

A SMALL GOTHIC COTTAGE.

The Ontario Cottage Tour

October 1, 2000

1-4 pm

Presented by the London Regional Art and
Historical Museums in partnership with the
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,
London Region Branch

Tour Entry Ticket



London Regional Art & Historical Museums
421 Ridout Street North, London, Ontario

672-4580

Welcome to the Cottage Tour

Please visit the three cottages in any order you wish and at each house present this ticket to the volunteer at the door.

London has many examples of Ontario Cottages, some quite early, some more recent, but all conforming to a one-storey, hip-roof shape with a centred entryway. The homes on the tour today are some of the city's best-preserved examples. See how many others you can find during your tour.

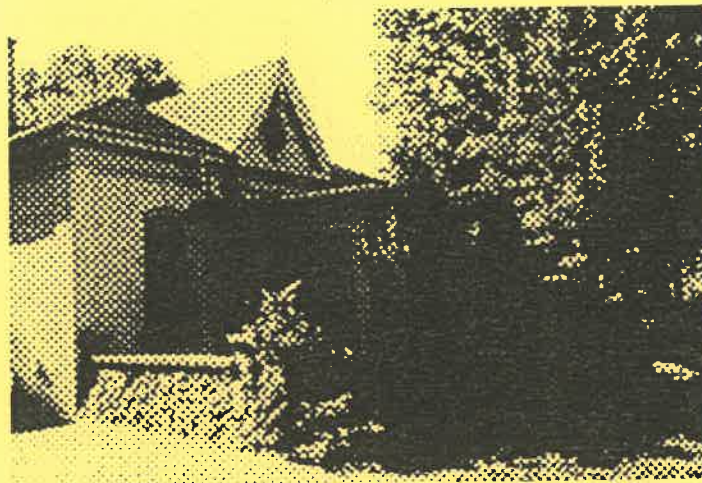


An illustration from *The Canada Farmer* (1 February 1864: Vol. 1 No. 2).

All photos by John Tamblyn

Our thanks to the owners for allowing us into their homes and to Mrs. Julia Beck, a great friend of Ontario Cottages everywhere, for her assistance with organizing the tour.

Please visit the current LRAHM exhibit
The Ontario Cottage: Perfect of its Kind,
running until November 12, 2000.



601 Talbot Street
Built c.1873

This house was first occupied by David Bruce, a fire department engineer. It was sold in 1882 to A.S. K. Barclay, an inspector for the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company (now TD-Canada Trust).

The fieldstone porch was probably added in the 1920s and likely replaced an earlier porch. What appear to be pilaster strips from the previous porch can be seen in the fascia board to either side of the present porch roof. The fascia board on the inside of the porch roof obscures a transom (over the door) of etched red glass which can still be seen from the inside.

Original exterior features include the chimneys, a complete fascia board below the eaves, and the window in the centre gable which lights an unfinished attic. The short, downward pointing finial in the gable would have once had a matching piece projecting above the roofline.

Inside, the placement of a kitchen in the front room on the right has brought the location of the dining room forward from the back, its more traditional location. Here a fine marble fireplace remains, possibly the work of J. R. Peel, whose yards were nearby on Richmond Street. The transoms above the doors in the hallway were used to improve air circulation.

At end of the hall one can see the original exterior wall as well as the location of the south wall of the first summer kitchen. The exterior wall was probably plastered at one time. The large opening in the wall beyond the old kitchen may have been an exterior door.

The neighbouring cottage at 607 Talbot, probably built in the 1870s as well, was for many years the home and studio of Albert Templar, a well-known London artist whose work includes many local scenes. (It is not on the tour)



Carfrae Cottage
39 Carfrae Street
Built c.1860

"Mr. Carfrae, for many years resided in the little cottage in Westminster, just opposite the south end of Talbot Street, the grounds and surroundings of which were kept in an exceedingly trim and attractive manner." *London Free Press*, April 8, 1881

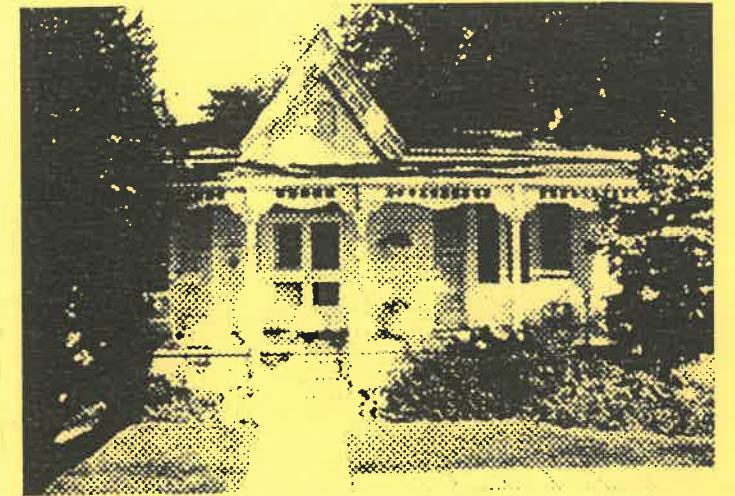
This house was built by Robert Carfrae, a Scot who came to London in the late 1820s to work on the court house. He stayed on in the new village and worked as a carpenter, building this house on the river perhaps about 1860. The date is suggested by the facade's several Gothic details, including label surrounds above the two front windows and the pointed window in the small gable over the door.

The exterior walls are stucco over double brick. At the top of the gable is a Scotch thistle said to have been placed there by Archie McCulloch, who received it from Queen Elizabeth during WWII, along with other officers at Castle May.

As much as 24 acres of land was once attached to the property and even as late as 1915 this was the only house on Carfrae Street. Later generations of Carfraes continued to live in the cottage until about 1944 when the McCullochs moved in.

As with most Ontario Cottages the formal, public rooms appear to either side of the front door. On the right can be seen a French door on the west wall which may have led out onto an earlier verandah. The panel under the front window here indicates public nature of this room. The mantle is probably about 1910, as suggested by its Classical detailing.

Baseboards and floor boards original to the building can be seen in the front of the house while some changes were made to rooms in the back part in the 1930s, resulting in the replacement of some mouldings and doors. A more recent stairway leads to two small upper rooms.



540 Colborne
Built c.1883 or earlier

The most impressive feature of the facade of this cottage is the complete porch across the front which probably went on soon after the building was completed. There is a possibility that the building was moved to this location and the porch would have been added soon after that. Listings for the house first appear in the street directories in the 1880s. Some of its first occupants include George M. Anderson, a partner in the Anderson and Nelles drug store, located at 240 Dundas, and James Twohy, a partner in a downtown dry goods firm.

Note how the entryway, normally centred on the facade of a cottage, appears a little to the left, suggesting the size and importance of the rooms on the right. To either side of the fine double leaf front door is a pair of French doors through which the main rooms once opened onto the porch.

Inside, on the right is a small room which connects through a doorway with a transom to a much larger room which is the best preserved in the house. Many original features have been retained in this room including floorboards, baseboards, and a large window with a sash arrangement of six over six panes. In the ceiling is a plaster medallion probably indicating the location of an early light fixture. The fairly plain wooden mantle reminds us of the exterior wood cladding and suggests that the house, as a whole, might have been a less expensive alternative to the more common brick cottage. The sense of interior spaciousness that the Ontario Cottage is famous for, is quite evident here.

The former back kitchen has been beautifully reworked into a permanent kitchen and dining room. Here can be seen part of a small sign that may be connected with former owners, the Perkins, who moved into the house around 1900, staying until the late 1950s. Mr. Perkin had operated a meat market on Dundas in the late 19th century and his widow moved here after his death.