

Clerks List of Heritage Properties



Belmont United Church

247 College Street, Belmont

Description

In 1889, architect James Night of Ingersoll designed and built the building that stands on the site today. It features gables with daisy-flower patterned roof tiles, corbelled brickwork, and leaded glass lanced windows spaced between symmetrical buttresses. These features are typical of the Rural Gothic style in which the church was built. It also features a unique Gothic Revival style entrance door with a Tudor architrave, and a quatrefoil-designed "Catherine Wheel" stained glass window on the front gable had become too small for the congregation.



Christ Church

283 Colborne Street, Port Stanley

Description

This church was built in 1845 and was important in the early settlement of Port Stanley. It is a fine example of early Ontario Gothic architecture and features many beautiful stained glass windows. John Bostwick, son of a Church of England clergyman from Massachusetts, gave one acre land on which the church was built and a cemetery created. An historical bronze plaque honouring Bostwick stands beside the church. The congregation was established in 1834 and by 1837 were strong enough to be holding worship services in the newly built school on Francis Street. In 1844, they decided to build their own edifice under the capable leadership of Major John Ellison. Its soaring steeple and white clapboard construction epitomize the best of New England ecclesiastical architecture. Bostwick and his wife are both buried beside the church, as are many of the founding families of Port Stanley.



Cobblestone House

6738 Quaker Road, Sparta

Description

The house was built by Amassa Chase for his nephew Isaac Chase in 1871/72. Amassa was a stone mason who had worked on the Erie Canal. He was 70 years of age when he built the cobblestone house for Isaac. The walls are made of local stones collected from the creek and measured using knot holes. If the stone passes through the larger hole but won't go through the smaller hole it is deemed to be the correct size. The stones are laid in a herringbone pattern as you can see in the photos. The house features red and yellow brick quoins as well as decorations around the windows and doors. The date of the completion of the house is in the west gable and a medallion is also found on the south wall of the west wing by the front door.



Cole House

7435 Quaker Road, Sparta

Description

Built in the 1880's by the Cole family, this home is an excellent example of an Italianate style yellow brick home with eve brackets, cornice, double doors and verandas. This Quaker home has remained in the Cole family to this day.



Darch Cottage

192 Harrison Place, Port Stanley

Description

In 1883, the first summer cottage in Port Stanley was erected on Orchard Beach by two clergymen, one from London and one from St. Thomas. In 1907 it was sold to John Darch, a prominent London businessman. This cottage remained in the hands of the Darch family until 1989 when the property was subdivided. As erosion ate away at the shoreline of Lake Erie the cottage was moved repeatedly, but there is remarkable photographic evidence that the present home is little changed from the cottage of 1907.



Darch Cottage 2

194 Harrison Place, Port Stanley

Description

This home, owned by a direct descendant of the Darch family (see above) is on the same property where Port Stanley's first cottage was located. The present structure originated as part of a cottage which was situated farther east on Orchard Beach. In the early 1940s this cottage, which was being engulfed by the lake, was divided into 3 sections. This original cabin has now been incorporated into a much larger home, but the barge boards and original siding of the previous structure have been carefully preserved.



Dominion of Canada Building

191 Carlow Road, Port Stanley

Description

This building was owned by the Government of Canada until 2010 when it was divested (along with the harbour lands) and ownership was transferred to the Municipality. The property located at 191 Carlow Road, Port Stanley, Ontario, is known as the Dominion of Canada (DOC) Building which was erected in the 1920's. The building is 8, 629 sq ft and constructed on wooden piles. The building envelope is poured in place concrete which was utilized for the floor, walls, and roof systems. The building has not had a Building Condition or Structural evaluation completed and proponents should satisfy themselves on the structural integrity of the building.



Erickson Home

5560 Edgeware Line, North Yarmouth

Description

This home is an excellent example of the style of house build in the north of Yarmouth in the 1870's and 1880's. Italianate with different features, such as Roman arch windows, side lights and eve brackets and are made of yellow brick, an important regional building material. They reflect the affluence of the period of settlement of this part of our municipality.



Former Knox Presbyterian Church

231 College Street, Belmont

Description

This church has been in existence since 1855, when early Scottish settlers in the area built a small brick church on the site. When the congregation outgrew the original building in the late 1880s, it was torn down and replaced with a newer, larger building that could seat 500 people. Knox Presbyterian Church, as it now stands, was constructed in 1889. It features a beautiful trefoil window with a memorial stone beneath it on the facade. Its symmetrical, lancet-shaped, leaded stained glass windows, corbelled walls, and spirelet-capped buttresses epitomize the Simple Gothic Revival style in which the church was built.



Gilbert Hall

45122 Edgeware Line, ST. Thomas

Description

These three homes are excellent examples of the style of houses build in the north of Yarmouth in the 1870's and 1880's. They are all Italianate with different features, such as Roman arch windows, side lights and eve brackets and are made of yellow brick, an important regional building material. They reflect the affluence of the period of settlement of this part of our municipality.



Haight Zavitz House

45358 Sparta Line, Sparta

Description

Built in 1837 by Samuel Haight son of the first Quaker minister, Sarah Haight. This is an excellent example of the New England colonial style buildings of early Quakers. It served as a "half way" house for the early travelers between Sparta and St. Thomas.



L & PS Railway Terminal

309 Bridge Street, Port Stanley

Description

The present station of Terminal Rail started out as the Port Stanley depot for the London and Port Stanley Railway. Although we do not know when the present building was built, it is readily recognizable in photographs taken prior to 1910.



Labatt Cottage

206 Harrison Place, Port Stanley

Description

This intriguing home is believed to have been built in the early 1920s. In 1937, it was purchased by John Labatt, the founder of Labatts Brewery. To reflect his wife's interest in Chinese architecture, he remodeled the cottage so that the roof line would resemble that of a Chinese pagoda. The cottage was later purchased by two London restaurateurs, John and Dorothy Downs. The Johnny Downs orchestra was, for many years, the house band at Port Stanley's famous Stork Club.



McManus Cottage

201 McClary Avenue, Port Stanley

Description

This large home at the extreme eastern end of Orchard Beach was built as a summer cottage in 1919 by the Honourable C.S. Hyman. In 1946 it was purchased by the well known London businessman Joe Mc Manus and used as a summer cottage by the McManus family for many years. Without the erosion control measures carried out by McManus, Orchard Beach might not exist today. The present structure has undergone extensive renovations, but looks much as it did when occupied by the McManus family.



Mill Warehouse

207 Main Street, Port Stanley

Description

John Bostwick, Port Stanley's founding father, constructed a grist mill at the foot of Main Street in the early 1800s. No traces of this mill remain, but the warehouse associated with it is still intact, having been moved to 207 Main Street. The central gable is still visible, and would have been doors leading into the upper loft where grain was been stored.



Mitchell House

320 George Street, Port Stanley

Description

In 1903, Walter Mitchell and his wife Margaret purchased 2 lots at the corner of Willian and George Street and built this house. Walter owner and operator of the hardware store on Colborne Street, the first lumber yard and the first hydro station in Port Stanley. The hydro station was situated where the Legion is today and supplied electricity to the Village. Walter also taught in Union, was a member of the Public Utility Commissions (PUC) and a member of St. Mark's Masonic Lodge in Port Stanley.



Moore House

6545 Quaker Road, Sparta

Description

This home was built in 1824 by John Moore, an influential, early Quaker. It is the oldest building in Central Elgin and an excellent example of a 5 bay Georgian style building constructed of stone and small hand-made bricks. It contains the original bake oven. The stone quoins (corners), the transom light and the very thick walls with window ledges are distinguishing features of this early Canadian style of construction. The current owners have maintained all the original exterior walls.



Port Stanley United Church

239 Colborne Street, Port Stanley

Description

This lot was purchased in 1868 by the trustees of the Port Stanley congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1888 they constructed the church which presently stands on the property. Following a church union in 1925, it became a United Church, and has maintained an active congregation to this day.



Purdom Cottage

198 Harrison Place, Port Stanley

Description

The large and gracious home which stands on this lot was built by the Purdom family in the very early years of the last century. The present structure has little changed from the original cottage and is an excellent example of the many spacious summer cottages which were being built on Orchard Beach by affluent families from St. Thomas and London.



Skelding School House

45211 Truman Line, North Yarmouth

Description

The land on which Skeldings School was built was deeded June 14, 1860. At that time George Skelding owned it and donated it for the school to be built. The school, a frame building was given the name of the donor of the site, and was known as "Skeldings School". Communicable diseases were a problem in that day and the school was closed at various times due to outbreaks of scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria. After one particularly bad outbreak of diphtheria in 1921, in which a student died, Dr. Beattie came down from Belmont and fumigated the school. During 1943, 44 and 45 only seven children were enrolled and the trustees gave serious consideration to closing the school. In the fall of the following year another child began attending the school. A year later, two more children started attending, and from that time on there was never any difficulty about not having another children in the school. The school was sold in 1970, and converted into a private residence.



Sparta Baptist Church

46170 Sparta Line, Sparta

Description

The Sparta Baptist Church began as a mission off shoot of the First Yarmouth (Plains) Baptist Church in 1869. It struggled for several years but eventually prospered and grew. The 1869, it was a wooden frame structure with clapboard siding. In 1898 the congregation raised the building using jacks and logs, hand dug a basement beneath the frame structure and bricked the surface to create the building as it now stands. In 2016, it closed and was converted into a private dwelling.



Sparta Church Museum and Cultural Centre

6073 Quaker Road, Sparta

Description

The present structure was built in 1886 and included a Victorian manse to the north of the church. Prior to the construction of this fine yellow brick building, there was a clapboard chapel on the site; this has been moved to the south of the current structure and is now a private home. This church had a steeple but it was struck by lightning and removed. There are two stained glass windows in the front of the nave dedicated to early pioneers and the remaining stained glass windows are typical of early Methodist churches. The doors are replicas of the originals, and the ceiling is a fine wood panelled one.



Sparta Community Hall

46272 Sparta Line, Sparta

Description

Sparta Community Hall was once Sparta Continuation School, a secondary education centre built by Harry Smale Sparta in 1927 to provide education to local students from grades 9 to 12. Prior to the construction of the school, students had to board in St. Thomas for secondary education, resulting in many students ending their education after grade eight. The building was designed by well-known architect John Finlay of St. Thomas. The school closed in June of 1963, and was handed over to the Sparta Community Society by the Sparta School board in 1965. The building is a red brick structure that housed two classrooms, a library and a recreation auditorium. The structure features large windows with two smaller ones flanking a large central window in each classroom. The roof is flat with a raised parapet.

St. James Presbyterian Church

44936 Ferguson Line, North Yarmouth

Description

This Church has been in existence since 1838. The original site at Kilmartin Cemetery held a small log church, followed by a wooden frame church in 1858. By the late 1890s, the congregation had outgrown the site, and they moved down the road to their current location. The church was established by the early Scottish settlers to the area, including the Fergusons, Campbells, and Giles. Many of these families still attend the church today. In 1905, architect Neil Darrach (designer of the St Thomas City Hall and Courthouse) designed the brick structure that stands today. There is no ornamental brickwork or woodwork, aside from a stone containing the name and date of the church. The foundation wall is built of stone-mimicking concrete blocks, and similar brickwork forms the continuous headers and sills of the windows. There are several stained glass windows, many of which were donated by local families. The church features the original curved wood benches, and a unique counter-weight partition that can separate the sanctuary from the fellowship hall.



St. Johns Presbyterian Church

238 Colborne Street, Port Stanley

Description

Constructed in 1852, St. John's Presbyterian Church is a wonderful example of small town ecclesiastical architecture. Nestled among the trees in the heart of the village, this building has, for over 150 years, catered to the religious needs of the community.





St. Marks Masonic Lodge

291 Bridge Street, Port Stanley

Description

The red brick building on this lot, built in 1874, once house St. Mark's Masonic Lodge. Members of the lodge have played a very active role in the commercial and political life of the village for the last 150 years, and the lower floor of the building has housed many commercial enterprises over the last 100 years.



The Bank

221 Colborne Street, Port Stanley

Description

The intersection of Colborne, Bridge and Main Streets has always been the main intersection in Port Stanley. In 1876, the lot on the NE corner of this intersection was purchased by the SW Farmers and Mechanics Savings and Loan Society. In 1920s, the imposing flat iron style building which presently stands on this lot was erected to house Port Stanley's first bank. This bank, which underwent several name changes, played a key role in the commercial life of the village for the next ninety years.



The Mud Cottage

46173 Sparta Line, Sparta

Description

Built in 1830 of clay and straw in Regency cottage style, this home features casement windows, a lantern for light upstairs, recessed doors with sidelights, and stone chimneys. This is an excellent example of a well-preserved early home with additions that blend into the original construction style and period.



Traction Line Office

208 Main Street, Port Stanley

Description

The very well known London and Port Stanley Railroad was not the only important transportation link for Port Stanley in the early years of the last century. The Traction Line, running up Main and Colborne streets in Port Stanley, provided direct electric street car access to St Thomas and London. Their office and station on Main Street is a little recognized feature of the historical streetscape. The facade is almost identical to that which existed in 1907.



Van Patter Home

10343 Yarmouth Centre Road, North Yarmouth

Description

This home is an excellent example of the style of house build in the north of Yarmouth in the 1870's and 1880's. Italianate with different features, such as Roman arch windows, side lights and eve brackets and are made of yellow brick, an important regional building material. They reflect the affluence of the period of settlement of this part of our municipality.



Yarmouth Town Hall

44381 Talbot Line, Yarmouth Centre

Description

Yarmouth Centre was a small but thriving community located on Talbot Road east of St. Thomas. Settlers began to live in the area in 1811-12. The Town Hall was built in Yarmouth Centre in 1904 and later served as the municipal seat of government.