

Architecture
in Ingersoll:
a clipping collection



located 170 King St E

FIRST BRICK HOUSE IN THIS COUNTY

Said to be the One in Which John D.
Horsman Resides--Was Built
Prior to 1837.

The house owned and occupied by Mr. John D. Horsman, King street east, is said to have been the first brick house built in the County of Oxford.

Standing in the midst of picturesque surroundings, and quaint and cozy in appearance there is absolutely no outward sign that such is the case as one might imagine. The architecture is not unlike that in vogue to-day, and it is in a rare state of preservation.

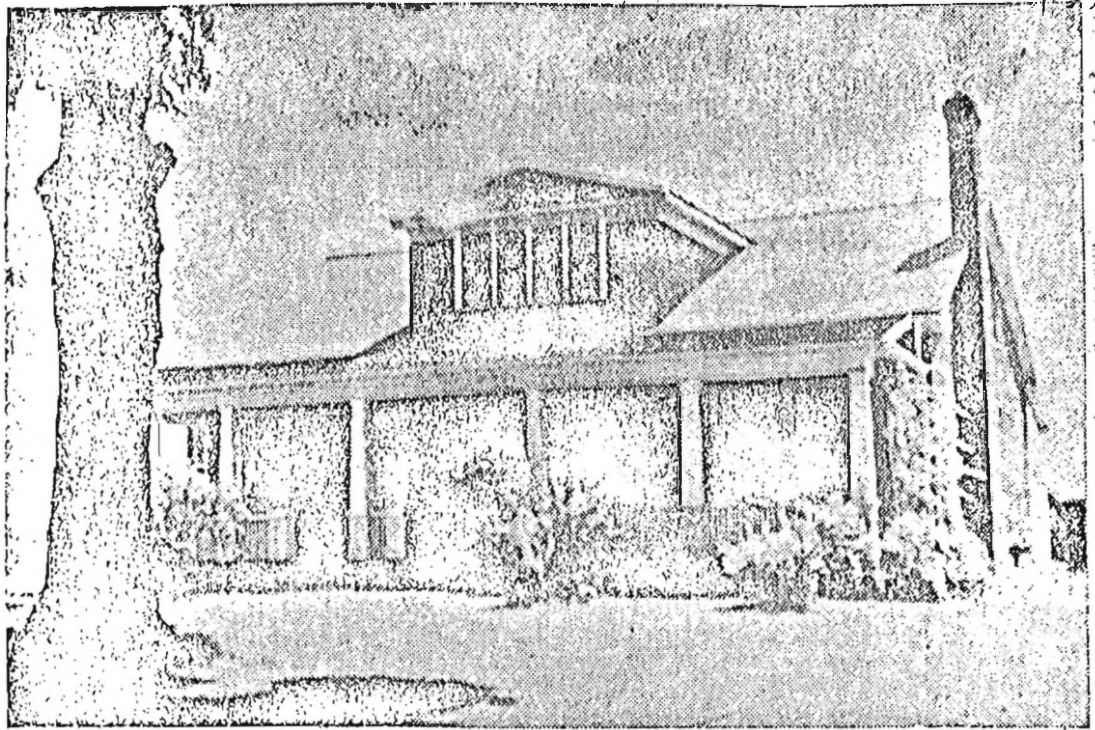
According to our information which is from a reliable source the house was built some time prior to the year 1837. It was erected by the late Elisha Hall who then owned the property, and in which it is said he resided during the war of 1837-8. The brick used in its construction is said to have been manufactured by Mr. Hall, the kiln having been but a short distance back of where Mr. Horsman's barn now stands. As in nearly all of the pioneer work oxen were used in working the clay into shape, and it was then hand moulded into bricks. In one respect the interior of the house differs greatly to those built in the early days, and that is in the height of the ceilings, they being much higher, and in fact higher than the highest ones of to-day. The floor in one of the rooms is also composed of a large size brick very nicely laid, while from a point of convenience all the rooms were carefully planned. With few exceptions the house is to be seen as it was built. During recent years it was painted red, and one or two minor alterations were made to certain parts.

CHRONICLE

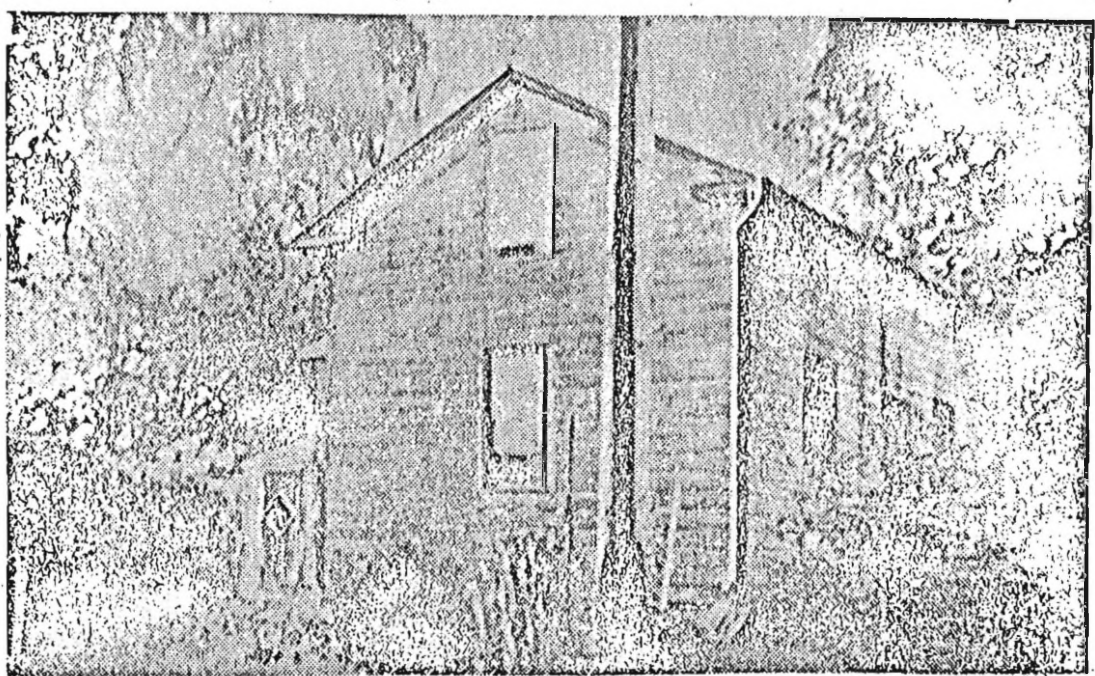
November 8, 1902

Homes Date to Early Ingersoll

Nov 21/33



Still an imposing structure, this Ingersoll house was the first brick home in the community. It was built in 1836 by Elisha Hall.



Even older than the oldest brick house is this Ingersoll home, built between 1828 and 1835 as described below.



Built by Elisha Hall in 1836, this home still stands at 170 King Street East, pictured above as it appeared in September 2012

Ingersoll Dates First Brick House To 1836; Early Names Recalled

By M. E. Cropp

The early settlers of Canada West were in no hurry to leave their log homes for more pretentious ones of brick or stone, or even of squared logs. There were no taxes on unfinished log houses.

In 1828 Ingersoll had 20 settled families. Family names consisted of Canfield, Hall, Carrall, Smith, Hallock, Sherman, Bronson, Wickwire, Maynard, Kennedy, Underwood, Burdick, Doty, Ryan, Briggs, Chalmers, Maricle, Ingersoll, Parkhurst, Schofield, Van Every, Miller, Titus, Boyce, Whiting, Merrick, Swartz and Stimpson.

The male population numbered 58.

Industrial Concerns

There was a blacksmith shop owned by John Sherman, who also made whiskey barrels for the distillery. Also in the village were a barrel factory and cooper shop, also a carding mill.

Operated by the Ingersolls there was a distillery, an ashery, a gen-

eral store and post office, a saw-mill, a grist mill, and a tannery.

The only building south of King street and west of Thames, was the log school near the corner. The tuition at this time was eight dollars per pupil per year, and a turn at boarding the teacher. Many families sent only the oldest child who was then supposed to teach the younger children, as money was scarce. Books used were Murray's grammar, Woodbridge's geography, Dabol's arithmetic, an English reader and Webster's spelling book.

The teacher must be a British subject and be able to teach the above subjects.

Lasted Until Fifties

This system was not changed until the 1850's, when everyone who paid taxes had to contribute to education.

This log hamlet of 1828 was located along King street, which was part of the old stage road, the road which Thomas Ingersoll had had cut at his own expense from Burford in 1793-4. The village was centred by the creek which runs through Dr. Carroll's Park, which was then Sam Ingersoll's pond.

1836 Brick House

The first brick house in Ingersoll, now the gracious home of J. W. Ferguson, was built in 1836 by Elisha Hall, from bricks made on his own farm. The cellar was paved with square bricks two inches thick which were only removed when the present owner took possession. Photographs of these early houses show that verandas were not added until later.

Elisha Hall was a staunch supporter of the Reform party. When the Rebellion of 1837 broke out he was held a prisoner in his own house, guards surrounding it night and day. Every night his wife took two pails and went to the house next door (now the home of Mrs. Crane) for water. One night Elisha Hall, dressed in his wife's clothes and taking the water pails, walked through the guard and got away. Leaving his wife's hoops in the bush he made his way south to the lake. Upon one occasion when he was hiding in a barn a search party came up, but the farmer kept them talking and Hall was able to escape by the back

way. He went to California. Years later he came back, disposed of his property, and returned to the United States.

The Crane home, next to the Ferguson place, is one of Ingersoll's oldest buildings, having been built between 1828 and 1835.

Incorporation Dates

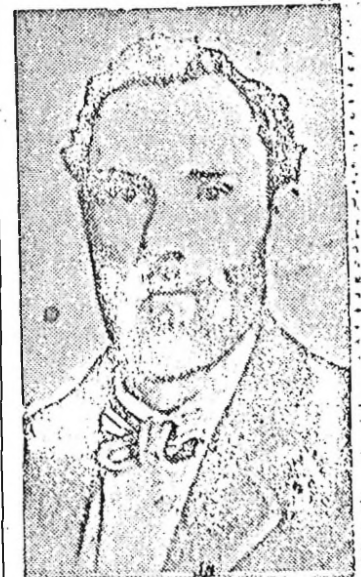
In 1852 Ingersoll had a population of 1,190 and was incorporated as a village. In 1854 its chief exports were lumber and pearl ash. In 1857 it became a town.

In 1862 its newspaper, the Chronicle, advertised itself in Sutherland's Gazetteer as the oldest newspaper in the country, with a circulation nearly double that of any other country newspaper in the province.

Noxon's foundry, also advertised, was then on Thames street, south of King, where the furniture factory now stands. Later the plant was moved down by the tracks and grew into the New Idea plant. The old Noxon home served for years as the Ingersoll Hospital, and was more recently torn down.

The Eastwood foundry, of 1862 was then on Thames street. Its successor is the garage on Charles street east.

Fifty professional and tradesmen from Ingersoll inserted ads in the 1862 Gazette.



ELISHA HALL
-- - Ingersoll pioneer

(Page 1 of 2)

LONDON FREE PRESS

November 21, 1953

LETTER RECEIVED FROM PATRICIA ROBERTS TO THE INGERSOLL PUBLIC LIBRARY

RE: ELISHA HALL

May 9, 1994

Dear Mrs Lewis:

Thank you for your gracious help when we were doing research in the library the other day. I want to let you know that we did find Elisha Hall's brick home. The houses have apparently been renumbered over the years and it is at 170 King St E.

Mrs. J.W. Ferguson, 90, has lived there for 50 years. When I went to the door to confirm the houses history she invited us in to see the house. She is a dear lady.

The first frame house in Ingersoll is right close by - also built by Elisha senior. Elisha junior married Almenia Carroll, daughter of Daniel Carroll & Clarissa Hall. They were parents of my grandmother Maude who was born in Ingersoll. I noticed Hall & Carroll Streets and one little alley named Maude. I would like to think it was named for my grandmother but of course I don't know that.

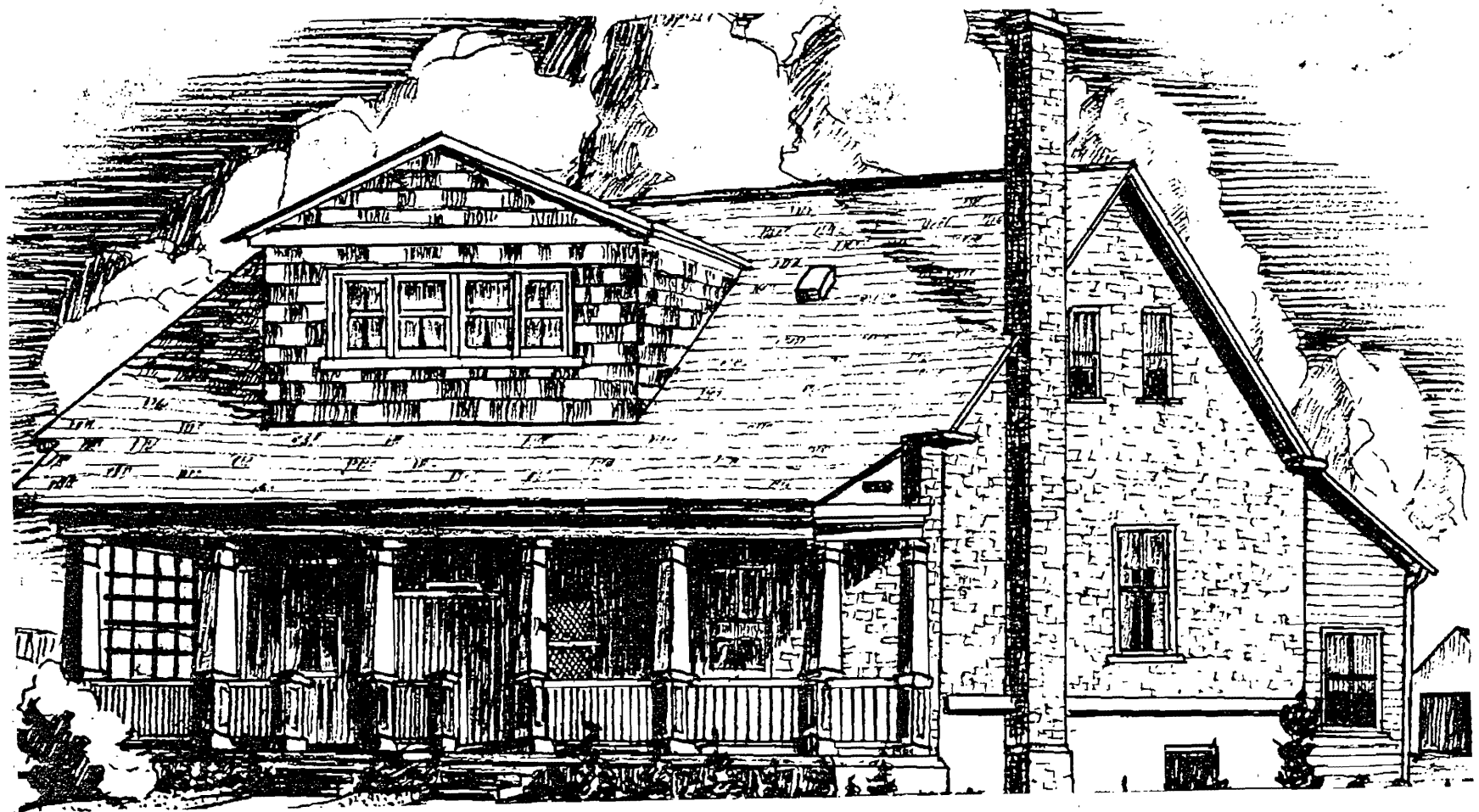
We found the brick house in spite of the different numbering by comparing it with the sketch we got from you. Ingersoll is a pretty town and it was fun seeing it.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

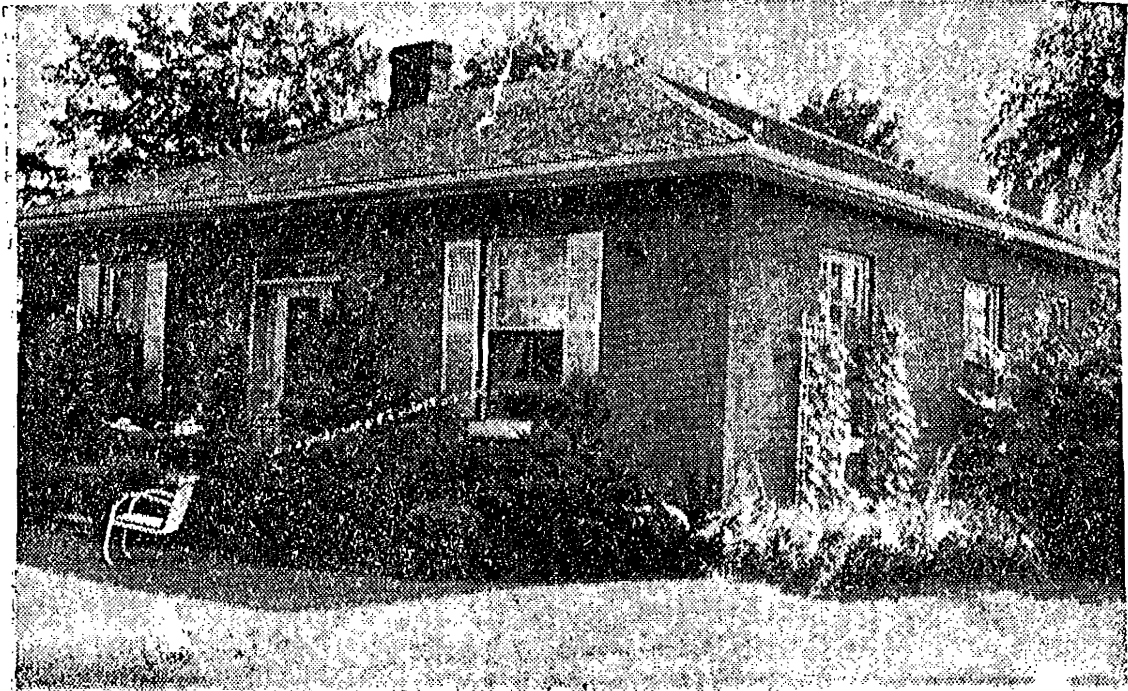
Patricia Roberts

Newcastle, California



The oldest brick house in town, depicted in sketch by Harry Whitwell, built in 1836 by Elisha Hall.

1979
SENTINEL REVIEW



OLDEST BRICK RESIDENCE IN TOWN

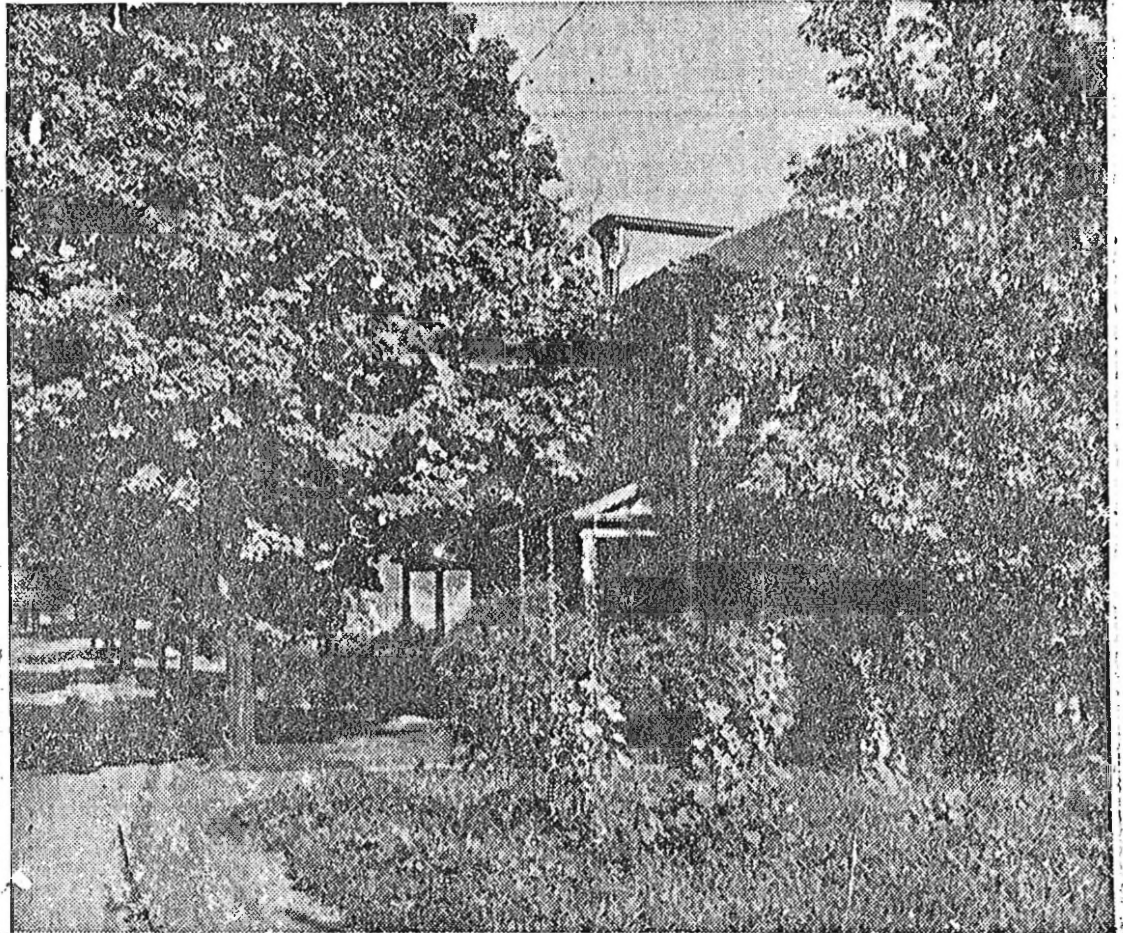
Ingersoll's oldest brick residence, 255 Thames street, north was built in 1838 for William

Barker, senior. Mr. Barker was Brovett's merchantile business. The house is now occupied by

Mr. and Mrs. Lin Butler. (Staff Photo)

n.d.

This home was demolished in the 1980s

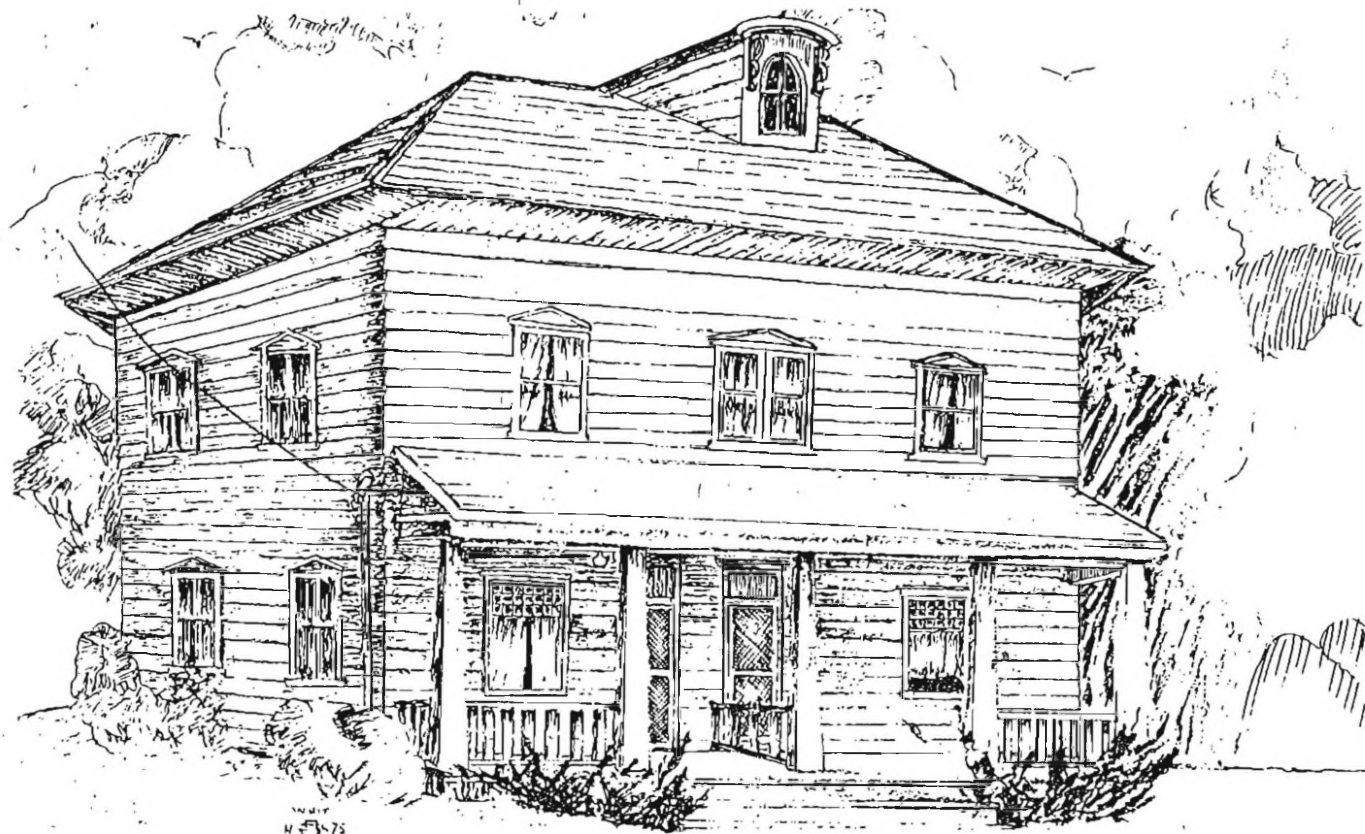


THE OLD MANSION HOUSE STILL STANDS

The old Mansion House shown above is now a residence on a quiet street built in the early 50's for James Brady. It was moved from the site of the present location of the Imperial Bank to Canterbury street and made into a double house. (Staff Photo)



The former Mansion Hotel at 34 Canterbury Street, as it was pictured in September 2012. It was moved from the south-west corner of Thames & King Streets



Sketch by Harry Whitwell shows house that once was a hotel and called The Mansion House.

Old hotel gets new uses

INGERSOLL — All but one of the 15 hotels that dotted the Old Stage Road (King Street West) when Ingersoll was a pioneer settlement have either fallen beneath the wrecker's hammer or been destroyed by fire. However, a few of the historic buildings like the one in the above sketch by Harry Whitwell are still being used as duplexes or apartment buildings.

This house on the south side of Canterbury Street just west of

the bridge was moved from the corner of King and Thames Street where the Imperial Bank now stands.

Built in 1861 it was originally called O'Grady's House after the first owner. Later the hotel was bought by Bob Reid who renamed it the Mansion House.

The yellow brick stable behind the Mansion House at King and Thames Street is still standing. It is now being used as a warehouse by Underwood's

Shoes Limited.

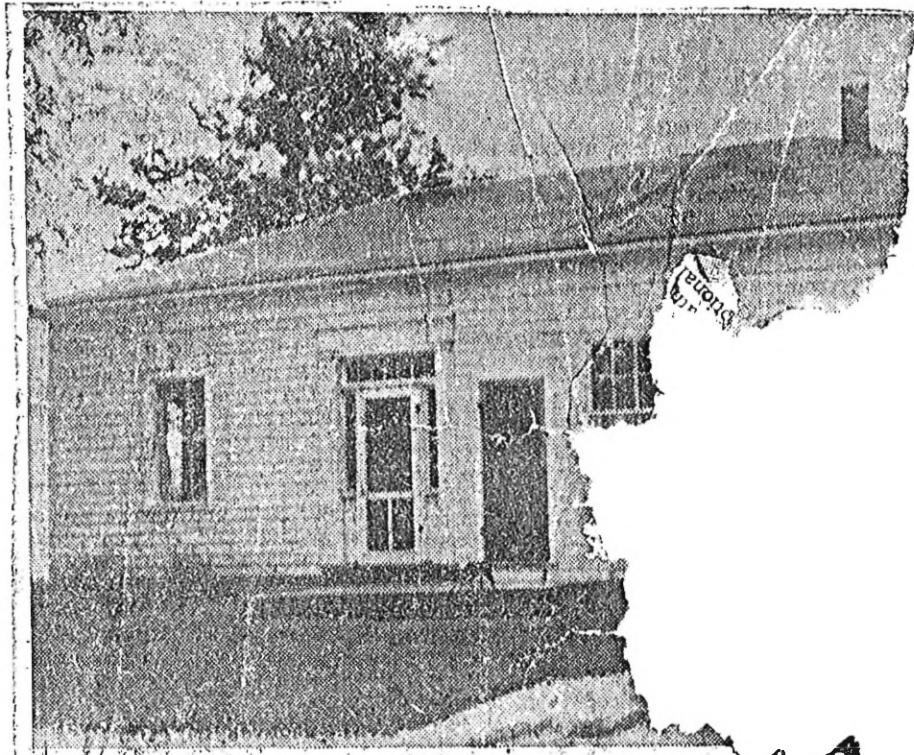
The former Trick's Hotel on the north side of King Street West at Merritt Street was built in 1918. Today it is a converted apartment building.

Trick's Hotel was a regular stopping place for farmers coming into Ingersoll along the unimproved Culloden Road. They used to stop to flush their throats of dust before coming into the business section of town. Then they would stop at the hotel

again for protection against the dust on their way home.

Members of the Augustus Jones Survey Party that came through the settlement about 1790 used to dry their wet clothes at the fireplace of the Oxford Inn operated by Samuel Smith at the corner of King and Mill streets.

The building is today occupied by the Canadian National Advertising Company and apartment tenants.



RESIDENCE ONCE A BAPTIST MISSION

This frame residence at 221 north Thames street was built for Joseph and Edward Barker in 1839, to be used as a Baptist mission. Due to the small congregation the pastor was the Rev. W. H. Landon, Woodstock,

who alternated with the Barker brothers as elders every two weeks. Mr. Landon always rode horseback and was known as the "Travelling Preacher". Up to a few years ago this building was

capped for addition. It was the home of Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith. (Staff Photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW

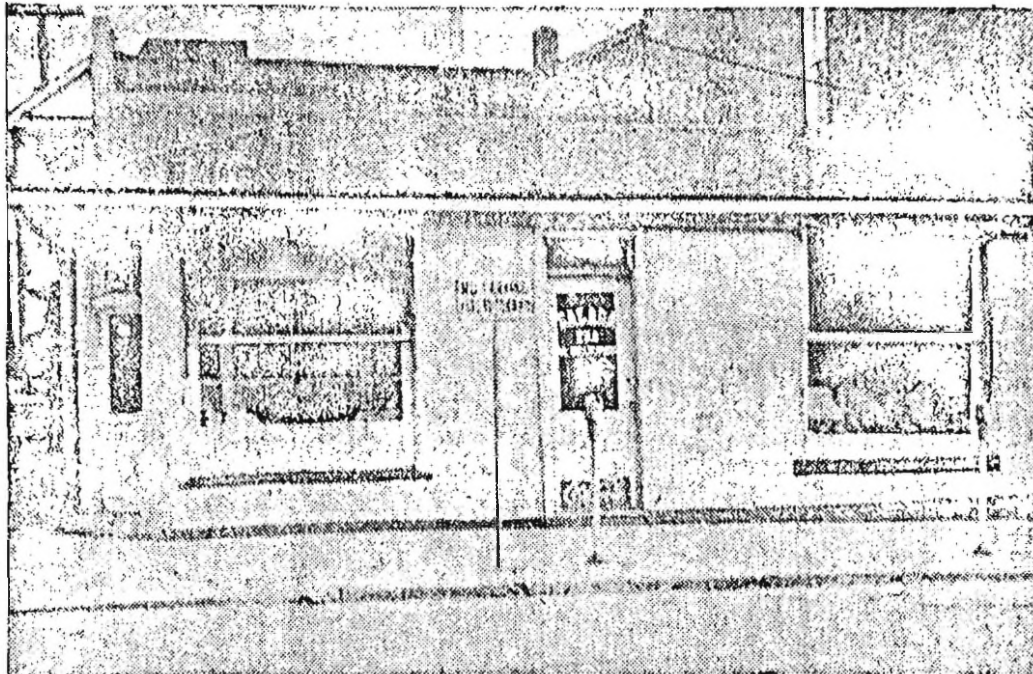
August 30, 1932



221 Thames Street north as it appeared in September 2012

Erected In 1836

Served as First Registry Office, Ingersoll Building Still in Use



A jeweler and butcher now occupy what was once the first registry office in the interior of Upper Canada. Built in 1836, it is situated at the corner of Ingersoll's Market Lane and King Street. (Photo by Longfield)

By Stanley J. Smith

One of the oldest commercial buildings situated between the Niagara frontier and the western limits of the province originally the first registry office in the interior of Upper Canada is still used today for business.

It is on a site known today as the corner of Market Lane and King street, Ingersoll, (formerly known as Oxford Village), and is occupied by a jeweler and butcher. This building was erected in 1836 by the order of Col. B. Askin, of London, and it was to be the office of the newly appointed registrar of deeds . . . James A. Ingersoll, Esquire.

At that time, King street was known only as the Old Stage Road and the order for the new building directed that the registry office would be situated on a traveled road and easily accessible to the public. Less than 200 yards east of this old building is the oldest crossroads of Upper Canada, namely, King and Thames street . . . originally Cadillac's wintertime line of

communication running from Quebec to Detroit, bisecting the old Indian trail traversing the bush between Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

LONDON FREE PRESS

March 3, 1936

Town Hall Could Tell Many Stories Of Past, Present

By GEORGE JANES

In the near century of its existence much of excitement because of its central position has revolved around the town hall in whirling fashion.

While outmoded in many respects, the old pile of brick and mortar has carried a new look for some time and improvements and conveniences made to the interior, especially to the council chamber, and in other respects which have greatly increased the accommodation and added to the general attractiveness.

The old building, revamped to temporarily at least delay the erection of a more modern structure for economic reasons has what is undoubtedly a unique record.

For a long period it has been the quarters of the volunteer fire department housing the men and the equipment, just as it did in earlier years when a fire team was maintained with their stalls having overhanging harness above each of the spirited animals.

It also has practically since its construction held the municipal offices in connection with which the names of the late W. R. Smith town clerk, and the late R. J. Robertson, town treasurer, are recalled.

For more than sixty years the office of the town's police force as well as that of the town magistrates were in the building.

INDOOR MARKET

There also was for many of the earlier years an indoor market in the building with entrance on the west side off Oxford street.

The old building has looked down on many of the most exciting and strange scenes in the history of the town.

Runaway horses in earlier years sped up and down King street and also flanked the building on either side frequently driverless and with vehicles overturned and clattering as if they would be broken to pieces.

There were times following

hockey games in the old King street rink when there were embittered factions that there were near riots almost at the entrance to the building and when there were several hotels functioning in its shadow often an inebriated one walked jerkily past the window of the police office and casting a furtive glance probably soliloquized "you don't get me this time."

The old building has a grand and proud record of service. In its auditorium it has held tremendous and tempestuous gatherings at municipal nomination meetings, political meetings during parliamentary campaigns and on other occasions.

Year in and year out the old building looked down Monday mornings to the parade of offenders who entered to face the magistrate in connection with Saturday night indiscretions.

NAUGHTY SHOWS

Many of the itinerant stock companies presented their shows of fifty and sixty years ago to a packed house and some of the burlesque variety started tongues a-wagging in the town.

Hotels close to the town hall were the Daly House, now an apartment building; the Thompson House, both on King street West; The Oxford House, also on Oxford street, a short distance to the North; the former Dereham House, where the Brewers warehouse is now located and the former Mansion House, at the corner of Thames and King street. Many musical concerts were held in the Town Hall over a long term of years, together with amateur performances of a varied nature.

There also were many interesting sports events including boxing, wrestling, weight lifting, acrobatic feats and exhibitions with Indian Clubs and dumb-bells.

Over the years many parades have formed up and moved off from the market square passing the old Town Hall; medicine men for years also held forth on the market square near the building spilling about their wares and often doing a thriving trade.

Yes, the Town Hall has seen much of Ingersoll life-day and night. Its rafters have echoed the tumultuous applause that was given on some occasions and its stairway has vibrated to the weight of moving feet, but it still seems to be firmly implanted, unabashed at antiquity and physically fit to continue its service for no one can say how long.

Plaque To Be Placed On The Historic Town Hall

On Wednesday, Sept. 4 a plaque commemorating the historic Ingersoll town hall will be unveiled on the wall of that building beside the main entrance. This plaque is one of a series being erected throughout the province by the department of Travel and Publicity, acting on the advice of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

The ceremony is being arranged and sponsored by the Oxford Historical Society, whose director of research, Stanley J. Smith, will act as program chairman. Mrs. Bernadette Smith of Woodstock, will represent the province's Historic Sites Board.

Among those taking part in the ceremony will be: His Worship R. R. Fewster, Mayor of Ingersoll; Gordon W. Innes, MLA for Oxford, and Wallace Nesbitt, MP for Oxford. The plaque will be unveiled by Miss Winnifred L. Williams, President of the Oxford Historical Society and dedicated by Rev. Ralph King, Chairman of the Ingersoll Ministerial Association.

Following the establishment of Upper Canada in 1791, and the arrival of the new Lieutenant-Governor, Colonel John Graves Simcoe, the following year, a vigorous policy designed to encourage immigration was initiated. Grants of land were offered to prospective settlers, many of whom came into the province from the United States.

During the 1790's a settlement was founded in the original Oxford Township under the leadership of Major Thomas Ingersoll, and the nucleus of the present community, which bears his name, was formed.

Although Thomas Ingersoll left the settlement in 1804, his sons Charles, Thomas Jr., and James returned following the end of the War of 1812 and contributed much by their public services to its rapid development. The first post office in the community was established here in 1821 and named Oxford after the township. Shortly thereafter, the name of the community was changed to Ingersoll in honor of its founder.

TELLS OF INGERSOLL

By 1851 a thriving centre had become established and a report in Smith's Gazetteer of that year gives an account of Ingersoll. It reads "In entering the County of Oxford from London, the first place you reach is Ingersoll, which is twenty-one miles from London; it is a considerable village, containing about 1,000 inhabitants. It is well situated, the greater part of it being built on the sides and summit of the high gravelly banks of the east branch of the River Thames, which flows through it, and furnishes water to supply two grist-mills and two saw-mills, a carding machine and fulling mill. The village also contains a foundry, tannery, distillery, etc. and five churches — Episcopal, Free Church, Wesleyan Methodist, Episcopal Methodist, and Roman Catholic; and has a daily post".

This vigorous community petitioned the government for the status of an organized municipality in 1851, and a proclamation dated Sept. 12 of that year set up Ingersoll as an incorporated village. The proclamation stated that the new legislation was to take effect on Jan. 1, 1852.

The first election was held at the Royal Exchange Hotel on Monday, Jan. 5, and John Galliford, W. A. Ramsey, Thomas Brown, Charles Parkherst and James Murdock were elected as Ingersoll's first council. This body appointed Edward Doty as Treasurer, and James Barrie as village clerk.

Shortly after the incorporation, plans were drawn up to build a town hall, or as it was referred to locally, a market building. Land was acquired in a central location, and it is believed that the first municipal office building was completed in 1853.

DISASTER HITS

Disaster struck this proud new community centre and the sad event was fully reported in the Feb. 8, 1856 edition of the Ingersoll Chronicle. The article states: "The Town Hall of this place was totally destroyed by fire on Friday morning last, about one o'clock shortly after our edition had been worked off. The belfry attached together with the new bell, which had been recently erected, were also destroyed. The fire is supposed and very justly too, we think, to be the work of an incendiary as the Clerk, Captain Barrie, informs us that there had been no fire in the building after five o'clock the previous night. This fact, taken in connection with the fact that the fire originated in the part of the building where no fire is ever required, leaves no other alternative than to believe that the premises were fired by someone.

"The official records and papers of Municipalities of Ingersoll and W. Oxford Township were destroyed, together with many valuable documents belonging to the Clerk. The building was insured in the 'Equitable Insurance Company' for only 200 pounds, which will, of course, cover but a very small portion of the loss".

The destruction of this building was a blow for Ingersoll, but discussions were immediately started on plans to build a new town hall. Additional pro-

perty was conveyed to the municipality, since it was found that the old site would not contain a larger building. A new bell was ordered from the Troy Foundry, Troy, N.Y., and the council awarded the overall contract to William M. Long of Ingersoll. George O'Hayra was chosen as the builder, and the structure was designed by the architect John McNiven.

CRITICIZE ARCHITECTURE

The style of architecture adopted by McNiven gave rise to some criticism in the community. Apparently one irate ratepayer referred to it as a "slab-sided Dutch barn". The clerk, Charles E. Chadwick, commented that "the style of architecture was one better suited to the age of our great-grandfathers than the present; and as we could not have many public buildings in town, it behooved us to consult the style of architecture prevailing in our age, rather than go back a few generations." The result of these public deliberations was that the plans were changed, and the building was designed in the Italianate style, so popular at that time.

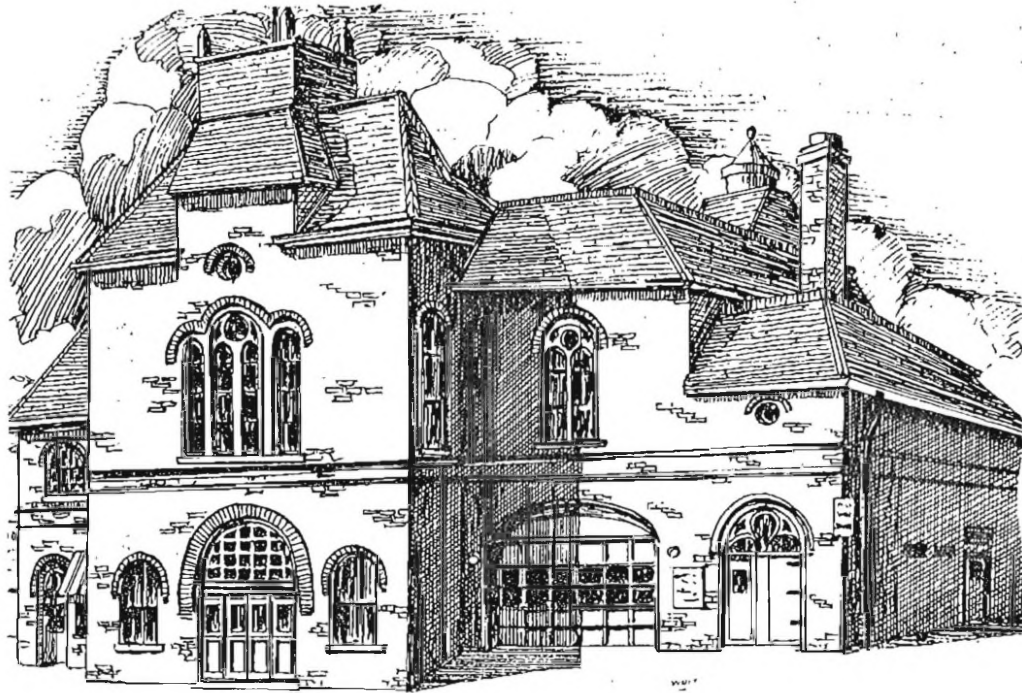
The new town hall was completed in December, 1857, and it contained a large public meeting hall capable of holding about 500 people. Since it was the most spacious meeting place in the immediate area, it was used for a great variety of public occasions.

In 1858 the famous American abolitionist John Brown, while on a recruiting trip to Canada, held a public meeting there, and spoke on the evils of slavery, and "border ruffians" in Kansas.

The hall became a centre of political activity in Oxford County and outstanding statesmen and politicians who spoke from its platform included Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister; Thomas D'Arcy McGee and George Brown, Fathers of Confederation; Alexander Mackenzie; Sir Francis Hincks and the radical reformer, Robert Gourlay.

The auditorium was constantly in use and one evening the local inhabitants were entertained by a stage performance given by General Tom Thumb and Company.

Thus over a period of some 104 years the Ingersoll Town Hall has played host to a variety of individuals prominent in the history of Canada and the United States, and it stands today a characteristic example of the province's early municipal buildings.



Sketch by Ingersoll artist Harry Whitwell, who died Sunday, shows Ingersoll Town Hall.

Town hall an active centre

INGERSOLL — The Old Town Hall depicted in the above sketch by Harry Whitwell has come full circle as a gathering place for local residents.

The main yellow brick building was constructed in 1857.

The spacious auditorium built later above the fire hall addition became the focal point of town activity.

It also was the scene of many historic events. The walls have echoed with speeches by famed

American abolitionist John Brown, Darcy McGee, radical reformer Robert Gouley, George Brown, Alexander McKenzie, Sir Francis Hinks and several of the Fathers of Confederation.

But as the years passed, social functions at the Town Hall became fewer and fewer.

With the coming of the railway along the north bank of the Thames River, focus of the village shifted away from the Stage Coach Road (King Street) where the Town Hall was located.

But the original Town Hall today designated an historic site, and referred to as the Old Town Hall, has once more become a focal point of activity in this town.

Council meetings and court sessions are held in the upstairs council chambers.

Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, with the help of a Canada Works Program grant three years ago had the main floor offices and basement renovated and the auditorium restored.



Above, the Ingersoll Town Hall on the north-east corner of Oxford & King Streets, as it appeared circa 1920. Below, pictured circa 1965. This building was demolished in the late 1980s



June 24 1960

Historical Old Building Is Gone, As Sea Cadets Take Over Armouries

The old officers' mess section of the former Ingersoll Armouries building, Charles Street west, has almost disappeared. The last of the large stones are being rolled away by members of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps, "Ingersoll" who purchased the entire former building that was known as the Ingersoll Armouries.

The drill hall and office sections of the Armouries building have been moved to Wonham street to be used as headquarters for the Ingersoll Sea Cadets.

Members of the corps are working both on the cleaning of their new building and cleaning

up of the old building site.

Some background on the stone building was provided by a local historian, Stanley J. Smith.

He said that the building was constructed in 1839 for a chemist by the name of Berry and he used the rear part of the house for a dispensary. His two sons took over the pharmacy upon their father's death and opened a chemistry on Thames Street, and one of the sons continued to live in the house until 1855. The house was then occupied by a Dr. S. S. Cole, a young 23 year old graduate, who nine months later died suddenly only two days before his wedding day. Dr. Cole died at noon, and on the 2:30 o'clock train from Toronto arrived his bride to be and she was unaware of his death until friends of the doctor advised her of the sad event.

"In 1956, Dr. J. J. Hoyt took over the premises and continued to practice there until he joined partnership with Dr. Williams (father of the late Dr. Ralph Williams) and opened their offices on King Street, opposite Winder's bakery shop. It then became a part of the old Charles Street Methodist Church which many of the older citizens of Ingersoll can recall before it was dismantled earlier in this century."

June 24, 1960

The Ingersoll Armory



The Ingersoll Armory dates back to about 1913 and was located on the site of the present post office. Prior to that date, the Charles Street Episcopal Methodist Church was located on the site of the Shoppers Drug Mart. The drill hall was moved to Wingham Street where it is now the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall. When the new post office was erected on the site of the armory grounds, the old stone building was demolished. In spite of its limited size, it served the regiment during two wars and the drill hall continues to be an asset to the Ingersoll Pipe Band and to the community. (photo contributed)-30-



Historical Highlights

By J. C. Herbert

THE INGERSOLL ARMORY

The Ingersoll Armory dates back to about 1913 and was located on the site of the present post office. Prior to that date, the Charles Street Episcopal Methodist Church was located on the site of the Shoppers Drug mart.

Between the church and Oxford Lane was a cottage-type stone building, occupied at various times as a doctor's office and a private dwelling. The church property was fairly large since there was a parsonage to the west of the church and a cemetery at the rear.

In 1903, it amalgamated with the King Street Methodist Church and the building was used as a Sunday School until about 1911. With war clouds over Europe, there was need for expansion of military establishments in Canada. A group of citizens urged the federal government to build a hall in Ingersoll which could be used as an armory as well as a Scout Hall, but the government was reluctant to do so unless the municipality would provide the site, which the town council was unwilling to do.

Conditions in Europe were becoming more critical and on Sept. 23, 1913, the deputy minister wrote Donald Sutherland, the

Member of Parliament for Oxford, that "the minister approved the purchase of the Duncan property (the small cottage) and the property of the Methodist Church for an armory site in Ingersoll. The church was to be razed and a site cleared for a new drill hall."

Unfortunately, this never happened. When the department invited tenders to clear the site, no tenders were received. When war was declared, a smaller addition was added to the stone building. It was used to store equipment, as lecture rooms and as headquarters for the troops stationed in Ingersoll.

The church was used to billet soldiers and the grounds used for training purposes. James Sinclair, a local historian, recalls seeing troops training on the rounds during the First World War. Following the war, the church was torn down and the material sold for building homes.

With the reorganization of the Oxford Rifles in 1920, Ingersoll became the headquarters of D Company and continued to use the local armory. A detachment of the Royal Canadian Signal Corps also used the building. In 1933, I was asked to take command of the company and while

there was limited interest in the militia, the Oxford Rifles along with the signal detachment continued their regular training at the armory as well as attending summer camps.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, many people responded to the call for recruits and there was a beehive of activity at the local armory. The Department of National Defence realized that additional facilities would be required in Ingersoll and a large drill hall was attached to the armory.

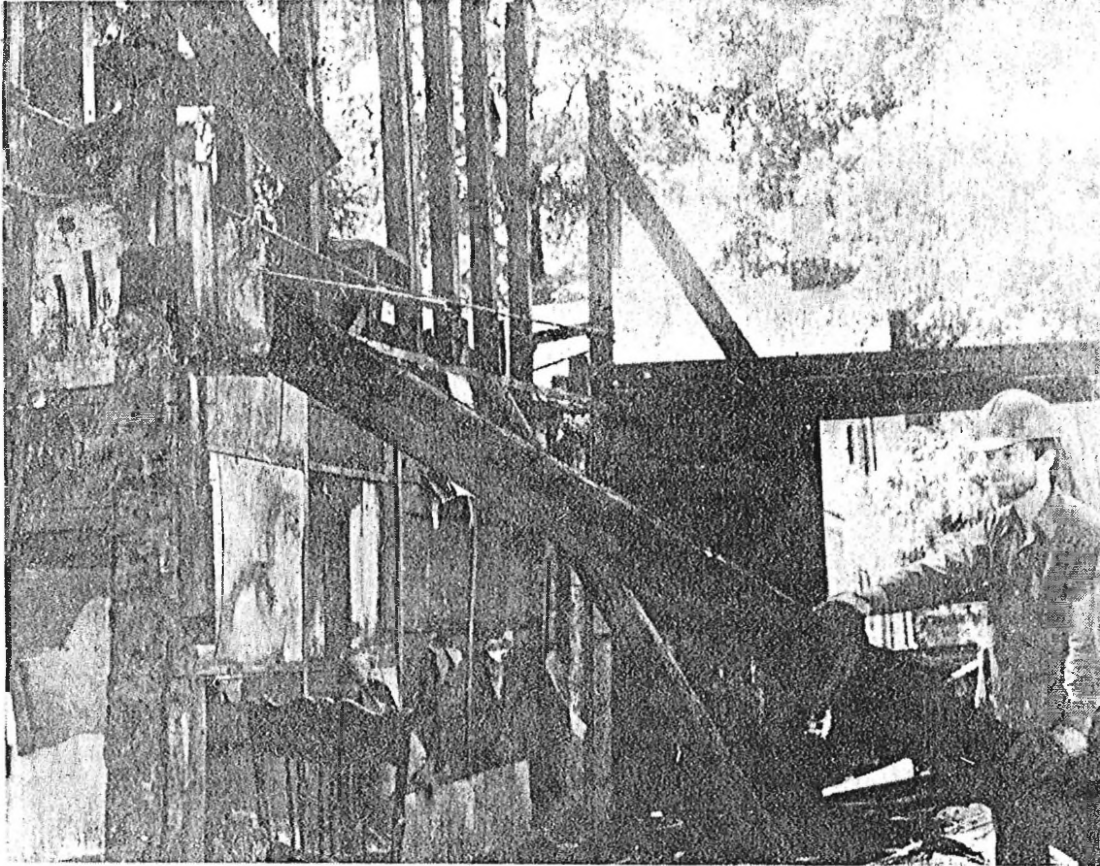
Training continued throughout the war and new recruits replaced those who joined active units in various branches of the service. In March, 1942, the Oxford Rifles were called out for active duty and, after a few months of raining in London, joined a brigade on the west coast for further training and duties.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the hall served as a focal point for many social and civic activities as well as continuing to be used as an armory. In 1950, with the reorganization of the Canadian army, many militia units were disbanded or amalgamated with others. The Oxford Rifles became a company of the London Fusiliers and later a company of the third battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The drill hall was moved to Wingham Street where it is now the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall. When the new post office was erected on the site of the armory grounds, the old stone building was demolished.

In spite of its limited size, it served the regiment during two wars and the drill hall continues to be an asset to the Ingersoll Pipe Band and to the community.

Oldest landmark now gone



One of the oldest structures in Ingersoll had to be torn down about two weeks ago due to a case of advanced termite-itis. It was a barn located on the property of Mrs. Mary Collins, on Carroll St. Alan Dawe, 19 Raglan St., looks like he is viewing the job with mixed feelings as he handles one of the aging beams. The barn was built around 1835.

By Stanley J. Smith

Up to a few days ago I could open my back door and toss out bread to a number of friendly squirrels and birds. The former would snatch a slice and then scurry up the side of a barn and disappear in a hole created by a missing board of the old barn situated in the rear of 143 Carroll St.

This barn was one of the oldest structures in Ingersoll and it was built by Daniel Carroll in 1835 and is now part of the property now occupied by Mrs. Alex Collins and her family.

The barn has been torn down, it was sheathed in shiplap siding similar to other Ingersoll buildings constructed about the early 30's of the last century. The Daniel Carroll mentioned above was one of the sons of John Carroll, who came to Oxford county from Trenton, New Jersey, in 1784.

Mr. Carroll's obituary stated that when he located on Lot 28, North Oxford township and that "there was a considerable settlement there," and he was referring to Oxford-Upon-The-Thames which stretched from Beachville to Putnam along the banks of the Thames river with the greatest number of inhabitants residing in Oxford village which was renamed Ingersoll to honor the original Thomas Ingersoll from Great Barrington, Mass., in 1798. Some historians claimed that his daughter, Laura Secord, visited her father upon numerous occasions, but since then it has been proven that at no time did she leave the Niagara district for such a long walk through the bush.

Through the kindness of Margaret Collins who now resides on the property this writer was supplied with a collection of abstracts, deeds, wills, mortgages and indentures pertaining to the property which is officially described as Lot No. 5 on the old Carroll survey of the town.

When one peruses the old documents one is impressed with the handwriting and the reader would be under the impression that it was done by copperplate engraving as one sees today upon wedding announcements, and one in particular, being a will executed in London, England, consisting of three foolscap pages and one could take oath that it was done on a printing press due to its spaces and clearness. On some of the deeds and mortgages many well known names appear of early residents of Ingersoll, Oxford village, Goderich, Toronto, Hamilton and Dundas. The name of London's John Labatt appears twice and also Allan Wessels appears twice. Mr. Wessels purchased the old Ingersoll Chronicle from W.J. Blackburn, founder of the London Free Press, in 1848. Mr. Blackburn sold the Chronicle to Wessels in 1854. The latter was a green grocer and sold his fruits and vegetables grown on his garden farm situated at the end of Victoria street. As a newspaper man

out to John G. Gurnett, an experienced reporter from the Boston Post.

Within a matter of weeks Gurnett was entangled with a dispute with the mighty Hamilton Spectator because that paper claimed that Gurnett paid Wessels 50 pounds (\$200) and was going to turn it into a party hack for the Reform party.

This argument was quoted in several Canada West publications with the result that the Chronicle's circulation jumped from 500 copies to over a thousand which was considered large for a village paper.

The property at 143 Carroll street was sold as high as \$8,000 which at the time was considered to be enormous and as low as \$1 cash! Although the barn was built in 1835 the documents concerning it and the house are dated from 1852 up to 1942 in which year it was in the possession of Agatha Dougal. Other names mentioned under different dates were Saunders, Adairs, and Agur families.

Carroll street, along with King street east, Hall, Mill and Canterbury streets were the first streets to be built on and King street west then known as the Old Stage Road had few dwellings beyond Church street.

Our library has many volumes of the old Ingersoll Chronicle from 1870 onward.

Mrs. Collins has lived in the house for over 50 years. She remembers that the barn and the house used to be joined together by a chicken house, a carriage house, and a horse stable, which were torn down some years ago. Her father had kept horses on the property at one time.

INGERSOLL
TIMES

October 1, 1975



143 Carroll Street as it appeared in September 2012

Home of Ingersoll's first mayor is now a historic landmark

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

The home of Adam Oliver, controversial first Mayor of Ingersoll, graces the north side of Victoria Street.

The simple square Ontario Gothic style has been extended by two side additions. Victorian love of decoration is evident in the heavy scalloped verge board with its tear-drop design at each corner and pinnacle at the apex of the gable. Unusual chimneys balance the steeply pitched roof. Set sideways, they not only create interest for the observer but also show the builder's pride in accomplishing a complicated feature.

Upper windows on the side are pointed gothic but the front side ones curiously enough, are curved romanesque. Originally part of the servants' quarters,

the windows at this side of the house are unusual in that they break with the gothic styling of the rest of the home. It does reflect the eclectic taste of the energetic original owner, a Maritimer who ran a lumber mill, built several homes in Ingersoll and was a substantial influence in the new town of 1865.

Coloured glass both in the side windows of the front door and the square window on the right extension may be part of the original.

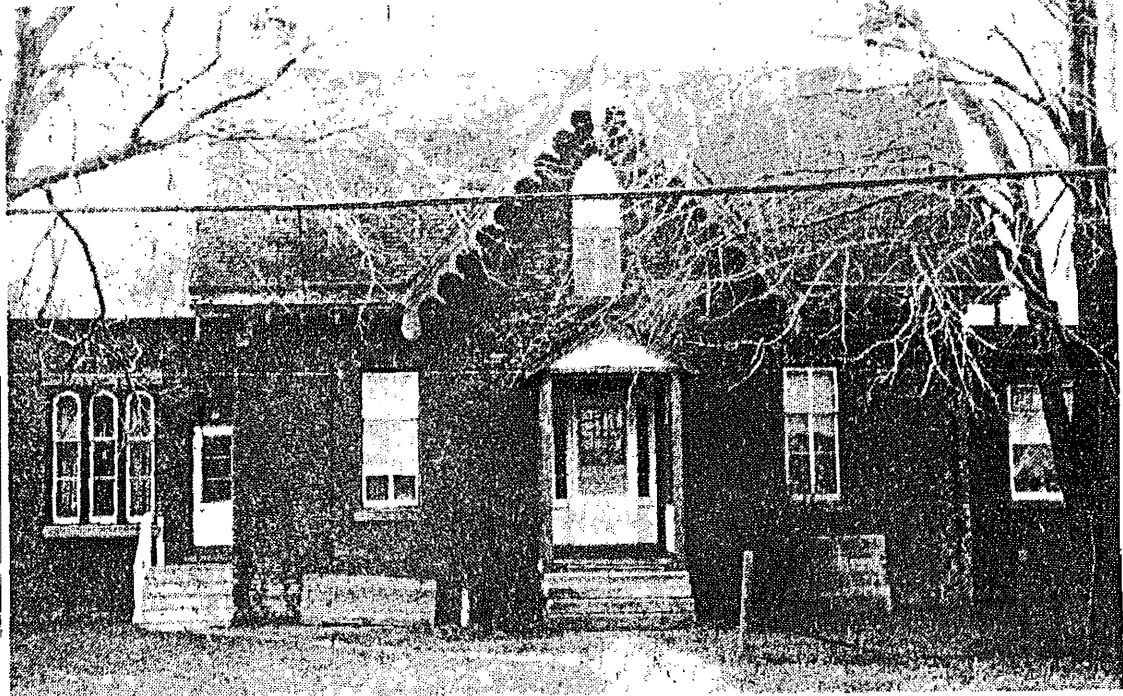
There is a little confusion as to the exact building date of the red brick home. The present owner has evidence that the first mortgage was granted to Oliver in 1856 but the Registry Office in Woodstock shows that the land itself was deeded to

John Carnegie to the Bishop de Charboumel in 1852 and that Adam Oliver purchased it in 1877 from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London, Ontario.

However, there is no doubt at all that Oliver willed the house to his wife in 1882. Mrs. Roy (Marjorie) Hawkins has in her possession his hand-written Last Will and Testament.

She was visited recently by a grandson of Ingersoll's first Mayor who was surprised to find the house still standing. Delighted at finding the original will, he asked Mrs. Hawkins to put it eventually in the Woodstock Museum.

Marjorie Hawkins recalls that when they moved into the old brick house she hated it, "but now, I'd hate to move."



This house was built by Ingersoll's first mayor.

First mayor's house

at Victoria and John

By ARMITA JANES

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — This house at the corner of John and Victoria Streets depicted in a sketch by the late Harry Whitwell, was the home of Ingersoll's first mayor, Adam Oliver.

Oliver took office in 1865 when Ingersoll—formerly the village of Oxford—was incorporated as a town.

A New Brunswick native, Oliver emigrated to Upper Canada in 1836. It was in 1850 he moved to Ingersoll to establish a building and contracting business.

Oliver got the contract to build the town's railway depot at a cost of \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Five years after establishing his contracting business, Oliver opened a wood and joiner's shop where he manufactured and sold lumber.

With the building of the railway, the village spread north and south of the Thames River on Thames Street away from the Stage Coach Road.

Ingersoll's population was increasing. So was Oliver's business.

In 1860 Oliver opposed a petition to the Governor-General to have Ingersoll proclaimed a town. As Reeve, it was easy for him to dominate the small village council. He knew it would be more difficult, as mayor, to dominate town council.

This resistance to town status got Oliver criticism from the Chronicle, and lost him his seat on village council in 1863.

But Oliver bounced back. In 1865 Ingersoll was incorporated as a town to be governed by a mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and three councillors from each of three wards. Oliver was elected as mayor.

Oliver declined a third term as mayor to contest the South Oxford riding in Ontario's first general election in 1867.

Running as a reformer (Liberal) in a traditionally Reform constituency, he defeated another Reformer, James Noxon.

In 1872 Oliver was the leading promoter of the Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Port Burwell Railway which would link the town to the Canada Southern Railway, running south of the Great Western Railway.

Later Oliver fought to get an extension of the Credit Valley Railway from Galt to pass through Ingersoll and connect with the Canada Southern system at St. Thomas.

Economic prospects of the Thunder Bay district became promising when the Federal Government became interested in building a transcontinental railway.

Oliver shrewdly invested in the district by forming a partnership with two other men, buying a timber limit, and establishing the first saw and planing mill at Thunder Bay. Within three years the company held timber rights to 40,000 acres.

Three years later the Government filed plans to make Fort William town plot the Lake Superior terminus of its railway to the Pacific.

Oliver, Davidson and Co. was not sitting pretty. It held 136 acres next to the town plot, and 42 lots within the town plot. Most of these holdings were designated as railway land.

Oliver resigned his seat in the provincial legislature because of a possible contravention of the Independence of Parliament Act. He acknowledged that Oliver, Davidson and

Co. had inadvertently sold timber to a provincial government buyer.

Oliver transferred his share of the profit on this deal to his partners, and protesting his innocence of the transaction, sought re-election.

But after an investigation revealed there was bribery and corrupt practices among Oliver's supporters, he didn't contest a by-election.

In 1877 he was beaten by James Noxon in his bid for the office of deputy reeve. However, a second bid for that office in 1880 was successful.

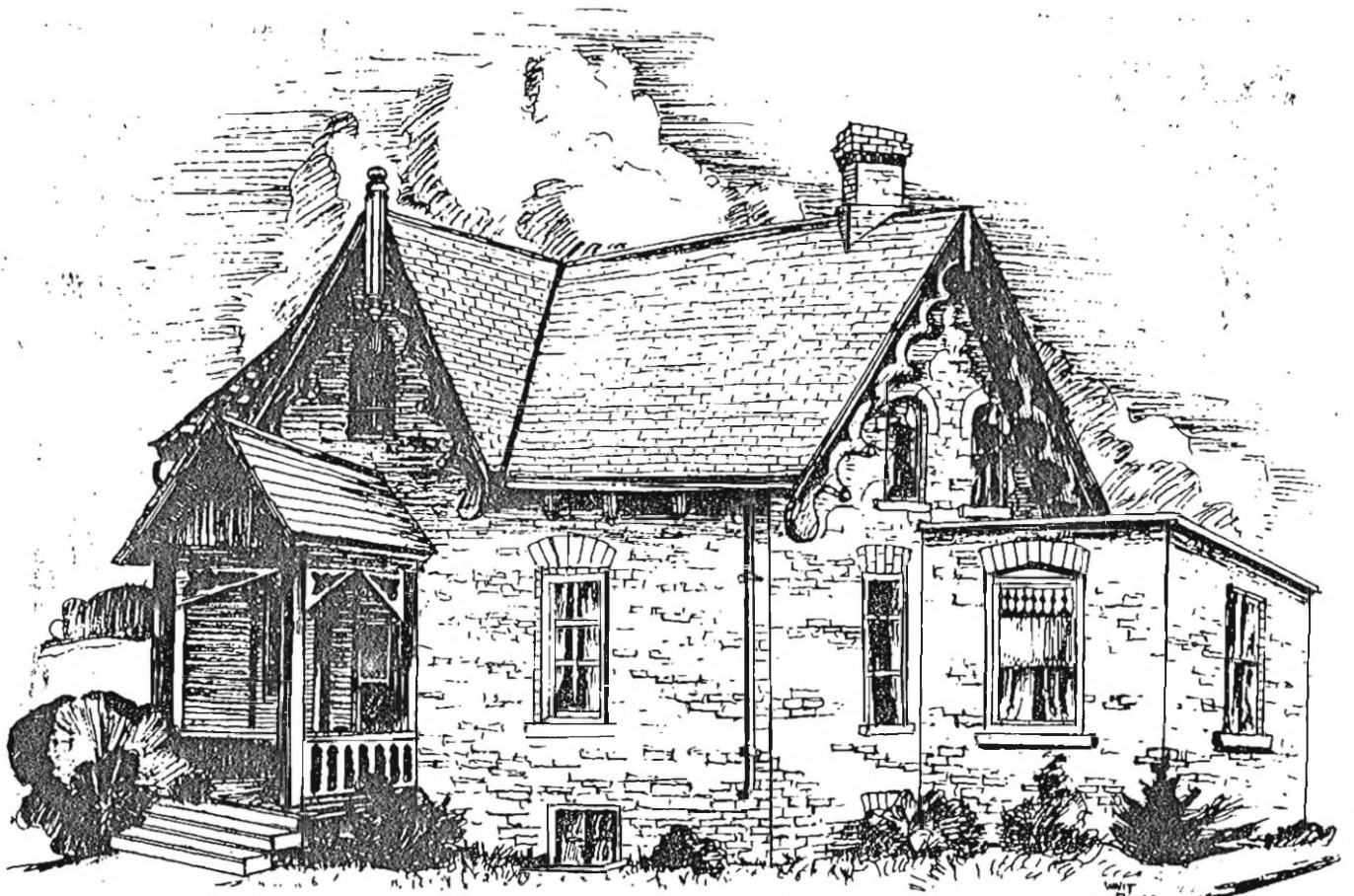
But Oliver's political career came to an end when he was stricken with paralysis and had to resign his seat.

He died October 9, 1882, two months before his 59th birthday.

SENTINEL REVIEW

March 21, 1979

First mayor's house at Victoria and John.



House at John and Victoria streets was home of first mayor.

SENTINEL REVIEW

March 21, 1979

(page 2 of 2)



Robert Galer, the great grandson of Ingersoll's first mayor, Adam Oliver, sits on the steps of his great grandfather's home on Victoria Street. Mr. Galer wants the house declared an historic site. It was built in 1870. (Photo by Steve Simon)

First mayor's kin want home saved

Robert Galer would like to see his great grandfather's Victoria Street home named an historic site.

Mr. Galer is the great grandson of Ingersoll's first mayor, Adam Oliver. The retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and his wife, Mary Jane, visited the Oliver homestead Monday for their first time, as part of their first visit to Ontario.

On vacation from Columbus, Georgia, the Galers decided to include Ingersoll in their trip, to gather family history and to get a first hand glimpse of the community.

"I was surprised to see it still standing,"

admitted Mr. Galer. "I would like to leave a message with the town council and chamber," he continued. "I would like to see the home designated as a historic site" to preserve that piece of Ingersoll's past.

The home, now lived in by Marjorie Hawkins, is located at 41 Victoria Street. It was built in 1870, five years after Oliver was elected mayor of Ingersoll.

Inside the red brick home is a spacious living room and dining room, five bedrooms, a kitchen with a large pantry, and a bathroom. The floors are of a soft wood.

Continued On Page 3

INGERSOLL
TIMES

July 24, 1985



Former home of Ingersoll's first mayor, Adam Oliver, located at 46 Victoria Street as pictured in August 2012

Though the lamplighter has long disappeared the pre-confederation cottage is still standing

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

A pre-confederation cottage, it is part of the Carnegie Survey and was willed by John Carnegie to his wife in 1855.

The father of the present owner bought the house in 1904, four years before he became the mayor of Ingersoll. George Sutherland was not only Mayor (1908-1909) but was instrumental in the acquisition of land for the original Alexandra Hospital and was the first President of the Board.

Georgetta Harper's father travelled and worked in New Orleans in his youth and such was his love for southern architecture of plantation mansions, he imported the Doric columns from Georgia to add to the front of his own home.

Another charming anachronism is the delicate iron fretwork on the roof which was added at the same time.

Victorian styling lasted longer than the Monarch's reign and the addition of such whimsical fretwork is typical of later Victorian homes. It was agreeable to the eye, created an interesting outline against the sky and added a finishing touch to the building, rather like an antimacassar on a sofa.

Mrs. Norman Harper has lived in the house all of her life and was even married in the front room.

Thames Street used to be lit with gas and her father was one of the people who succeeded in getting hydro to Ingersoll,

putting an end to the lamplighter who used to wend his way up the hill, turning on the lamps to chase away the

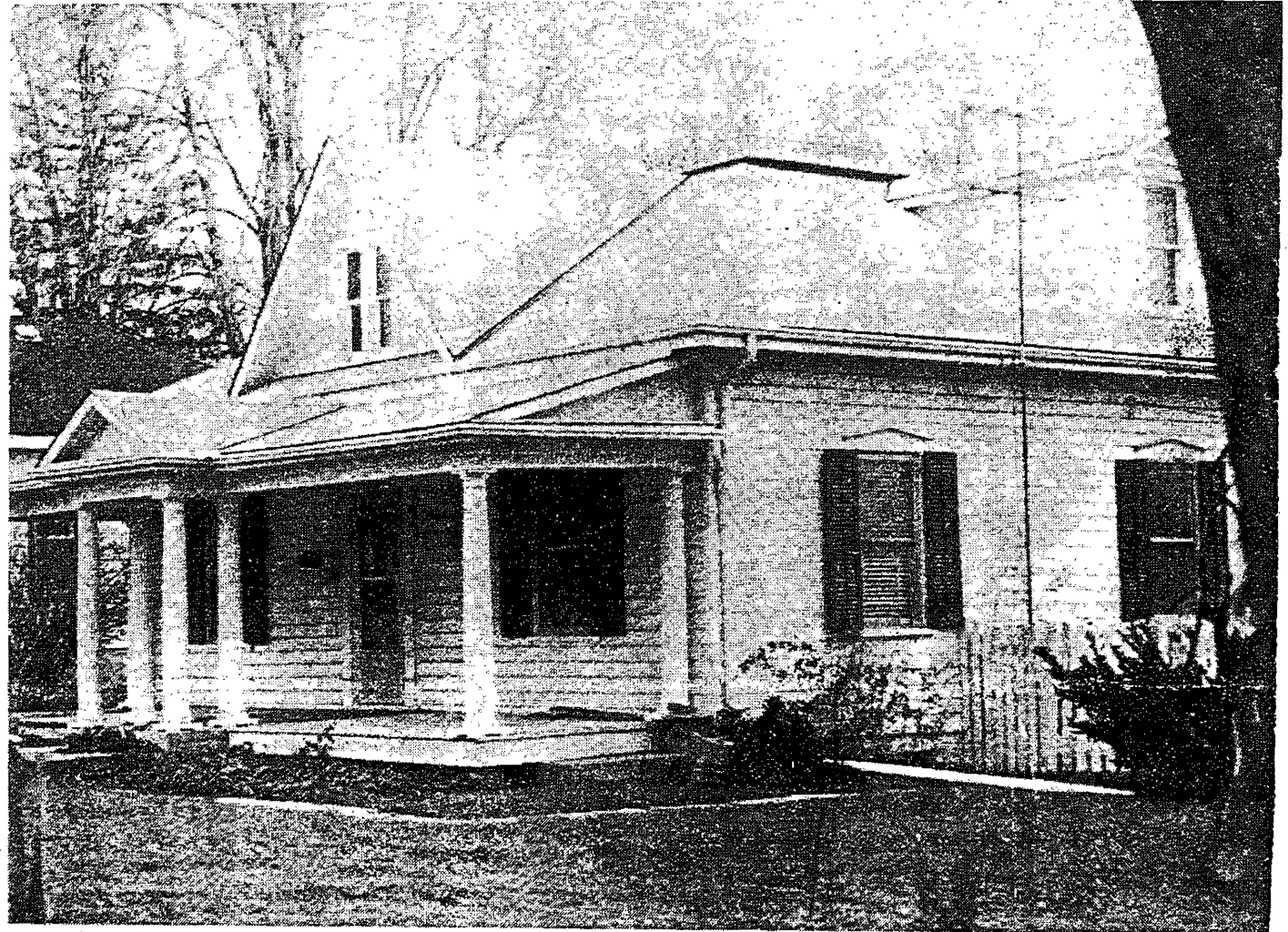
lengthening shadows.

The foundation walls of the cottage are incredibly thick, about two feet, and the original

pine floors are thicker than a man's thumb.

The lamplighter has disappeared into history but the

frame cottage with its Georgian pillars watches with quiet dignity as Ingersoll changes and grows.



This pre-confederation cottage has long outlasted the lamplighters who at one time, passed the house nightly, to light the street lights.

242 Thames Street North

INGERSOLL Times
 March 8, 1978



242 Thames Street North as it appeared in September 2012

Cherished memories from the house on the hill

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

This striking home was originally part of the extensive Crotty' properties in north Ingersoll and is an example of a high Victorian town house. Margaret Street was named after Squire Crotty's wife and the property on the corner of Margaret and Skye was deeded by Henry Crotty and wife to a William Marr in 1867. Construction was believed to have started shortly afterwards, although in 1879 the property passed into the hands of Adam Oliver who was actively engaged in land development at that time.

The builder borrowed from another architectural age and the basically conservative lines are adorned by tall Ionic columns. More graceful than the solid Doric, these columns are unique to the town and far from being a non-structural addition, they seem to support

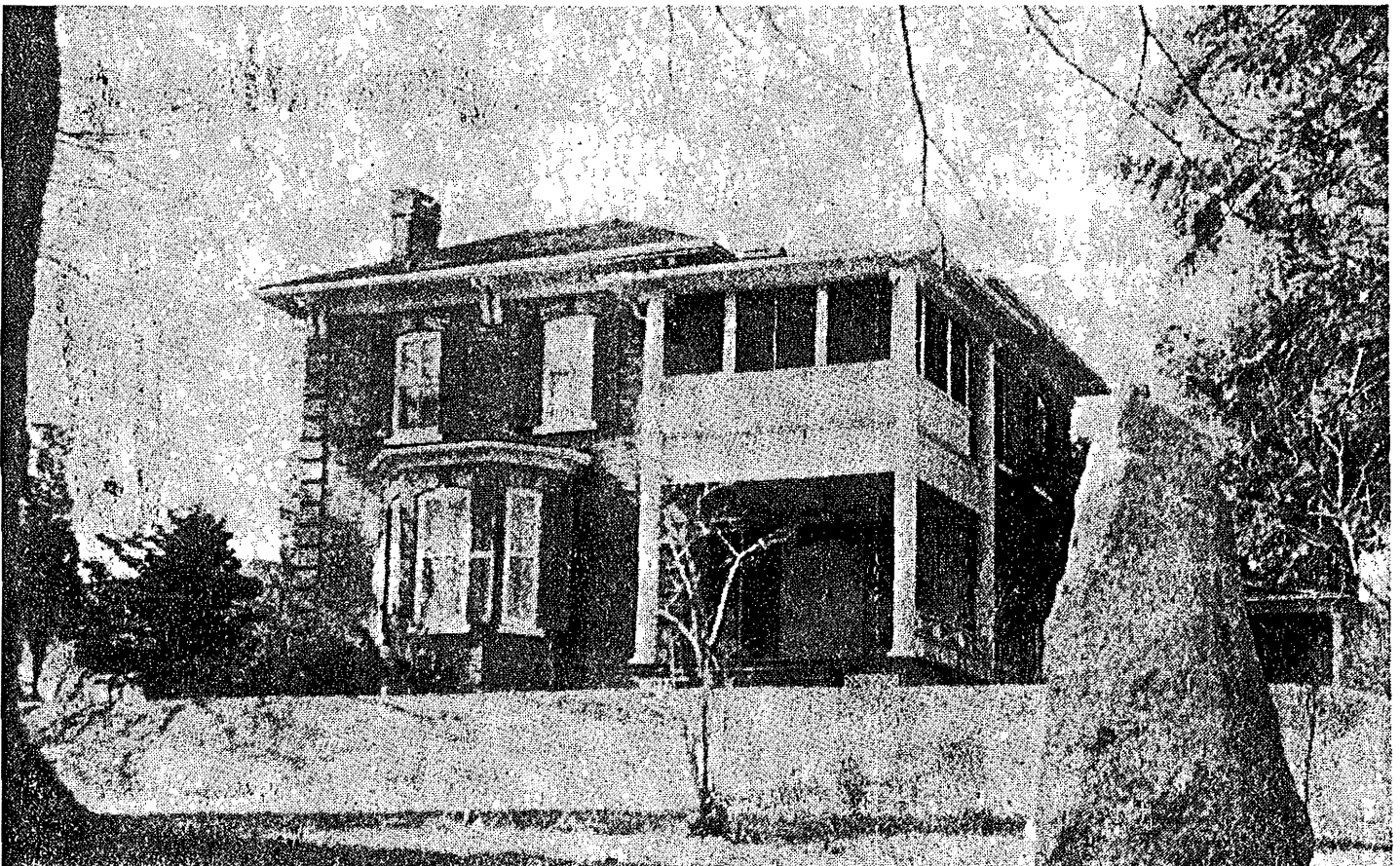
an inner porch or sunroom on the second storey. The outline of the house is further softened by a bay window, dearly loved by the Victorians.

The transom over the door is an interesting compromise; neither straight nor fan-shaped, the accommodating curve blends into any adopted style. Two other features worth mentioning are the decorative key stones over the windows and the curved brackets under the eaves.

There is a large boulder sitting upright on the corner of the property that caused a good deal of excitement when it was discovered on the river flats. Speculation arose that it might be a piece of meteorite. A former owner, Bertha Sitter, could not recall which family had the

rock hauled from the river (both the Podmores and Muirs at one time lived in the house) but does remember the sensation it caused when two teams of horses pulled the huge boulder up the hill.

Mrs. Sitter, the former Mrs. Walter Leaper, was presented the home as a surprise by her husband. Impressed by the long columns she nevertheless had doubts about being able to take care of such a large house. Many years and three grown children later, she cherishes happy memories of the house on the hill.



This home on Margaret Street is an example of a high Victorian town house. The house was built in the late 1860's and was

originally part of the extensive Crotty properties.

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 10 1978



173 Margaret Street as pictured in August 2012

Where gala dances were once held

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

Imposing architecture is not a poor man's game and grand residences reflect both the bank accounts and the personality of their owners. Former home of C.C.L. Wilson, Managing Director of the Ingersoll Packing Company from 1876 to 1919, this elegant structure stands four square on the corner of King and Wonham Streets.

Built in the late 19th Century, the architect took a simple square design and borrowing from the Romanesque, imposed upon it a dignified effect. The aura of solid security is perpetuated in the rounded roof dormer, Ionic columns that support the porch and heavy rounded decoration over

Built in the late 19th Century, the architect took a simple square design and borrowing from the Romanesque, imposed upon it a dignified effect. The aura of solid

security is perpetuated in the rounded roof dormer, heavy rounded decoration over the windows, and Ionic columns that support the porch. The keystone is in the form of a scallop shell.

The slate roof is topped by a lantern or belvedere. Sometimes these were small rooms on their own from which the owners could gain access to the roof but this lantern merely provides light to the attic as well as presenting an interesting roof

The veranda extends the length of the principle face of the residence, culminating in a circular bandshell corner before continuing down the right side. Bay windows on both sides of the home soften the outline and the pillared front porch supports a classical triangular tympanum with a decorative crest. Above this rests a charming second storey sunroom with a curved roof and the name "Melrose" emblazoned on the support arch.

It is suggested that "Melrose" had a Scottish connection with the Wilsons and may have been the name of an ancestral home or village. There was once a brand of cheese called Melrose that was produced by the Ingersoll Packing and Cheese Company and former owner Doug Carr suggested that the home may have been called after the popular cheese or visa versa.

The back addition on Wonham Street may have been the original house. It is a simple cottage construction, complete in itself, joined to the larger house through a series of steps. It was used as servants quarters at the turn of the century. The decoration over the windows has more detailed rope carving than the main house and additional scalloping under the eaves suggests a time gap between the building of the two structures.

The property itself was acquired by J.M. Wilson in 1869 from Thomas Kerr and wife and in 1875 a mortgage was granted to Wilson which may have been the date of construction of the little house.

The present owner, Mrs. K. Kay, believes that the main house was built about 1890. Upkeep of such a house is a constant problem but Mrs. Kay derives a great deal of satisfaction in the beautiful old place.

In its heyday, when C.C.L. Wilson was alive, grand socials and dances swirled throughout the rooms. Mrs. W.E. Cragg who now occupies the upper flat remembers as a young girl watching the elegant affairs and pointed out that they used to have oyster parties in the basement around an enormous block of ice that kept the mollusks cool.

INGERSOLL TIMES

April 19, 1978



C.C.L. WILSON sought solid respectability when he had this house built at the corner of

King and Wonham Streets. Kristina Kaye is now the owner of the impressive home.

Formal finery lives here

Fourth of six

Story and photos
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — During the late 1800s and early 1900s, a grey brick home on King Street West was at the centre of Ingersoll's social world. Gentlemen dressed in formal finery signed ladies' dance cards to reserve a whirl around the ballroom.

The ballroom has since disappeared — divided into several smaller chambers — but the grandeur of this historical home remains.

The Melrose, as it's known, takes its name from a village in Scotland. Melrose also means "a serene, quiet resting place," an apt description according to current owner Kristina Kaye.

She moved to the house in 1972. As a single mother, she wanted a large home in order to get help with accommodation costs; the house contains three apartments. Kaye now finds

historic homes

that most of the money she makes from rent goes right back into maintaining the house.

"Older homes are enjoyable but they're a lot of work," she smiled.

The house was constructed around 1890 for C.C.L. Wilson, managing director of the Ingersoll Packing Company, by the Christopher Brothers. These local contractors also built an Italianate villa, home of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Thames Street.

The Melrose, however, employs a design that's Romanesque with a basic square floor plan.

Elegance was added with a portico that extends around the front and side of the house. On the corner is a circular bandshell, supported by ionic columns.

The house sits on a large lot at the

intersection of King and Wonham streets. The side lawn, which dips in elevation from the sidewalk, was once home to a lawn bowling club.

Indoors, Kaye's taste for graceful furniture complements the unique features of the house - elaborate ceiling mouldings, fireplaces of marble and ceramic tile, carved wood trim, large bay windows and a charming sunroom on the upper level.

The Melrose was owned by the Clear family after it was sold by Wilson's widow in 1920. In 1929, ownership transferred to the Carr Family. Kaye took possession 16 years ago.

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 14, 1988



'Melrose' at 168 King Street West as it appeared in September 2012

Local home duplicated from one in California

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

Almost hidden from view by a lush growth of evergreens, the little home on Thames St. South is the result of a trip to California at the turn of the century by Ingersoll businessman, Fred Bowman. He was so

entranced by his sister-in-law's home in the Gold Rush State that he had an exact duplicate built in Ingersoll.

Fred Bowman whose Bicycle and Machine Shop was downtown Thames Street, also sold musical instruments and owned a Nursery. That accounts for

the flowering and evergreen trees that lovingly surround the house.

The services of an architect

who was also a cabinet maker were employed in the construction of the building. An appreciation of fine woodwork

is evident throughout the house in the hardwood floors and carved decor.

Mr. Bowman transferred the

home to his wife, a Turner from Beachville in 1914 for the sum of \$1.00.

At first glance the white structure looks like a doll's house built for people. The charming house combines all the features that Victorians loved; the pillared porch, bay windows, roof angles intersecting each other, brackets under the eaves and a little tower topped with a pinnacle. Reflecting its California heritage, the house is stucco.

The present owners, W.H. Robinson fell in love with the house and its picturesque view at first sight. The view of Smith's Pond disappeared when the dam gave way and has been replaced by a green field.



This home on Thames Street South is the exact replica of one in California.

INGERSOLL
MAY 3, 1978
TIMES



Built by Fred Bowman, Ingersoll merchant, 287 Thames Street South as it appeared in September 2012

110 Charles Street West



This Charles Street home duplicates a style often seen in early fieldstone houses.

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 10, 1978



110 Charles Street East as it appeared in August 2012

King Street home once an Indian trade post and camping ground

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

Set well back from the stage coach highway of King Street East, the old green frame house and surrounding property are an integral part of Ingersoll's history.

The present owner, Dr. John A. Patterson believes the knoll was once an Indian trading post. Library research refers to the commanding position as an Indian summer camping ground.

The property was purchased in 1815 by John Carroll, one of Oxford County's earliest known white settlers. It included the "land to the bank of the river Thames to the burying ground allowed in the s.e. angle of the lot." John later divided the property between two of his sons, Daniel and James.

Daniel, who acquired the farmhouse, was active in business in and around Ingersoll and established a flour mill about where the Canadian Tire store is now located. He married Clarissa Hall whose family home further to the east, was the first brick home in Ingersoll.

From the use of square nails and the panelling of the interior doors, a type discontinued after

1830, construction is believed to have taken place prior to that date. The windows are particularly noteworthy as the use of the 12 pane panel is both a mark of extreme age and high quality workmanship.

Originally there was just the central portion, a traditionally plain, no nonsense design. The wings were added at the turn of the century in the English manner of paried out-buildings flanking the house rather than the American addition at the rear, hidden from view. The dormers are a later addition as well, but the full front porch has been cut back to its present size.

Library files record coins found in the orchard dating back to 1837 when militia soldiers sheltered their horses there.

The cemetery in the south east corner exists no more, long since overrun by grazing cattle. The stones were removed and according to Byron Jenvey, who used to walk past the old graveyard on his way to school, they were rumoured to have been used as flooring for a basement in a nearby home as well as for several walkways.

Since publishing May 3 Echoes of the Past article on the former Bowman home on

Thames Street South, Fred Bowman's granddaughter, Ruth Grieve, along with others have corrected an error.

Mr. Bowman owned three houses at different times, all on Thames Street. The charming stucco home in the article was not built by Mr. Bowman but purchased by him from Walter Reader. Extensive carpentry was carried out in the shell of a house by Walter Reader under the direction of Fred Bowman and his wife, Minnie.

Miss Grieve is uncertain of a Californian connection with this home, although she remembers visiting her grandparents as a young girl and thought that they lived in a castle. The deed was transferred to Minnie Bowman in 1931 at the cost of \$1.

The home "Florida style" that Fred Bowman had built is at the corner of Holcroft and Thames Street, "Valley View."

INGERSOLL TIMES

(Page 1 of 2)

May 17, 1978

(Page 2 of 2)

INGERSOLL
TIMES
May
11, 1978



This home, located on King Street East, was once an Indian trading post. Library files record coins found in the orchard, near the home, dating back to 1837 when militia soldiers sheltered their horses there.

This home at 111 King Street East was demolished in the 1990s

Oxford Street home was once owned by a manufacturer of lumber

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

In a town where brick homes predominate, this white frame

house stands out beautifully on the corner of Oxford and Ann Streets.

The former home of Justus

Miller incorporates nearly all the features of a high Victorian home.

Described as "a beautiful new

home" in 1895, it has a whimsical tower and bay windows, intersecting roof angles from the main hipped roof section, a veranda with softly curved arches and a generous application of fancy woodwork. Everything is delightfully off balance in a successful Victorian attempt to create an outline that is a delight to the eye.

Mr. Miller was engaged in business as a manufacturer of lumber and in the 1880's he and his brother Roger had a successful career as contractors with the Dominion Government constructing large public works such as canal locks, docks and harbor improvements.

The lavish contrasts in wood are mute testimony to a fondness for and knowledge of lumber. The roof is shingled. Note the beautiful winged eave supports and the scalloped decorative pattern under the bay windows and the turret.

The present owner, John Rawlings, believes that the lumber for the house came from the Miller's planing mill at Mt. Elgin and that Frank Leake, a noted artisan in wood carving, worked on the interior of the house. When the interior was re-designed, Rawlings had 2 by 4's made from the heavy two foot wide planks that had been used in the original construction.

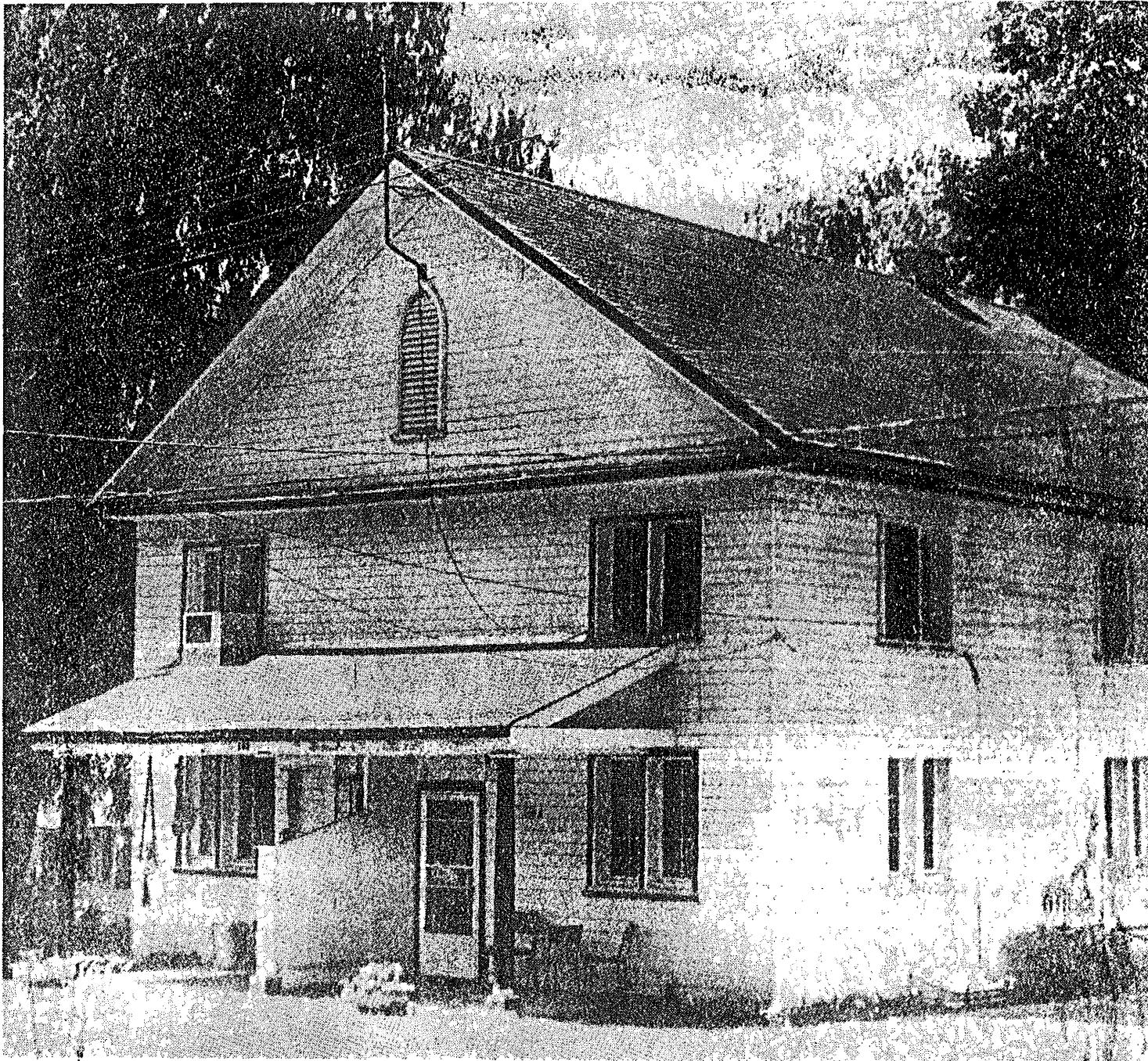


This home, at the corners of Oxford and Ann Street, incorporates nearly all the features of a high Victorian home. The lumber for the home is believed to have come from the Miller's planing mill at Mount Elgin.

INGERSOLL
MAY 24, 1978
TIMES



244 Oxford Street as it appeared in September 2012



This home, originally part of the William Carnegie estate was once a school. Many local residents remember attending the two room elementary school.

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

There are several homes on John Street with checkered histories but one of the strangest is this white frame building with the curious windows.

Originally part of the William Carnegie estate, the Methodist Church erected a building for worship in the 1870's. The building did not last long as a church, however, and it became part of the public school system when it was acquired by the Union Board of School Trustees in 1883.

There are many residents in Ingersoll today who remember attending the two room John Street elementary school, among them Charlie Stevens who used to recall skipping across the street in his bare feet to attend class. A souvenir edition of the Ingersoll Sun, 1907 refers to the "Misses McPhater and A. Hull teachers in John St. School."

According to an early report from R. A. Paterson, Inspector of Public Schools, pupils crowded out of the Ward School were transferred to the old Church on John

Street until the completion of Princess Elizabeth School in 1909.

Two-years-later the building was to a private individual who then transferred ownership to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation Diocese of London. In the 30's the building was converted into apartments and the long windows were divided in Two.

The present owner, Norman Brown, has in his possession a charming old photograph showing the young pupils lined up in front of the school with their two teachers in the background.



163 John Street as it appeared in August 2012

200 Albert Street

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

In 1836, Charles Ingersoll divided extensive lands in the south west of the village among his sons. The land upon which the imposing grey house sits, passed through several hands as the years rolled by. It is believed that the house was

built about 1866 by John S. Gurnett, publisher of the Ingersoll Chronicle.

The doughty Gurnett established his elegant domicile on Albert Street at some distance from the hubbub of the commercial centre of the new town and the house seems to

reflect the taste of a solid and respected citizen.

The romanesque theme in the rounded front door, sidelights and curved transom is echoed in the arched brickwork on the front face of the building. This is repeated in the triple-windowed bay and the glass throughout is

exquisitely bevelled.

In 1888 the property passed to the Mayor of Ingersoll, Thomas Seldon. He was a prosperous businessman who exported apples and poultry to England. It was partly due to his efforts that the spraying of fruit orchards was begun locally.

According to a newspaper article dated 1967, Seldon extended the dining room to the south and built a den at the front where the conservatory has been. He also added the

front porch. The solid romanesque entrance blends with the overall style of the house, its Ionic columns supporting a classical triangular entablature and further topped by a railing that is cornered by graceful urns.

In 1916 George Mason, an influential businessman in town, purchased the house and moved in with his bride. Irene Mason recalls that a lady's saddle had been left in the coach house and that the house contained magnificent mirrors that Seldon brought back from one of his many trips to

England. When they moved in, the brick home was painted red and she believes that at other times it was yellow and green.

Now the house is French Grey and the town that Gurnett had wished to keep at a distance, has encircled the lovely old home.



The land upon which this house sits has passed through several hands as the years rolled by. It is believed the home was originally built around 1866 by John S. Gurnett, publisher of the Ingersoll Chronicle. In 1880 the land was passed on to the Mayor of Ingersoll, Thomas Seldon.

Home once owned by newspaper publisher

INGERSOLL TIMES

May 31, 1978

historic homes

From The Big Smoke to The Big Cheese, and small-town life

Second of four

Story and photos
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — One example of how real estate prices have soared in large urban centres is illustrated by the Koffman family's experience.

After his job was transferred to the southwestern Ontario, Alan Koffman and wife Dorothy put their 12-year-old, aluminum-sided house on the Toronto market. The two storey structure backed on to a major highway and had a front yard that was shared by neighbors.

The house sold in five days.

Meanwhile, in Ingersoll, a gracious historic home on a shady, landscaped lot is adorned by a "For Sale" sign for months and months. The Koffmans scooped it up in October of 1986 for actually less than what their house in Toronto brought.

"We just love it here," said Dorothy of their transition from city to small town life. "There's no comparison. This place is just

unbelievable."

Their home is *The Mason House*, situated on the corner of Frances and Albert streets. According to research done by J.C. Herbert, the house was built in 1866 for John Gurnett, publisher of *The Ingersoll Chronicle*, who wanted a place away from town.

Since then, Ingersoll has surrounded Mason House and neighboring homes now stand in the apple orchard. In 1898, the house passed on to Thomas Seldon, a former mayor of Ingersoll and an exporter of apples. It then was transferred in 1916 to George and Irene Mason, for whom the house is named.

THREE LAYERS OF BRICK

Although the house is made of three layers of yellow brick, it's now painted a shade of french grey — befitting the house's Romanesque theme. The large front stone porch, triple-arched windows and rounded front door with curved transom are other indications of the style.

Inside, the visitor to the Mason House is visually struck by the



THE MASON House was built in 1866 for John S. Gurnett, publisher of *The Ingersoll Chronicle*. Alan and Dorothy Koffman became the home's owners over a year ago.

solid walnut staircase that curves up to the second floor. Original walnut and brass furnishings remain throughout the home.

Highlights of the parlor include two expansive mirrors, both in gold frames and one with hand-painted drawings. They were

bought in England, shipped to New York and eventually arrived in Ingersoll by rail. The formal dining room features deep blue, handpainted wallpaper and an elaborate pressed tin ceiling. A conservatory, also on the first

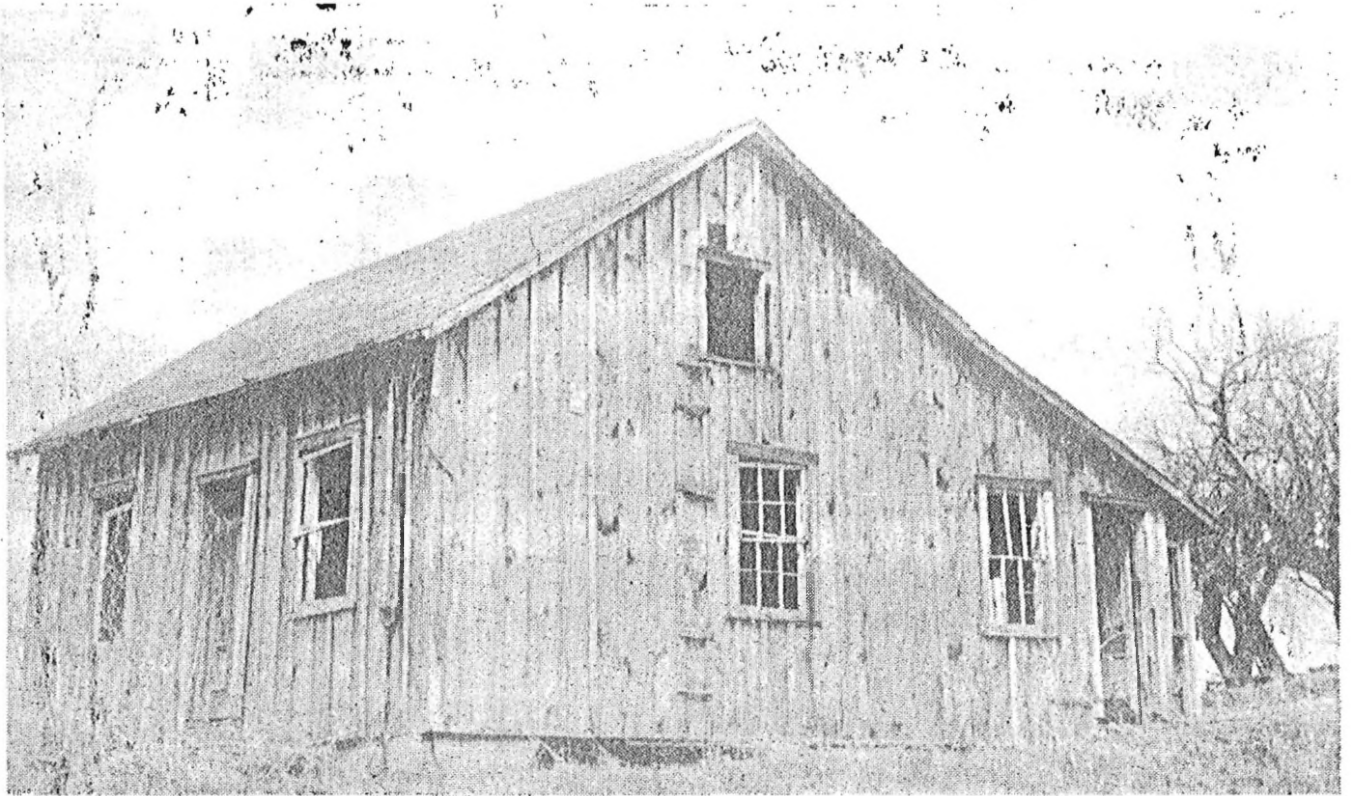
floor, has an airy feel due to the curved windows overlooking the gardens outside.

The Koffmans are thrilled with their home's history. They recently had the original deed and other documents framed for proud display.

SENIOR REVIEW
July 12, 1988



200 Albert Street as it appeared in August 2012



This cabin, located on River Road was formerly owned by the railway. It was built on the right of way for the section foreman of the maintenance crew. The house was acquired by John Revell around 1900.

Cabin once used by the railway

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

Here is an abandoned cabin in a field, door ajar and greying in the sun. The little forgotten house on the River Road farm of Jim Revell has a surprising history.

At the turn of the century when the railway was King, these little houses were built on the right of way for the section foreman of the maintenance crew.

The system was eventually abandoned along with the railroad houses.

This one was acquired by John Revell around 1900. He moved it away from the track and up to his farm. With the help of a neighbor the house was loaded on two farm wagons and a steam tractor pulled the strange load up the hill.

His son, Jim Revell, claims that the frame is still solid although vandals have broken the windows and otherwise damaged this unique piece of history.

There are two notable features in the house. The roof is known as "Salt-

box"; the design being similar to the early settler's boxes of salt. The

short front section was the lid. The back roof is extended in a straight line to cover the addition. More

popular in the New England States than here, it is nevertheless a practical design and is found throughout Ontario as well.

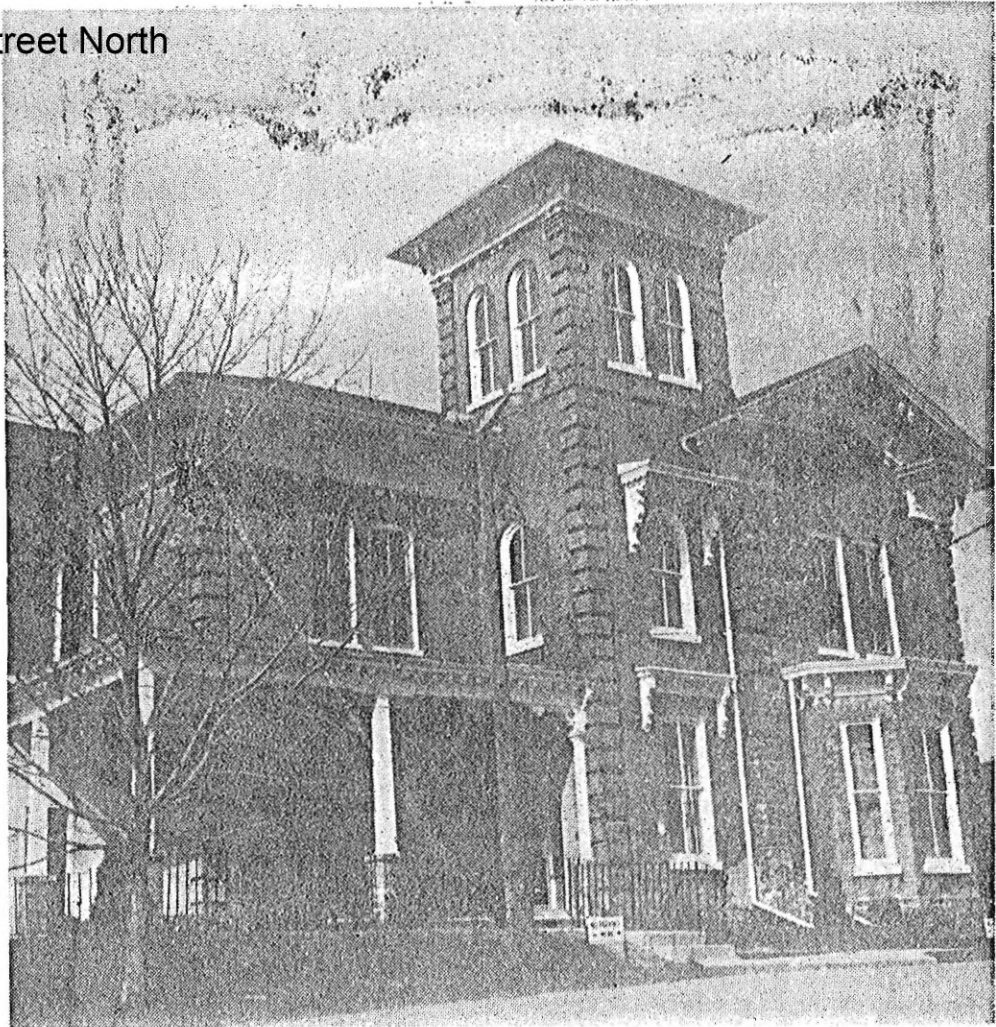
The second feature is the use of board and batten

construction, that is, vertical boarding with narrow strip board between the sections. This method is more commonly found in old barns and can be seen in the Cheese Factory Museum in Ingersoll.

Echoes of the Past

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 14, 1978



The Royal Canadian Legion, located on Thames Street was built by the Christopher brothers, an early Ingersoll firm of contractors. The property was acquired by George Christopher in 1856 and the building went up in 1871.

Echoes of the Past

Royal Canadian Legion was built by a local contractor

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

The Christophers were an early firm of contractors in Ingersoll. The *Gazetteer* of 1862 made reference to the intensive business "with 14 men in their employment working with a 16-horse power engine."

This property on Thames St. North was acquired by George Christopher, architect, in 1856, additional lands purchased in 1871.

He proceeded to build himself an Italianate Villa, a style that was popular among the Victorians in their desire to relate to the past.

Romantic Eclecticism is the term used for this borrowing of other styles

with their Tuscan towers and long arched windows breathes romance of far away places.

By the turn of the century the home belonged to the Ellis family, believed to be the same that owned the Ellis Furniture Company.

For a while it was turned into apartments and Joe Balfour, a former resident recalls that all six bedroom rooms had marble fireplaces. Unefficient for heating, they have long since been removed.

The focus of design of the house is the decorative tower. It used to house innumerable bats and a flock of pigeons, all of which were evicted when the Royal Canadian Legion acquired possession of the

INGERSOLL TIMES
June 21, 1978



211 Thames Street North as it appeared in August 2012, the home of the Royal Canadian Legion branch 119

A log cabin from pioneer Canada

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

It is almost impossible to comprehend what day to day living was really like in pioneer Canada. There are reconstructed forts and settlements but they become an entity unto themselves and it is not until one comes across a cabin such as this that the enormity of the task of making a home in the wilderness, is realized.

The log cabin, just outside Ingersoll, on the road to Thamesford, is the original home of the Stephenson family and was shelter for the family until the brick house was constructed. Some of the original wood has rotted away and was replaced by the late Harry Stephenson. It is sad to note that the replacement logs have not lasted as long as the originals.

The cabin was built further back from the road and was moved to its present location by the Highway in 1921.

Such log cabins were usually absorbed into subsequent farm buildings, becoming barns for livestock or summer kitchens as the families moved into more elaborate constructions that were commonly built directly in front of the first log home.

This little cabin with its square-end construction is unique in that it was kept separate.

This is not to say that it was preserved as a monument however, and according to Ruth Ann Stephenson, it has served time as a service station, a fruit stand and a gift shop. The landmark on the Log Cabin Road is unoccupied now and slowly losing its battle with weather and old age. It is a unique part of Oxford County and Canada's history.



This log cabin reflects what day to day living offered early pioneers in Canada.

INGERSOLL
P.M.
TIMES
1978



The log cabin as it appeared in August 2013 at the north-west corner of Oxford County Road 119 & the 27th Line

190 Thames Street North was demolished in the 1980s

Home once connected to hotel

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

John Christopher acquired this property, 190 Thames Street North, a little to the south and across the street from the land purchased by his brother George (now the Royal Canadian Legion).

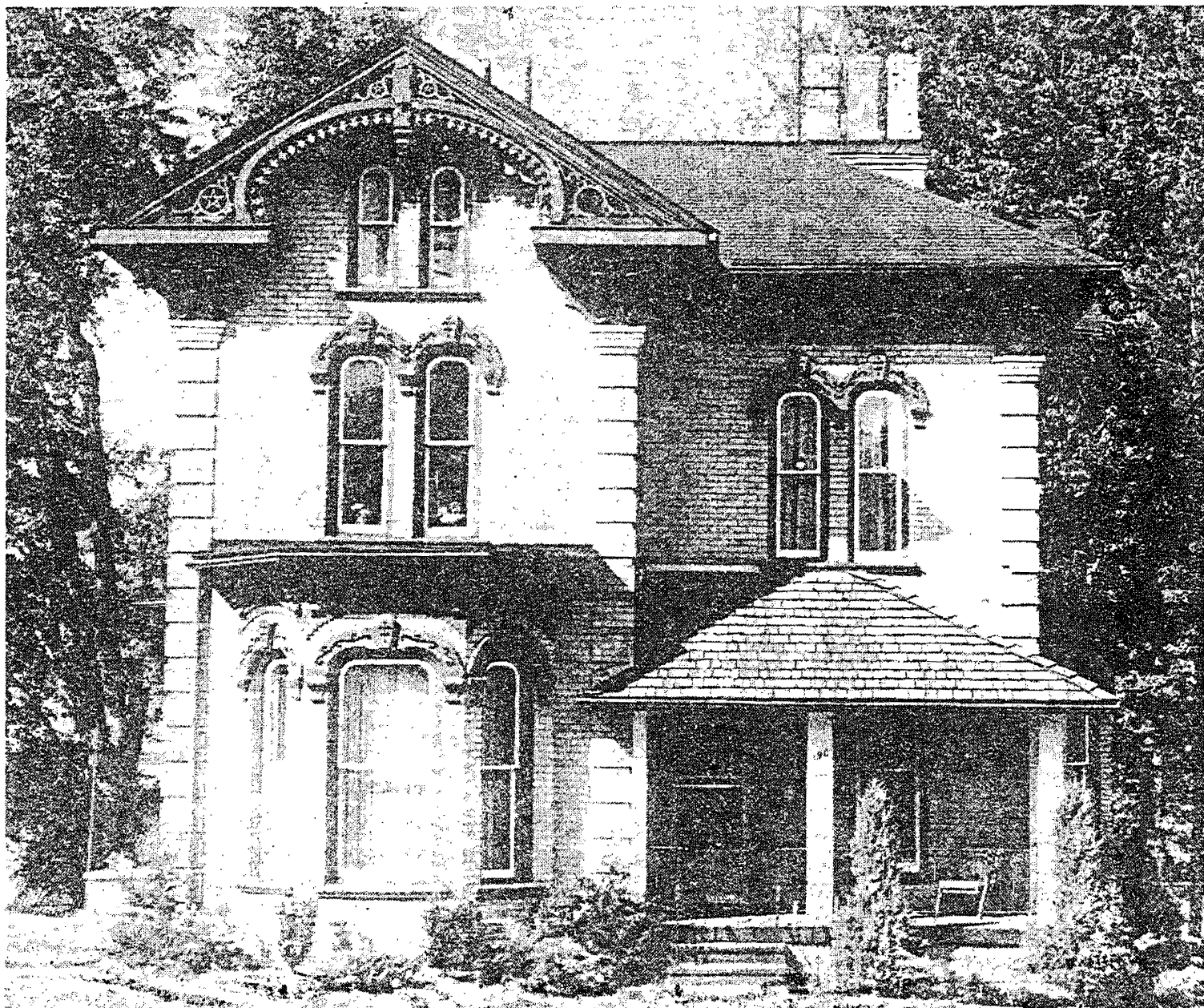
About 1873 John also erected a brick Italianate Villa similar to his brother's but without a tower. The windows are long and rounded, complimented by fancy stone trim. The bay windows at the front and both sides are topped on the second storey by a gable finished with elaborate verge board. Decoration is lavished on the exterior of the old home with its lively textural contrast between wood and brick and restless succession of wall planes.

The original porch has been replaced and the present owner Mrs. Sam Douglas says it has changed the appearance of the house somewhat. Her husband Sam bought the property in 1940.

At one time it belonged to Kenneth Murray and it is believed by the Douglas family that he was connected with the McMurray Hotel, one of the many Ingersoll hotels that fell to the wrecker's hammer.

Mrs. Douglas moved from Cherry Street with her husband Sam to the lavish home. She laughs when she recalls that the house has acquired quite a reputation over the years that they had to live down.

"They don't build them like that anymore" she said and the carved wooden staircase and interior arched doorways give mute testimony to the solid and thorough construction.



This home built by John Christopher around 1873 is now owned by Mrs. Sam Douglas. Although the original porch has been replaced, changing the appearance of the house

somewhat, few other changes have been made. It is believed the home was at one time connected with the McMurray Hotel.

JULY 12 1975



The town's first frame house was built by Elisha Hall in 1826.

Soldier-dodging Elisha Hall built first frame house

INGERSOLL — The home above depicted in a sketch by Harry Whitwell was the first frame house in Ingersoll. Elisha Hall built the house of plank siding in 1826. It is now the home of Ted Newell, 156 Concession St.

Elisha Hall built a sawmill in 1822 on Canterbury Street (later known as Stuart's Mill) that was powered by water from Hall's Pond. On his land he cultivated five acres of grapes for the local winery, and 10 acres of hops

for Bixel Brewery.

But Hall, a local magistrate who joined the rebels under William Lyon MacKenzie, is probably best known for the way he eluded capture during the 1837-38 rebellion.

Two soldiers sent to capture Hall allowed his wife to go to the well for water while guarding his home.

So Hall, dressed in his wife's clothing carrying a pail in each hand and imitating his wife's walk went to the well for water one

evening at the usual time.

The soldiers paid no heed, and once at the well, Hall hid on a ledge in the open well. During the night, he discarded his wife's clothing and escaped under cover of darkness into the dense bush.

It was not until the next morning that the guards found the empty pails and women's clothing beside the well.

Realizing they had been duped the soldiers followed Hall's tracks through the

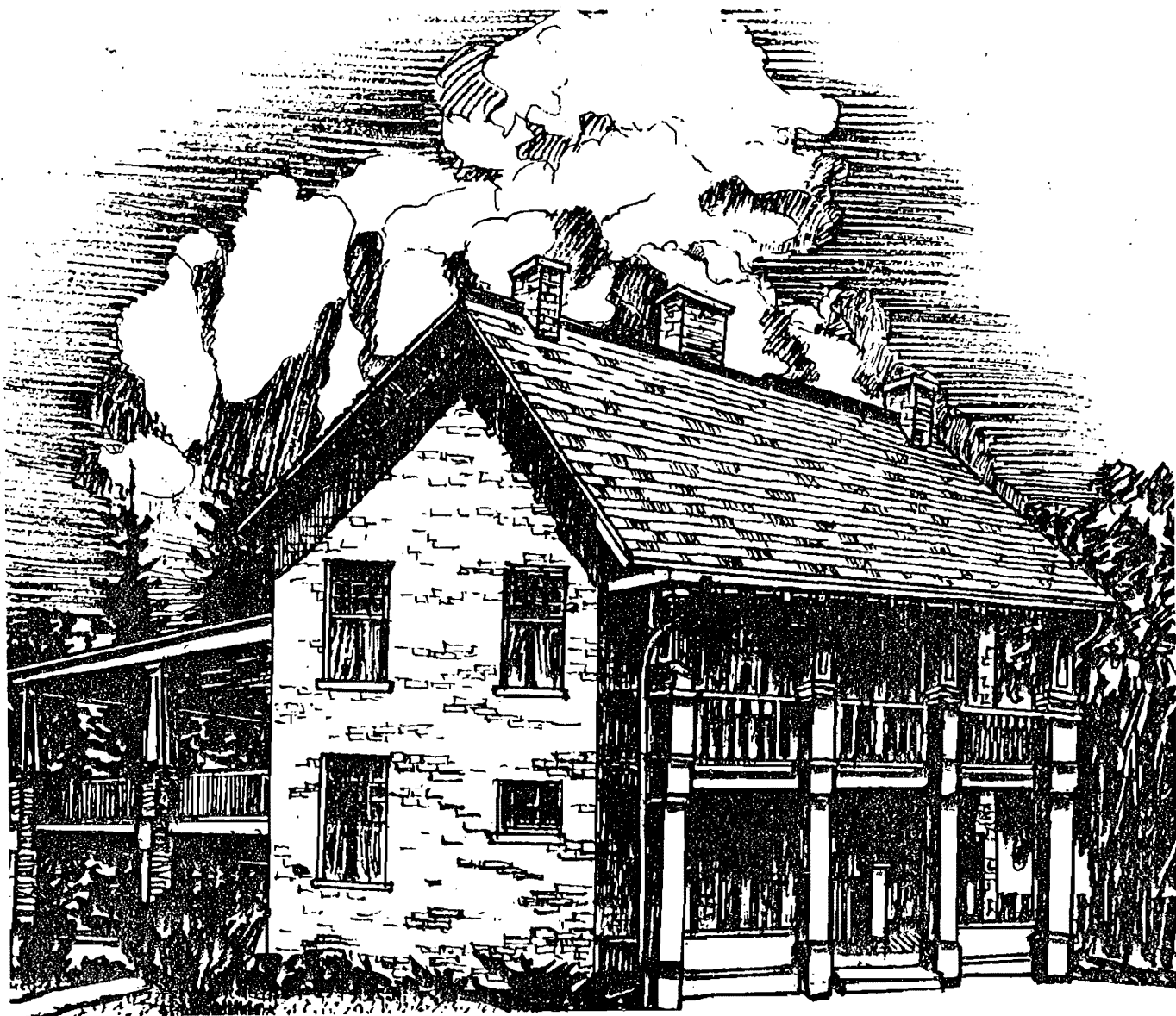
woods.

Hall had reached Salford, where he took refuge in Hiram Ranney's barn.

Ranney spotted the two soldiers coming down the road and kept them talking while Hall made off into the woods again.

Several years later Hall, who had been granted amnesty by Queen Victoria, returned to Ingersoll.

He is buried in Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.



Sketch by Harry Whitwell of what now is the Masons apartment, formerly the Carroll Hotel on the Old Stage Road.

Once most easterly hotel

INGERSOLL — This building depicted in this sketch by Harry Whitwell is now the Mason Apartments at the corner of King Street East and Carroll Streets.

Formerly it was the Carroll House built in 1855—the most easterly hotel on the Old Stage Road in Ingersoll.

The Old Stage Road was the

first real road through the Ingersoll area. It connected with settlements further east. Most roads were no more than cleared trails through the wilderness.

The road got its name from the stage coaches which travelled it. It was along this road that mail, travelled from Brantford to London.

In the beginning, the Stage Coach Road was no more than a trail made by Indians and trappers.

It was along this trail that Thomas Ingersoll in 1793 was guided by Brant's Indians.

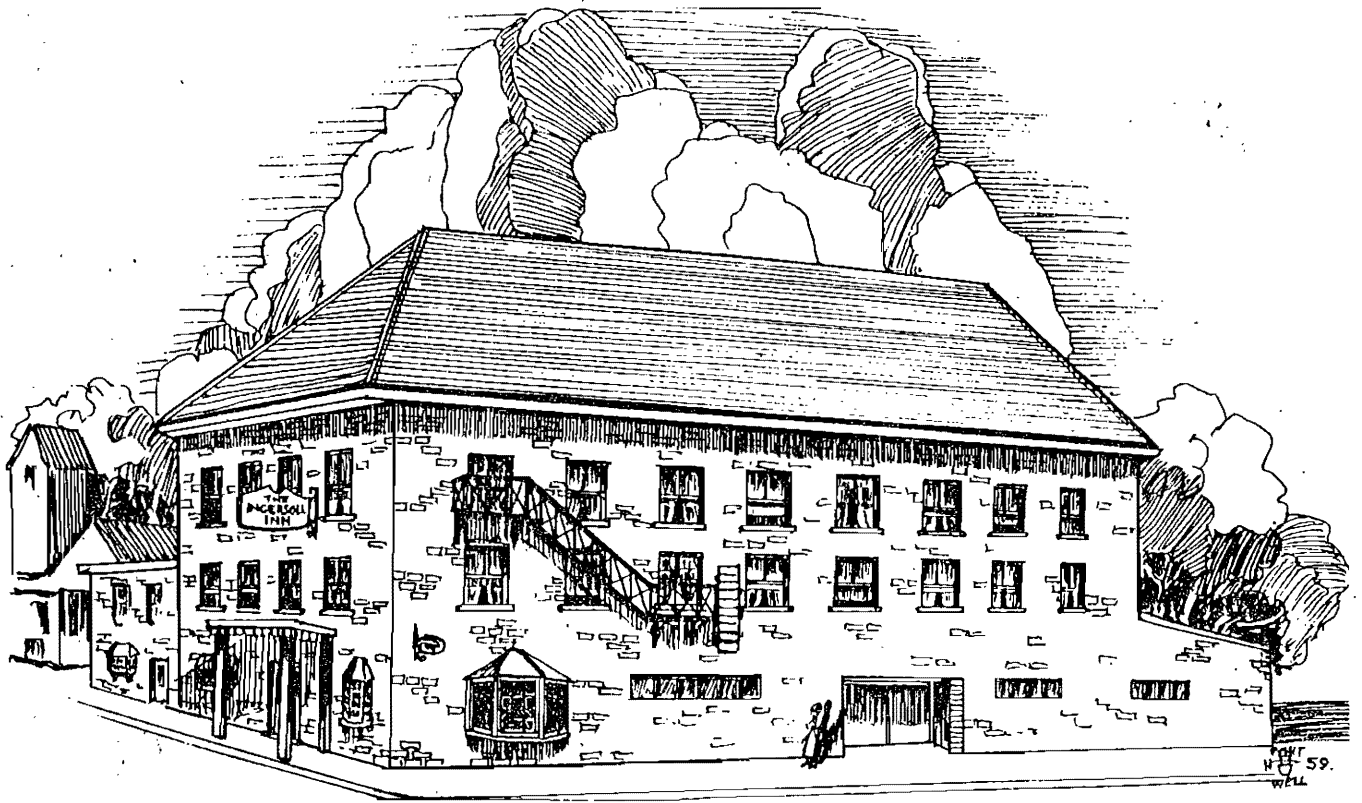
Stage coaches stopped every 15 miles along the rough road to change horses and rest. Hotels

sprang up along the road to meet the demand. All hotels had stables where the travellers on horse-back could rest and feed their horses.

At one time Ingersoll had as many as 15 hotels. Today only one remains—the Ingersoll Inn on King Street—formerly the Old Stage Road.



94-96 King Street East at the corner of Carroll Street as it appeared in September 2012



Sketch by Harry Whitwell shows historic Ingersoll Inn.

Colorful history for Inn

INGERSOLL — The Ingersoll Inn depicted in the above sketch by Harry Whitwell was built at the same time as the historic Old Town Hall at the opposite corner of Oxford and King Street—the former Old Stage Road.

The builders, Christopher Brothers, used yellow brick made by Byron Jenvey's father at his Springford factory for both buildings. The brick on the Inn is now hidden beneath red paint, but bricks in the Old Town

Hall building have been left in their natural state.

The Ingersoll Inn was built on the site of the former Daly House one year after it burned to the ground.

Absolem Daly had built a one-storey log house on the site in 1838. Indians traded goods there and it was also a place where travellers stopped to rest as they travelled along the main road of the pioneer settlement.

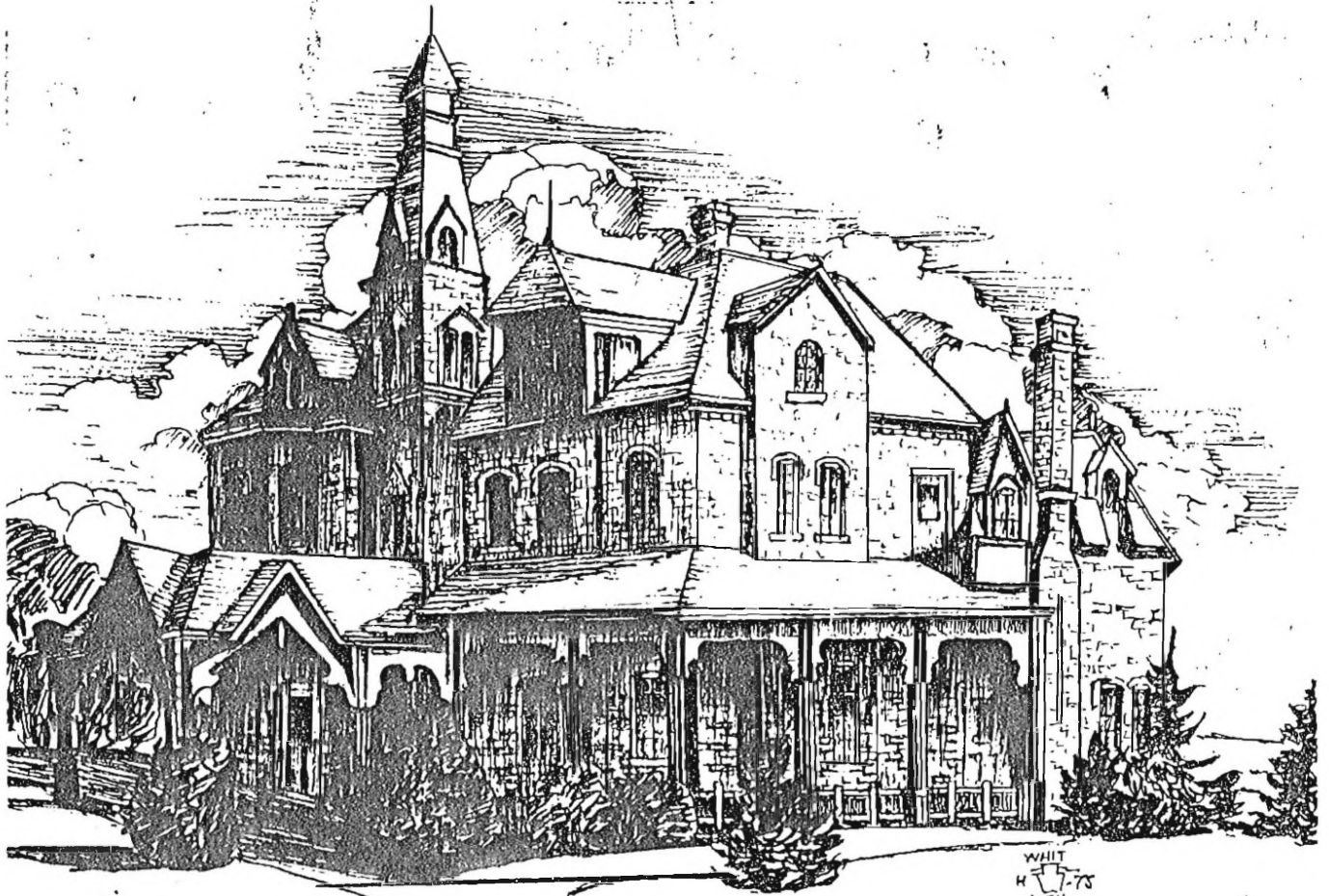
As more and more travellers came by stage coach and horseback, Daly built a frame second storey to his original log building.

The American Civil War broke out in 1861, five years after the new yellow brick Ingersoll Inn

was built. And many were the plots discussed within its walls. The hotel's location halfway between Detroit and Niagara Falls made it an ideal meeting place to discuss ways of getting supplies from England through Canada south of the border.



The Ingersoll Inn at 30 King Street West, as it appeared circa 1970. The Inn was demolished in the late 1980s. The site is now the home of the Ingersoll Municipal offices and the Ingersoll Library at 130 Oxford Street



Sketch above shows the former Noxon home, once used as hospital.

Noxon home was hospital

INGERSOLL — The above sketch by Harry Whitwell shows the former Noxon home used as a hospital until it was demolished in 1951 to provide a parking lot for the present Alexandra Hospital.

The old hospital, as the Noxon home was known, in 1909 had 16 beds. It had a total of 120 patients annually.

In 1946 town taxpayers approved a grant of \$150,000 to Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust to build a new hospital

large enough to serve the community.

The new hospital, built by Schwenger C. Construction Co. at a cost of \$565,000, was officially opened June 4, 1950.

The first attempt to get a hospital in Ingersoll began in June 1889. It was unsuccessful. Only a few persons signed a petition being circulated.

It was nine years later that the first hospital was opened by Dr. J.M. Rogers in the front rooms of a Frances Street house. One

nurse assisted the doctor.

Dr. Angus McKay established another hospital the same year in a house at the corner of Victoria and McKeand streets. He also had one nurse.

In 1900 town doctors jointly set up a public hospital in the William Waterworth house on Oxford Avenue. They installed modern equipment and performed operations at the hospital. Also for the first time babies were delivered in a

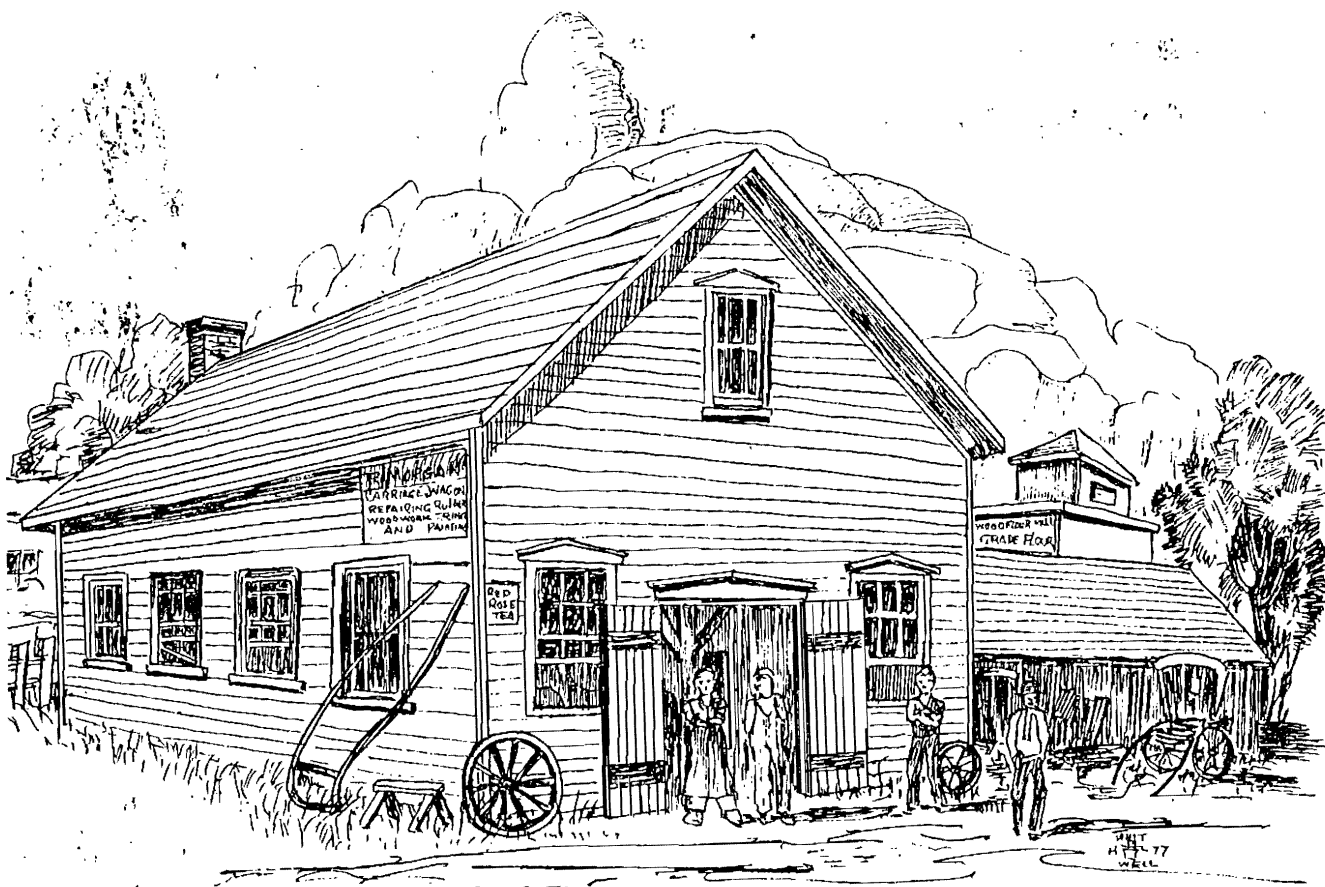
hospital rather than at home.

The Noxon Street home of Dr. Angus McKay was purchased in 1909 and named Alexandra Hospital. The same year a board of trust was appointed to manage the hospital.



Formerly the home of James Noxon, The Alexandra Hospital at 29 Noxon Street, as it appeared circa 1940. The old hospital was demolished in the late 1940s. Below, Alexandra Hospital as it appears in August 2012





Sketch by Harry Whitwell shows R. Morgan blacksmith shop.

An old, booming business

INGERSOLL — Blacksmith shops now are obsolete but at one time few towns were without one.

In 1891, D.D. Morgan owned a blacksmith shop on the south side of Charles Street East, where Glassford Motors now is located.

Morgan had two children—a boy, Russel and one girl. When Russel was 16, he joined his father and learned the blacksmith business. D.D. Morgan then purchased a building just east of his original shop.

The new building was located facing Water Street, about 50 yards behind the west side of Charles Street bridge over the Ingersoll Creek.

In 1915 D.D. Morgan died and his son took over the blacksmithing business.

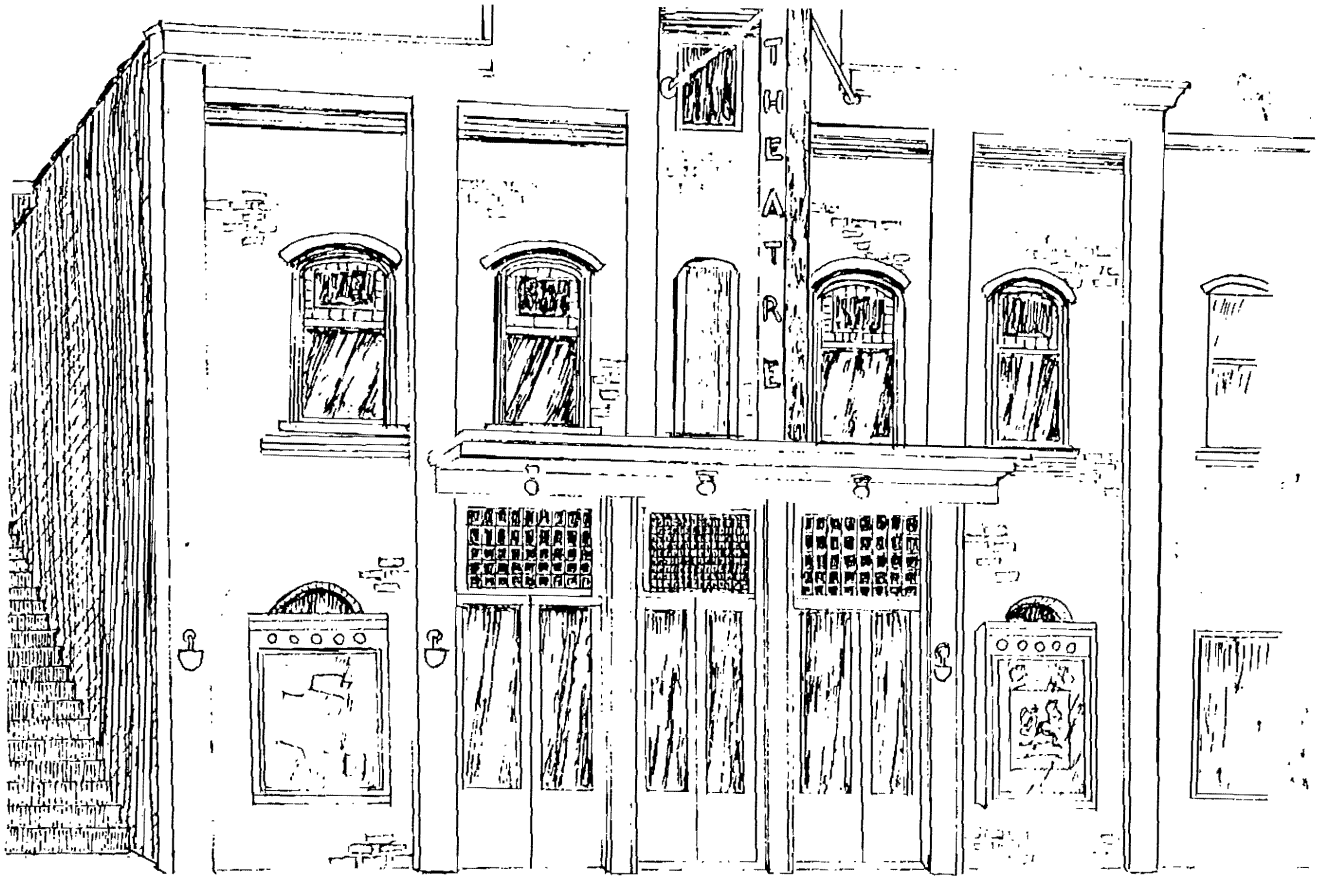
Russel Morgan's son J.D. Morgan now is an Ingersoll accountant.

According to J.D., there was a carpenter shop erected on the south side of the blacksmith shop where wagon and buggy wheels were made. Solid rubber tires were used with a wire running through the centre of the rubber for strength.

The blacksmith shop had places for two rows of horses, one on the north side and one on the south. Also, there were two special stalls for hard to handle horses to be shod and a door midway down the south side wall into the carpentry shop.



22 Charles Street East at the corner of Water Street, as it appears in August 2012



Harry Whitwell sketch shows old Mason and Maitland Theatre, now Jack Warden's appliance store.

From theatre to retailing

INGERSOLL — The above sketch by Harry Whitwell depicts the old Maitland Theatre which is today the location of J.T. Warden Appliances and Lighting, 7 King St. W.

When built around the turn of the century it was intended for use as a furniture store. But industrialist George Mason, realizing the potentiality of moving pictures, renovated the building to accommodate audiences.

The theatre was sold to the Maitlands in 1921.

With the innovation of talkies the Maitland spent \$30,000 on redesigning the interior, installing a larger screen and changing the seating to accommodate 456 persons.

The era of talkies opened at the Maitland Theatre with *Desert Song*. Admission to matinee performances was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children.

In 1965 Jack Warden bought the theatre building. And the old theatre, gone full circle, was converted back to the use for which it was originally built—a retail store.



7 King Street West, now the King's Variety, as it appears in August 2012



The old post office as originally built in 1898-9 on the site of the Royal Exchange.

Old post office on site of former hotel

INGERSOLL — The above sketch by Harry Whitwell shows the old Post Office built in 1898 on the site of the Royal Exchange Hotel that burned in 1872.

This three-storey terra cotta brick building with stone facing stood at the corner of Thames and Charles Streets, now the location of the Bank of Montreal.

The town still has the old bell which used to toll out the hours from the clock tower. It will be installed in the cairn outside the Cheese Factory Museum in Centennial Park.

Although this building is commonly referred to as the old

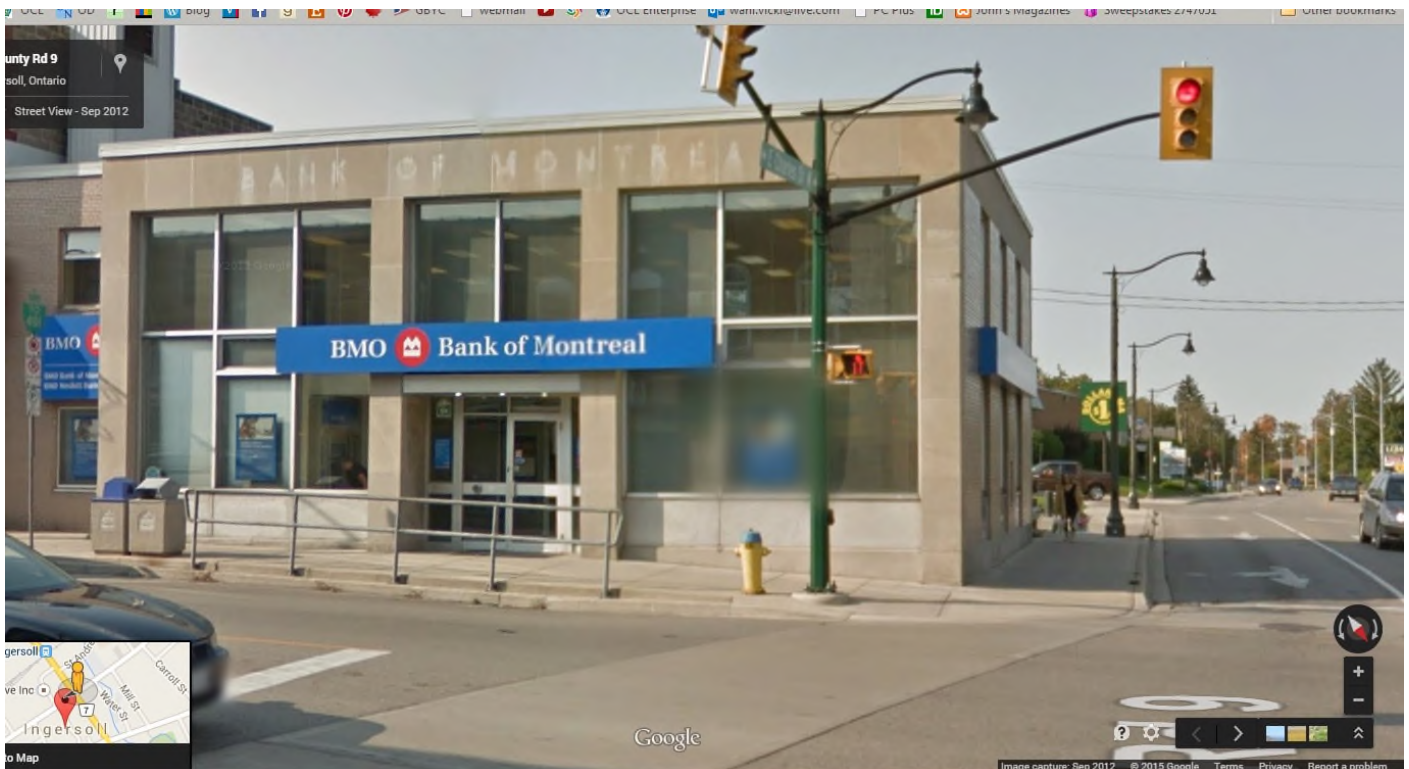
Post Office, it had several King Street locations.

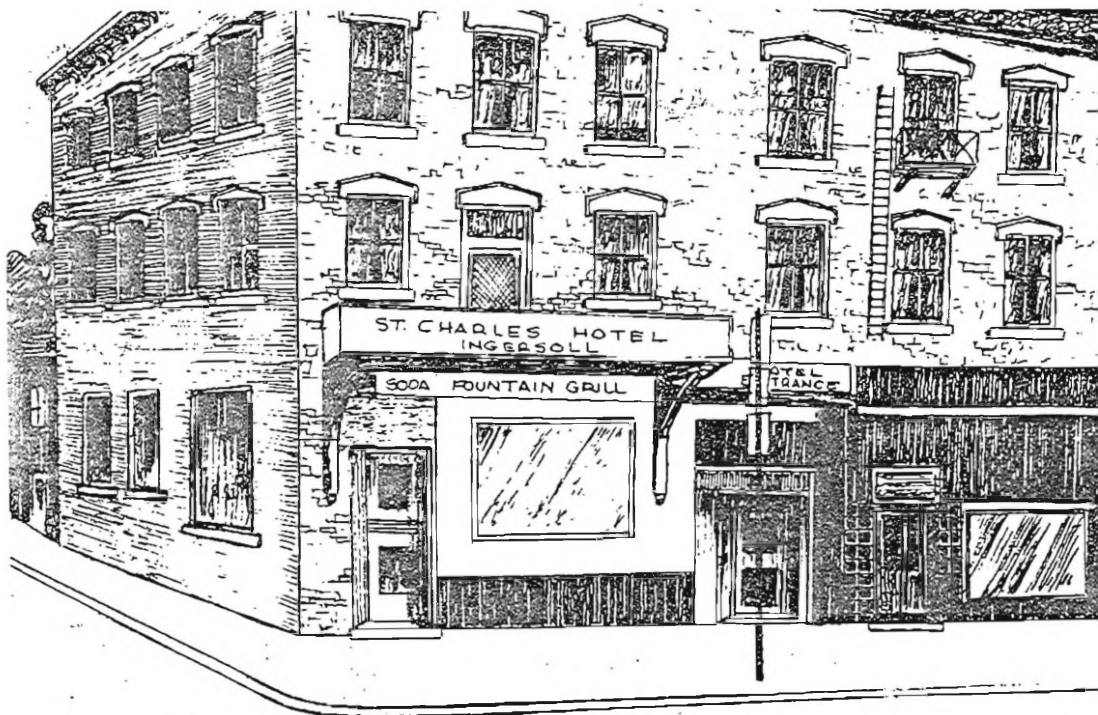
The first post office in town established in 1821 at the north-east corner of King and Water Streets was called the Oxford Post Office. It was the first post office in Oxford County. Postmaster was Charles Ingersoll, son of Thomas Ingersoll who founded the town in 1795. Charles' step-brother James took over as postmaster in 1832.

The old Post Office shown in the sketch was replaced in 1960 with a new Federal Building, 26 Charles St. W. It contains, as well as a post office, the manpower centre and customs office.



The Ingersoll Post Office at 104 Thames Street South pictured circa 1950, this building was demolished in the early 1960s. This site is now home to the Bank of Montreal, shown below in August 2012





Murray House and later St. Charles Hotel built in 1868.

SENTINEL
July 4, 1979
REVIEW

St. Charles Hotel



INGERSOLL — Dewan Festival Gardens now occupies the site where once stood the St. Charles Hotel depicted in the above sketch by Harry Whitwell.

The McMurray House, as it was originally known, was built in 1868 at the corner of Charles and Thames Streets. The hotel catered to local residents and train travellers.

Gus Morello bought the hotel in 1930 and re-named it the St. Charles.

Morello changed the business into a combined hotel and restaurant.

After his death the hotel ceased to operate but the restaurant continued. The building was finally demolished in 1971. The site, and additional property, was bought by the town to widen the former "horse and buggy" corner and provide a small parkette in the core area.

In 1973 the town council gave its beautification committee \$3,000 and assigned it the task of looking after the new green area. This project became the pride and joy of the committee chairman Patrick Dewan.

The oasis of green grass, flower beds, winding paths, fountain, shade trees and benches was variously referred to by local residents as the green area, the chalet, or the old St. Charles hotel site.

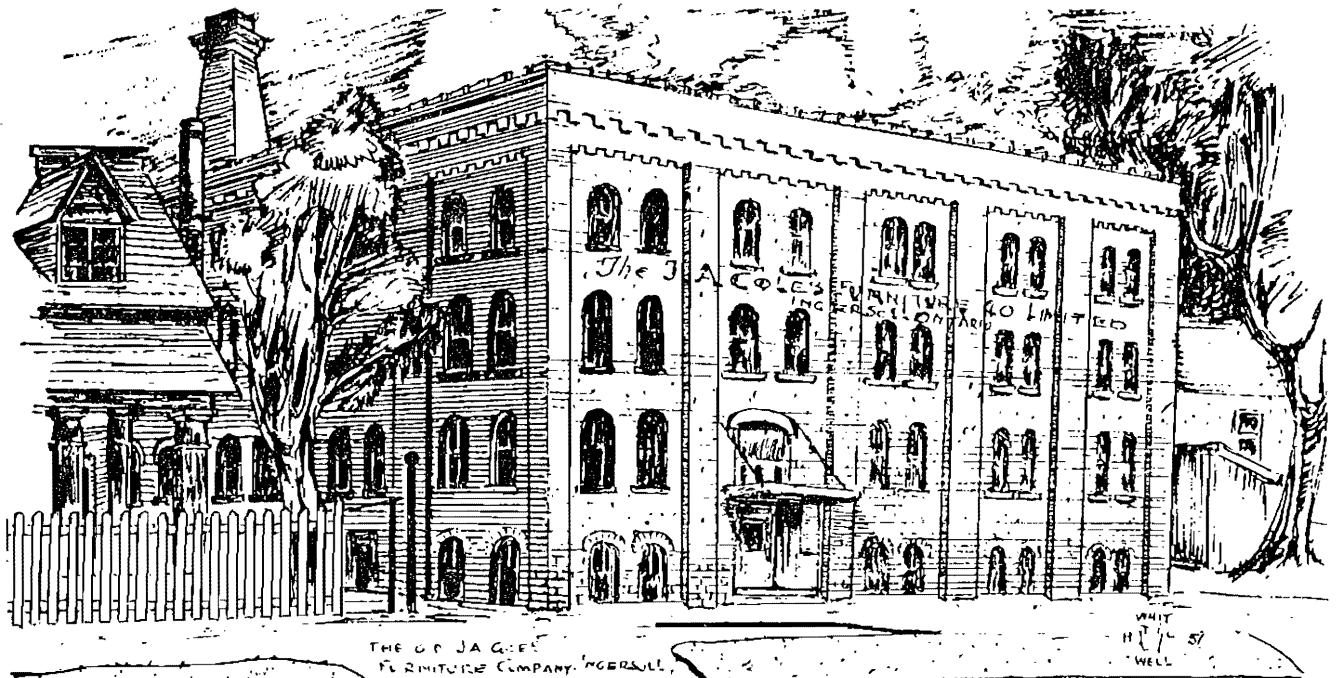
But in 1976 all that was ended. Town council decided the parkette should be named Dewan Festival Gardens, to honor Dewan, a former Oxford MPP, and one-time Ontario Agriculture Minister.

Dewan Festival Gardens this year came under the jurisdiction of the town's parks department with the beautification committee serving in an advisory capacity.



The St. Charles Hotel at the north-west corner of Thames and Charles Streets as it appeared circa 1950. Below, Dewan Park now occupies the same corner, pictured August 2012





Sketch by Harry Whitwell shows one of the oldest industries in the town. It still stands.

Last of the old industry

INGERSOLL — Of all the industries that sprang up in town during the 1880s, only one still stands in the core area—the Ingersoll Casket Company Inc., 195 Thames St. S.

Two of the last of the factories—Morrow Screw and Nut Company and Shelby Knitting Mills—fell under the wreckers' hammer in the past couple of years, paving the way for modern shopping plazas.

Zehr's now stands on the former Shelby site. But when its major tenant, A and P Food Stores, backed out, Ingrox Limited built modern warehouse buildings in place of a proposed shopping mall on the former Morrow property.

In 1899, an American company, St. Charles Condensing Co., built a factory on King Street West. That building also remains standing today operated by Borden Co. Ltd. which took over the St. Charles company in the early 1900s.

Bordens now employs about 100 persons. It produces sweet

and condensed milk, coffee creamer, hot chocolate, crystal drinks, and bottles fresh fruit juices.

The four-storey brick building in the above sketch constructed of bricks from Charles Jenvey of Springford in 1887, first housed the Hault Manufacturing Co. When Hault died in 1894, his partner, A.H. Ellis took over the business which manufactured fine furniture that was shipped across Canada.

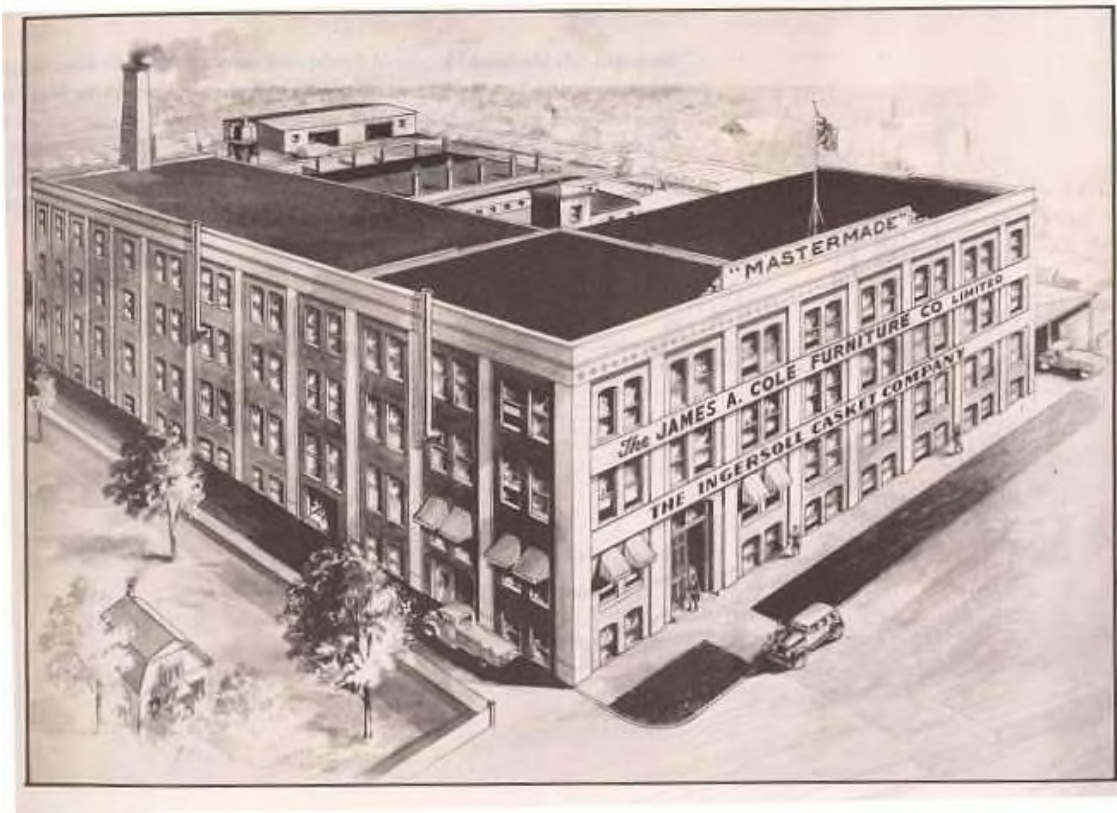
In 1922, Ellis sold his business to James Cole.

After Cole Furniture Co. closed down its furniture operation, hockey sticks were made on the top floor of the building.

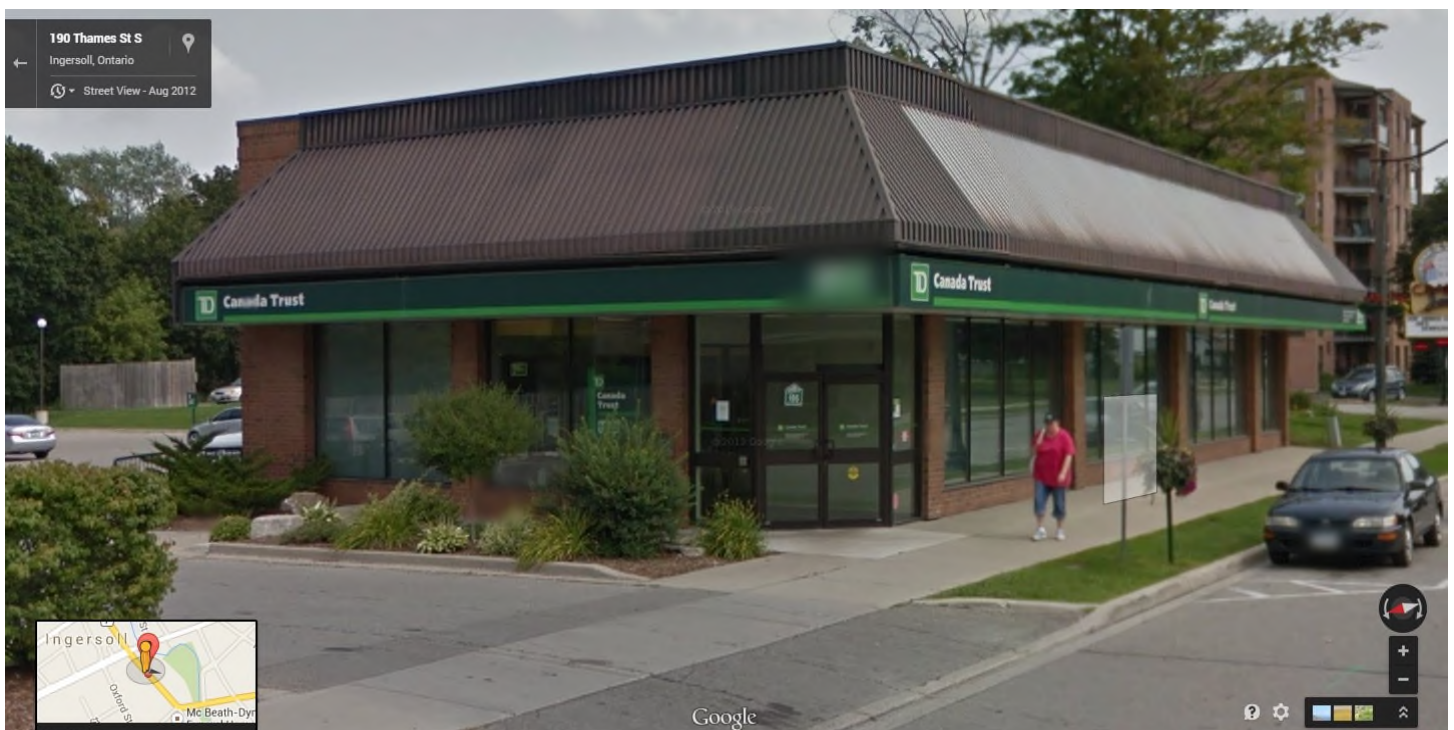
The Ingersoll Casket Company was established in 1929. E.J. Davis of Toronto bought the casket company in 1958.

He sold the business to Ingersoll accountant Hugh Ponting in April 1978.

The firm today employs 16 persons.



Above, the Ingersoll Casket Company & the James A. Cole Furniture Company at 195 Thames Street South, as it appeared circa 1935. This building was demolished in the late 1980s. Below, the TD Bank occupies the site, pictured August 2012.



The haunted Norsworthy home

BY HELEN W. FOSTER

Behind an impressive screen of shade trees, the Norsworthy home broods over Ingersoll.

James Counter Norsworthy came with his parents to Canada from Devonshire, England in 1852 and eventually established himself as "Banker and Broker, Insurance and Loan Agent" on King Street.

Originally Crown Land, the 200 acres was granted in 1806 to Ebenezer Whiting, one of Ingersoll's early settlers. The present owner of the home, Jessie Robins, believes that the house was built in the 1850's and it came with the dowry of Norsworthy's first wife, Mary Jane.

The marriage was announced in the Ingersoll Chronicle, May 2, 1978, "Thursday evening last, our townsman J.C. Norsworthy was united in marriage with Miss May, eldest daughter of Mrs. Cuthbert of West Oxford in the presence of a number of invited guests. Mr. and Mrs. Norsworthy left on the midnight train for New York. We wish them every happiness."

The following week there appeared a letter with the bold headline - Advice to the Newly Married Man from an Experienced Benedict -. The long column of free advice contained, among other things. "Don't scold your wife and don't beat your children, if you have any. ..Bathe often, look after your health....and never go home drunk....Keep clear of your wife's relations....Yours, John" Just who "John" was and why he felt empowered to give such advice is lost in the pages of time.

Norsworthy elaborated upon the plain red brick Ontario farmhouse until he had a structure worthy of the dignity of the position that he held in town. The result is a melange of styles that nonetheless presents a picaresque view to the observer.

A veranda, usually thought to give a house a fashionable urban air, is graced with solid Doric columns. The left side is enclosed with stone and has beautiful stained glass windows. There are sumptuous glass windows throughout the home both exterior and interior. The right veranda sports a bandshell design, topped with a very Victorian pinnacle.

Above the pillared portico is a stately circular balcony which in turn is topped by a curiously curved gable. Although the pointed arches suggest Gothic, the window is curved Romanesque. The rounded design is echoed in the carved wooden fans of the flanking gables and in the tri-windows on either side of the house. An Italianate tower is not only a decorative addition but practical as well. It housed a water tower and the giant steel tanks are still in place.

The main door has a transom extending over the sidelights. It is less sound structurally than a shortened transom, but a pleasing arrangement and a typical pattern in Ontario.

The interior of the home is magnificently finished in wood and it is said that Norsworthy had a carpenter in residence for over a year to complete the work. Frank Leake, a noted local woodcarver, did the elaborate mantelpieces.

Interior doors are all equipped with locks and each one has a keyhole cover, a delightful eccentricity of a moneylender who held mortgages on hundreds of properties in town.

The ghost of Norsworthy's first wife, Mary Jane, is said to have haunted the house. Owner Jessie Robins attests to hearing and being aware of a "presence" in the home for many years. She believes that Mary Jane, who died of dyptheria in 1891 while nursing her sick children, was looking for her daughter. The myterious Lady in Grey has not been seen on the balcony since the daughter Nellie died a few years ago.

The house shelters many secrets, chief among them an inexplicable natural flow of air that cools the house in summer. There is also a mysterious room under the basement that has never been explored.

It is rumoured that following his death in 1936, Norsworthy's strongbox was not found. Mrs. Robins says that guests amuse themselves probing the rich wood carvings, hoping to find the hidden spring that will disclose the molding secrets.

The bronze bust of his son Edward, who died in action in 1915, is now atop the family monument in the Rural Cemetery. Oddly enough it does not face the front of the stone but is positioned so that he can keep an eye on his father's strongbox across the river. This is the last article in the series "Echoes of the Past"

Beautiful old Ingersoll home was part of bride's dowry

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

One of a series

INGERSOLL — Nine years ago when the Maat family went searching for a big house, they really meant BIG.

Annita and Derek Maat settled on the Norsworthy House, one of Ingersoll's most beautiful of homes. The century old structure is divided for the use of two families, the Maats and the Sjaarda family. Although each family has their privacy, central rooms are shared.

"As Christians, we needed a large house in order to live our lives in a deeper way. We need to support each other," said Annita Maat.

Family members were able to adapt the red brick home to their lifestyles. There's also an upper apartment that is rented out to people in need.

But in purchasing the home, they became aware of its rich history.

The house is named for the Norsworthy family. James Counter Norsworthy came to Canada with his parents from Devonshire, England.

Built in the mid-1850s, the house actually came with the dowry of Norsworthy's first wife, Mary Jane Cuthbert. It features some of his work as a stonemason but also that of other skilled tradesmen.

Leslie Daniel, a craftsman, was commissioned to paint elaborate ceiling frescoes. A woodworker, Frank Leake, carved four different fire place fronts. Some of these are decorated with the depictions of

Ingersoll's limits. From the hill at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery across town, its gables can be seen above other buildings. And at the cemetery, a bust of Major Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy sits atop a family monument, supposedly keeping watch on his birthplace.

historic homes

Norsemen in honor of the Norsworthy name. The 21-room house is also filled with dozens of pieces of stained glass and leaded windows.

A number of styles were borrowed for the exterior. The verendah is graced with the doric columns of a Greek temple. It hugs the house, cornered with a bandshell in Victorian fashion. A tower, to the rear of the house, was constructed in an Italianate style. At one time the tower had a practical use as well being aesthetically pleasing; it stored water.

The Norseworthy home is an imposing structure on King Street, near



MAJOR Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy keeps guard on his home from a hill at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. A soldier in World War I, Norsworthy was killed in action at Langemarck.

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 9, 1988

Old home cleaned out first time

By ARMITA JANES

Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — One of the town's finest manor homes will be emptied for the first time in more than 100 years following an auction Saturday at the home of Jim and Jessie Robins.

The auction follows sale by the Robins of the Norsworthy home, as it is known, on its four-acre site for the highest price ever paid for a residential property in Ingersoll.

The nearest contender, according to Ms. Robins, was sale of a Thames Street South home for \$115,000, that does not even come close.

It was in 1878 James Norsworthy brought his bride Mary Jane Cuthbert to Norleigh, the centre of a prosperous 160-acre farm on the outskirts of Ingersoll.

Margaret Nash, a resident of the senior citizen complex on Carroll Street recalls as a child watching grand scale entertaining and large outdoor meetings held on the grounds of the Norsworthy home.

Her father bought the farm where the hired help lived on the Norsworthy property.

The second Mrs. Norsworthy, the former Elizabeth Taylor, entertained many church groups, she said, and it is for her the Norsworthy Chapter of the IOOE is named.

Coun. Jim Robins and his wife bought their home at 250 King St. E. 20 years ago furnished from Donald Quinn, manager of Roper Moto Mower. He lived only a year in the 21-room house he had bought furnished from relatives of the Norsworthy family, Dr. Gilbert Field and his wife Irma of Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Jessie Robins said Tuesday not all of the Norsworthy furnishings, nor the Robins' possessions, will be sold at auction Saturday.

She and her husband, who

retires in July, will keep enough things to furnish the 10-room house they have bought that was the former home of the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre on King Street East.

And now the home of the local insurance man who in 1890 sold his insurance business above Layton's Meat Market in the Norsworthy Building to become inspector of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. of Montreal has been sold to two London couples—Mr. and Mrs. Derk Maat and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Sjaarda who will turn it into a two-family dwelling.

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 20, 1979

Local family plans to restore historic home

BY LIZ DADSON

Ken Hickey has always been interested in older homes.

Now he and his family are living in a piece of Ingersoll's history and plan to restore it.

The Hickeys have lived in Ingersoll for 11 years but just moved into the century-old, former-Norsworthy residence at 250 King St. E. on Sept. 1.

"We owned a lot in Woodstock and planned to build a new home with a Victorian influence," Hickey said. "But when we saw this place for sale, it was game over. We've admired this place for years."

The financial supervisor for General Motors in Woodstock said he would like to restore the home right back to its original state. It was built in the 1850s by Nathaniel Whiting, one of the early founders of Ingersoll, for whom Whiting Street was named.

The house passed into the hands of another esteemed early pioneer, Alex Cuthbert, and the property came into the Norsworthy name as it was part of the dowry of Mary Jane Cuthbert when she married James Cuthbert Norsworthy.

"We're really interested in researching the history of the house and the people who lived in it," Hickey said. "It's not just a place to live, it becomes a whole lot of other things."

Hickey has asked Ingersoll Council to consider granting a heritage designation to the property. Council has deferred the issue to the public works and planning committee which meets early next month.

With the designation, Hickey said he could receive funding for some things, such as restoring the exterior. The funding could equal half of the cost, up to a maximum figure set by the heritage branch of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications.

He noted there are also information resources he can turn to, such as literature from the Heritage Foundation and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC).

Hickey expects the restoration to be a lifelong project, with the 21-room, 6,800-square-foot structure requiring a lot of work to return it to its original state.

"We'll do what we have to do and what we can afford to do," he said. "We're not attempting to put a dollar value on anything."

Just before the Hickeys moved in, the house was being used as a multi-family dwelling. The new owners plan to revert it back by removing the kitchen from the front livingroom and remove that wall, creating a front and back livingroom joined by an archway.

The house is a unique piece of history, Hickey said, noting it incorporates the Beaux Arts style Classics, a form of Arts Deco architecture. He knows of only three other structures in this style, the Norsworthy building in Ingersoll, and two homes, one in London and the other in Kitchener.

At the time of his ownership, James Norsworthy commissioned dozens of stained and leaded windows made for the house, as well as hardwood floors laid with intricate parquet in a variety of woods. He also had elaborate ceiling frescoes and covings done.

The very finest materials were put into Norsworthy's refurbished house. He also had built the wraparound front porch and the study front in cut fieldstone.

The third floor is large enough to provide the Hickeys with a guest apartment.

Hickey pointed out that the huge house is heated by a combination of hot water and oil heat. He plans to compliment it with two wood stoves and some electrical heat.

The heat to provide hot water for daily use is supplemented with solar panels.

Hickey said he is fascinated by the gorgeous stained glass in the front entranceway. The windows appear different every day as the variant lighting causes different colors to shine. He said the historical house is very beautiful and he will enjoy fixing it up. "I've found my home here."

INGERSOLL
TIMES

September 20,
1989

Family to restore historical Norsworthy home

By MARY ANNE STEPHENSON

Ken and Shirley Hickey have plans that will keep them knee-deep in history for quite awhile.

The couple and their family moved into the old Norsworthy home at 250 King St. E. last September and now that Ingersoll Council has designated it an historical home, they hope to restore it to its original grandeur.

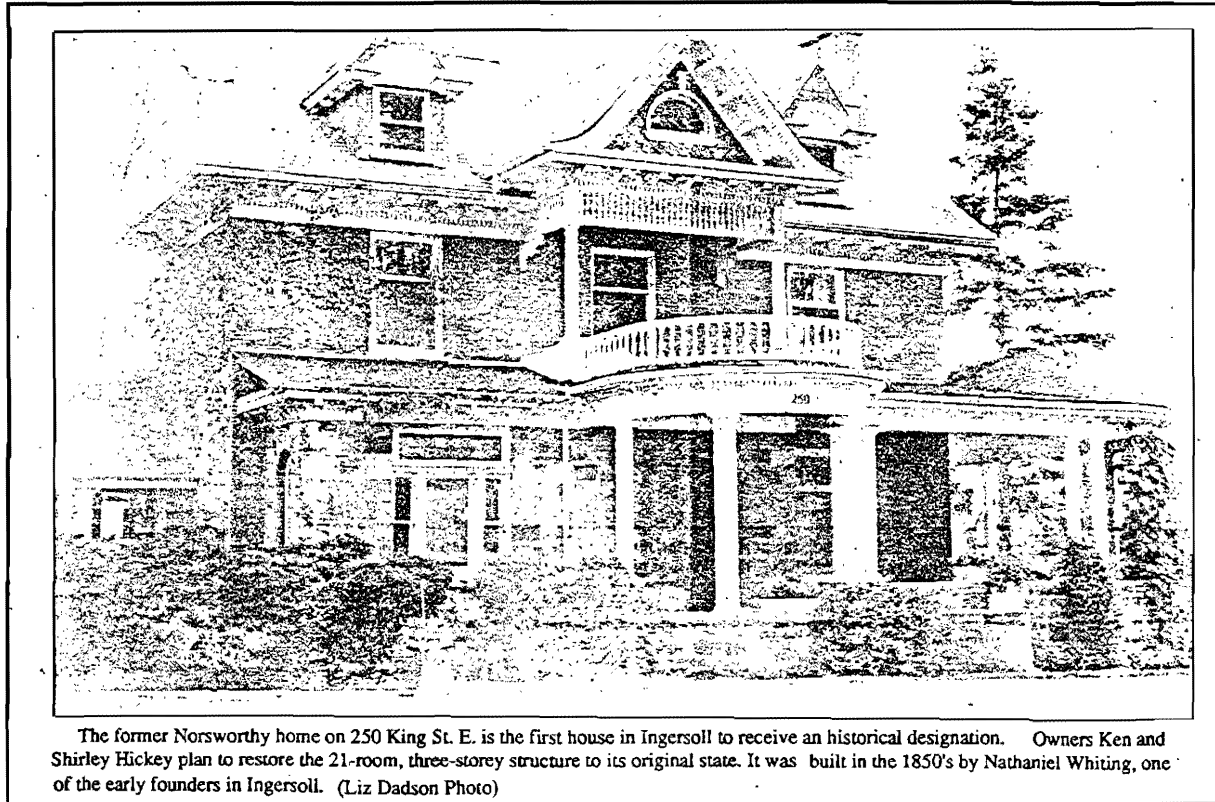
After moving in, Hickey said they first wanted to build a new home with a Victorian influence. "But when we saw this place for sale, it was game over. We've admired this place for years."

The financial supervisor for General Motors in Woodstock said he would like to restore the home right back to its original state. It was built in the 1850s by Nathaniel Whiting, one of the early founders of Ingersoll, for whom Whiting Street was named.

The house passed into the hands of another esteemed early pioneer, Alex Cuthbert, and the property came into the Norsworthy name as it was part of the dowry of Mary Jane Cuthbert when she married James Cuthbert Norsworthy.

"We're really interested in researching the history of the house and the people who lived in it," Hickey said. "It's not just a place to live, it becomes a whole lot of other things."

He had asked town council to consider granting a heritage designation to the property last fall. Now that the 21-room, three-storey home has been deemed an historical and



The former Norsworthy home on 250 King St. E. is the first house in Ingersoll to receive an historical designation. Owners Ken and Shirley Hickey plan to restore the 21-room, three-storey structure to its original state. It was built in the 1850's by Nathaniel Whiting, one of the early founders in Ingersoll. (Liz Dadson Photo)

architectural landmark, he can receive funding for such things as restoring the exterior.

The funding could equal half the cost, up to a maximum figure set by the heritage branch of the Ontario

Ministry of Culture and Communications.

The couple's first priority is to prevent any deterioration to the home, Hickey said. He plans to replace some of the metal on the roof and

said some of the cement work needs rejoining.

A fresh coat of paint on the house's exterior is also in the works.

"The house had been divided into a double-family dwelling (before the

Hickeys bought it) so we want to restore the original living room," Hickey said.

A wall had been put up, dividing the living room to accommodate a front kitchen. The Hickeys plan to

remove the wall and put the kitchen back into the front part of the living room. This requires removal of the tile corked floor to reveal the original wood floor.

In addition, the dry wall will be taken down to reveal the wood work beneath.

"It's fortunate none of the original wood work was demolished," Shirley Hickey said.

Fascinating stained glass

Ken wants to remove the 22 windows in the house because some are painted shut. The stained glass windows, which fascinate him, will also be restored.

There are four fireplaces in the house, some requiring new liners and chimney work. The wood work around them also needs repair.

The bright-windowed solarium is another focus for the Hickeys' attention. They want to put in a stone floor to add to its Victorian atmosphere. "We plan to add some wicker furniture," Hickey said. "We got a lot of ideas from magazines."

To make the dining room more convenient to the kitchen, they plan to move the family room from the west side to the east side. Shirley said the family room will be the only modern part of the home with the rest maintained in the Victorian setting.

They will add a laundry room and a washroom to the first floor of the house. It boasts four washrooms but none on the first floor.

The landscaping around the home will also reflect its Victorian grace.

"We don't want to put in a lot of

(continued on page 2)

INGERSOLL TIMES
MARCH 28, 1990

Home becomes historical

The old Norsworthy home at 250 King St. E. has been designated as having historical and architectural importance by the town.

Council passed a bylaw making the designation last week. It is the first time council has taken such action.

The home, now owned by Ken and Shirley Hickey, was built in the early 1850's by Nathaniel Whiting, an early founder of Ingersoll.

Later, it passed into the hands of James Norsworthy, who undertook major renovations in the 1880's.

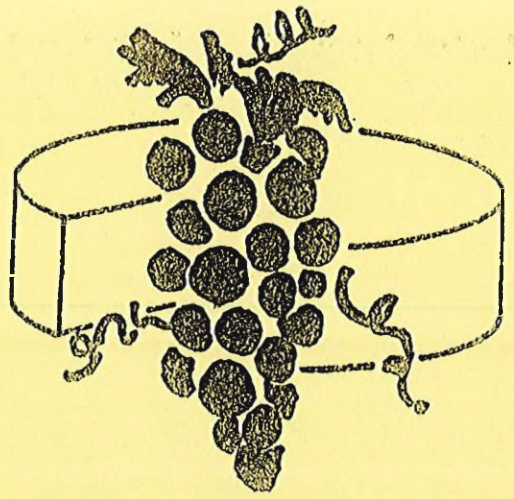
It is a 21-room, three-storey home which includes such features as turrets, bays, multicolored brick work, stain glass windows and slate roofs.

The house also includes wood carvings and elaborate ceiling frescoes.

Ingersoll Times
March 21 1990



Above, 250 King Street East, once owned by James Counter Norsworthy, pictured August 2012.



Festival '85

Homes Tour

Sat., Sept. 14th

1 - 4 p.m.

First Anglican rector's home

2 Cemetery Lane, Ingersoll

Open to tour from 1 to 2 p.m.

In comparison to many of the older, stately homes in Ingersoll, that which sits at 2 Cemetery Lane is a rather unpretentious one, nestled among large, shady trees.

Today, Audrey Bosman and Diane Hoekstra, two sisters, preside over it, although it is owned by the McNiven family. The home is well over 150 years ago, according to Mrs. Hoekstra, and years ago it provided a residence for St. James' Anglican Church's first rector, the Rev. John Rothwell.

Although little of the home's history is available, it's known that the property was purchased from John Allen of Oxford County, for \$3,500 on February 18, 1863, by Mr. Rothwell and his wife Elizabeth.

The Rothwell family actually arrived in Canada, from Ireland, in 1934, and they settled here shortly after their arrival. In a letter to her son, years later, Mrs. Rothwell describes her first impressions of Canada, and her first home.

Describing her first Ingersoll area home, Mrs. Rothwell wrote, "There were two small houses joined together by a little passage, and not having a stable, the horses and goats had to occupy the smallest, so that when we sat at the table we could see them switching about their tails sometimes, which highly amused me, although it horrified my mother when she read my account of it in a letter.

"We had a large fireplace with a crane to hang the kettle and pots on. I had slept on a hair mattress on the floor the first night and then they put up the mahogany bedstead for me and one iron one for junior. Uncle and I got Henderson to make clothes horses upon which I pinned sheets to serve as screens. Your Uncle, after a time, placed boards and put them round the room and floored it. I called it my deal box. We dined in it on Christmas day and then unpacked such things as were necessary to make it comfortable.

"We had the old oval mahogany table that belonged to your grandfather Hugh Rothwell at Trinity College, Dublin, when he was a young man, half a dozen mahogany chairs, which fitted into a case, your father's desk, also of mahogany, with drawers below it; I had shelves put up in each recess beside the chimney to form little side tables, (those were delightful times when you could bore a hole with an augur, put in a couple of pegs and make a shelf wherever you wanted one) so together with the dark brown curtains of linen and woolen which you remember afterwards at "the Glebe" my deal box looked cosy enough.

"When Bess Armstrong came to see us on her way back to Ireland, she exclaimed at the appearance of comfort and said she had never taken the trouble of unpacking her things, she was so disappointed with the country. I was not so, however - it was better on the whole than I expected and it did me good and gave me a homelike feeling to try and make the room look pretty."

Mrs. Rothwell also explained the happenings of the day, saying, "The men went out to chop the first thing in the morning and as cholera was hardly out of the country, I thought it bad for them to go without eating, so every night I prepared either broth or rice milk very thick and left it in the "dipster" where it cooked and was ready in the morning. Then we got up and breakfasted, after which they came in and we went out, either to ramble about or sit on logs until they had done. When they went out we would find everything washed up and put away and the floor swept as neatly as possible.

"I could not get a woman to wash so tried to do some of the child's clothes while your father was away in the woods, for fear he should see me. Johnny was my confidant and used to put the things out at night to dry and take them in before anyone was up in the morning; then I ironed them by snatches, and he, good boy, brought down a tray-full of the plain things which he had ironed all by himself up in the loft on one of the men's chests.

"One day before we moved to the farm, I wanted to go there and your Uncle took me up behind him on the horse to ford the river. There was no bridge then, after that they felled a tree across in one place; just as we reached the opposite bank the horse put its hind feet into a hole and I quickly slipped off over its tail into all the mud, half afraid it might kick and got so amused that I laughed most heartily. Your father was there too so I retreated to the bush, high cranberry bushes, I recollect well, and after taking off my wet clothes, put on his coat until Rothwell galloped to the Hotel for dry things. I was greatly afraid of being seen but your father said there was no one there to see me. They always had a laugh against me for my ducking. I who used to be such a rider in the old country. However, it would not have happened if I had been on a saddle. I used often to ride over to the village after we moved; one day they brought out a chair, I asked what it was for and was surprised to hear it was to help me mount, they had never seen anyone able to spring into the saddle - it made me laugh. Indeed I was always laughing at the curious ideas and ways of the country - but it was better than crying."



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THE **Ingersoll**
Times

19 KING ST. WEST

INGERSOLL, ONT.



Above, formerly 2 Cemetery Lane, at the north-east corner of Cemetery Lane and Pemberton Streets, pictured August 2012

Nature surrounds Stearman home

60 King St. W., Ingersoll

Open to tour from 2 to 3 p.m.

The once beautifully manicured gardens are now overgrown, and the fish pond built 50-some years ago to amuse four little girls, has long been filled in. But the gracious home owned by Bill and Betty Stearman, 60 King Street West, is still one of Ingersoll's most prestigious.

The home was built in 1865 by a Doctor Walker. That was 33 years before Ingersoll had its first hospital, but Dr. Walker had a small office built on the north corner of his property, and it was here he tended to his patients.

Until the Stearmans purchased the home last year, it had been owned only by doctors and their families.

Janet Fleischer, the youngest daughter of Dr. Jethro and Mrs. Blanche Counter, was raised there and has many fond memories of her childhood years there.

Her parents purchased the home from Dr. Walker and until June 1958, when Dr. John Lawson and his family bought it, the estate was known by all as Doc Counter's home.

Over the years, the home and property have undergone numerous changes, and yet in many ways, they remain much as they were, long ago. Since purchasing the home, the Stearmans have done extensive work both in and outside of the home.

The huge 12' x 30' living room stretches across the entire west side of the home. The room's original wide pine floors were covered with linoleum by the Lawson family, and have since been recovered with carpet by the Stearmans. Other than that though, the room maintains an air of yesteryears, tastefully decorated in a cranberry color and furnished with an antique seven piece settee set, which is about 130 years old.

The Stearmans have been working steadily since purchasing the home, trying to restore it as closely as possible to its original state. In keeping with the cranberry color scheme, however, they have replaced the terracotta tile on the fire place, with cranberry colored tile.

The dining room, which measures 12' x 19' features double doors leading into the Stearmans' garden.

According to Mrs. Fleischer, the yard to the west of the home at one time featured a huge vegetable garden. Her mother, Mrs. Counter, was an avid horticulturalist who spent endless hours tending to both the vegetable garden and the floral gardens that filled the yard.

Mrs. Fleischer recalls a fish pond in the centre of the yard, which was surrounded by flowers and filled every summer with colorful goldfish. The pond was eventually filled in by the Lawsons, to prevent accidents involving young children.

While Mrs. Counter was a horticulturalist, Dr. Lawson was a naturalist who believed in letting Mother Nature tend to her plants by allowing them to grow wild and free. The Stearmans hope to eventually restore the gardens to their original, more organized state, and have already done some work in this area.

Mr. Stearman noted that a perennial garden takes up one

portion of the rear yard and said that throughout the spring and summer months, new flowers are constantly poking their heads up and adding a cheerful touch to the yard.

Magnolia trees, flowering crabs and dogwood add even more color when in bloom. A patch of holly just inside the front gate, greets visitors to the home.

While Dr. Walker, years ago, practised from a separate building located on the property, Dr. Counter had the building removed in the 1930s and added an office to his home at that time. A second storey bedroom was also created.

Today the front portion of this addition is used by Mr. Stearman as a study, while the rear portion is presently being renovated to provide a playroom for the Stearman children. A loft has been added to the bedroom.

Dr. Walker's original office, incidentally, was relocated to 109 Duke Street. It was a first home for Janet and Ted Fleischer and is now owned by Tom and Nora Pettit. Over the years, that building has also had various renovations and additions.

There are six bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second floor of the home. All have been freshly painted and papered but will not be included on the tour.

Mrs. Fleischer said at one time the house accommodated a rear staircase, which lead to two bedrooms above the home's original kitchen. These bedrooms were provided for a live-in maid. When the staircase was removed, a second bathroom was created on the second floor.

At one time a garage was located along the south west portion of the home. The Lawson family renovated it into a family room and extended the original kitchen into a portion of it, some years ago. These two rooms, along with a basement playroom, will also be off-limits to those participating in the tour.

What was at one time a music room, and still houses a piano originally owned by the Counter family, is now home to Mr. Stearman's unique Mickey Mouse collection. His collection will be on display for visitors to browse through, during the tour.

Like most of the community's older, stately homes, the Stearmans' property at one time housed stables, on the west side. Mrs. Fleischer said her father kept two horses there, which he used regularly when making house-calls. Dr. Counter owned one of the first automobiles in Ingersoll though, and it wasn't too long after he acquired his first car that the stables were taken down.

A summer house which sits at the west side of the house, provided an ideal spot for lacing up ice skates in the winter months, and having tea parties in the warmer weather, said Mrs. Fleischer.

No doubt it is still used for lacing up skates in the winter months, for like Dr. Counter, who created an outdoor ice rink each year for his daughters, and like Dr. Lawson who continued the tradition each winter, Mr. Stearman is also carrying on the outdoor ice rink tradition.



INSIDE WORLD

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Above, formerly 60 King Street West, at the north-west corner of King & Duke Streets, pictured August 2012. Currently the Dogwood Business Centre, 128 Duke Street, shown August 2012

James Harris estate now a restaurant

4wy. 19, Ingersoll

On the edge of Ingersoll, set far back from the road and shrouded by trees, is one of Ingersoll's most historic homes. Today it is known as the Elm Hurst, a restaurant, but at one time, it was known as the James H. Harris estate. Mr. Harris was one of the town's most prominent citizens, and was a cheese maker by trade.

The early Victorian styled home was occupied by four generations of the Harris family until 1977, when it was renovated to a restaurant. Although it has been altered and added to since becoming a restaurant, many of the rooms within this mansion are just as they might have been in 1871 when the home was first built.

According to the book 'Ingersoll Our Heritage,' written by Michelle Hanlon, Merriel La Rose, Ruth Merrill and the late Harry Whitwell, the home and Mr. Harris gained fame after Ingersoll's Big Cheese was constructed on a portion of the Harris property.

Mr. Harris built a lean-to of 16' x 16' behind his house, in order to accommodate the mammoth cheese.

The Big Cheese was made in 1866, weighing 7,300 pounds. It was 6'10" in diameter and 3' high. Made from curd assembled at three different factories, Mr. Harris, his father-in-law Hiram Ranney, and George Galloway, were responsible for making it.

The Big Cheese was exhibited at the New York State Fair at atoga, U.S.A., then shipped to England where it was exhibited many times. It was eventually sold to a buyer from Liverpool, England, but not before it had brought fame to the small community of Ingersoll.

Inside the home's beautiful, double French front doors, is an inner foyer with another set of stained glass double doors. They lead to a large hall. The hardwood oak flooring on the main floor has been partially covered with carpeting, but one can still see the herringbone pattern of wood, along the sides of the hall floor.

On the original first floor was a large living room, sitting room, breakfast room, music room, a formal dining room, a kitchen, pantry and storage room. Most of these rooms had high, heavily sculptured ceilings, and they remain that way in the original, unaltered portion of the home.



Open to tour
from 2 to 4 p.m.

There were fire places in almost all of the rooms of the original home, necessary years ago to heat a home of that proportion.

Nine bedrooms, including three in the servants quarters, made up the second floor. Fire places were located in six of the main bedrooms. Interestingly, there was only one bathroom in the enormous home when the Harris family resided there, although more have since been added.

In the attic were three cisterns which stored rain water for the family's needs.

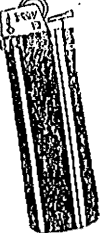
"A unique feature of this home is the tower directly above the front door. At the top of the tower is a door leading to a landing. The purpose of this structure was to make repairs to the home, for in the past, the roofs were too high pitched and dangerous to be reached by ladders," according to 'Ingersoll Our Heritage.' On a clear day, Woodstock can be spotted from the tower's landing, and it is suspected the Harris family used this landing for sunbathing in privacy.

Again, according to the book, "Another feature is the fancy barge boards, hand-cut, protruding around each gabled end.

"The grounds surrounding the building are spacious and beautifully decorated with large trees and shrubs. The east end of the grounds are terraced and lead down to a pond. On the south east side of the home is a barn where horses were kept for transportation and recreation.



"A tollgate was located about 100 yards north of the Harris home. Frmers from the south used to go through the back east end of the Harris property and drive out the north driveway, past the cheese factory, and avoid the tollgate fee."

Renovations done to the building since 1977, have all been in keeping with the Victorian charm this home eludes.

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Above, The Elmhurst Inn at 415 Harris Street , formerly the home of James Harris, shown August 2014

Former manse, hotel now private home

174 King St. W., Ingersoll

Open to tour from 1 to 4 p.m.

One of Ingersoll's grandest homes, and certainly one with a colorful history, is that owned by Gus and Micheline Maass at 174 King Street West. Over the years it has served as a hotel, twice as a manse, and numerous times as private dwellings.

Today the stately Georgian-style home maintains an historical atmosphere, reminding one of an era long gone by.

When the structure was first built, it was used as a hotel by London-bound travellers journeying by coach along Ingersoll's Stage Road (what is today known as King St.). Coaches were stored overnight in the carriage house at the rear of the property and after the horses were watered at a well located on the west side of the house, they too were put in the carriage house.

Records show that the building was purchased by John Colidge in 1870 and it is suspected he converted the hotel into a private dwelling. The home went through a number of owners until 1889, when the directors of St. Andrew's Church purchased it for use as a manse. Later that year, the congregations of Knox Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Church united to form St. Paul's Presbyterian Church congregation, and shortly after that the home was sold. In 1893, however, it was purchased by the St. Paul's congregation, to be used once again as a manse. The house remained in the church's hands until 1898 when it was sold to James Harry Thomas and his bride, the former Florence A. Bailey.

Mr. Thomas, a manger at Ingersoll Packing Co., now known as Ingersoll Cheese Co., was in charge of the export of cheese, particularly Stilton cheese, to England. Although history books tell nothing of his activities in the community, it is known that he was considered to be one of Ingersoll's more prominent citizens.

Many will remember the swinging bridge that once crossed the Thames River, and it was Mr. Thomas who paid for this bridge. When the original Wonham Street bridge was destroyed, he built it to provide easy access for himself and others, to and from the Packing Co., according to his daughter, Marion Turner of Windsor.

After Mr. Thomas' death, Mrs. Thomas and her two daughters, Marion and Dorothy, continued to live in the house. When Marion married Morris Turner in 1937, the house was made into a duplex, with one half for Mrs. Thomas and the other half for the Turners. It has since been reconverted into a private home with a small apartment at the rear.

In 1934 the value of the home escalated from \$2,000 to \$14,000 and it is thought that during this time, two wings were added to the house. Mrs. Turner believes the east wing was built first, and said

the one facing Merritt Street was originally screened in. It wasn't until she and her husband moved into that portion of the home that it was enclosed and made to resemble the wing on the east side.

Mrs. Turner said there was once a back staircase off the kitchen, leading to a small upstairs bedroom, through the main bathroom. That bedroom served as the maid's sleeping quarters. The back staircase was removed years ago, and the maid's room is now used as an office by Mr. Maass.

Inside the solid oak front door, which is decorated with a brass knocker and knob, rooms shoot off from a central hall, typical of the Georgian style. To the left is a formal living room with a white marble fireplace, and a small greenery room, enclosed by leaded windows. To the right is a formal dining room and just off that, in the east wing, is what at one time served as a library and is now used by the Masses as a family room. It too features a marble fire place and leaded glass windows. To the rear is the kitchen and a less formal eating area.

The staircase features the original solid oak banister and leads to a large foyer upstairs. There are three large bedrooms, a bathroom and a small office on the second floor.

In the master bedroom, a bedroom on the east side of the home, and in the formal dining room, are fire places which can no longer be seen, as they have been covered in over the years. Mr. Maass suspects they were covered to prevent heat loss.

At the base of the staircase is a white wooden pillar. At one time a number of these pillars stood outside the rear entrance to the home, supporting an ivy and flower covered trellis which sheltered a walkway from the home to the carriage house. The pillar at the base of the steps inside, is one of the few remaining. The foundations for these pillars, however, are still prominent outside of the home.

Across the entire front of the house and along its two sides are lead glass windows. A sunburst scene is cut into the glass pane above the front door.

To the rear of the property sits the carriage house, a two storey building which once housed livestock and a Quebec cutter, used regularly by the Thomas family. Two of the original stalls have been maintained inside, and in each stall are elevated iron feeding racks.

Today the stalls remain empty. The well where horses once watered has been cemented over. The ivy covered trellis has disappeared and the yard which once extended all the way to the Thames River, has been drastically reduced. But step into this grand old home, close your eyes for just a moment, and you'll almost believe you're walking into Ingersoll's past.



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AND ENJOY A HOT DOG
OR HAMBURG
COOKED ON THE
OUTSIDE GRILL
DINO'S RESTAURANT
11 KING ST. W., INGERSOLL



LOCATION:
25B King St. West, Ingersoll
485-1011



Above, 174 King Street West, at the north-east corner of King & Merritt Streets, shown August 2012

Stately homes have graced town for years

BY WES ROCHESTER

Architecture in the early days of Ingersoll suited the times. The earlier the home, the plainer. When people come to a new area they bring different customs and tastes and are obliged to either change or modify them to suit the new. Log cabins, usually of two rooms below a plank chamber floor, were replaced as soon as money became available to build better. Stone houses can still be found along the north country. Scottish stone masons built homes out of field stone during the 1840 to 1870 period.

Loyalists and American settlers built the first homes in Ingersoll, followed by wealthy British families who built homesteads out of brick in the fashion of neo-classic styles. Large, square homes with gothic details, the style of the middle-ages, look over from the Adamesque style after 1835. This was a simpler design than previous homes with features of a single pointed gable roof atop rectangle-framed houses.

As time went on, other features were added to this gable look. A front door appeared directly under the peak with a window being placed closer to the roof, above the door. The roofs became steeper and decorated with fancy wood work. The development of the band-saw gave southern Ontario a distinctive appeal. Yellow-colored brick, made locally, gave the region a distinctive Oxford look. In the 1880s a red trim brick work around doors, windows, and corners added a special look to the appearances of Ingersoll homes - a feature only common in counties around Oxford.

After the 1850s, houses were built in the Italian style. These were characteristically larger homes of sturdy brick, often with an observatory platform on the roof that was surrounded by an iron railing. They were usually two storey with a bay window on the ground floor.

Victorian-type homes developed at the turn of the century. As more and more building ideas were used, the homes became more elaborate. Architects tried to put all of their marbles in one bag. The result was rambling homes with spires, turrets, balconies, gables, and lots of fancy trim.

Store fronts and commercial buildings had characteristic styles of their own. Yellow and red brick. They had three stories with a roof that sloped backwards. Windows were high, narrow, and usually rounded at the top. Also the mark of the builder in the form of either a name or year of construction could be found below the eaves.

Many of the styles mentioned still remain in the Town of Ingersoll. It would be impossible to mention the homes of many of the town's famous residents, however, a select group that display the characteristics of the period can be enjoyed by all today.

The home of Adam Oliver, controversial

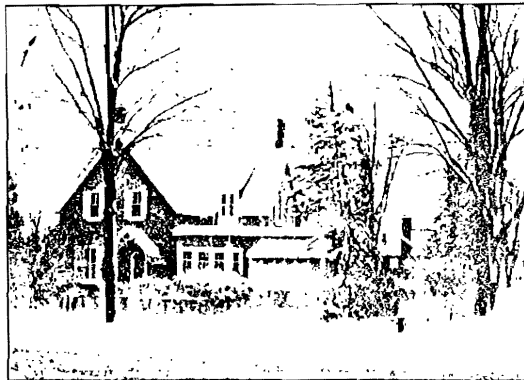
first Mayor of Ingersoll, graces the north side of Victoria Street. A simple square Ontario gothic style home of solid red brick, it has been extended on two sides since first erected. The love of Victorian decoration is evident in the heavy scalloped barge board of tear-drop design, located at each corner and pinnacle at the apex of the gable roof. Its upper windows are pointed gothic, but the front side ones are curiously curved, representing the Romanesque style.

There is a little confusion as to the exact building date of the home. However, there is evidence that the first mortgage was granted to Oliver in 1856 but the land itself was deeded to John Carnegie to the Bishop de Charbournel in 1852. Mayor Oliver purchased it in 1877 from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London, Ontario.

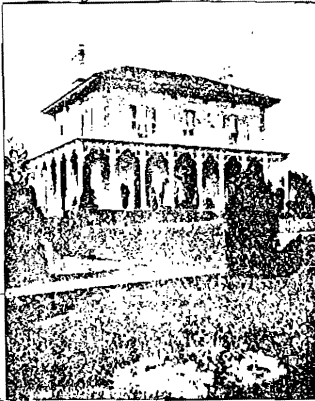
At 250 King Street East stands the 'haunted' Norsworthy home. Originally made of yellow brick, it was given a unique red glaze at a later date. Built in the early 1850s the house is an example of the Queen Ann style. Turrets, bays, a chimney of cut-brick, multicolored brick work, slate roof and stained glass windows are characteristics of this style.

An irregular shaped home of three stories, 21 rooms, a cellar and furnace room, it was the first natural air conditioned home in Ingersoll. Vents in the basement walls drew air from outside to all around the house. It was at one time the only one in town that had running water in all the rooms. A gravity force cistern was built five feet above the house with pipes going through the kitchen roof connecting to the taps in each room. As the water level dropped, more was added from the well.

The house shelters other secrets. The ghost of Norsworthy's first wife, Mary Jane, is said to have haunted the house. Owners have attested to hearing and being aware of a presence in the home for many years. It is believed that Mary Jane, who died suddenly of diphtheria in 1891 while nursing her sick children, roams the mansion in search of her daughter.



The home now owned by Dr. John Lawson is shown above in the early in 1900, and left, as it is now.



The grounds of the first bowling green in Ingersoll can be found at 168 King Street West, where an early Romanesque home stands. Originally built for the C. C. L. Wilson family in 1890, it has had several owners, but is largely known as the Carr Home. Around the top of the home is fancy carved barge board accompanied with stained glass windows in the upper and lower bays. Engraved in the brick work at the front is an ornate carving of wood with the inscription "Melrose". The story of this name comes from a small town in England which means a serene, quiet, resting place. Several homes in the area have adopted the name as their owners are of English descent.

Located on the east side of Highway 19 and 401, the James H. Harris family home was built in 1871. A unique feature of this home is the tower directly above the front door. At the top of the tower is a door leading to a landing. The purpose of this structure was to make repairs to the home, for in the past, the roofs were too high pitched and dangerous to be reached by ladders. On this tower's landing, Woodstock can be seen. It was also used as a sunbathing deck by the family.

The former Noxon home was used as a hospital until it was demolished in 1951 to provide space for parking at the present

Alexandra Hospital. The old hospital, as the Noxon house was known, in 1909 had 16 beds and hospitalized a total of 120 patients annually.

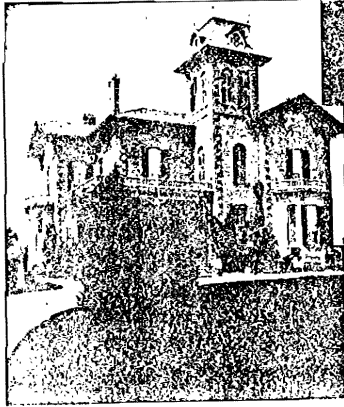
Located on the corner of Francis and Albert Streets, stands the three-ply, white brick home of George Mason, which was built in the early 1890s. Set on a hill, the beautifully kept grounds provide a stately setting for this home. A large garage at the back was used as a stable and carriage house. It's original partitions still stand today.

Passing through the stained cut-glass entrance way you immediately see a walnut spiral stair case that leads to six bedrooms, all with fireplaces and bathroom. The living room downstairs is 37 feet long with 12 foot high ceilings. Two fireplaces create a warm friendly atmosphere. The windows are the most unique feature of the house. They are French in style, rising from the floor to the ceiling. The sills are made of walnut and were brought from the southern states by original owner and builder, Thomas Seldon.

The dining room leads into two separate kitchens, one for summer and one for winter use. The winter kitchen has been up dated, but the summer one is strictly used in the summer months and is the original kitchen to this stately home. It's natural setting has been preserved. Numerous high cupboards surround all four walls with side sitting benches on the walls. An original pine drop-leaf table and matching chairs are in the middle of the room. This room also holds the original stove and icebox. A bathroom is adjacent to this room.

Set well back for the stage coach highway is the green frame house of Dr. John A. Patterson. The property was purchased in 1815 by John Carroll, one of Oxford's earliest known white settlers. Research indicates that the land was once an Indian camping ground. Library files record coins found in the orchard dating back to the 1830s when military soldiers sheltered their horses there.

The cemetery in the south east corner does not exist anymore, being since giving way to roving cattle. According to the late Byron Jenvey, who used to walk past the old graveyard on his way to school, the head stones were removed to be used as flooring for a basement in a nearby home as well as for several walkways.



These are just a sample of the beautiful homes that once graced Ingersoll. Many of these homes have been preserved and are still used as homes, while others have been converted to nursing homes, the Royal Canadian Legion, and businesses.



126
Times
July 25,
1984

Home a tribute to Ingersoll's past

BY MAJORIE FLEMING

"What you see here is a far cry from what we saw when we first set eyes on this house almost seven years ago. It was awful; orange and red carpet everywhere and dead bluebirds on it. The entire place was decorated in late bordello." So said Jessie Robins of the home she and her husband Jim have lovingly restored and decorated with a lifetime of precious memories.

The Robins moved to their King St. E. home in the late spring of 1979. It took three months of packing to make the move, as they were moving from the Norsworthy Home, a 21 room mansion further east on King, the home that had been theirs for 20 years.

The move was made because with children grown and married, the Robins found themselves and their dog rattling around in 21 large rooms. By this time they were also doing a lot of travelling, which made it difficult caring for a large house and property.

The Robins found their new home somewhat of a challenge. Built between 1850 and 1860, the house had seen its fair share of activity, alternating between use as a private residence and as a town building. The Creative Arts Centre spent three and a half years in the house, leaving in 1976. Prior to that, the house had been used as a day care centre. When the Robins took possession, it had been a private residence for three years.

Although very solid and structurally sound, the house required a great deal of work. Wasted space in the bedrooms necessitated moving protruding cupboards and recessing them for added space. The brick walls were all in need of insulation, the front veranda had to be levelled out and some floor joists needed replacing to make the floors completely solid. A new kitchen was added and the back part of the house underwent some major changes. Two small rooms became one large family room, and Mr.

Robins added sliding doors for easier access to the back porch. The house needed to be completely rewired and new outlets were added for more convenience.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges the Robins encountered was in the decor of their home; every room needed an entire makeover.

"The paint, paper and carpeting just wasn't my taste," said Mrs. Robins. "The house was very clean but the multitude of colors everywhere was simply too much. Cupids, gold ribbons, primroses and garlands came at me from everywhere. The bedroom was done in very large purple and blue fuchsia. Jim and I tried to go to bed at night without putting the lights on, just so we wouldn't have to look at the wallpaper."

The Robins gutted the inside of the house, ripping all the wall-papers off and taking up the multi-colored carpets. Over time, they decorated the rooms in muted colors, leaning towards soft shades of rose and soft greens. Then they began to fill the rooms with the items they have spent a lifetime collecting.

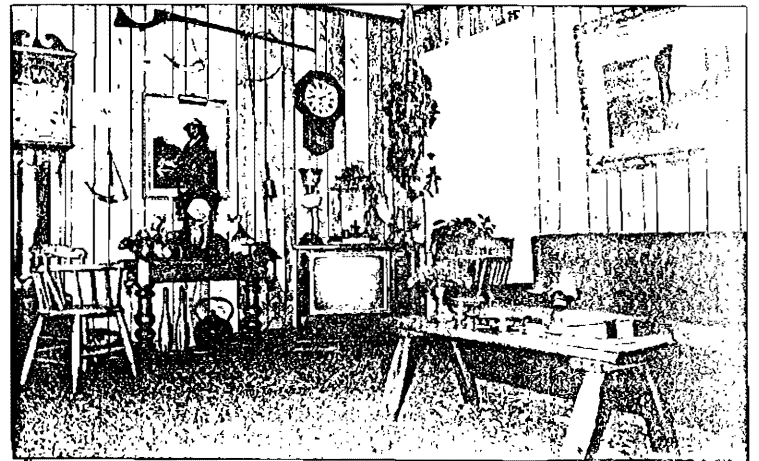
The Robins share an appreciation for preserving the past. Jessie's mother enjoyed collecting pieces from the past and she instilled in her daughter an appreciation of the workmanship that went into many of these 'treasures'. Jessie and Jim have in turn passed their appreciation for collecting and preserving on to their children.

"There is an absolute thrill involved in rescuing something from oblivion. To recognize something and have the means to restore it to its former beauty is something I will never tire of," said Mrs. Robins.

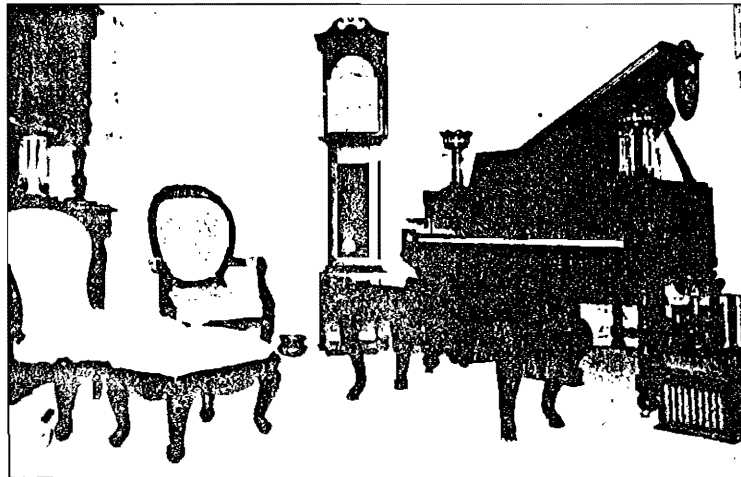
Perhaps the most precious of their collectables, in terms of closest to their hearts, is their collection of Ingersoll memorabilia. They have long scoured the local auction houses and had help from local people in collecting pieces of Ingersoll's heritage. Memories abound through some of their acquisitions, especially such items as the orig-



The Robins' home, built between 1850 and 1860, is very solid structurally and has seen a great deal of activity in its lifetime.



The Robins share an interest in preserving the past and their home reflects that interest. Throughout their home are old clocks, paintings and other historical items which add to the decor.



One of the biggest challenges in renovating the Robins' home was choosing the decor, so the house was gutted and a multitude of colors was replaced with muted tones.

inal Town Hall clock which they acquired 10 years ago. As a member of council, Mr. Robins sat under that clock for many years, as did Jessie in her duties as a reporter. The town was going to dispose of the clock so Jim asked that they put a price on it; he collects clocks and this one holds special significance for him. The Robins have also acquired the original wall clock from the Ingersoll Inn. It is six feet high and complete with names written on the inside of it, dating back from the 1800's to the 1920's.

Other Ingersoll memorabilia they have collected include an old decorated pine document box used by the town clerk in early days; a sideboard made for an early Ingersoll doctor's home, and numerous small items such as a commemorative china set picturing an early town merchant's store on it. One particularly interesting piece of early Ingersoll is an old wood box, shipped by the Wells Butterfield Stagecoach from New York before confederation. The box is addressed to John McConkey, Ingersoll, Canada West - evidently no postal code was needed. The American

flag on the box has 25 stars on it. Parts of Ingersoll are not the only memorabilia the Robins' collect. Their walls and shelves reflect their travels abroad. The pieces Jessie and Jim have brought back from their travels were not gathered indiscriminately; each item has a story behind it and Jessie can carefully recount every detail pertaining to its sentimental value. No stone is left unturned in seeking out the history behind a particular piece.

"It's not just a matter of collecting something," said Jessie, "it's a case of caring about the story behind it."

The Robins' home is not a showplace where everything is to be admired from afar. However, they do maintain a sophisticated deal alarm system. The Robins live in their home and they use and enjoy the memories that surround them. They plan to continue collecting items connected with Ingersoll and their respective interests, and they also plan to continue restoring and making additions to their home.



Above, 130 King Street East, shown August 2012

Historic home restored

BY MARJORIE FLEMING

When Dr. David Simpson and his wife Mary saw the home they now live in on Thames St. South, they knew it was what they wanted. Situated on nine acres of land, the house had everything they were looking for: a good location, land (complete with a pond, a stream and fruit trees) and large rambling rooms that provided lots of space. Said Dr. Simpson, "The size of the house was really important. We were looking for a home which had plenty of room to move around in and this one definitely fit the bill. Not only was the house nice and big but it was situated on nine acres of land in town, and it just happened to be across the street from where I work. The house had everything we needed."

The Simpsons moved into their home across from the hospital in June of 1984. Soon after moving in however, they discovered the house was lacking something very essential; insulation. Their first summer was very difficult. The temperature indoors was approximately 60 degrees and the humidity stood around 150 per cent. With very little insulation of any kind, the house was like a furnace.

The Simpsons' first winter in the house proved equally unbearable. With the heat on full tilt and the wood stove burning twenty-four hours a day, the house was still incredibly cold - the living room, which houses the wood stove, was the only warm spot in the house. The Simpsons and their children went to bed each night wearing socks and stacking as many blankets on the bed as possible, just to keep warm.

Dr. and Mrs. Simpson had not expected to do any renovations when they moved in. They bought the house, which was in good condition, with an eye towards doing nothing but simply enjoying it. All this changed however, after their first summer and winter in the house. Said Dr. Simpson, "I didn't expect to get into the expense and work involved in renovating but I had no choice. It was hard watching

my family freezing. The discomfort was incredible and I knew the house would have to be completely insulated for things to change."

Unbeknown to Dr. Simpson, the roof was in bad shape so that was one of the first undertakings to be completed. The bathroom was the first room in the house the Simpsons tackled - they had originally planned to remodel it sometime because it was the original one from the 1920s. They completed the bathroom and then they were forced with the decision of how to tackle the rest of the renovations.

The decision the Simpsons faced was whether to do one room at a time or do the entire house all at once. After considerable thought, they decided to do the whole house at once. Said Dr. Simpson, "We opted to renovate the house all at once because then it would be done with; we didn't want the mess dragging out for years. We also wanted some short term rather than long term heating improvements."

Dr. Simpson started his renovations with two of the bedrooms upstairs. He ripped everything out right down to the brick. Said Dr. Simpson, "It was interesting. Talk about drafts, we could see the backyard through the bricks." At this point, a bricklayer had to be brought in to point the bricks. After the brick work was done, new wiring was put in, the framing was done and then the rooms were insulated, using urethane foam. Dr. Simpson had urethane put in because he would have lost too much wall space using another insulation. After the insulation was added, the drywall was put up and the rooms slowly began to take shape.

After the two bedrooms were drywalled, the rooms were cleaned up and left for a while. The other two bedrooms were then emptied of furniture into the semi-finished ones and the whole process of ripping down to the brick began again. While all this was taking place, Dr. Simpson had someone doing the same thing downstairs in the living room. Several floor joists were discovered to be cracked and



Work had to be done on the outside of the Simpson residence as well as the inside.

sagging so these were also fixed before the rooms were left to be finished.

The family room, opposite the living room, was the next to be tackled. While it was being readied for drywall, the upstairs drywall was being taped and made ready for finishing. In this manner, all rooms were done, and now virtually all insulation, framing and drywall in the house had been completed. New windows were also installed in almost every room and these have been very beneficial in reducing drafts.

Two bedrooms and a sewing room in the Simpsons' home are now completely finished. These three rooms took three months from the drywall stage to finish. A phenomenal amount of wood went into making baseboards and the window and door trim. Said Dr. Simpson, "We wanted to give the rooms the flavor of years past so we decided to use pine. It was very labor intensive to make everything but we decided it was worth it."

With most of the heavy work done, it is the finishing of the rooms that remain to be done now. The living room still needs some drywall work but when it is completed the room will be finished in oak. The family room across the hall is also ready to be finished in oak - the huge fireplace that greets you when you enter the room will soon be



Dr. Simpson had to take apart most of the home's interior to upgrade the insulation values and at the same time add more visual appeal.

faceted in oak. Dr. Simpson said the entire house should be done by early October. The main floor, two bedrooms and the hallways need to be finished and he plans to spend five or six weeks on each room. With the finishing of the drywall in the living room, Dr. Simpson will have used 11,000 square feet of drywall during his renovations and an incredible amount of wood for all the baseboards and door and window frames.

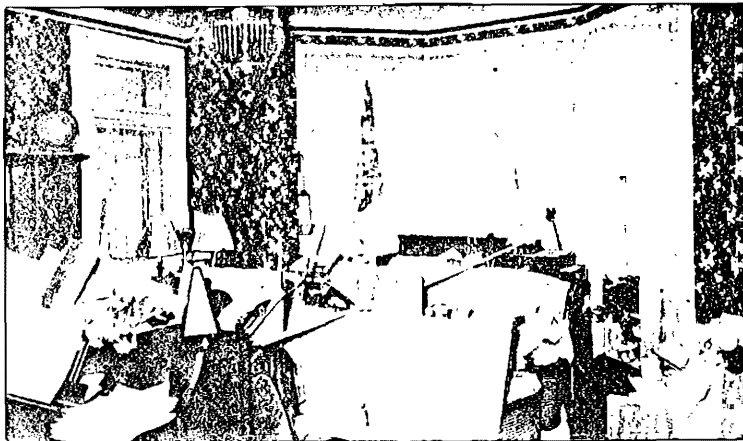
The cost of these renovations would have been astounding had Dr. Simpson not done a great deal of the work himself. With the help of his father-in-law and a few others, Dr. Simpson has done the bulk of the renovations himself and in doing so he has saved himself a fortune. The job was also made easier by the good quality tools he bought over the last year and a half.

Are there any regrets at tackling such a massive undertaking? The Simpsons say no. Although the house is full of dust and planks and tools, and Mary Simpson some-

times wonders whether there is light at the end of the tunnel, neither regrets their decision to renovate the house all at once. Said Dr. Simpson, "I feel it's much better to spend a year and a half in an uproar, as opposed to ten years. In order to live in comfort the insulating had to be done and doing it bit by bit would have dragged on for years, a mess that will soon be over."

The fruits of their labor are already very evident. The heat bill has been reduced by one-third or less over last year and the month of January was better than half of last year's bill. The bathroom, two bedrooms and sewing room upstairs are a beautiful indication of what time, patience and talent can achieve. The rest of the house is well on its way to becoming a lovely, warm, honey and inviting place in which the Simpsons intend on spending a good many years.

The house that had everything they needed will soon be everything they wanted, plus more.



Finding space for everything can be a challenge as Mrs. Simpson is finding out. While the room is undergoing renovations, another is used to store furniture and other items which have been moved.



Above, 316 Thames Street South, shown August 2012

A treasure to the eyes was covered up by paint

Fifth of six

Story and photo by MARILYN SMULDERS of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — There was a treasure waiting when red paint was sandblasted away from the exterior of a Wonham Street home.

Underneath lay the whimsical patterns of yellow brick on dark orange. Called Flemish bond, the entwining design makes this house unique in Ingersoll.

Another factor that makes John Wilson and Linda Anderson's home stand out is its age. Being more than 130 years old, the saltbox structure is one of the oldest in town.

Sometime in the 1850s, an army captain had his regiment help to build the house. The house then passed into the hands of C.C.L. Wilson, a local businessman who also owned the Melrose estate, on the corner of Wonham and King streets.

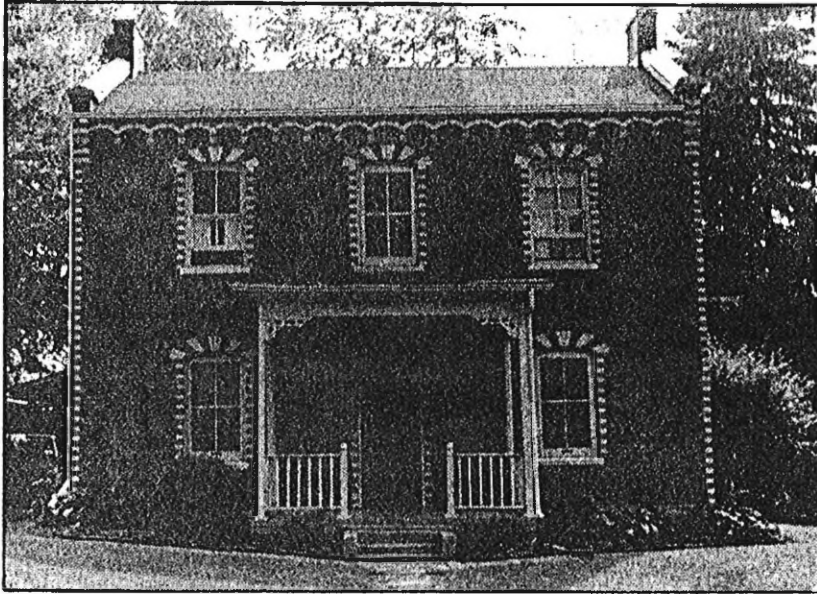
Many of the antique features of the interior have been removed with time. However, in the five years since Wilson and Anderson have moved there, improvements have been gradually made. Woodwork of the baseboards, doors and windows has been restored, as well the floors.

"It really is a charming place," said Anderson. "But with an old house you have to constantly keep abreast of repairs."

The house is accented with lovely flower gardens. A large backyard gives the couple's two children lots of play space.

At one time, the home was surrounded on three sides by lawns. But as development continued to accommodate the town's growing population, side lawns were sold off as lots.

As a wedding present, the couple received an artist's rendition of the house as it must of looked like a century ago — surrounded by trees and shrubbery.



THIS HOUSE on Wonham Street in Ingersoll displays a gingerbread appearance, achieved by the use of polychromatic (many colored) brick instead of carved woodwork.

SENTINEL REVIEW
July 15, 1988



Above, 120 Wonham Street South, shown August 2012

A walk through Inge

Historical designations

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT
of the Ingersoll Times

The Ingersoll & District Historical Society recently has seen the beginnings of a dream come true.

Ever since the Historical Society was organized several years ago, the group's Honorary President, J. C. Herbert, has wanted to see it recognize a number of historically significant buildings in town.

Some time ago a committee was established to decide which six buildings would be the first to be recognized. All six are in the core area, and ironically two of the buildings no longer exist.

Attractive wooden plaques have been made by President Ernie Hunt. Executive member Bill Hawkins did the printing and designed the special pewter crest.

A brochure, indicating an easy walking tour of the buildings, was prepared in time for Heritage Weekend. The text was a joint effort of the committee and the brochure was designed by Susan Masters.

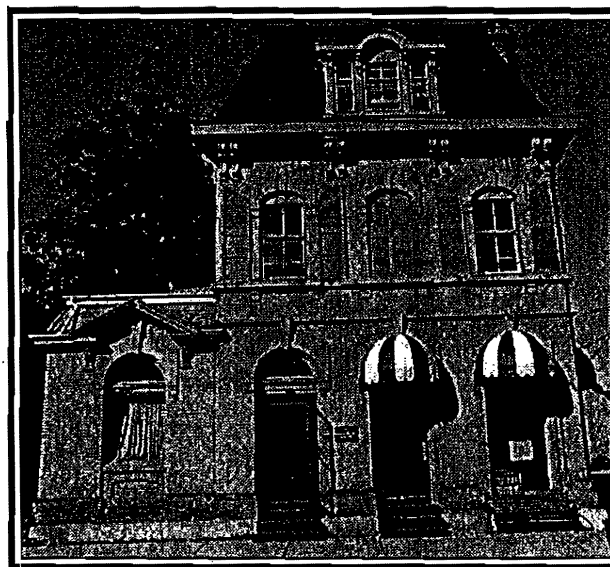
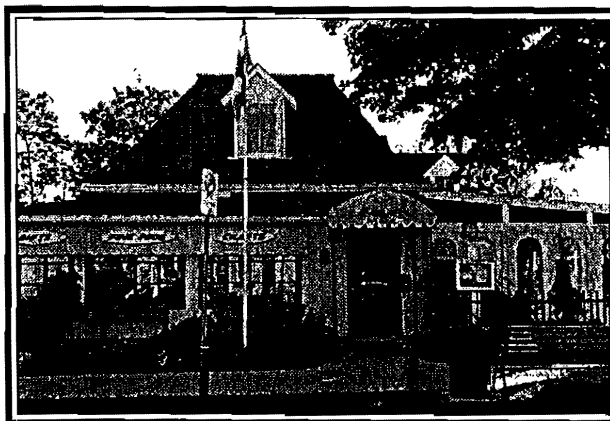
Both historical and architectural interest was considered when the sites were chosen. Two of the plaques were up in time for Heritage Weekend and Executive Member Yvonne Hunt says the rest will be mounted in the near future.

The Smith House

Number one on the list is the **Smith House**, at 189 Thames Street South. One of the oldest houses in Ingersoll, it was built by James Smith shortly after he emigrated from Scotland in 1862. The house remained in the Smith family for over 125 years.

The construction was of flat plank and a mansard style roofline was incorporated.

During those years, neces-



sary additions were made to the small one floor cottage to accommodate the nine Smith children. One wing, containing a kitchen and dining room was built on the south side. A second storey, containing five bedrooms, was a much needed addition.

The Smith family established itself in the grist mill business as well as an ice business in the winter time. The latter supplied the Ingersoll Packing Company as well as domestic needs.

The Smith House is located at 189 Thames Street South and is currently the home of Catherine Van Dyke's The Clog and Thistle Restaurant.

The Merchant Bank of Canada

The Merchants Bank established a branch in Ingersoll in 1868. It first operated in the McMurray building which later became the St. Charles Hotel. The site is now Dewan Festival Gardens.

In 1907 it constructed its own building on Thames Street South, immediately south of the Niagara District Bank.

Thirty-seven years later, the bank had the construction firm of Nagle and Mills erect a larger and more spacious building on the North East corner of Thames and Charles Street.

The former Merchants Bank building was sold to Edward Hugill who conducted an insurance and loan business in what became known eventu-

ally as the Hugill building.

The Merchant Bank is of Italianate style although decorative features are absent. It is presumed they were removed as the result of decay over the years.

Currently, Richard Chambers' Ingersoll Optical Company is located at the 188 Thames Street South building.

The Niagara District Bank

Located on the East side of Thames Street, adjacent to the current R. McNiven and Sons Insurance, the Niagara District Bank, in 1856, became one of the first banks to establish a branch here. In 1871 it erected a new building on the west side of the street.

The two story brick building exhibits strong Italianate features such as the Palladian windows in the roof, rounded windows and door design with keystone accent and the wide corner brackets.

When The Niagara District Bank merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1875 it operated in the building, but under the name of the Imperial Bank.

Located at 180 Thames Street South, the original Niagara Bank building is now used for commercial purposes.

The Norsworthy Building

The Norsworthy Building sits proudly on King Street, just west of the Thames Street corner. James Norsworthy, who had the building erected, was a general banker and broker as well as being an agent for various steamship lines. A Branch of the London Bank was also located in this building for a few years, then in 1887 the Traders Bank took over the business of the London Bank, operating in that building. When business prospered so much it was necessary to secure larger quarters, a new building was erected on the northwest corner of Thames and King Streets. The

Ingersoll's history

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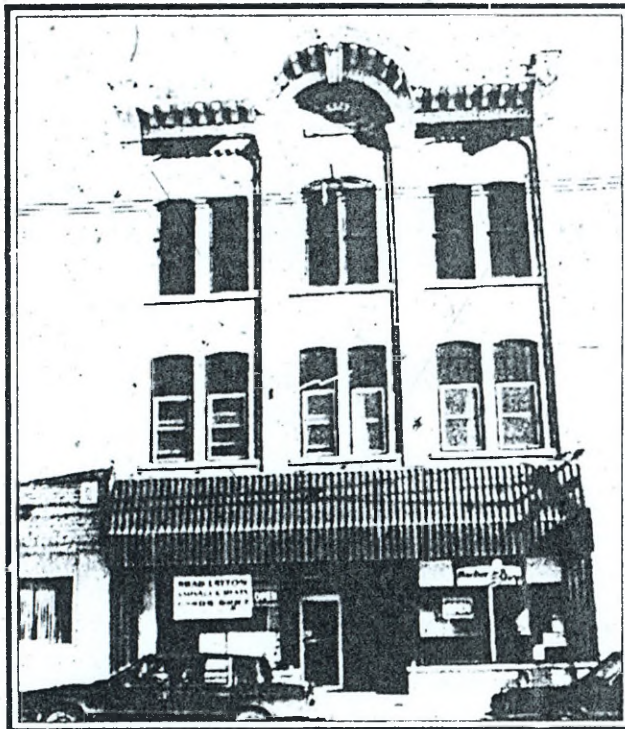
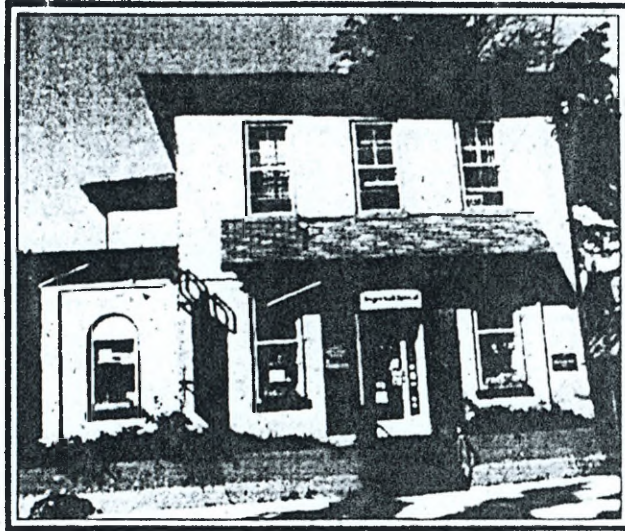
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Royal Bank sits there now.

The Norsworthy Building is also an example of Italianate design with its strong classical features such as pilasters on the corners, brackets, and arches in the brickwork just under the wide cornice.

The Norsworthy Building is located at 17 King Street West.

Thomas Ingersoll

Log Cabin

Major Thomas Ingersoll was granted a charter in 1793 to

develop the settlement we know as Ingersoll. His son James, who was Registrar for the County of Oxford for 52 years, wrote an article in which he tells about his father arriving at the settlement.

He writes, "The Indian Chief who guided the party urged my father to pitch his tent on what is now Thames Street, which he accordingly did and with his own hand felled the first tree. This was an Elm tree,

PHOTOS BY GEOFF DALE

the body of which was put in the premises in which I was born 10 September 1801, the same ground on which Poole's store has been erected on Thames St." No one is sure whether the log cabin was built on his first trip because he did return to Massachusetts several times before bringing his family here.

However it definitely was this location where he built the cabin he and his family called home for as long as they lived here.

It is now the site of the gazebo in Heritage Park.

The James McIntyre Building

James McIntyre is known far and wide as Canada's cheese poet. Although some declaim his work as being too pedestrian and lacking any form of sophistication, others recognize and value it for its historical significance.

McIntyre wrote about many every day events, but is probably most famous for his *Ode to the Mammoth Cheese*, the huge cheese made in Ingersoll and eventually shipped around the world.

That was not his occupation. He came to Canada from Forres, Scotland in 1859 and settled here. In 1859 he established his furniture business which included a factory on Carroll Street and a store on King Street East. In addition to this he manufactured coffins and was the town embalmer. Some think he was the first undertaker in Ingersoll.

History relates that in the flood of 1894, part of a wall and the floor collapsed. This allowed the furniture and caskets to be swept away by the Thames River, some going as far as Dorchester.

The James McIntyre Building, at 11 King Street East, has most recently been the home of Terry Plester's Oak House Furniture.

Ingersoll Times Mar 29/95



Historical Highlights

By J.C. Herbert

The Ingersoll Historical Society is in the process of marking six buildings or sites in the core area of Ingersoll with a specially designed marker which will be attached to or located near the building or site.

These are places which have some historical significance. Since only the name and date of the building can be put on the marker, an accompanying brochure with additional detail will be made available.

The Niagara District Bank 1871

A branch of the Niagara District Bank opened in 1856 and in 1871 this building was erected for exclusive use of the bank. In 1875 it merged with the Canadian Imperial Bank and operated in this building under the Imperial Bank's name. In 1913 a new building was erected on the site of the former Mansion Hotel at the southwest corner of Thames and King street. The final merger with the Canadian Bank of Commerce to form the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce took place in 1951.

This building is on the second Empire design, which is indicated in the Mansford roof. It also exhibits strong Italianate features as evident in the Palladian window in the roof as well as the rounded window and door design with the keystone accents.

The wide cornice, brackets and dentils are also indicative of the Italianate style.

The Merchants Bank of Canada 1870

A branch of this bank was established in Ingersoll in 1868. In 1870 this building was erected and business was conducted on this site until 1907 when a new bank was built on the north east corner of Charles and Thames street.

In 1920 the Bank of Montreal established a branch in Ingersoll and in 1922 the Bank of Montreal and the Merchants Bank merged to form the present Bank of Montreal. In 1965 they moved to their present location on the south west corner of Charles and Thames streets. The Merchant Bank building, which is now vacant, is one of the best examples of neo-classic style of architecture in Oxford County.

The Norsworthy Building 1878

Mr. J. C. Norsworthy was a general banker and broker who was also in the insurance business and agent for various steamship lines. A branch of the London bank was located in his building for a few years.

In 1887 the Traders Bank took over the business of the London Bank and began operating in this building.

The business prospered so that it was necessary to get larger quarters and a new building was erected on the north west corner of Thames and King street, the present location of the Royal Bank.

The Royal Bank merged with the Traders Bank to form the present Royal Bank of Canada. The Norsworthy building is an example of Italianate design.

The building also has strong classical features as noted in the pilasters on the corners. The arches in the brick work just under the cornice are indicative of classical design. The windows, wide cornice and brackets are Italianate.

(Please note: The architectural features described above have been submitted by Jack Hedges of the Oxford County Historical Society.)

To Be Continued Next Week

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
56 Thames Street South

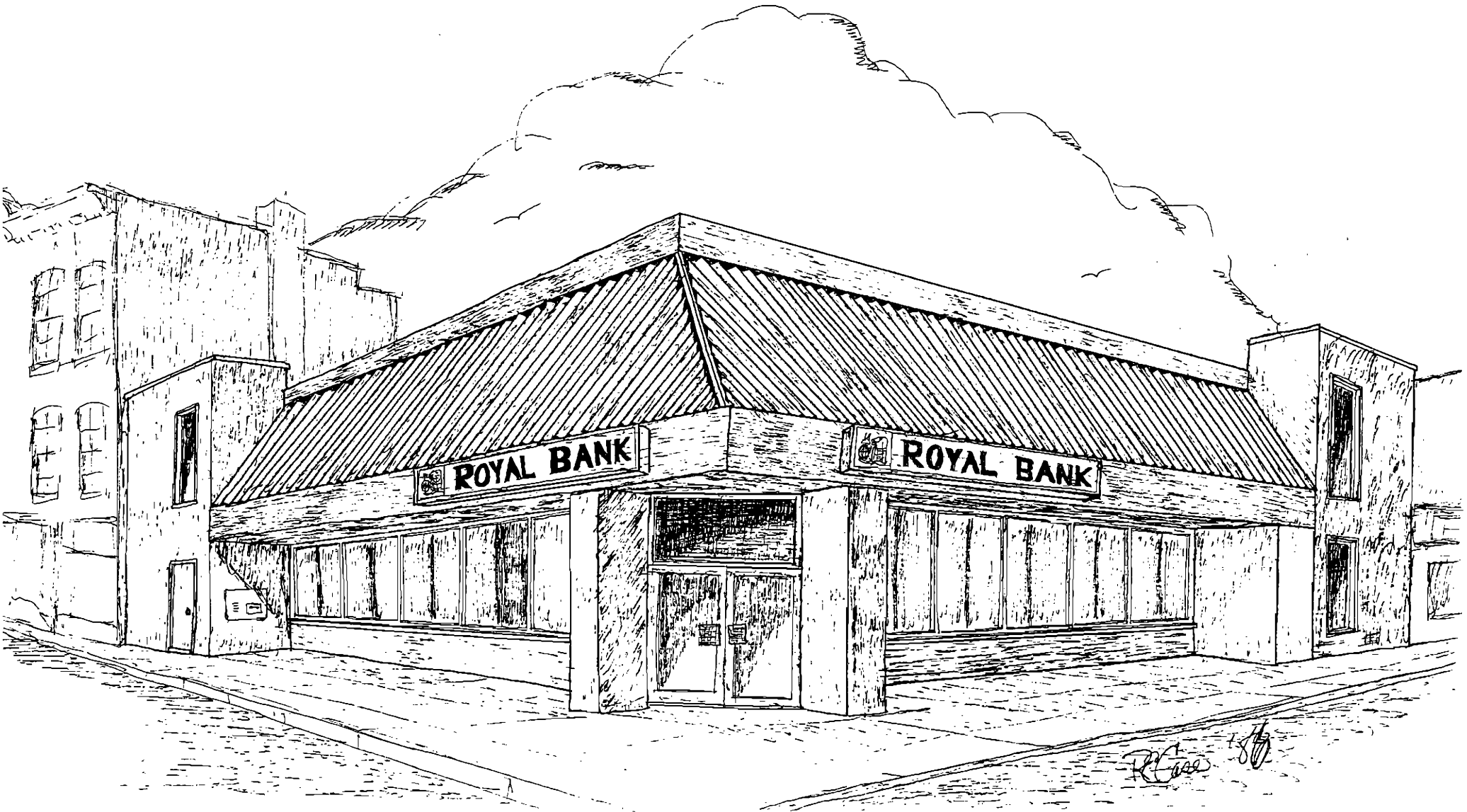


St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
56 Thames Street South

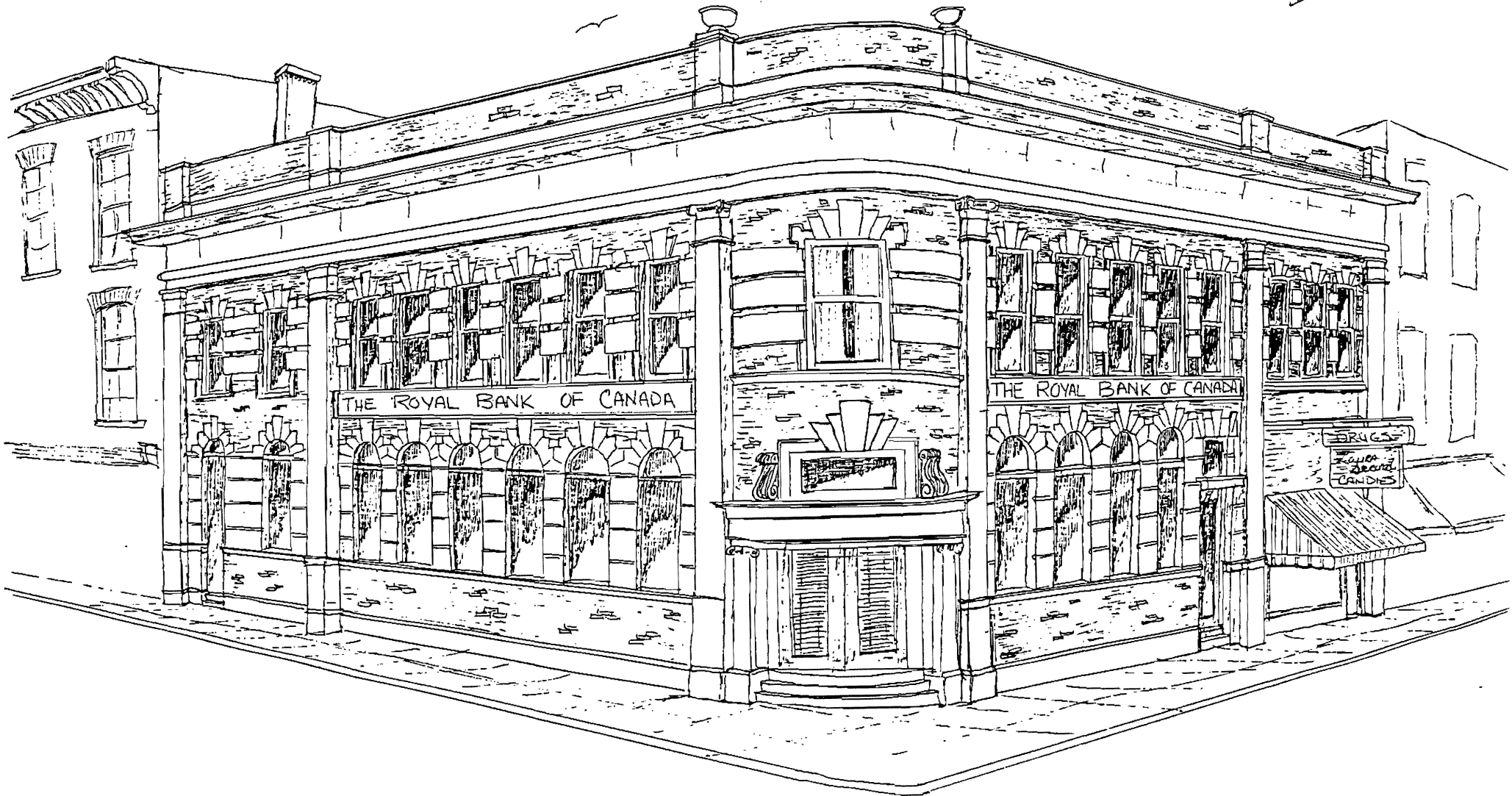


Rodney Case '86

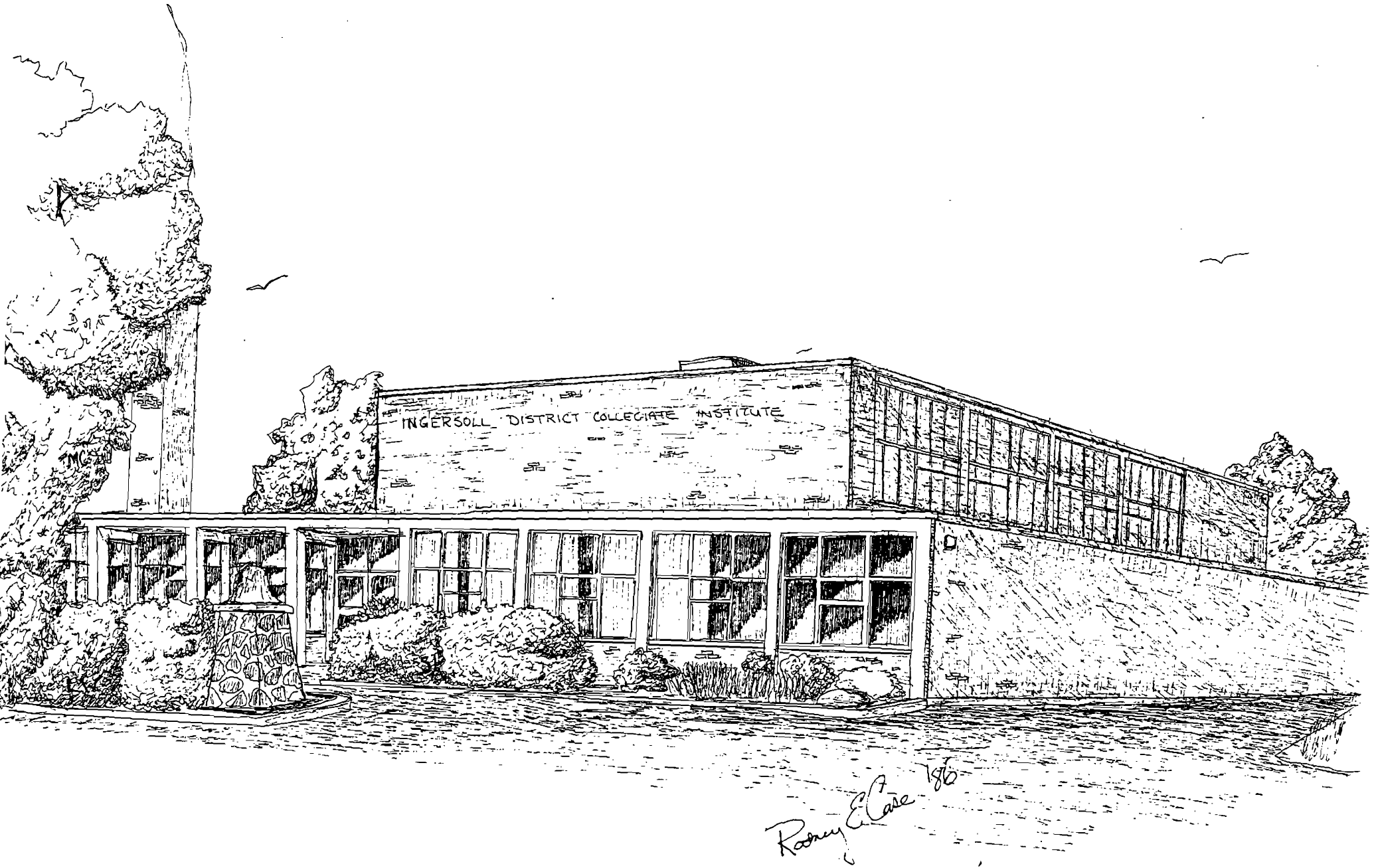
The Royal Bank of Canada
156 Thames Street South



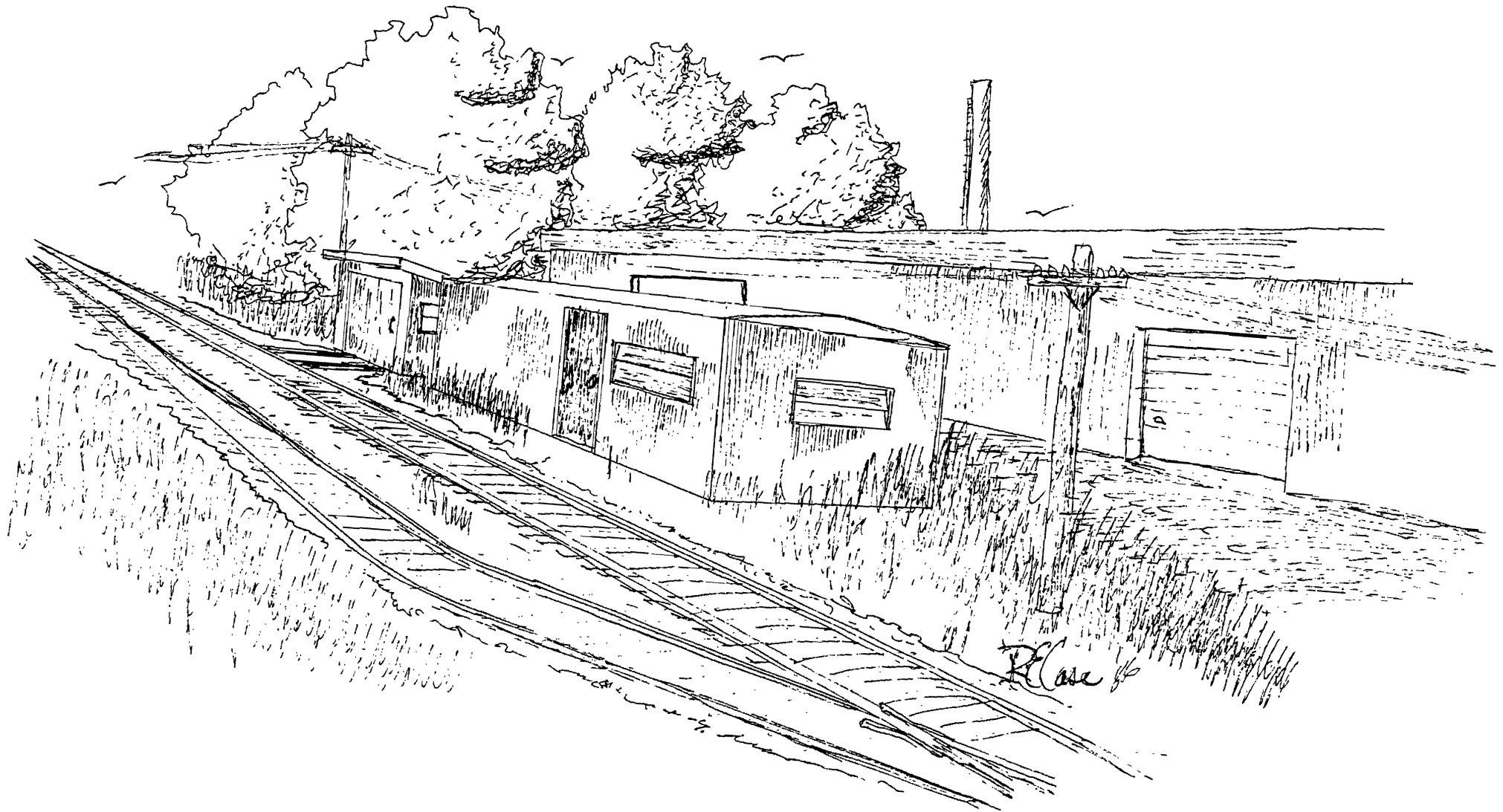
The Royal Bank of Canada
156 Thames Street South



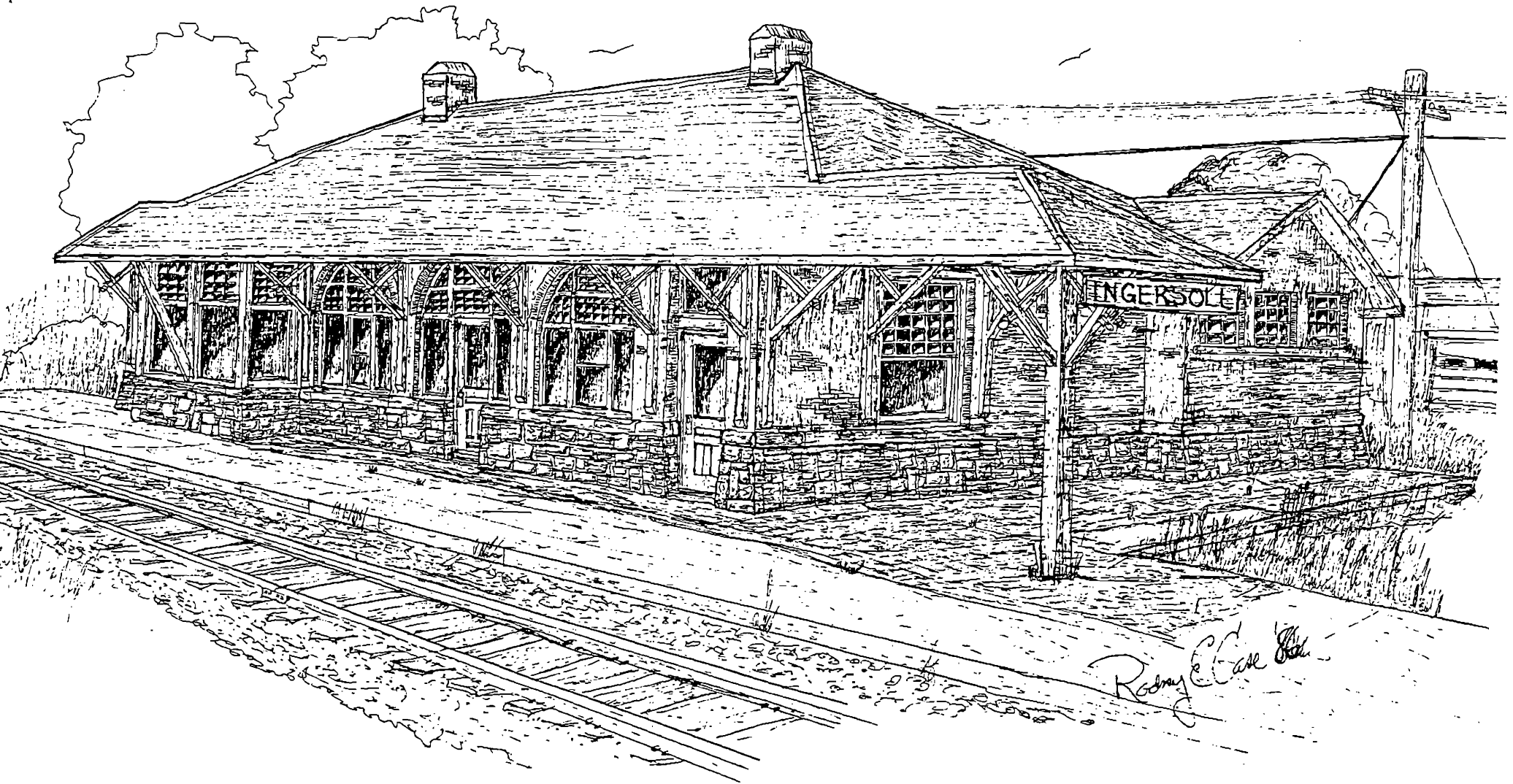
Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute
37 Alma Street

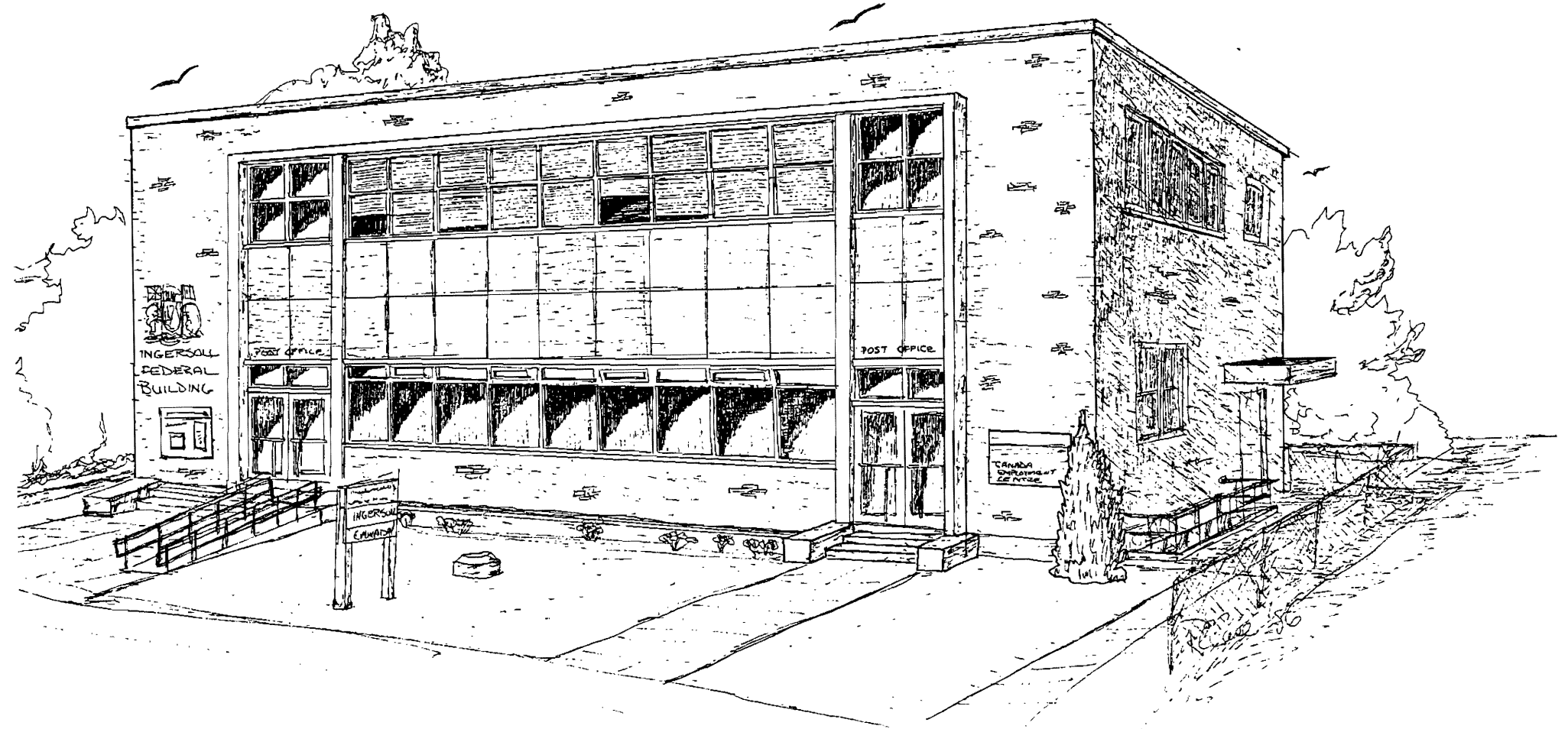


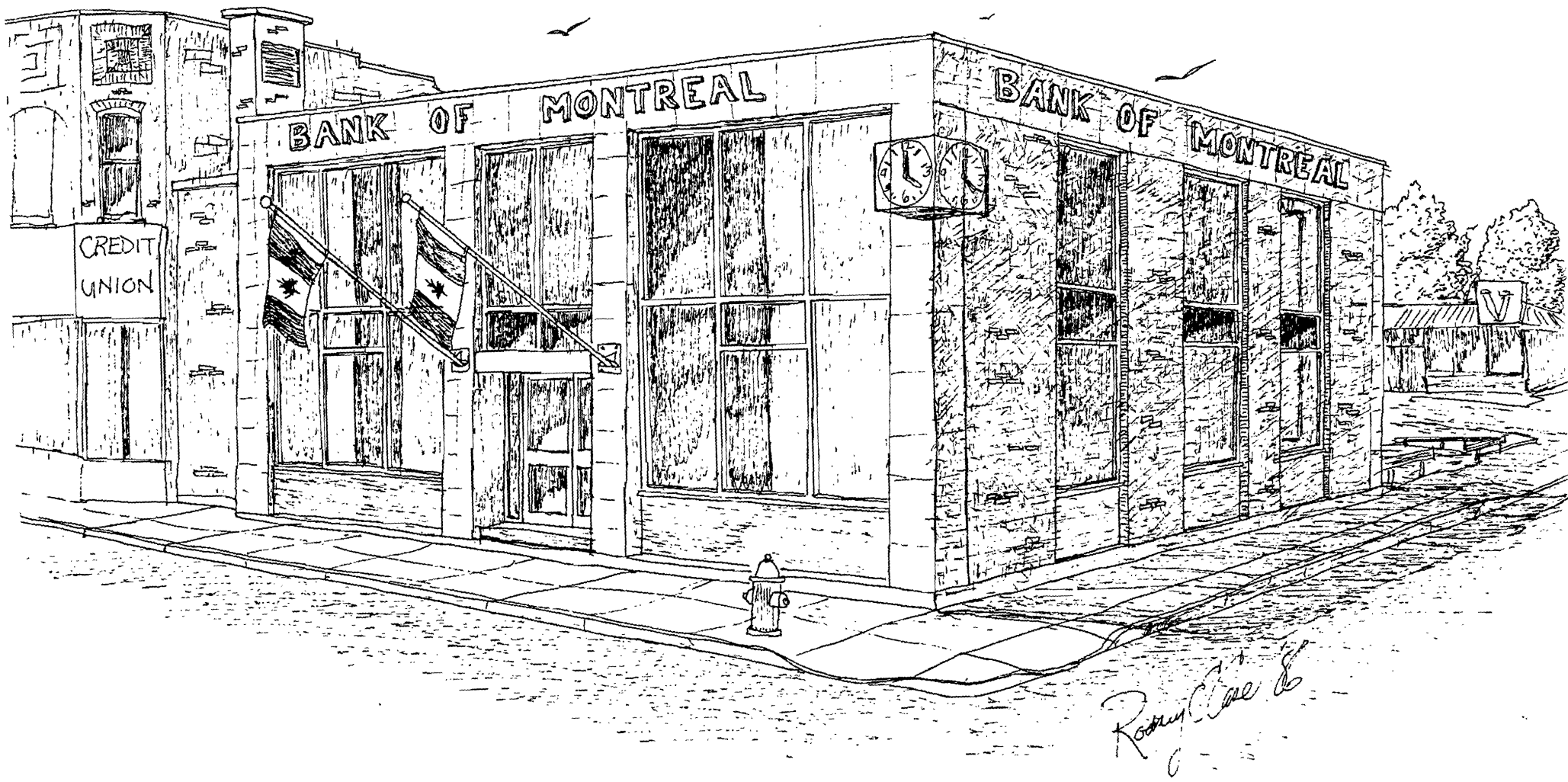
The Ingersoll Packing Co.?

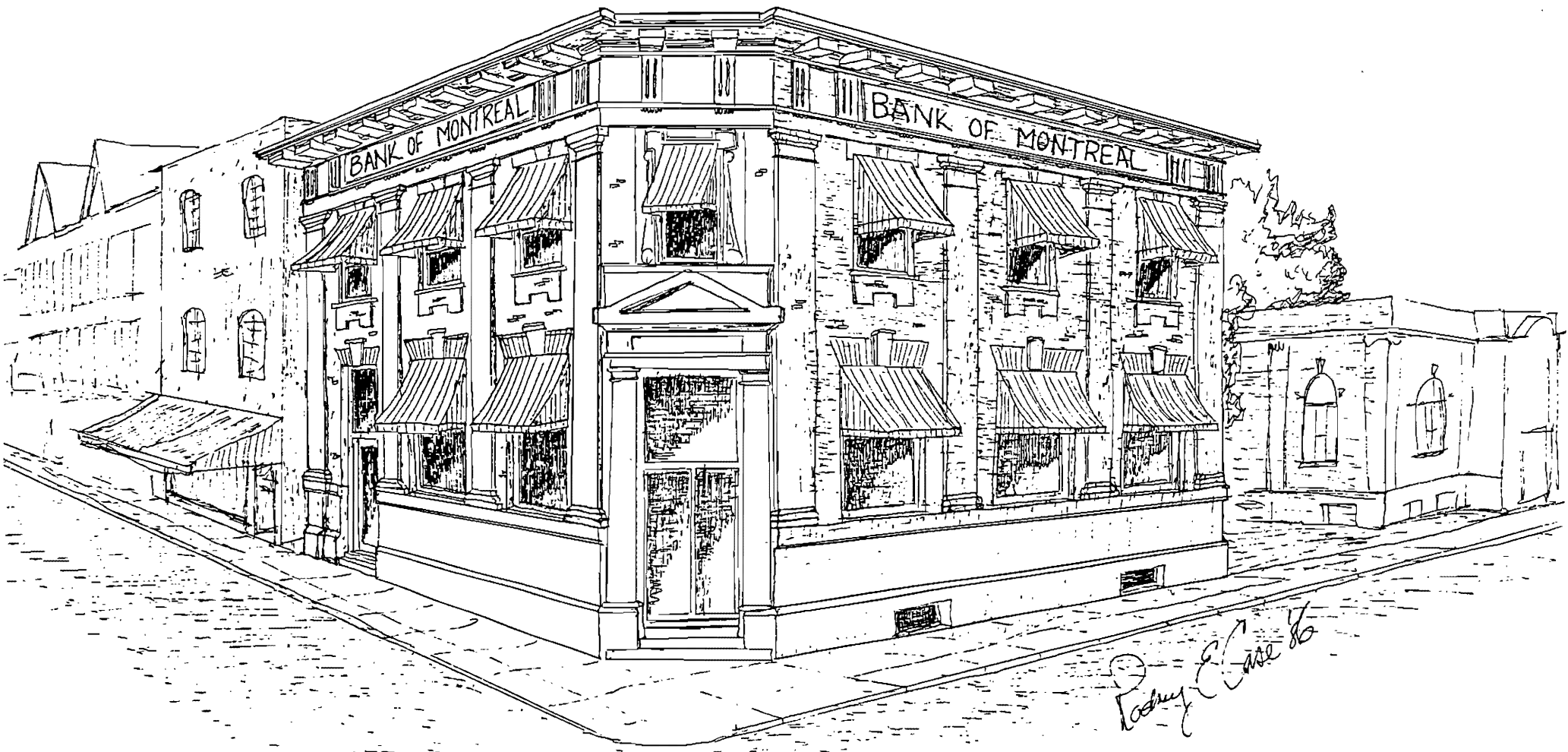


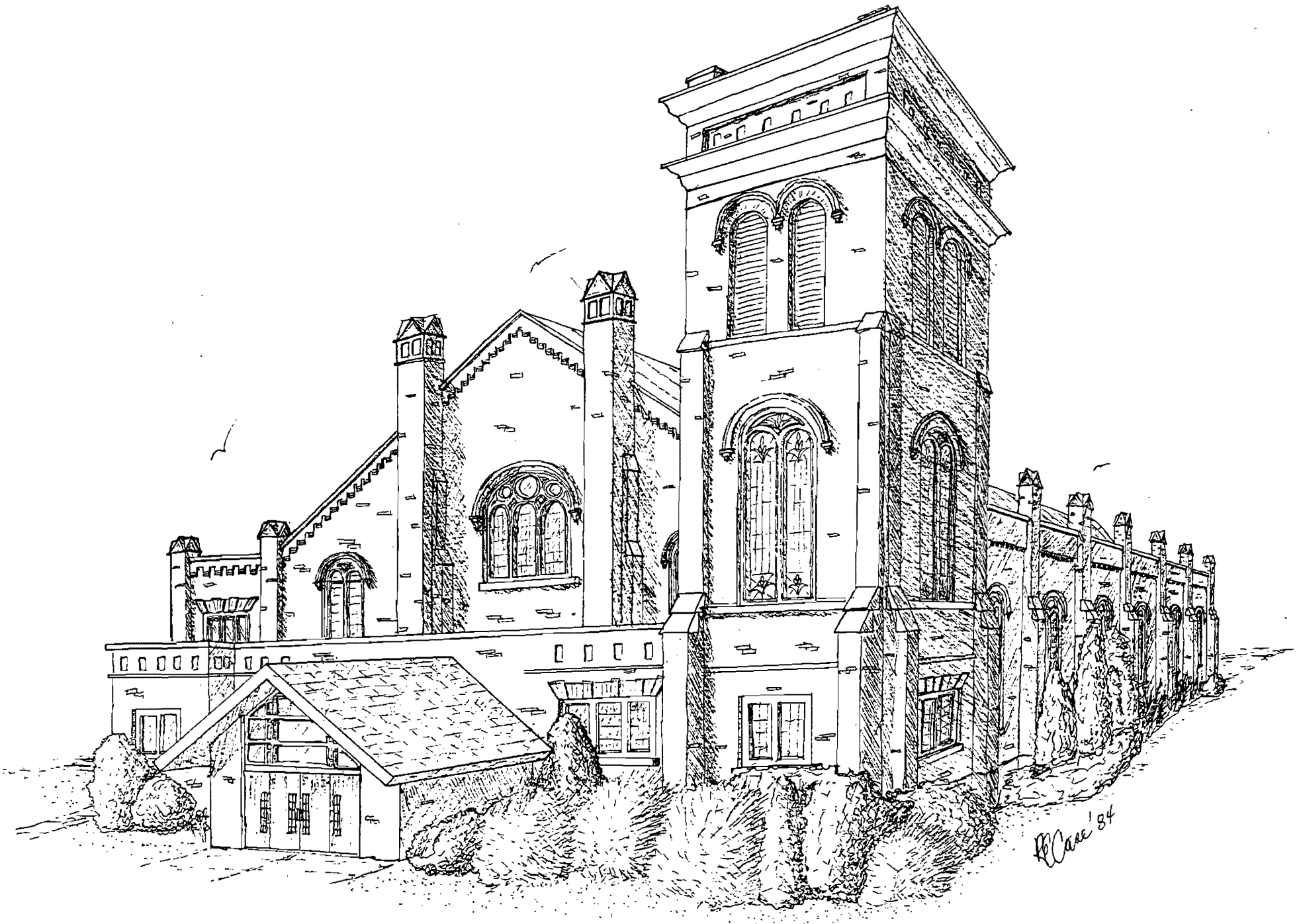
The Canadian Pacific Railway Station demolished in 1976



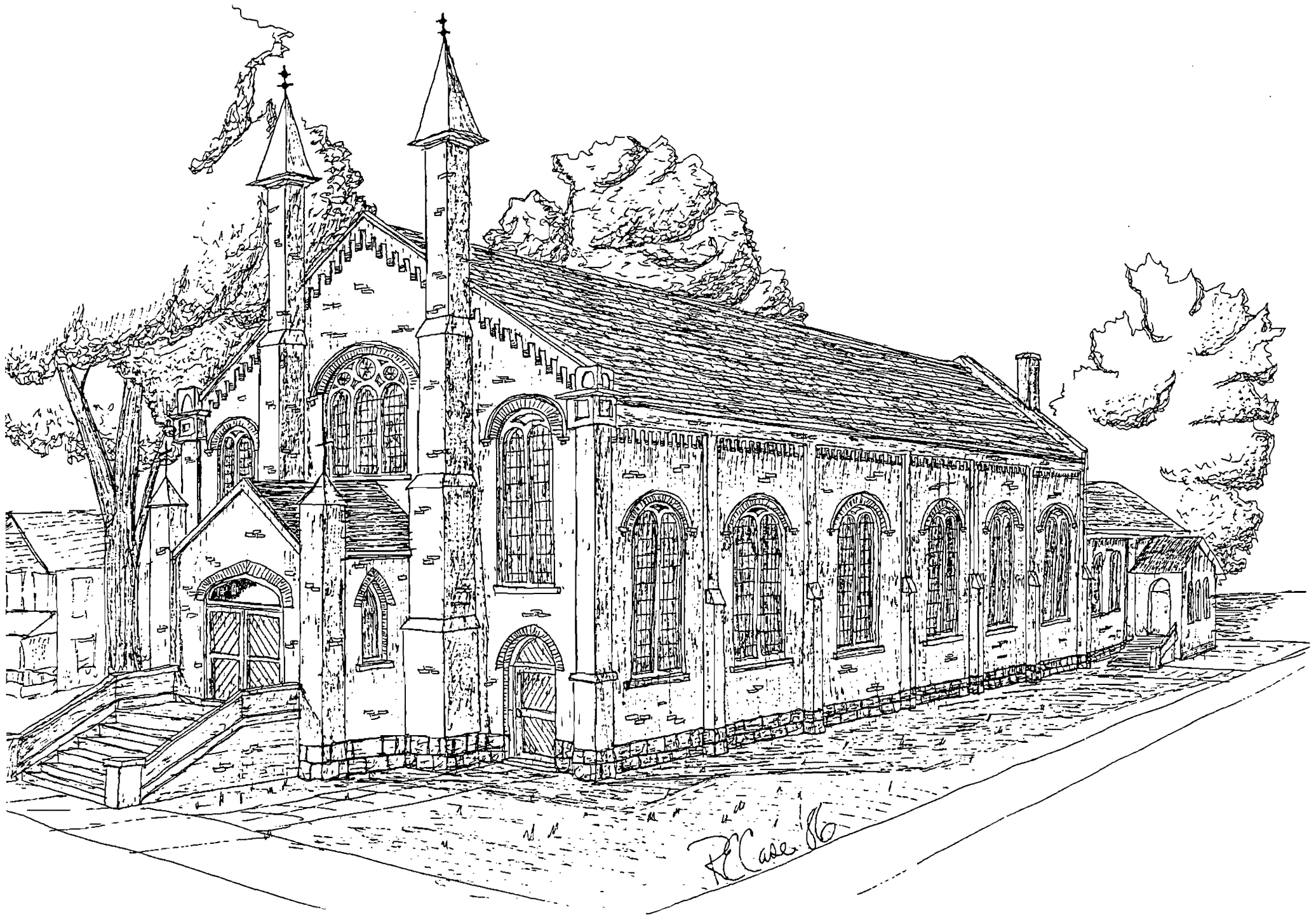




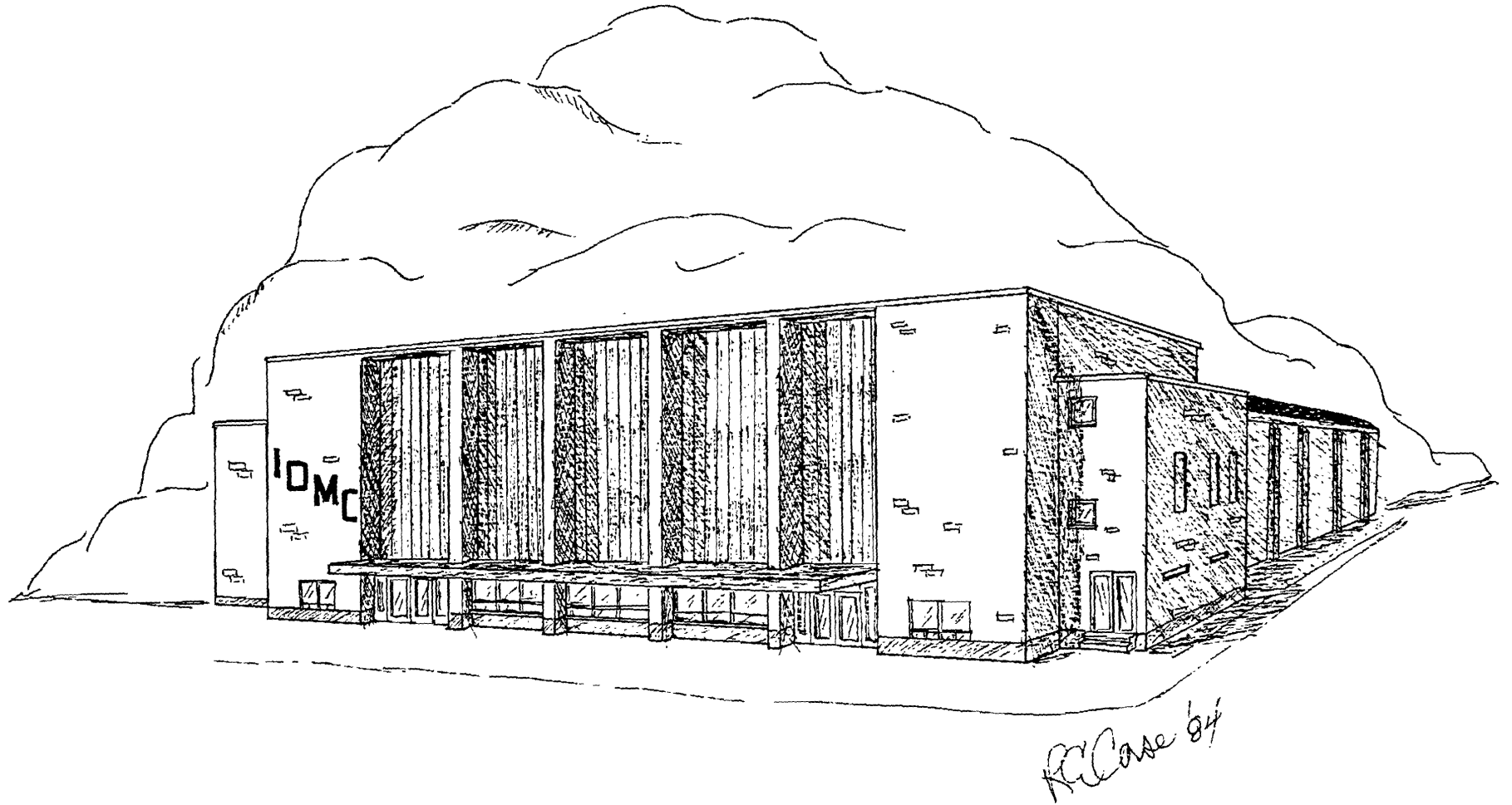




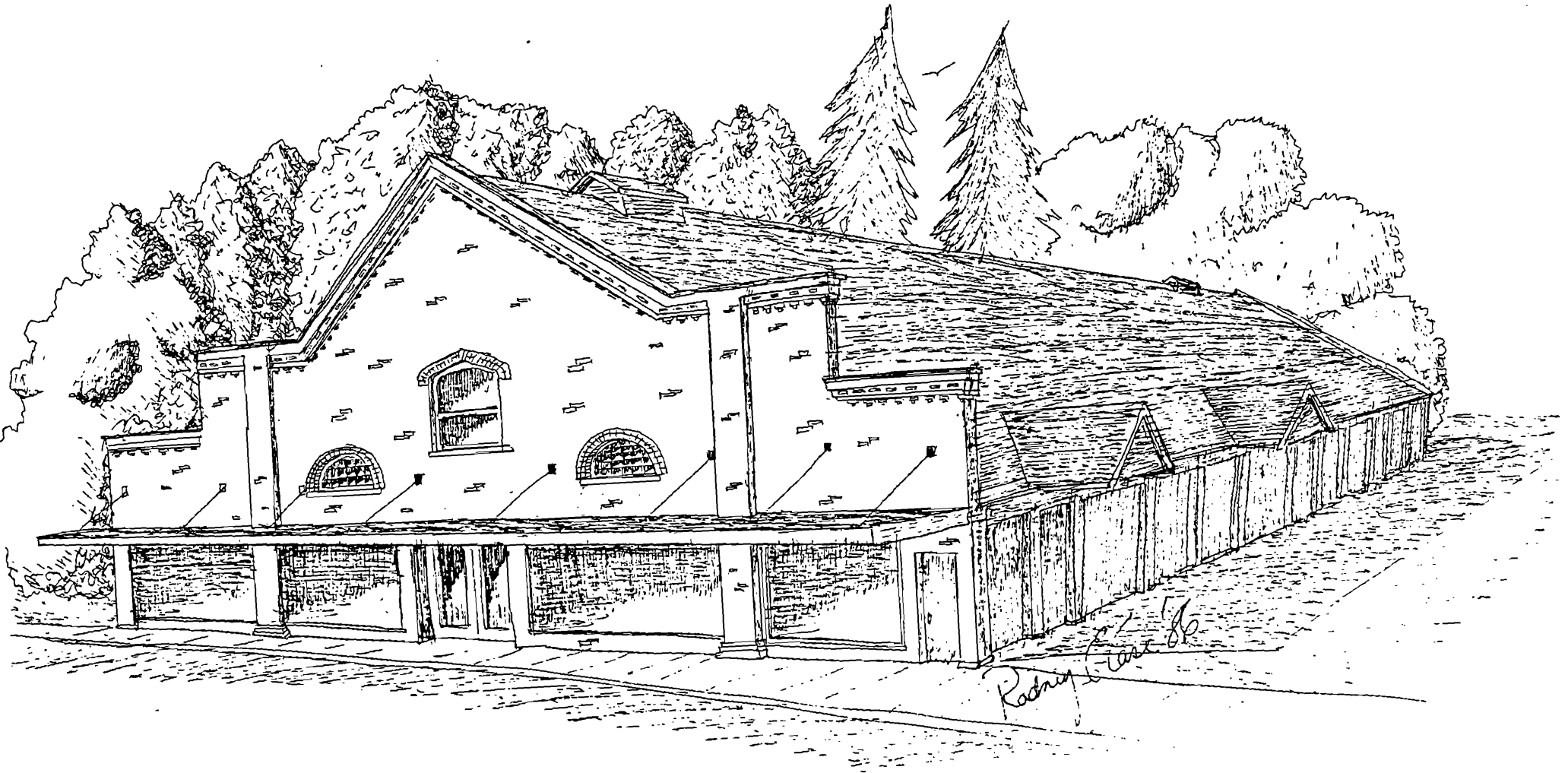
R.C. Case '84



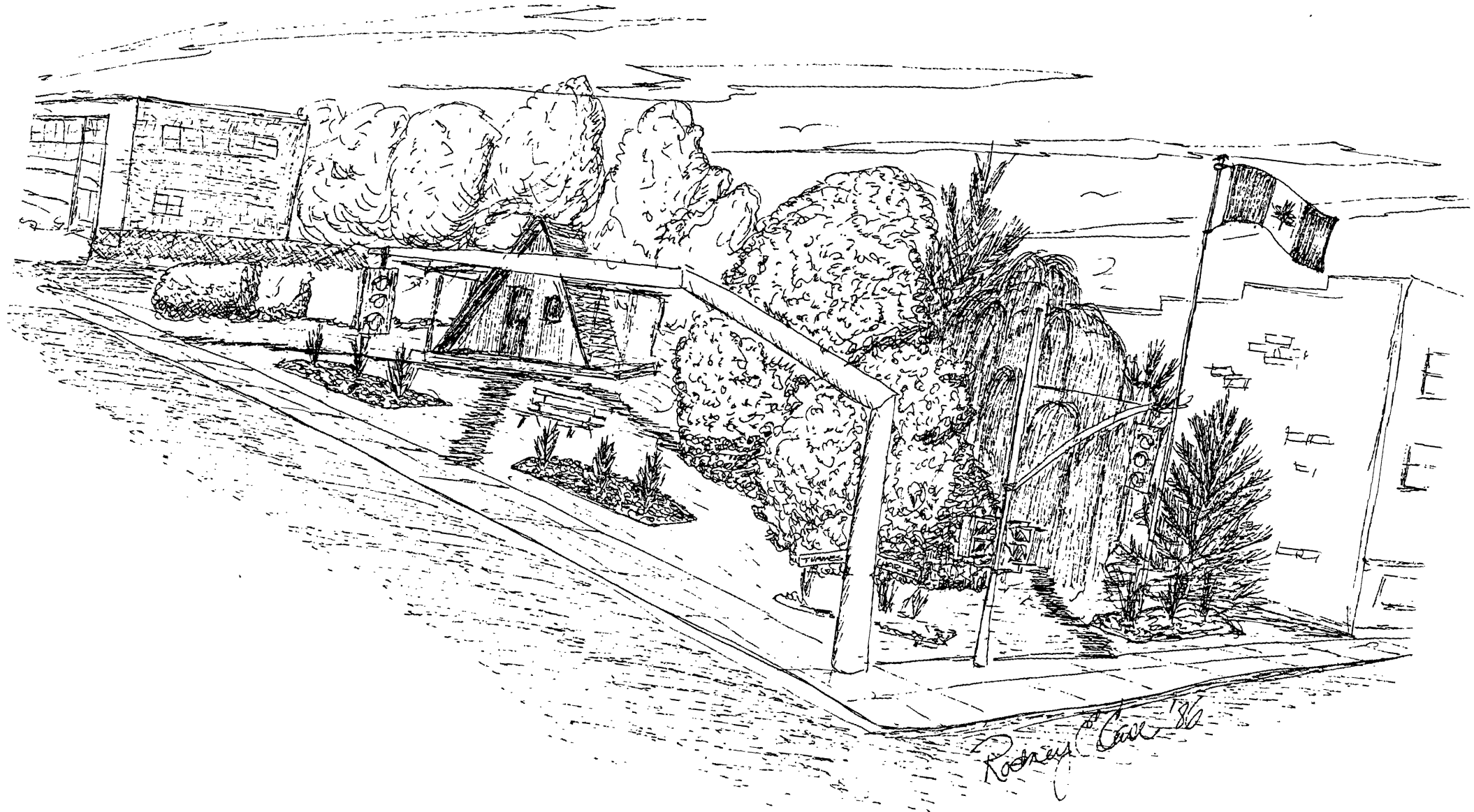
Ingersoll District Memorial Centre
97 Mutual Street South



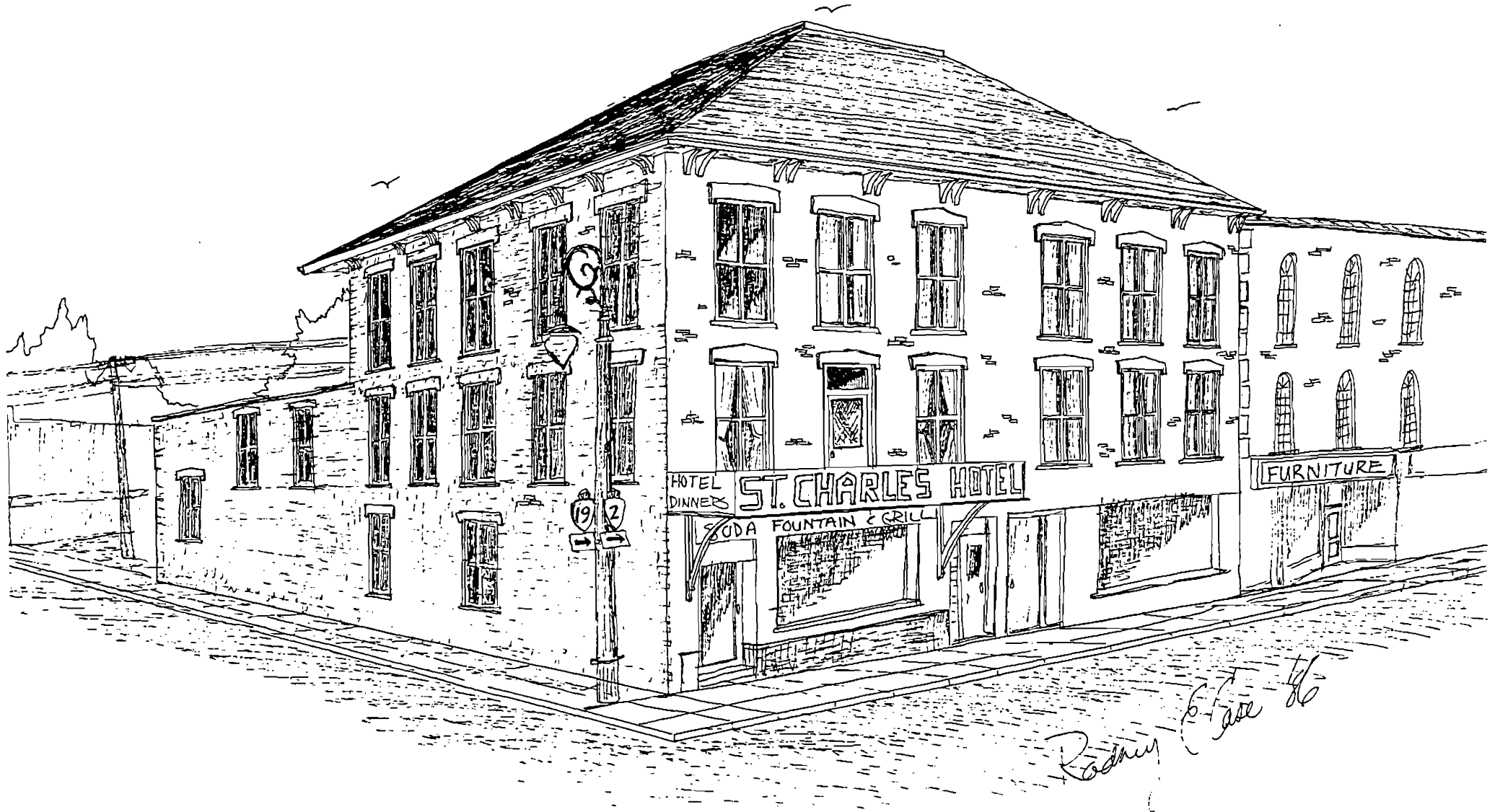
The Mason Arena
42 King Street West, Ingersoll



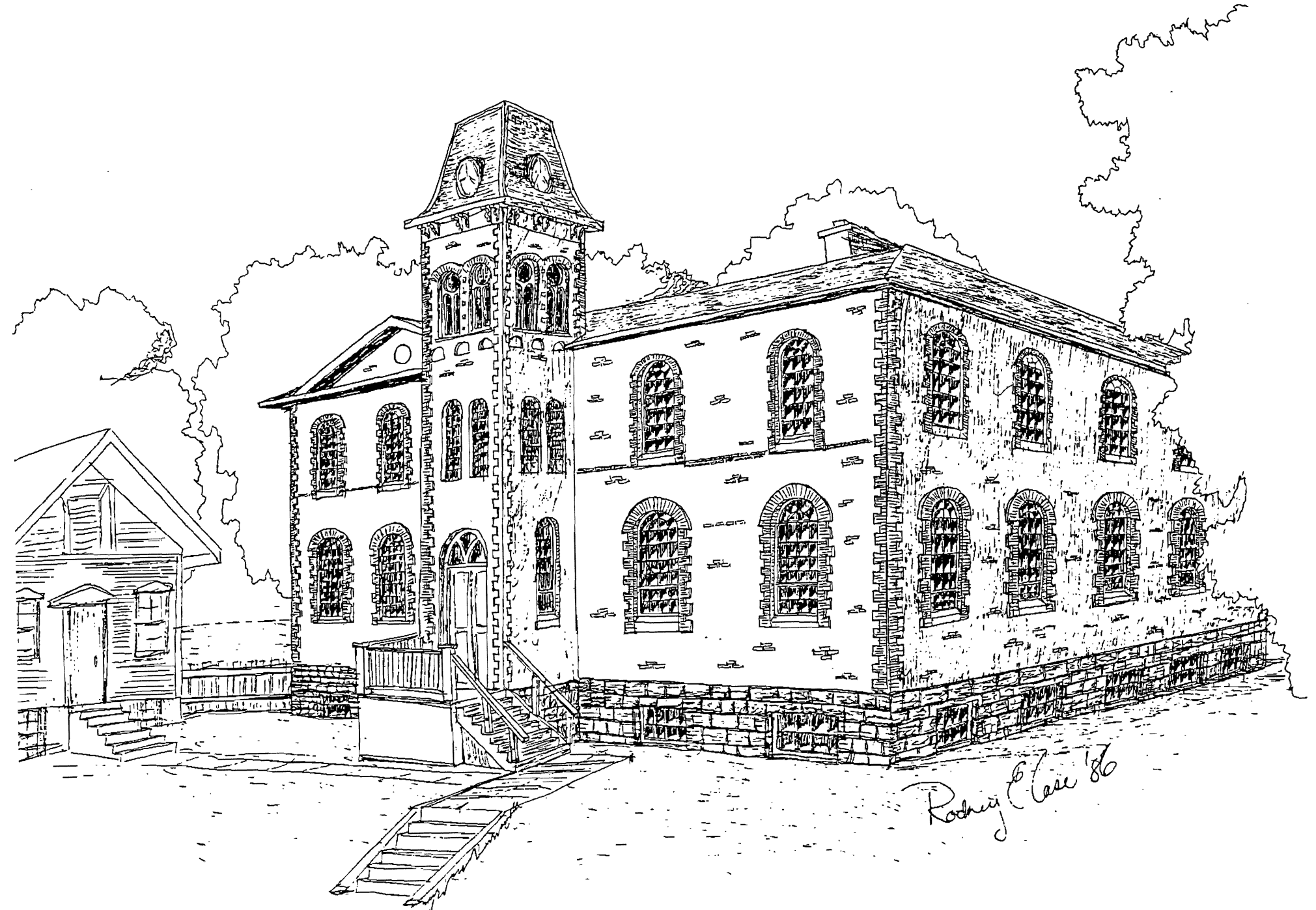
Dewan Park
north west corner of Thames & Charles Streets



St. Charles Hotel
north west corner of Thames & Charles Streets



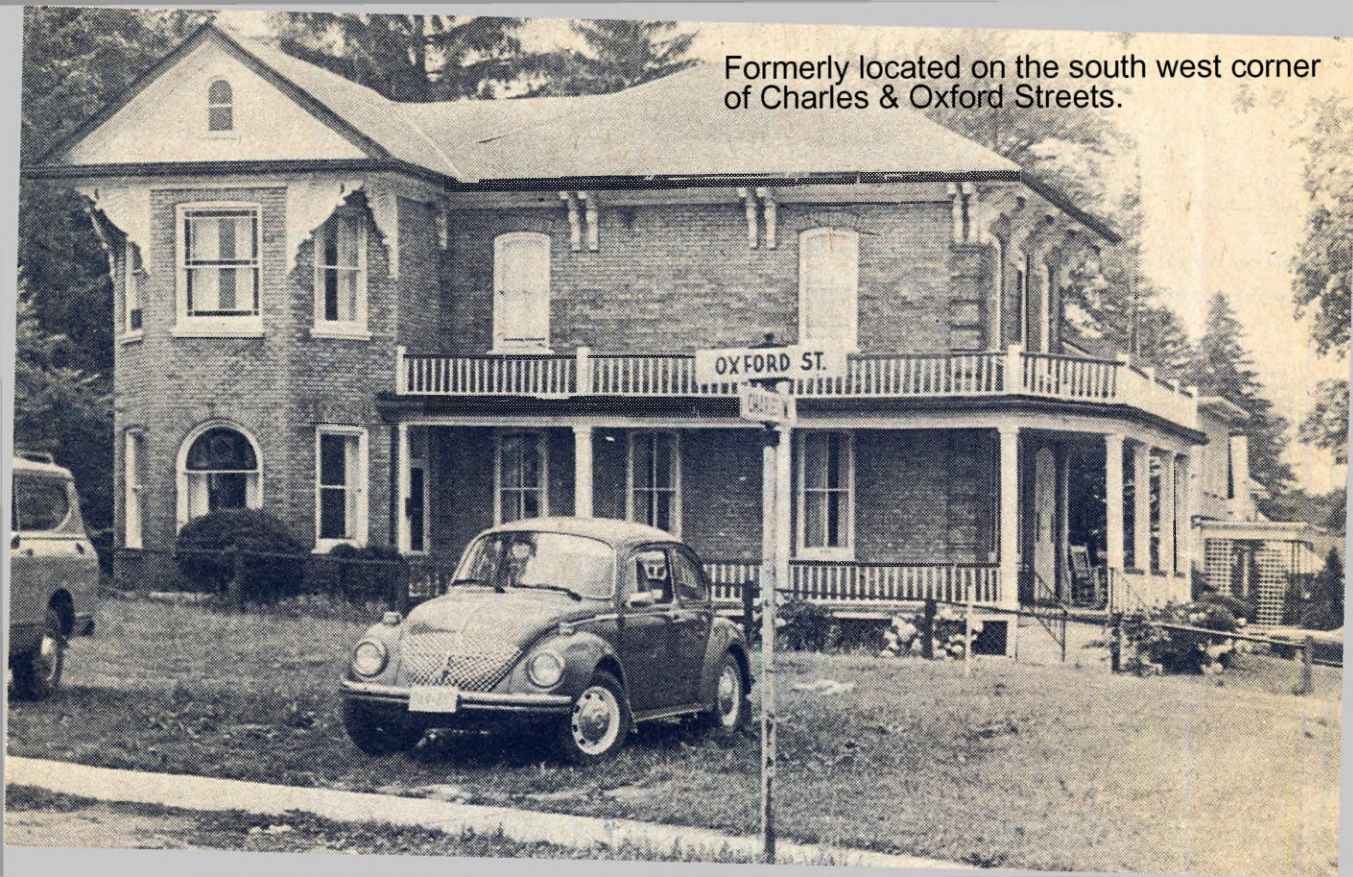
Ingersoll Collegiate Institute
37 Alma Street



Ingersoll Post Office
formerly on the south west corner of Thames & Charles Streets



Formerly located on the south west corner
of Charles & Oxford Streets.



INGERSOLL - HISTORY RECENT

Ingersoll cyclists posed along Frances Street looking north at the west corner of Earl Street.



B. Ross and fellow officers, Rev. C. D. Daniel, chaplain; James W. Dean, secretary and Russell Stringer, Director of Ceremonies. The honorary pallbearers were fellow members of the session of Trinity United Church and Masonic brethren, H. T. Bowers, H. I. Stewart, W. W. Wilford, E. A. Webber, R. W. Green and Earl Fugard. The active bearers, who also carried the flowers were Charles Christie, Wilfred Allen, William



Sutherland, Roy Marles, Charles Meatherall and George Beavis



HOME ON EARL STREET, INGERSOLL

214 & 216 Earl Street

