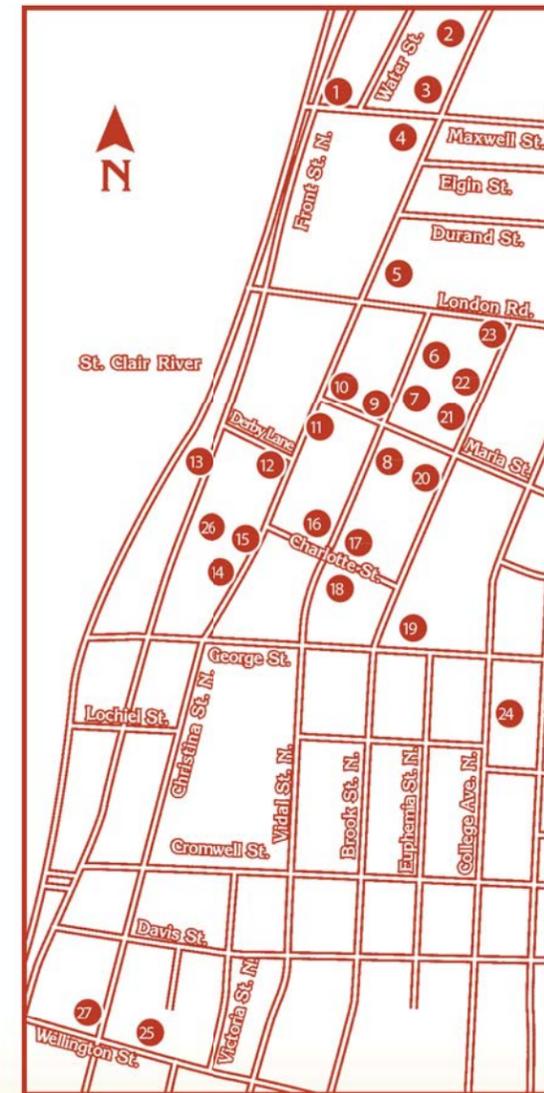


# SARNIA HERITAGE BUILDINGS & SITES



The tour begins and ends at the Bayshore Parking Lot, at Front Street and London Road. There is ample free parking at this lot. The first stop is The Henry T. Ross Substation at Water and Maxwell Streets (#1 on the map).

This outing should take approximately one and one-half hours.

To return to your car after visiting the last house (Mulberry House), please walk west (left) on London Road towards the waterfront back to the Bayshore Parking Lot.



Sarnia City Hall - 255 Christina St N.  
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## WALKING TOUR

### 1) The Henry T. Ross Substation

Water & Maxwell Sts.

Built as part of the Sarnia Consumer’s Gas Plant in 1880, this station produced and marketed fuel gas for lighting and heating. By 1894, the plant was generating electric power with a GE dynamo driven by a Goldy-McCullough 100hp. steam engine that produced enough power to light 500 incandescent lamps. When the street railway become electrified, the company had to boost its energy production to meet the new demand. In 1916, Ontario Hydro (now HydroOne) took over the electrical power production and Union Gas took over the fuel gas production. Sarnia Consumer’s Gas ceased to exist and this building became a HydroOne sub-station.

### 2) St. Joseph’s Hospice of Sarnia Lambton

475 Christina St. N.

This home was built between 1869 and 1875 by Charles M. Garvey, a Sarnia lawyer. In 1953, the house was bought by Lewis and Laurette Gordon and served as a family residence and rooming house for 35 years. In 1988, renovations revealed fish scaled shingles, original Victorian-style railing around the wraparound porch and a tiny matching balcony on the Gable Room window. The interior of the house has ten foot sliding paneled doors, a covered staircase, four fireplaces (three of which are made of carved wood), and unique oak flooring on the main level. The house with an addition onto the west side recently became the permanent “hospice” home for Sarnia-Lambton.

### 3) S.L. McKay House

453 Christina St. N.

This attractive office building was originally built as a private residence in 1908. One noticeable feature of this building is the small, circular bay on the south side of the north window.

### 4) McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

431 Christina St. N

This beautiful home draws attention with the tower running up the corner of the house. Notice the detail on the tower, its roof and the shape of its spire that tops it.

### 5) Our Lady of Mercy Church

390 Christina St. N.

Originally, St. Michael’s Church occupied this site which was donated by George Durand (a Protestant) in honour of his wife (a Catholic). In 1857, the Catholic community built a wooden church which they named Our Lady of Mercy and St. Michael’s became the rectory. Twenty years later the present European Gothic structure replaced the old wooden church. The new building featured the lovely large rose window you see above the pediment of the double front doors.

### 6) Brogden House

326 Vidal St. N.

David Milne had this house built in 1906 for his daughter, Susan. The architectural highlights of this brick home are the roof-dormers and the pillars supporting the veranda roof.

### 7) Colonel Bob Mackenzie House

308 Vidal St. N.

This house, built in 1876, is a fine example of the durability of a lime-based stucco render. Notice the unique dormer and the roof at the front entrance.

### 8) Misener House

286 Vidal St. N.\*\*

This Victorian house of Queen Anne style was built in 1896 for Thomas Cook, a Mayor of Sarnia (1903 – 1904). Mayor Cooke lived there with his wife Lucie, and their four children. In 1927 it was sold to Captain Scott Misener, founder of the Misener Steamship Co. of Sarnia who later moved to Port Colborne. The unique feature of this house includes original clapboard walls and its two storey curved front walls. The property was meticulously restored by Wayne (chair Sarnia LACAC) and Valdene Wager in 1991 - 1992.

### 9) Row House

116 - 118 Maria St.

Constructed in 1880, this house is the first two-family house in Sarnia. Note the pediment roofline with cornice and the hood molding (“labels”) projecting over the windows.

### 10) Skilbeck House

112 Maria St. \*\*

Robert Skilbeck, who established Canada’s first trust company in Sarnia, built this house in 1834 in the Regency style that flourished from 1810 to 1840. The house features a gable roof (previously a hip roof), rectangular transom around the door and large multi-paned windows on the first floor. The dormers on the second floor were added in the 1930’s. The inside of the house was recently destroyed by fire. However, it was rebuilt and the exterior of the building was restored to its original grandeur.

### 11) Mackenzie House

316 Christina St. N.

Constructed about 1861, this house is a fine example of a blend of several Revival styles termed Ontario Classic Architecture. This house was built by stone mason Alexander Mackenzie (Canada’s 2nd Prime Minister 1873-1878) for his brother John. It typifies a design that was prevalent throughout the province during the late 1800’s. Still visible from the interior in the window above the front door (second floor) are the initials of John’s wife, Charlotte, which she inscribed with her diamond ring.

Be sure to see the Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque.

### 12) The Beatty House

301 Christina St. N.

Also referred to as the Scott Building, this house was built in 1875 for Moses Masuret, a Sarnia merchant. Shortly after its completion, he sold it to John D. Beatty, a principal in the Great West Transportation Co. Mr. Beatty’s company was responsible for producing two of the largest and most luxurious wooden hull passenger steamers on the Great Lakes, the “United Empire” and the “Monarch”. Upon Mr. Beatty’s death, the house passed on to his daughter Ann, wife of the owner of Doherty Stove Works. It was sold to the Scott’s in 1947.

### 13) Russell’s (Sarnia)Brewery

301 Front St. N.

This building was originally constructed as Russell Brewery in 1862. Ice from the nearby Sarnia Bay was cut during the winter and used to keep the cellar temperature 20FN below room temperature. After twenty-five years of operation, the Brewery was forced to close its doors due to pressure exerted by the “Temperance Movement”. The building was occupied by several othertenants, including a jam producer and Silverwoods Dairy, prior to its complete renovation into a modern office complex by the North American Construction Company. The only original wall remaining is the west wall of what once was the laugering cellar.

### 14) St. Andrew’s Church

261 Christina St. N.

Built in 1867 on lands donated by Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Cameron, St. Andrew’s is Sarnia’s oldest surviving church building. Alexander Mackenzie, a resident of Sarnia and the second prime minister of Canada, laid the cornerstone as part of the July 1st, 1867, Confederation celebrations. This building replaced the original sanctuary which was built in 1841. The steeple, pointed arches over the doors and windows, and the buttresses were copied from the Gothic design used in the cathedrals in Europe and England. Unlike those great cathedrals however, the buttresses of St. Andrew’s were constructed for purely decorative reasons and not as a source of wall support.

### 15) Drawbridge Inn

283 Christina St. N.

During construction, workers discovered a well. It is believed to have been drilled by one of the earliest white settlers for the Attawandron Indians. Because of its historical significance, great care was taken to preserve the well and construct the hotel around it. Today visitors to the Drawbridge Inn can walk down the south basement hall and make wishes at the well.

### 16) Fleming House

251 Vidal St. N. \*\*

Constructed in 1874 - 1875 by Michael Fleming, an agent of the Montreal telegraph Company and former Sarnia mayor, this impressive Second Empire home features a mansard roof, ornate porch pillars and a ballroom on the third floor. The wrought iron fence around the house is one of the last of its type in Sarnia. This is the former home of the Kenneith Art Gallery.

### 17) St. George’s Anglican Church

248 Vidal St. N.

St. George’s Church was built in 1883 to replace St. Paul’s Anglican Church on London Road. The first pipe organ used in this church was salvaged from a sunken ship. Artifacts from St. Paul’s are carefully stored at St. George’s. They include a cornerstone dated 1848, a baptismal font, a wooden plaque with the text of the Lord’s Prayer and the Ten Commandments inlaid in gold and a commemorative plaque to the builder, R.E. Vidal.

### 18) LeSueur House

240 Vidal St. N.

Mayor Robert E. LeSueur (20th mayor elected in 1892) lived in this house which was constructed in 1900. Note the conical roof and the rounded entry porch. On interesting feature of this building are its original windows with curved glass panes in the turret.

### 19) Central United Church

220 George St.

This church which was built in 1882, is the last of four churches built for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation. The first church built in 1830 on Chief Wawanosh property on Devine St., served as a mission house and school for both First Nation people and white settlers. The second church built at the corner of Brock and Lochiel Streets, was completed just at the time of the Fenian Raids. The third church which was destroyed by fire was built on Vidal Street, south of George Street in 1864. This church houses one of the largest pipe organs in the area, which can broadcast over a sound system located in the tower. Chimes in the church were donated in memory of the many members of the congregation who lost their lives in World War II.

### 20) The Paton House

283 Brock St. N.

This elegant two storey house formerly belonged to a business executive, Peter Paton. Note the verandah with its double pillars, the charming oval window above the verandah roof, and the tower. One interesting feature of the tower is the manner in which it flares out above the first storey windows. Note the finial above the conical roof.

### 21) Carruthers House

144 Maria St. (Maria & Brock) \*\*

This Tudor home Constructed for Dr. Carruthers in 1934, is Sarnia’s finest example of an Elizabethan Manor. The lower storey of the front facade is constructed of cut stone with a hammered finish which is interspersed with red brick, while the second storey is constructed of vertical wood columns and stucco, creating the traditional Tudor half-timbered veneer. A decorative wood trim with brackets separates the first and second floors.

### 22) McKellar-Carter House

303 Brock St. N. \*\*

This Victorian style brick house was the first home in Sarnia to receive a heritage designation plaque (1989). Mr. James McKellar, a farmer in Mooretown, built this home in 1895 for his children and his sister’s children (the Carters) to live while eight of them attended high school in Sarnia. The house has a unique slate roof, steep gables and dormer windows. The carriage house at the back of the home was built to accommodate the McKellar and the Carters parents who visited every Sunday to check on the students. Paul and Anne Carter bought the home in 1974 and restored it to its original grandeur.

### 23) Mulberry House (Saddy House)

197 London Road

Alexander Mackenzie is believed to have built this house in 1861 for the James Rogers family who named it the Mulberry House and occupied it for almost 100 years. They operated a candy store out of the back of the house from 1905 to 1910.

Markings on the back window sill indicate where knives were once sharpened. The front steps are made of tombstones rejected by customers because of spelling errors. The Modified Georgian style of the house features barge board gables above the front door, as well as a carving of a young man’s head. The windows were made of small panes of glass due to the rarity and high cost of large sheets of glass.

Mayor Marceil Saddy (65th mayor 1980 – 1988) owned the house and bequeathed it to the Sarnia Foundation upon his death in 1988. The Foundation eventually sold the house and it is now a private residence.

### 24) The George St. School Bell

180 College Ave N\*\*

This bell is the only remaining relic of the George Street School (the last of our original schools) which was demolished in 1938. Originally, this bell was mounted atop a stone cairn, located inside the school fence along George Street. It has since been moved twice, each time with a new base. During the move, the time capsule inside the base was opened and copies of some of the original contents were kept for display at the Lambton Heritage Museum while others can be viewed inside the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre. The original contents, along with new ones, were buried inside the new cairn. The bell received its heritage designation in 1998.

### 25) The Boer War Memorial Drinking Fountain\*\*

(Samia Library Grounds – 124 Christina St. S.)

This memorial was built in 1907 with money donated primarily by school children through a “dime fund” established in the County’s schools in 1 902. Damaged during the demolition of the old library, it was restored and received heritage designation in 1998.

### 26) WWI Plaques\*\*

286 Front St. N.

The bronze plaques from the original cenotaph are displayed on the front wall of the Canadian Legion. The names on the plaques are those of every man from Lambton County who served in the war. The plaques received heritage designation in 2001.

### 27) The Lawrence House \*\*

127 Christina St. S.

Lumber baron, William F. Lawrence built this Queen Anne style house in 1892 at a cost of \$30,000. Highlights of the structure’s interior include a large alcove stairway, 5 spacious bedrooms on the second floor and a tower room on the third floor that served as a children’s games room. The exterior features the tower, the circular bay window in the southeast corner of the second level, and the tall decorated chimney on the south side of the house.

The last Lawrence family member to live in the house died in 1940. In 1977, the house was donated to the City by surviving family members. Thanks to the generosity of Suncor, a local industry, the Lawrence House was renovated and served as an art and audio visual centre of the Sarnia Public Library. It is now home to the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts.

\*\* Properties with heritage designation plaques