



A. VITTORIA TRAIN STATION 1888

Torn down in the early 1940s, the station was located near the Vittoria & District Community Centre. Originally the South Norfolk Railway, it became part of the Grand Trunk Railway System. Tracks were removed in 1965.



B. MABEE HOUSE 1861

An example of a Gothic Revival farmhouse constructed of brick that was manufactured in the local brickyard, located on the flats of Young's Creek.



C. ANDERSON MILL 1847

Henry Anderson built this mill on the mill pond site in 1847. It was destroyed by fire in 1909 when a boiling linseed oil container boiled over, igniting the mill. The Long Point Region Conservation Authority now owns and maintains the site.



D. MILL HOUSE circa 1850

The miller's house overlooks the mill pond, where one of the first grist mills in the Long Point area was built.



E. McCALL HOUSE circa 1850

This is an excellent example of an Ontario Cottage, located just west of the village.



F. WOODHOUSE UNITED CHURCH 1860

This was a Methodist Church site dating back to 1800. The union of the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists and the Methodists gave birth to the United Church of Canada in 1925.

VITTORIA HISTORIC WALK

1. Joseph McCall House
2. Vittoria Public School
3. Lower Hotel
4. St. Andrews United Church
5. LeLievre Bakery
6. Town Hall
7. Peter Young House
8. Hood Factory
9. Peter Young Store
10. Lamport Block
11. Tuttle Hotel

12. Rebecca Anderson House
13. Court House
14. Christ Church (Anglican)
15. Baptist Church
16. George Hewitt House
17. Dr. Walter McInnes House
18. Morris Smith House
19. Henry Mabee House
20. Wm. Finlay House
21. Simpson McCall House
22. Donald Fisher House

23. Vittoria Evaporator
24. Edward Hackett House
25. McCall's Hardware and Gifts
26. Swayze Furniture and Undertaking

Other Local Properties of Interest

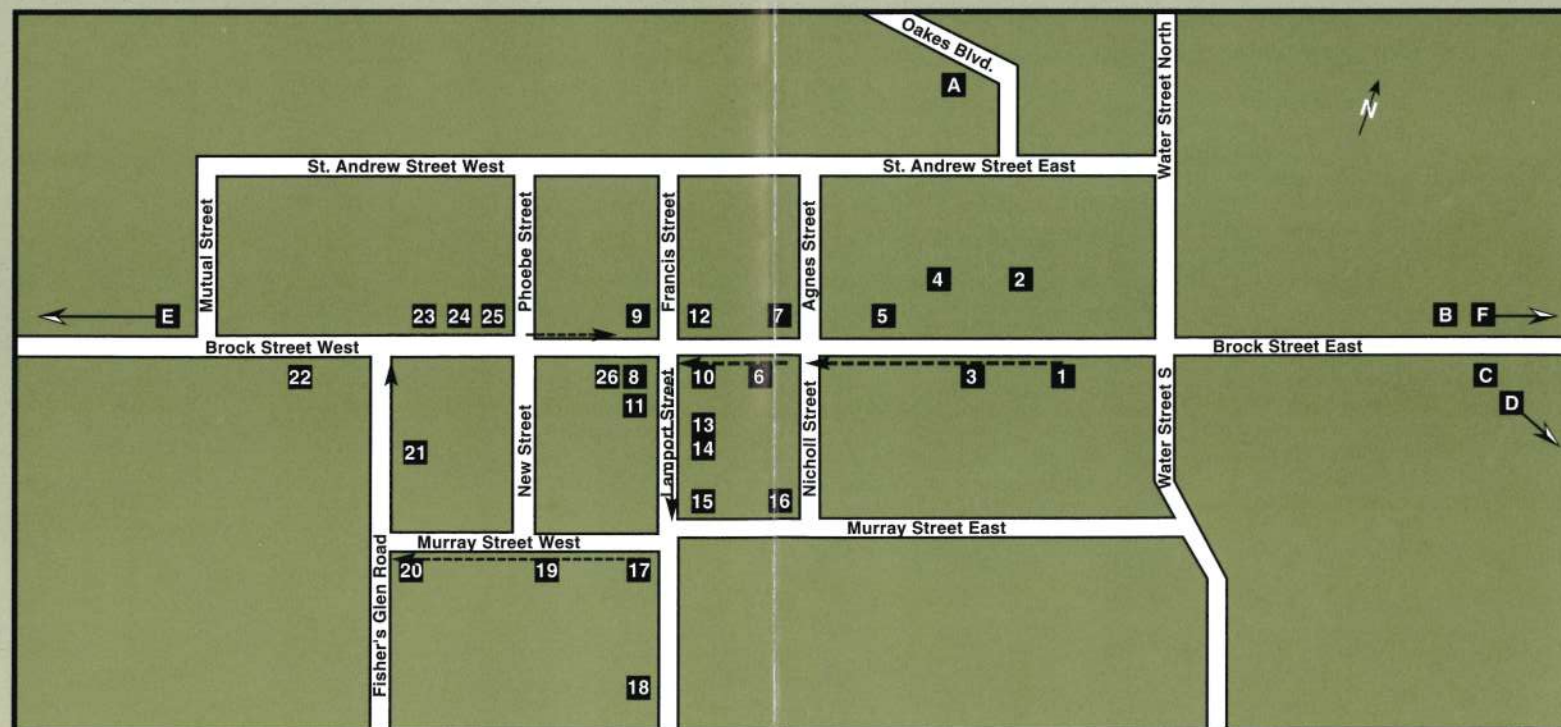
- A. Vittoria Train Station
- B. Mabee House
- C. Anderson Mill
- D. Mill House
- E. McCall House
- F. Woodhouse United Church

HAMLET OF VITTORIA

A self-guided walking tour of significant historic sites in the hamlet of Vittoria was created by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of the former Township of Delhi as a gift to commemorate Vittoria's bicentennial in 1996. In the years following, the Heritage Committee of the Vittoria & District Foundation has expanded this programme.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy a leisurely stroll through our historic village, the former capital (from 1815 to 1825) of the London District of Upper Canada.

This walking tour brochure has been prepared by the Heritage Committee of the Vittoria & District Foundation.



Hamlet of Vittoria



A Self-guided Walking Tour of Historic Sites





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1. JOSEPH McCALL HOUSE circa 1845

This is likely the oldest remaining brick house in Vittoria, the bricks for which were made a few hundred yards east of here on the flats of Young's Creek. Joseph was the great-grandson of the family patriarch, Donald McCall of Argyleshire, Scotland, who fought with General Wolfe at Louisburg and Quebec. This house displays elements of the American Georgian tradition, characterized by five openings symmetrically arranged across the rectangular front. The porch is a later addition.

2. VITTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL circa 1870

On this site stood the first permanent school in Vittoria, shown in the accompanying photo in the late 1880s. Junior classes were held downstairs, senior classes upstairs. In 1938, the building was declared structurally unsafe; it was subsequently demolished and the current one was erected in time for classes in autumn, 1939. The school closed permanently in 1983 and was converted into apartments.

3. LOWER HOTEL circa 1835

Also known variously as the Catherwood, the Pavillion and the McLennan Hotel, this building has been the meeting place of Masonic Lodge #359 since 1889, as well as the Eastern Star. Though altered over the years, this structure illustrates the fine woodwork detailing of the Neo-Classical style, including boards running up the building's corners and finely scaled wood siding. Wide doorways were once graced with elegant porches.

4. ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH (PRESBYTERIAN) 1845

As the first ministers were itinerant, regular services did not begin here until 1851. It became a United Church in 1925, following the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches. Classical details are seen in the side pilasters separating the windows and the extended cornice creating the pedimented "Greek temple" front and pointed windows, the hallmark of the Gothic Revival style.

5. LE LIEVRE BAKERY circa 1845

Despite the changes that time and need have triggered, the vestige of the classic saltbox design of this building can be seen. It was first occupied by Peter Young from 1845 to 1889, where he operated his first general store. Sometime before 1889, Archibald Reid's cabinet shop was located here. After that date, it was operated as a bakery shop by John Le Lievre and his wife, followed by Church's Harness Shop. The early 20th century witnessed Thompson's Bakery, then Steele's Bakery set up shop here. By 1944, Sam Colwell took it over and opened an ice cream parlour. In 1947, it became Weaver's Restaurant (with a pool hall in the back). In recent years, it has been used as a private residence.

6. TOWN HALL 1870

The first "public hall or lecture room" was built in 1863 on this land, donated by Thomas Lamport. The frame building was destroyed by fire and was replaced in 1870 by this brick structure. In 1915, the Vittoria Lecture Room Company leased the hall for public purposes, to the Police Village of Vittoria, for \$1 a year for 999 years. Classical features include the ogee-roofed belfry, round arched windows and fan transom above the door, and multiple mouldings at the eaves. The exterior is virtually as it was when first constructed; many of the interior details remain intact and/or restored.

7. PETER YOUNG HOUSE circa 1852

This house was built by Vittoria merchant Peter Young, who emigrated from Scotland. At one time a part of the house was a store. The building displays features of a Georgian house, with its rectangular proportions and cornice decorated with dentils. However, the symmetry of the facade has been lost over the years with the change in use.

8. HOOD FACTORY

This early photo, taken from the top of the Lamport Block, shows the Hood Knitting Company/Springstead Knitwear Factory, part of which had previously housed Charlie Mabree's "Sugar Jack" operation. Sugar Jack was a secret formula used to produce a mulch, suitable for feeding to livestock. It consisted of straw, hay and cornstalks, and reportedly salt, lime, sulphur, yeast and water and it was supposed to increase the butterfat and milk production of cattle.



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9. PETER YOUNG STORE circa 1850

Peter Young was a Scottish immigrant who married Nancy Smith, granddaughter of United Empire Loyalist, Abraham Smith. Her brother Morris became a partner in the business; his son Frank assumed operation in later years. The shop once had the bell-shaped veranda, popular in both commercial and residential buildings. Despite a damaging fire in the early 1900s the walls of the old store were rebuilt and it continued as a store well into the 20th century.

10. LAMPORT BLOCK circa 1847

Thomas Lamport, from England, purchased land in the Court House Square in 1840. Family tradition claims that he wished to avert the decline of the village by building, in three stages, this substantial commercial block. The many businesses associated with the building included a barbershop, post office, bank, library, Mabree's Grocery and telephone exchange. It was torn down in 1959.

11. TUTTLE HOTEL 1805

This very early hotel was built by Philip Stover, then purchased by Thomas Lamport in the 1840s. When built, the large hotel was on what was then a busy road in the capital of the London District. The two-storey gallery added glamour, shade and protection for the entrances.

12. REBECCA ANDERSON HOUSE circa 1852

Walter Anderson, stone mason, was a United Empire Loyalist from New Jersey. His daughter Rebecca transferred her land grant rights to Charlotteville Township. She and her bachelor brothers established a homestead with her outside the village; when her widowed sister, with her daughter and child came to live with her, she had this house built in town. The diamond tracery in the sidelights is unique to Vittoria.

13. COURT HOUSE SITE 1815-1825

In 1800 the first Court of the Quarter Sessions was held at the nearby home of James Monroe, the only two-storey house in the settlement. Later, when Job Loder built a public-house in Charlotteville (Turkey Point), the Court was moved there and a log jail built. After the War of 1812 the Court was again moved further inland to Tisdale's Mills (Vittoria). After fire destroyed the building in 1825, the Courts were moved to London. The bricks for the building were imported by ship from Pennsylvania.

14. CHRIST CHURCH (ANGLICAN) 1844

This is one of the finest rural Georgian timber churches remaining in Ontario. It was built on the site of the first Court House. The flush plank siding has beveled edges and grooves to imitate ashlar masonry. Heavier planks form the corner quoins. A distinctive Regency-Gothic influence is seen in the side windows, with large panes and bordering half-panes.

15. VITTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH 1852

The Baptist Society of Charlotteville was established in 1803 by Elder Titus Finch and has been in continuous operation ever since. The first church building was located in the present-day Vittoria Baptist Cemetery, just east of the village. In time, the need for a larger structure gave rise to the brick structure we see today. This is a beautiful example of the Greek temple style. The low-pitched roof forms a classical pediment above the entrance. Large pilasters define the corners of the building and side walls. Instead of a tower, there is a belfry with ogee roof with finial top.

16. GEORGE HEWITT HOUSE 1875

This house was built for George Hewitt, harness maker, son of William, the village druggist. George married Mary Anne Pope, daughter of famous wildlife painter William Pope. William Pope died in this house under the care of his daughter; he is buried in the United Church Cemetery. This house bears many features of the Gothic Revival style.

17. DR. WALTER McINNES HOUSE 1872

Andrew McInnes, a "gentleman" from Scotland, came to Upper Canada in the mid-19th century with his wife and three children, and settled just west of Vittoria. Family records indicate that Andrew was orphaned as a young boy in Scotland and was taken in as a ward of the great writer, Sir Walter Scott, who raised him to adulthood. Walter was the sixth of nine children. He became the village doctor, practicing until his death in 1919. He built this house for his bride in 1872. This house illustrates the "Picturesque" style, whereby each elevation presented a studied and interesting view. Note the large casements opening onto the south lawn.

18. MORRIS SMITH HOUSE 1861

Morris was the grandson of United Empire Loyalist pioneer settler Abraham Smith. His sister Nancy married Peter Young. Morris became a partner in Young's Store and his son Frank carried on the business. Originally, the front facade was defined by an open porch with bell-cast roof. In the 1960s, part of this house was used as the village post office.

19. HENRY MABEE HOUSE circa 1873

Henry Mabree was a bookkeeper in Peter Young's Store and later an accountant at the County Registry Office. He was the grandson of Oliver Mabree, one of the first United Empire Loyalists to settle here, and Mary, daughter of pioneer settler Abraham Smith.

This house is an example of the Gothic Revival style applied to a traditional, classical frame. Distinguishing features are the gable with decorative window, fancy bargeboard and elegant entry portico with fretwork railing.

20. WM. FINLAY HOUSE circa 1860

Finlay was one of Norfolk's most successful merchants. His father was a partner in the North-West Fur Company. Finlay operated businesses in Vittoria and Simcoe including a mill and a distillery.

The walls are triple brick with the front elevation finished in Flemish bond. There once was a porch with bell-cast roof flanking the front.

21. SIMPSON McCALL HOUSE circa 1878

Simpson was a member of the Ontario Legislature for South Norfolk in 1867, the year of Confederation. This house is an excellent example of the classic saltbox style.

22. DONALD FISHER HOUSE 1870

Donald's father, who hailed from Montreal, and Thomas Cross, a Vermont cattle trader, established a family business which included a mill, distillery, shipping and a store in nearby "Newport." Donald's children, Matilda and Donald, ran an immensely popular summer resort there; today it bears the name of Fisher's Glen.

The house originally had a bell-shaped verandah with a small porch above.

23. THE VITTORIA EVAPORATOR

Records indicate that in April of 1890, Samuel Chadwick sold this property to Philip Young. By 1900, he was operating a store here which was built up to the street's edge. Then, in December of 1911, John McClellan purchased it and added a cement block addition to the back, converting the building into an "evaporator," a structure designed for drying fruit, used mainly for apples during the First World War. In the ensuing years, the building changed hands a few times and the front part was torn down; by 1930, it was converted into a residence.

24. EDWARD HACKETT HOUSE circa 1855

In 1851 Rebecca Anderson sold this property to Edward Hackett, who already operated a blacksmith shop here near the street. In later years the house was divided into apartments and dubbed the "Honeymoon Hotel," after its many newlywed tenants. The post and beam construction is hand-hewn and pegged. The classical entry has Regency styling in the transom, the local diamond pattern in the sidelights, and fluted pilasters supporting the entablature above.

25. McCALL'S HARDWARE AND GIFTS

Between 1905 and 1916, Fred Burgess operated a blacksmith shop on the front of this lot. By 1916, Ernie Church was operating a garage along with the blacksmith shop here. In 1926, Hector Swayze was the blacksmith assisted by Don McCall, until Don left for Chatham to learn the mechanic trade. In 1938, Don purchased the business. By the early 1950's, he and his wife Viola transformed it into their hardware and gift shop which Don continued to operate after his wife's death in 1964, up to his retirement in 1986.

26. SWAYZE FURNITURE & UNDERTAKING

Sam Swayze, who operated his business here in the 19th century, is mentioned in "Mitchell's Canada Gazetteer and Business Directory" of 1864 as one of three cabinet makers in Vittoria. By the late 1930s, the building was acquired by the Wm. Hood Company. Hood, a World War I amputee, set up his own stump sock manufacturing facility, as he had been unable to find a quality Canadian source. The business continued here for over 50 years.



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