

Downtown Brooklin



Self-guided Walking Tour

WHITBY
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First Nations people were the original inhabitants of the area that would become Brooklin and archaeological evidence suggests that Huron-Wendat were present in the area as early as the 15th century. In the 1820s European pioneers established a small settlement in the area that now encompasses Brooklin. The settlement expanded in the 1840s when brothers John and Robert Campbell established a flour mill on Lynde Creek. Almost all the buildings in the area of the walking tour are single-detached houses. It is a diverse collection of traditional architectural styles from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. These diverse styles complement the landscape as the spaces between buildings offer glimpses of the creek, small parks, and treed open spaces. In 2008, the Downtown Brooklin Heritage Conservation District was established to ensure these special small-town and rural characteristics are conserved and enhanced.



1

3 Cassels Road East c. 1889

This Victorian vernacular home was built by Charles Grass and owned by the Grass family until 1950. For many years he operated, but did not own the mill. Note the cedar shingle fish scale design on the north gable.



2

24 Princess Street c. 1935

This house was built by Dr. John Moore who came to Brooklin in 1891 and was a doctor here for 46 years. He was Reeve of Whitby Township from 1912-14 and served on the Brooklin School Board. The English cross bond brick pattern is rare to see and would have been expensive to produce.



3

11 Princess Street c. 1943

This house, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is of a modified war-time bungalow style. It is a rare example of a custom built stone and brick home during the Second World War. It has a tapestry brickwork pattern with an ashlar stone pattern (square cut building stones) on the street façade. Arthur James Cook, a Township Councillor in 1933/34, built the house after retiring from his business as a butcher shop owner.





4

15 Princess Street c. 1877

This house, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, was built for Benjamin Campbell, son of John Campbell a founder of Brooklin. Benjamin was a Whitby Township Councillor (1871-72) and Deputy Reeve (1873-76). From 1962 to 1979, Donald Creighton, one of Canada's greatest historians and Companion of the Order of Canada, resided here and built the rear addition as a library.



7

25 Cassels Road East c. 1848

The Brooklin Brick Mill was built for John Campbell after the original frame mill (1840) was destroyed by fire. The cedar swamp that originally covered the site was filled so that the foundation could be built on solid ground. The date is still visible on the west side gable. The mill could produce 50 barrels of flour a day and operated as a flour mill for 149 years, ceasing operation in 1991.



5

23 Princess Street c. 1879

Built as a Methodist parsonage by A.P. Cameron, it cost \$1,700 to construct. In 1917, it became one of the first buildings to be wired for electricity in Brooklin.



8

42 Cassels Road East c. 1845

The Hunter-Darlington House, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is possibly the oldest house in Brooklin. It was built by the physician Dr. James Hunter and later sold to his son-in-law Rev. Robert Darlington. It also served as a Post Office until 1881. With its simple roofline, and bell-cast porch this house has many characteristics of a Regency Cottage.



6

19 Cassels Road East c. 1867-68

Originally built as a Wesleyan Methodist Church it cost \$3,000 to build with seating for 700. The top of the spire is 110 feet tall. It became a United Church in 1925 and the Sunday School addition was completed in 1959.



9

45 Cassels Road East c. 1876

Originally built as a Bible Christian Church, it served as a Baptist Church from 1884 until 1916. From 1920 to 1966, it was the Municipal Offices for the Township of Whitby and also served as a library during this time. It has been the Brooklin Community Centre since 1967.



10

57 Cassels Road East c. 1848

This house was owned by Richard T. Harrison, a former Whitby Township Clerk who died in 1882. Constructed as a frame house, it was stuccoed over some time in the 1950s. In 1927, the house was purchased by Adelaide McLaughlin, wife of Colonel R.S. McLaughlin of Oshawa, as a gift for her parents, Ralph and Victoria Mowbray. Before marrying Colonel McLaughlin, Adelaide worked as a teacher at Sinclair Public School in Whitby Township in the 1890s. Her father served as Deputy Reeve in Pickering Township in 1889 and Ontario County Warden in 1893 and 1909.



11

33 Duke Street c. 1860

This stone granite home, which has square cut building stones on the front façade (referred to as ashlar stone), was bought by James Mitchell in 1878. Note the tri-brick spacer pattern in the stonework.



12

101 Winchester Road East c. 1869

St. Thomas Anglican Church was designed by architect Henry Langley. Langley designed 70 churches across the province, with this church opening for services on December 19, 1869 and the Memorial Hall was added in 1987. Rev. James H. Harris had a slight accident causing the bell to fall from its moorings while ringing in the 20th century at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1900. A new addition, built to accommodate a growing congregation, opened in 2009 and has a geothermal energy heating and cooling system. Elizabeth Davidson, Henry Langley's great-granddaughter was the architect for the addition.

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