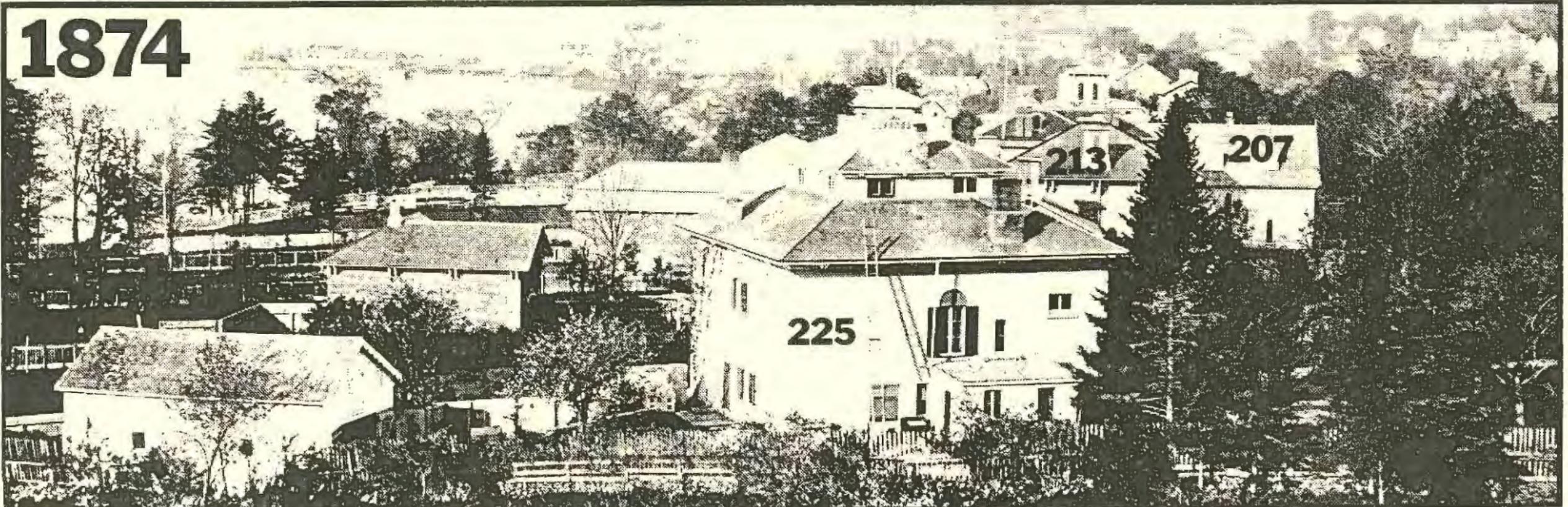
*View of Brockville looking west from the top of Beauvoir, 41 Cochrane Dr.*



Part of a map of Brockville, published by F.W. Walling, 1861-62



# 1874



*View of Brockville looking west from the roof of Rockford, near King St. E. and Riverview Dr.*