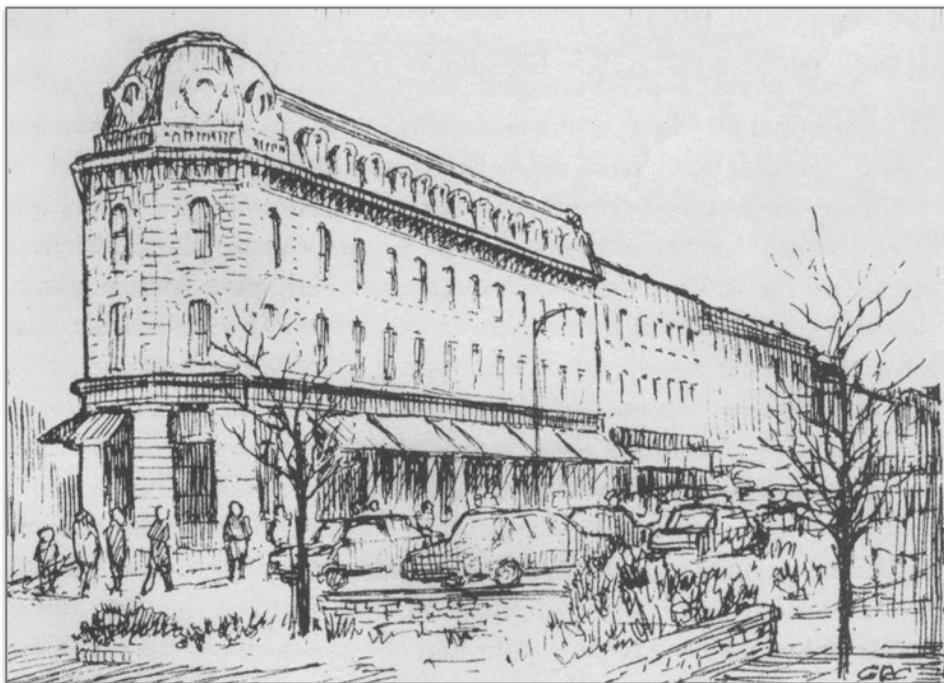


# Downtown Walkabout

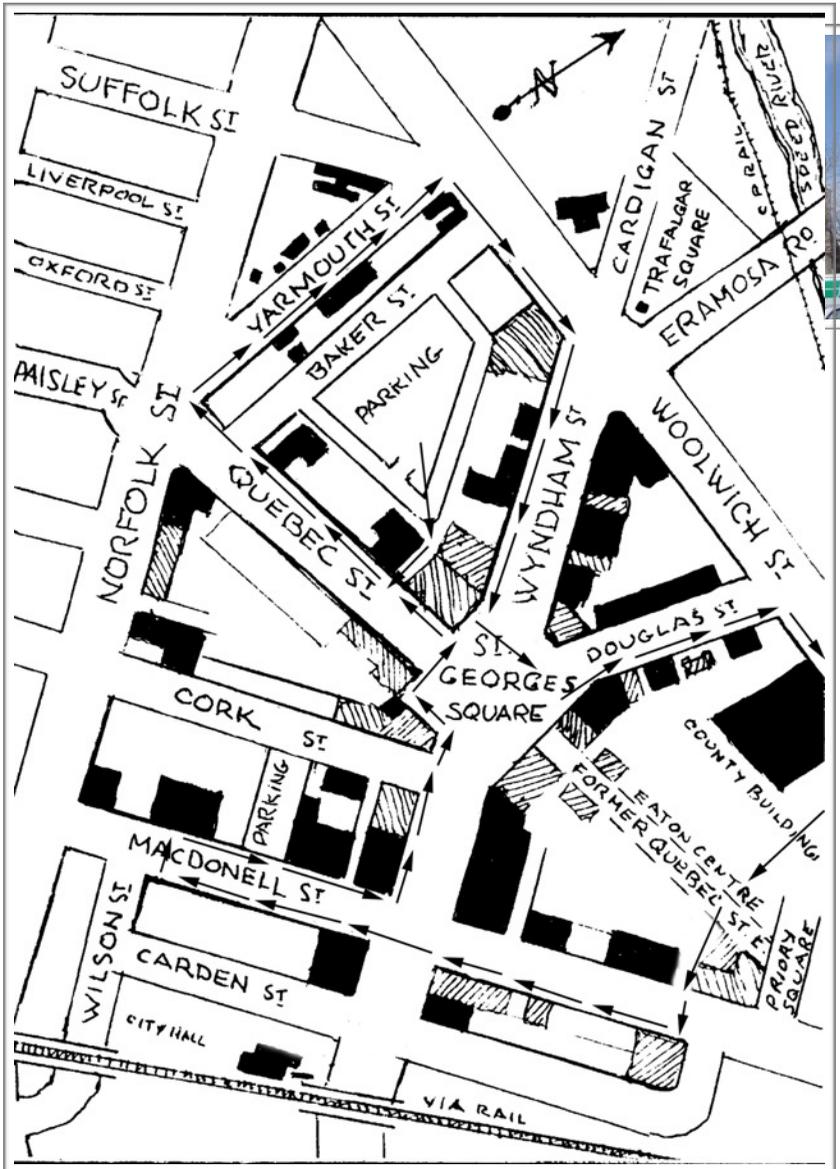
*Original text by Gordon Couling  
Digital revision by Guelph Arts Council (2016)  
Some photos courtesy of Guelph Museums  
Map by Andy McLennan*

Begin this tour at the south end of the Baker Street public parking lot.  
Walk through the Bank of Montreal parking lot to Quebec Street.

This route is approximately 2.4 km and takes about 1.5 hours



*Drawing of the Wellington Hotel by Gordon Couling*



## REPLACE MAP

*Begin in front of Chalmers United Church.  
Stay on the north side of Quebec Street as you proceed.*

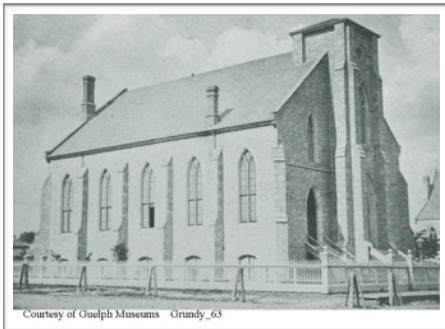
## **50 Quebec Street - Chalmers United Church (now Royal City Church)**

Chalmers Church was constituted in 1868 by a group of members who had broken away from the Knox congregation, now located farther along this street. They gathered in the County Court House until this building could be constructed in 1871. It was designed by Toronto architects Gundy and Langley, with Thomas Dobbie as the masonry contractor and Walter Grierson the stone cutter. Much of the facade was constructed of matched grey granite rather than the local limestone so widely used elsewhere in the community. A new Christian Education wing was added to the west side in 1957, and extensive alternations were made to the interior in 1966. A series of stained glass windows by Yvonne Williams Studios of Toronto was installed between 1961 and 1968.



*Proceed west on Quebec Street.*

## **20 Quebec Street Knox Presbyterian Church**



Now located on the corner of Quebec and Baker Streets, Knox Church's history began in 1844 when a group of members left St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which was on Market Square at that time. They met at a local inn until they were able to erect a small stone chapel on Yarmouth Street in 1847. That property was subsequently sold to the Raymond Sewing Machine Company, and this large edifice (left 1871), with seating for 1,000 persons, was built on Quebec Street. The plans by Toronto architect James Smith were altered by local engineer Joseph Hobson "to meet financial circumstances." The masonry work was



overseen by James Davidson with Walter Grierson as the stone cutter. The bell tower and vestibule were added in 1900 (left 1907). In 1953 a Christian Education wing was added to the east side. In 1955 the church was rated as the fourth largest Presbyterian congregation in Canada.

*Continue west on Quebec Street and turn right (north) on Yarmouth.*

### **I.O.D.E. Fountain**

Pause at the corner of Quebec and Yarmouth Streets to notice the structure in the parkette on the peninsula of land across the street. The first Guelph chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) was formed in 1909. Their mission was the “beautifying and improving of our City and the establishment of a philanthropic influence in Guelph.” One of their first accomplishments was the presentation of this drinking fountain which originally stood in Trafalgar Square (later on this route). It is Neo-Gothic in style, with a bracketed roof and stone base. It has been designated as significant under the Ontario Heritage Act.



### **15 Yarmouth Street**

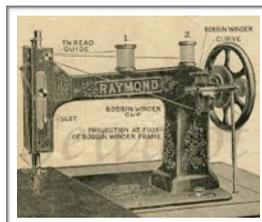
On the east side of Yarmouth you will see a Late Italianate home that was built in 1875 of yellow brick. It has a hip roof that originally had bracketed eaves. Octagonal bay windows with decorative moulding are on either side of the entrance. The second-storey windows have stone lintels with keystones. This house was built for Dr. E.W. McGuire, and had a coach house facing Baker Street.





## 51-59 Yarmouth Raymond Sewing Machine Company

Charles Raymond was born in Massachusetts and originally began designing sewing machines in Montreal, but ran into copyright issues with the Singer Company. He moved to Guelph in 1862, and brought 15 of his tradesmen to establish the Raymond Sewing Machine Company. The first location was a two-storey stone building at the corner of Yarmouth and Suffolk (ahead on this route). The three-storey yellow brick structure on Yarmouth was built in 1870. The business thrived and by 1870 Raymond had 80 employees. In 1877 he began to withdraw from the company, due to ill health. He was a local philanthropist and benefactor of the First Baptist Church (a short distance away on Norfolk Street). In the photo above you can see the first chapel of the Knox Presbyterian Church congregation tucked behind the factory (above left). In recent years the factory has been converted into a main floor restaurant with apartments above. A fire in 2015 caused significant damage to the building's interior. Raymond's home "Lornewood" (left 1977) is across the street and straddles the land between Norfolk and Yarmouth. It was placed so he could have ready access to overseeing the factory's activities. Olive Freeman, later wife of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, lived here 1929-33 after the house had been duplexed.



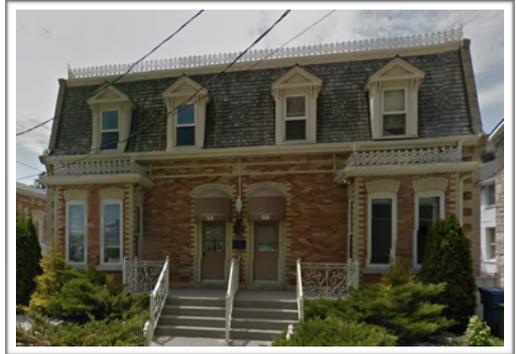
## 50 Yarmouth Street

On the west side of Yarmouth Street is a 1850 stone Ontario cottage. This simple home design used local materials and can be found throughout old Guelph (right 1968).



## 54-56 Yarmouth Street

This interesting duplex was built about 1875 and was restored in 1977. This is one of three homes built in Guelph in an almost identical Second Empire style. The other two are located side-by-side on Liverpool Street and can be seen on the Exhibition Park Walking Tour. Notice the



fine cast-iron cresting. The mansard roof was once patterned slate, but is now cedar shingles that mimic that pattern. The polychrome (two-colour) brick is also a unique feature with the lighter shade as window lintels and corner quoins. The rectangular bay windows are also topped with iron cresting. The restoration of this building received an Honourable Mention Heritage Award from Guelph Arts Council in 1978.

## 82 Yarmouth - 195 Woolwich



This two-storey stone building at the corner of Yarmouth and Suffolk was the first location for the Raymond Sewing Machine Company.

*Turn right on Woolwich Street and proceed towards the intersection with Eramosa Road.*

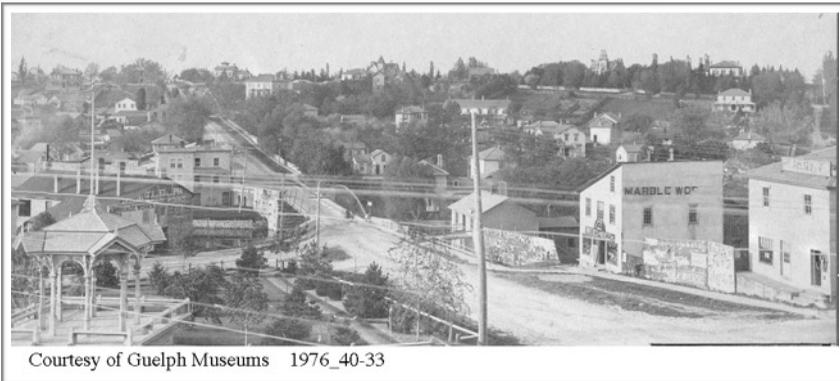


## **Trafalgar Square/ Kimberley Park**

Across the street you will see the Guelph Cenotaph and surrounding parkland. The photo above shows the 1927 unveiling of the War Memorial. This space, now called Kimberley Park, was previously known as

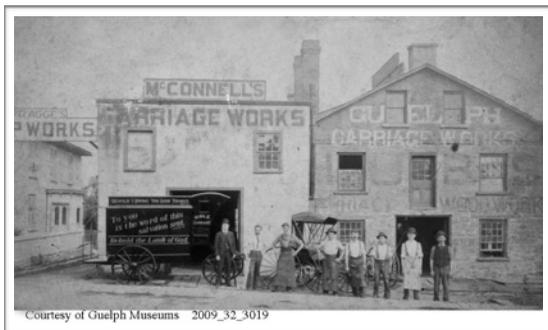
Trafalgar Square. With the rapid business development along Upper Wyndham Street (the north end) during the 1870s, care was taken to create a quality park where Eramosa, Cardigan, Woolwich and Wyndham Streets converge. An ornate wooden bandstand sat at the north-west angle of the Square until 1927 when it was removed to St. George's Park to make way for the current civic war memorial designed by Toronto sculptor, Alfred Howells. In 1978 this memorial was relocated further back in the park to allow the widening of the intersection. The apartment buildings adjacent to the park stand where there was once a brick railway station built by the Guelph Junction Railway for the Canadian Pacific Railway (below 1912).





### Trafalgar Square Intersection

The 1885 photo above shows Eramosa Road going up the hill in the distance and some commercial buildings on the south-east corner of the intersection. The middle photo shows two businesses that operated at this intersection McConnell's Carriage Works and Guelph Carriage Works.



### Eramosa Bridge

The bottom left image is the Eramosa Bridge in 1920. The right image was taken in 1964 when the bridge collapsed injuring three people.





## 176 Wyndham Street Guelph Royal Opera House

On the west side of Wyndham Street, at the intersection with Woolwich, was the location of the Guelph Opera House (now Guelph Community Health Centre). It opened in 1895 and could seat 1,200 (left 1911). It was not owned by the city.

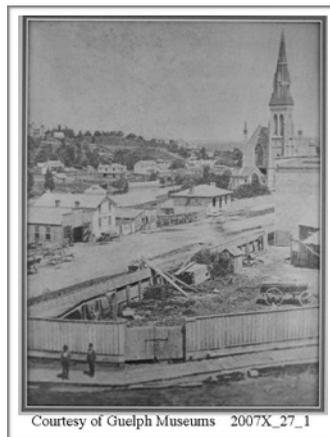
Private citizens hired Stratford architect Harry Powell to design the space which included five storefronts and an upstairs meeting hall. Among those who performed at the Opera House was international operatic star, Edward Johnson, who was born in Guelph and began his career singing at Norfolk United Church. He went on to achieve fame as both a performer and director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Although the venue was the community's primary entertainment building, financially it struggled.

In 1923 it operated as the Capitol Theatre, with live performances as well as increasing use as a movie house. The structure was destroyed by fire and was demolished in 1953 by Wolfond Construction. A Simpson-Sears Department store was put in its place with an Odeon Cinema next door (below 1970). The cinema has returned to use as a live performance venue and the Sears building was converted to offices.



## 147-153 Wyndham Street Wellington Hotel

The image to the right is the vacant lot in 1880 showing St. George's Church tower in the background. This property was a lumber yard with a small carpentry shop prior to the hotel development. In 1876-77 a locally-incorporated stock company built the "new" Wellington Hotel on this site. It replaced the "old" Wellington Hotel which was located on St. George's Square at the south end of this block from 1846 to 1876. The current building is a Louis-Philippe or Second Empire design of three storeys plus an impressive fourth floor and a mansard roof with a corner dome and ornamental dormers. F. J. Chubb, a Guelph contractor, was responsible for the masonry work on the building. The architect was Victor Stewart who was active in Guelph during the 1870s. The design was sympathetic to the triangular shape of the lot. Notice the trees along the Woolwich Street side and the awnings on the Wyndham Street side (middle photo 1945). You can see the hotel name written above the second-floor windows. The new Wellington Hotel served the travelling public, under various owners, until July 1975 when a fire left the building without a roof and badly damaged the interior. Four years later, reconstruction commenced under Guelph architect Karl Briestensky. Guelph developers Chester Carere and Doug Bridge made every effort to restore original features while developing a fireproof modern interior. The structure remains a prominent landmark but now serves as an office building called the Wellington Building. It was designated by Guelph City Council as being of architectural and historical interest in 1980, and it also received a Guelph Arts Council Heritage Award.

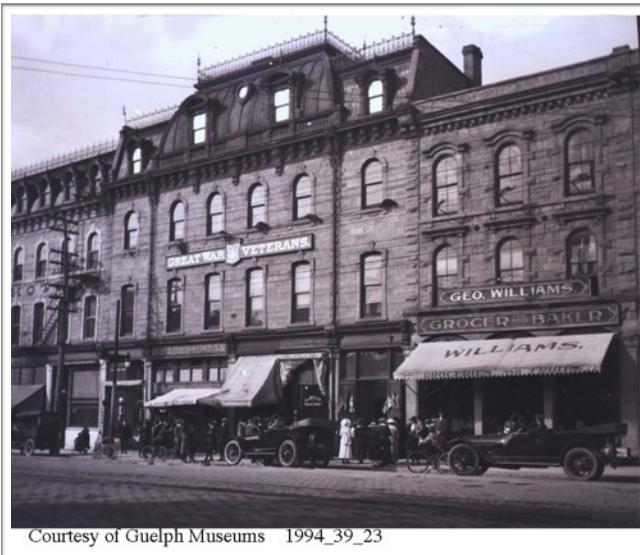


*Proceed south along the west side of Wyndham.*

### **137-145 Wyndham Street Masonic Block**

On the east side of Wyndham, south of the Wellington Hotel, is the Masonic Block, a three-storey stone building that was designed by architect Victor Stewart, to complement his design for the hotel (below 1918). The original structure had a fourth floor that featured a central dome. However, following a \$100,000-fire in 1945, the fourth floor was removed. The remaining cornice details were removed in the late 1960s. Carere and Bridge also restored this building and had the interior rebuilt and facade restored.

The Masonic Lodge was one of the original occupants of the building, utilizing the lodge room with high ceiling and classical cornices until 1914 when they moved to Quebec Street West. The Guelph Free Public Library, the first such space established in Ontario, also was located here from 1883 to 1903. Among the occupants of the original ground-floor shops were such long-term tenants as Kennedy's Drug Store, the Hourigan Shoe Store and McPherson Barber Shop.



Courtesy of Guelph Museums 1994\_39\_23

## 127-135 Wyndham Street - Alma Block



Built in 1854 by W. J. Brown, this three-storey limestone structure provided space at street level for at least four shops beneath a series of segmental arches. Following a disastrous fire in December 1867, the owner James Massie commissioned Toronto architect James Smith to design an impressive replacement. The segmental arches were retained as the 1870 photo above left shows, and some remain visible today on the northern section of the building. Stone brackets support a parapeted cornice, and carved stone entablatures decorate the tops of the windows. The third-floor windows have segmental arches, while the second-floor windows have horizontal pediments. This building remains one of the most attractive examples of commercial architecture in Ontario from the 1860 decade. Local builders Kennedy and Pike had the contract for the rebuilding, Walter Grierson was the stonemason and James Barclay handled the carpentry work. The northern section was acquired by Carere and Bridge in the late 1970s and was rehabilitated along with their properties to the north. Separated from the southern section by a firewall, the northern section housed some notable long-term business firms. From the late-1800s until 1933, the George Williams store was an area landmark offering “confectionery, cakes, pastry, soda water, ice-cream, Dr. Sweet’s Root Beer, fruit and

groceries.” The third floor was a banquet hall, and the rear of the store was a restaurant and ice cream parlour. In 1934 John Armstrong moved his dry goods business and its furnishings from 95-97 Wyndham where he had begun operations in 1911 and his company remained in this new location until 1969. The photo at the bottom is from 1960.



## 123-125 Wyndham Street Kennedy Block

Thomas Dobbie was the contractor for the Romanesque Revival three-storey stone Kennedy Block (shown right). It was built 1870-74 to contain two stores, as it still does. Notice that the cornices and window designs are related to the McQuillan Block which is coming up two buildings to the south on the same side of the street.



## 115-121 Wyndham Street Wyndham Building/Ryan Block

In the 1840s a little frame building owned by Thomas Smith sat on this site, with a small saddlery shop adjoining it. In 1874 Thomas Dobbie built an impressive three-storey structure to add three shops to the two adjoining to the north (Kennedy Block). An early occupant of the central shop was John Hogg who moved his dry goods store here from Lower Wyndham. Hogg had operated a business in Guelph since 1851. His distinctive gold sign “The Wonderful Man” hung from a second-storey window above the clothing store. In 1886, Hogg sold his own business to George B. Ryan, and later the other two units to Ryan, Birkenshaw and Company. This firm occupied all three units as a department store. In January 1918 the entire building was destroyed by fire. The Ryan Company rebuilt and in 1927 opened for business in the Georgian-Revival cut-stone structure (photo right) that featured an arcaded entrance at street level and brilliantly lit



arcaded display windows. The Ryan Company advertised “All the latest fashions from Paris,” and their building had the first escalator in the city. The second floor provided office space and a generous auditorium which served as dance hall and tea room as well as a display space for an exhibition of paintings by Evan Macdonald about 1940 and the inaugural exhibition of the Guelph Creative Arts Association in 1948. In 1960 changes were made to the auditorium and the display windows and in 1970, when The Right House of Hamilton purchased the building and the Ryan business, the stone facade was covered by a screen of ribbed blue steel. Once again, Carere and Bridge purchased the property after closure of the The Right House, and in May 1981 they removed the metal sheathing, restored the original facade and restructured the interior space into a variety of smaller business areas.



*Turn to look at the west side of the street.*

## **118 Wyndham Street Hazelton Block**

Few heritage buildings remain on the west side of Upper Wyndham Street. One survivor (bottom left in photo) is #118, a three-storey stone structure built in 1860 for James Hazleton, who operated a furniture store here until the 1880s. At that time a huge model of an arm chair sat above the cornice with his slogan “The Big Chair.” His family lived on the upper two floors, and a verandah along the south wall offered an impressive view of the town. Hazleton was also an amateur artist and ornithologist, with a special interest in purple martins. He was blamed for bringing the starling menace to Guelph and district.





Most of the buildings north of the Hazleton Block to #152 were burnt out in a disastrous fire in July 1921 (right). A gaping hole remained at the site of the Stewart Lumber Company mill, where the fire had started, until 1935 when the Dominion Public Building at #138 Wyndham was constructed as the Post Office and offices for other federal government agencies. Presenting an imposing architectural presence, this two-storey building is Guelph's only example of Modern Classicism, combining Modern Art Deco and Neo-Classical features. In 2005 it was purchased by the County of Wellington and restored to its original beauty, both inside and out. Following the 1921 fire, W.E. Buckingham constructed an extended range of two-storey stone stores (#120-126) stretching north of the Hazleton Block to the future Post Office site. These were built in Tudor Revival style with a flat roof and recessed panels between squared stone piers (right reconstruction 1925).



## 101-107 Wyndham Street McQuillan Block

Back on the east side of the street is a building that is only a portion of a much larger set of three-storey units built about 1874 by Arthur and Frank McQuillan, who were local contractors. Originally the building had five ground-floor shops, while only three remain. Two northern units were destroyed by fire in 1965, but, when Budds clothing store was rebuilt 1965-66 no attempt was made to relate the new facade to the original streetscape. A fire in 1978 burned out #107, the most northern of these units, and damaged the whole block. One of the oldest continuing firms in this location was the Nunan book-binding business located on the upper floor of 105 (the centre unit) from 1867 to 1978. Other long-term occupants were the Peacock Restaurant at #107 from 1920 to 1978 and Keleher and Hendley clothing at #111 (now gone) from 1891 to 1927. Space on the upper floors served such organizations as Order of the Chosen Friends, Woodsmen of the World Club, The Gospel Hall (1880s) and The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (prior to 1883). In the 1920s it was referred to as Liberty Hall or Elks' Hall.



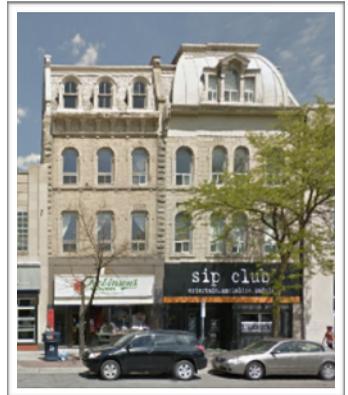
*Proceed south on  
the west side of  
Wyndham Street  
to St. George's  
Square then look  
back.*



## 91 and 93 Wyndham Street

The units at #93 and #91 Wyndham are the remaining parts of what was once a unified streetscape. The four-storey stone building at #93 suggests something of the decorative features of its former

northern neighbour the May's Block. Built in 1876 by A.B. Petrie and William Stewart, with Matthew Bell as masonry contractor, this building housed one of the Petrie drug stores, and later the Clark Jewellery Store. It had a richly ornamented interior with an elaborate plaster ceiling. Some details are still visible in the window ornamentation of the upper floor windows. The building style is Second Empire with a mansard roof, very similar to the Wellington Hotel at the north end of the block. The site of #91 was originally the location of the stables for the Old Wellington Hotel until 1876 when Higinbotham and McLagan began construction of the final southern unit of the streetscape. Known for many years as the Trader's Bank Building (top 1900), this structure was designed by John Hall who was also the architect for the May's Block (now gone) to the north. There have been many changes to the building since it was completed in 1879. The fourth-floor dome has been simplified with iron cresting removed and cornice mouldings eliminated, and four massive pillars of polished red granite, which once supported the Romanesque arches at street level have been removed. However, the structure still holds some echo of its original Second Empire grandeur. In 1981 the stone was refurbished and the fourth floor refinished.



## 83 Wyndham Street Customs House

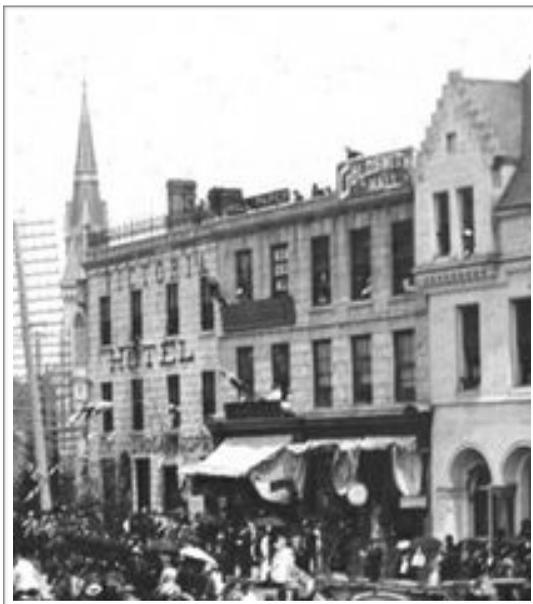
On the north-east side of St. George's Square is the Scotiabank building. This was the original location of the Old Wellington Hotel (above) which had been built by William Hood in 1846. The hotel was demolished in 1876 to make way for the two-storey Post Office and Customs House constructed by Dobbie and Grierson under the supervision of Victor Stewart. In 1903 a third floor and clock tower was added (bottom photo), making this building the dominant structure on the square. Sadly, it was declared "surplus" by the Federal Government in 1961 and was demolished to be replaced by the current bank building. St. George's Square was a transportation hub as shown in this 1915 photograph. "Modern" street cars converged here. Notice the fountain in the centre of the square in the bottom photo. This is the Blacksmith Fountain that was later moved to Priory Square on Macdonell Street to open St. George's Square for vehicular traffic.

*Cross to the north-east side of the Square and proceed to Douglas Street to the right of Scotiabank.*



## 59 Wyndham Street

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce now stands in the location of one of Guelph's first two-storey stores. It was built by William Day for Thomas Heffernan, a pioneer clothing merchant. This store was replaced by the Bank of Commerce in 1882-83 with the three-storey Scottish Baronial style building (top 1960). Notice the round turret with conical roof on the front corner. That noble building was replaced with the current bank in 1968. Middle right is a three-storey structure of which only a portion remains. In the bottom image a two-storey version of the Victoria Hotel can be seen beyond the centre unit. R. Crawford's Jewellery and Mitchell & Tovell Undertakers are shown in the foreground unit. The rubble in the lower left corner is from the demolition of St. George's Church in St. George's Square. The steeple of the new St. George's Church can be seen in the background of the middle image.



## 65 Wyndham Street

Stewarts Drug Store was housed in the three-storey stone building to the north (left) of the Bank of Commerce. This unit is all that is left of what was previously a much larger structure built in the 1860s with a bracketed stone parapet cornice. In the previous photos you can see the building was once five windows across but now only a width of two remains. The Stewart Drug business opened here in 1891 and thrived until 2000.

## 67-71 Wyndham Street - Victoria Building

To the north of the Stewarts Drug Store site is the Victoria Building. This three-storey stone structure with four windows across was once the Victoria Hotel, built 1860. It was originally a two-storey hotel, but was enlarged in 1862 and given a third floor in the mid 1870s. The business was operated by Dennis Coffin in the 1860s, Dan Heffernan in the 1870s, Thomas Ward in the 1880s and John Hogan in the 1890s.

## 1 Douglas Street - The Gummer Building (formerly Brownlow Block)

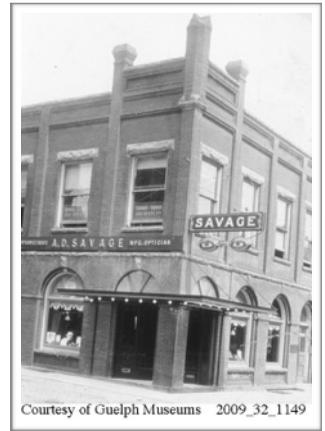
Douglas Street begins with the tall stone building on the right-hand side. It was three storeys in the 1870s, and a fourth floor was added in 1906 with Stewart McPhie and Mahoney as architects. It was known as the Brownlow Block until 1920 when it was purchased by the Gummer Press, publishers of the Guelph Herald. Between 1882 and 1910, the switchboards and offices of the Bell Telephone Company were located here. The first telephone call was made in Guelph in 1887 and Charles Raymond, who had the first phone, paid 80 cents per month. Various professional offices have also used the space over the years. Following a disastrous fire in 2007, this building, along with the Victoria and Stewarts buildings, was redeveloped as a modern commercial and residential complex that opened in 2014. Special care was taken to retain the heritage features of the facade.



*Proceed down Douglas Street along the south-east side.*

## **8-16 Douglas Street McLean/Savage Building**

Douglas Street provides an unexpected contrast to the spaciousness of Wyndham Street. The limited width is due to the fact that the street was not on the original town survey, but was opened to Woolwich Street about 1845 to improve access to the Court House. The street also provides an impressive frame to St. George's Anglican Church. The west side of Douglas features several two-storey red brick buildings. The building at #8-12 (shown right) is Romanesque Revival in style and was known both as the McLean Building and the Savage Building. It was constructed in 1898. For half a century the Savage optical firm occupied the ground floor, while offices for insurance and other businesses could be found on the second. Notice the round-head windows on the first floor, with brick lintels featuring a keystone. The second-floor windows have flat stone lintels and the entrance is through a corner tower. The small attached unit at #16 was actually built first. It is Edwardian in style with a parapet end wall, projecting second-storey bay and patterned brick.



Courtesy of Guelph Museums 2009\_32\_1149

## **15 Douglas Street - County Solicitor's Building**

The two-storey building sitting alone on the east side of the street was built from local limestone in 1863. Its facade has contrasting textures of smooth-dressed and quarry-faced masonry. The successors and partners of the firm Adam Fergusson-Blair, County Solicitor, occupied this building continuously for over a century. For many years, the second floor also provided space for the local Master of the Supreme Court and, until the 1880s, the Crown Attorney. Although the exterior was refurbished in 1981, minimal changes have been made to the original interior. Along with the County Court House complex, this building has been designated by the City as a structure of architectural and historical interest.

## 18 Douglas Street

The modest two-storey stone building at #18 was built in 1860 as the residence of A.M. Jackson and was depicted in an 1863 drawing by Guelph artist David Kennedy. It is Elizabethan Revival style with a steeply pitched roof and half-timbered gables on the second floor. Being set back from the street adds character. In the 1890s, it housed the Priory Club and recently has served as professional office space.



## 20 Douglas Street

Once again on the west side, you'll see a red brick structure at #20. This building was originally stone in the early 1870s, but about 1906 was given a new brick front designed by Hamilton architect Stewart McPhie. In the 1920s architect H.R. Coles had an office in the building, as did publisher J. W. Lyon, Guelph's first millionaire. This has been the office location for many well-known lawyers, including the Honourable George Alexander Drew (right). He was Ontario Premier from 1943 to 1948 with a Progressive Conservative dynasty that lasted 42 years.



## 25-27 Douglas Street Crown Attorney Office

The yellow brick and limestone building on the east side of the street was constructed by the County of Wellington in 1885 to house the office of the Crown Attorney, which remained there until 1967. The offices of Guelph Township were located on the second floor from 1886 to 1943. Later it accommodated a legal aid office and the Small Claims Court. John Hall of Guelph was the architect, and his treatment of details, especially for the gables and the west

corner doorway, was unique. Restored by the County of Wellington in 1980-81, the building retains its original roof surface of patterned slate. It was designated a structure of architectural and historical interest by the City in 1981. The late Gothic Revival style of this building includes paired windows, rusticated stone corner quoins, sill and band courses of stone and a unique roofline with ornamental brick work.

## 26 Douglas Street

Opposite the Crown Attorney's office is a stone building that was originally a livery stable. Built in 1865 it was known as Patterson's Livery during the 1880s, as Spragges's in the 1890s and eventually in the 1920s as Lehman's Taxi Service. The small building attached to its left side was a private residence.



## 99 Woolwich Street

### St. George's Anglican Church

Reverend Arthur Palmer was appointed as Anglican rector for Guelph in 1832. In 1833-34 a wooden church was built in the middle of St. George's Square on land that had been set aside for the Church of England by John Galt. St. George's was the second church established in Guelph, after Norfolk Street United on the corner of Norfolk and Cork Streets. The original St. George's wooden structure was replaced by a stone structure on the same site in 1851.



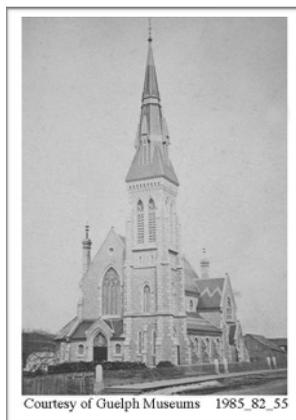
Courtesy of Guelph Museums 1985\_82\_5



Courtesy of Guelph Museums Grandly\_58

The middle photo (1867) shows St. George's in the center of the square with the Wellington Hotel to the right of the entrance. The bottom image also shows the stone building that also served for 20 years (1871).

Completed in 1873, just a short time before Archdeacon Palmer resigned his position and retired to England in 1875, the new church on Woolwich Street was designed in English Gothic Revival style by architect Henry Langley (right 1874). The new rectory was completed in 1879. With the growth of the Anglican population in Guelph, a decision was made to divide the congregation, and in 1891-92, St. James was built at the corner of Glasgow and Paisley Streets.



*Turn right on Woolwich Street and proceed east staying on the south side.*

## **74 Woolwich Street Wellington County Court**

In 1837 the provincial legislature established the provisional District of Wellington and authorized the construction of a court house. This fortress-like structure was built in 1841-43 as the District of Wellington Court House. It is the oldest remaining stone public building in Guelph or Wellington County, and in fact is one of the oldest stone buildings between Toronto and London (above 1925). Public hangings took place in front of the building until 1862. It has a castellated Scottish keep design, by Toronto Architect Thomas Young. William Allan of Guelph was the contractor. A small addition in the same style was built by Thomas Dobbie across the front of the second floor in 1873 to the design of Stephen Boulton. The nineteenth-century section has been used as the County Council Chambers and County administrative offices since its earliest years and remains in use for that purpose. A southern office addition was made in 1955 and the new Court House was added to the northerly end in 1963. In 1980-81, an extensive renovation designed by architect Carlos Ventin successfully and sensitively integrated the old and new portions of the building.



*Turn right down the sidewalk between the County Building and the Sleeman Centre area. You will see steps up to two structures behind it. There is no barrier free access to the next two locations.*

## **County Jail and Governor’s House**

The County Jail (shown right) and Governor’s residence were built in 1911, and are located in the courtyard behind the country administration building. G.A. Scroggie constructed the buildings to plans by architect W.A. Mahoney. Much of the stone used was salvaged from the original 1839 octagonal jail, which had been the first permanent public building in town. It had been designed by Toronto Architect Thomas Young and built by William Day. A segment of the stone-walled exercise yard of 1839 survives intact in the south-west corner of the 1911 building. These buildings are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Governor’s House (right) has been home to the jail’s surgeons, physicians, governors, matrons and turnkeys. It has now been transformed into a modern workspace.



*Return to the laneway and enter the Sleeman Centre and head west towards the shops and stop just past the first staircase.*

## **Old Quebec Street**

Quebec Street was one of the city’s original roads. It used to continue from St. George’s Square to Woolwich Street. Several store fronts and services were located on the street until 1980 when Quebec Street east was closed to build a shopping centre. It officially opened in 1984 with Eaton’s as the anchor store. The demise of the Eaton’s company in 1999 resulted in the

sale of the centre to the city. The back wall of the Eaton's store was torn down and the space rebuilt as the Sleeman Centre sports facility. The remaining portion became The Old Quebec Street Shoppes, which opened in 2003 with retail businesses on the ground level and medical and professional offices on the second floor.



*Leave Old Quebec Street through the first exit on the left hand side.*

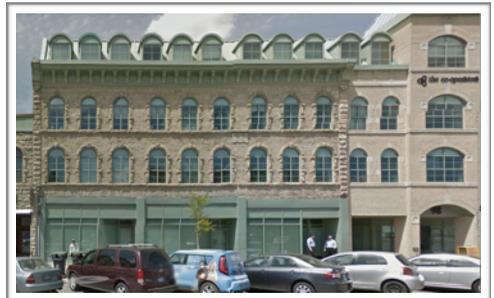
*This will take you past the parkade to Macdonell Street.*

*For the best view of the listed buildings cross to the south side of Macdonell.*

*There is a pedestrian crossing to your left (east).*

### **92-98 Macdonell Street - Armstrong Block (Co-operators)**

The large four-storey building that is now part of the Co-operators Insurance complex was originally known as the Armstrong Block. It was built in 1875 by Matthew Bell for the Armstrong Carriage Company, also known as the Guelph Carriage Goods Company, one of the city's larger industries.



Arched carriage ways, which later became shops, gave access to the carriage works behind. Between 1911 and 1976, the western portion of the building was used by the Frank and Shuett Hardware Store. The 1992-93 redevelopment was carried out by the Co-operators General Insurance Company, and involved the construction of a new office building behind the facade of the original structure. Many of the original late Italianate features were preserved, such as the round-headed windows with projecting rusticated architraves (stone frames). A fourth storey was added to match the other restored buildings to the west. The goal was to create a thematic unity for the streetscape.

## 88-90 Macdonell Street Coffee Block

Erected in 1897, the two-storey Coffee Block was designed with round-headed windows and stonework to match the Armstrong Block. The building exterior was changed very little until 1975

when the cornice ornamentation was removed. From 1918 until 1970, #88 housed the Dutton Grocery Store and #90 was Hewer Feed and Seed Company.



## 72 Macdonell Street New Western Hotel

John Fielding built the “New Western Hotel” in 1881. This four-storey, Second Empire style, limestone structure has a mansard roof that features a central tower with a bracketed cornice. The small iron balcony over the front entrance was a popular feature from 1865 to the 1880s. This building was called the “New”

Western Hotel in homage to the Great Western Hotel which had been located on the corner to the west. In 1881 there were 18 licensed hotels, plus many other unlicensed establishments, in Guelph’s downtown core. The large number of liquor vendors gave Macdonell Street the nickname of Whiskey Street. It was standard practice for the hotel proprietor’s family to live in the hotel, along with the paying guests. One such innkeeper was John McAteer who ran the New Western from 1886 to 1896. He advertised the hotel as “the best \$1 hotel in town.” From 1901 to 1960 three generations of the Singular family owned and operated the hotel. They renamed it the Ambassador Hotel in 1950 (above 1974) and in 1975 it was



called the Diplomat Hotel. During the end of the twentieth century the building fell into a state of disrepair as it became a residential hotel for a struggling clientele. After 134 years it has been given new life by the current owners who have completely renovated the interior and refurbished the heritage exterior, with the assistance of a grant from the City of Guelph as part of the downtown activation program. It now has reclaimed its original name and operates with twenty luxury suites ranging in size from bachelor units to a penthouse that includes the entire fourth floor.



### **11-13 Wyndham Street - Petrie-Cutten Block**

This building dominates the north-east corner of the Wyndham and Macdonell intersection with its high corner tower and ornate mansard roof. Designed by Guelph architect John Day in the Second Empire style, it has an elaborate fourth floor, ornate dormers, and a multi-sided turret. Walter Grierson supervised the masonry construction. The mansard roof still has decorative slate shingles but the iron cresting has been removed. It was built in 1882-83 on the site of the old Great Western Hotel and was jointly financed by W. H. Cutten, barrister, and A. B. Petrie, pharmacist; hence it was then referred to as the Petrie-Cutten Block. The ground floor was occupied by the Guelph Banking Company, followed by the Bank of Hamilton until 1921. From 1924 to 1934 it was a Canadian National Railway ticket and telegraph office. Then it housed the Kelly Music Store from 1935 to 1975, at which time it was referred to as the Petrie-Kelly Building. The heritage designation for



this building covers the street facades plus the ornate, slate-faced mansard roof, and also includes the plaster ceiling of the former third-floor I.O.O.F. hall. Originally, the third floor of this building provided meeting space for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge. With a high, domed 20-foot ceiling and an elaborate paint and plaster decoration with the Odd Fellows symbols, this dramatic room was the centrepiece of lodge activities until 1921. In the 1980s, when the building was extensively renovated, the third-floor ceiling was uncovered and restored.



*Cross Wyndham Street and continue walking west along the south side of Macdonell.*

## **52 Macdonell Street - Regent Hotel**

Built of local limestone in 1883, this four-and-a-half-storey building replaced a small roughcast hotel know variously as Fuhrey's, the Bay Horse or Reinhart's Hotel which had been built in 1860. The architect for the new hotel, called the Commercial Hotel, was John Day, whose father William Day, was a prominent Guelph building contractor. The steep mansard roofs, rising in stages



to a central pavilion, still retain their original patterned slate shingles although the iron cresting has been removed. The hotel was built for John Hogg, and was operated by Christian Reinhart. A serious fire in 1887 required reconstruction for Reinhart and Timothy O'Connor, the owners at that

time. The hotel was owned by Reinhart family until mid-1930s, then by the La Fontaine family until late 1960s. In 1975 this structure was the first downtown business block to have its limestone facade cleaned and refurbished. The restoration received a Guelph Arts Council Heritage Award in 1978. Portions of the building have also been designated by the City of Guelph.

### **20-26 Macdonell Street - The Hastings Block**

Built in 1870 this was originally the Union Hotel, in a design that was later echoed in the Regent Hotel. Once again in the Second Empire style, this limestone building is slightly smaller at three-and-a-half-storeys. It was enlarged and given a new facade in the mid-1880s. The mansard roof now



has a modern asphalt shingle finish. The cornice brackets are very clear as are the parapet end walls. The building currently has retail units at the ground level and rental residences above.

*Retrace your route back to the intersection of Macdonell and Wyndham and pause there.*

### **10 Wyndham Street - King Edward Hotel**

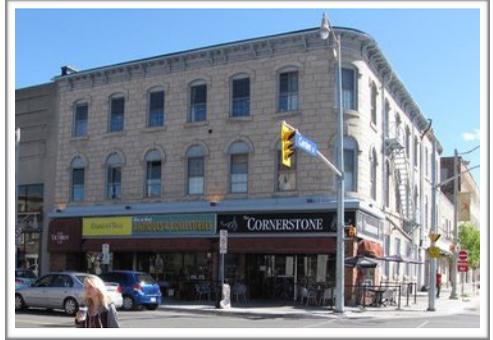
This building was once part of the King Edward Hotel, which was constructed in 1860 by William Day. The main portion of the hotel fronted the corner of Wyndham and Carden Streets, and this addition on Macdonell made the King Edward the largest structure in the downtown core. Notice the ornamental two-colour brick work.



## 9 Wyndham Street

On the south-east corner of Wyndham at Macdonell was a three-storey stone structure built between 1860 and 1868. The building originally filled the block through to Carden Street and matched the structure that remains on that corner (see photo below). It was once called the Macdonald Block because from 1902 to 1933 it housed the large department store owned by D.E. Macdonald Brothers. A fire in August of 1970 destroyed this northern section.

Notice that the corner buildings in downtown Guelph all have rounded or angled features. This was an intentional concept to make the streetscape unique.



## 12 Wyndham Street - Medical Hall

On the north-west corner of Wyndham and Macdonell Streets, Cory Wilson opened the city's first apothecary shop in 1831 in a combined store and dwelling. It was replaced by the present structure, completed by Nathaniel Higinbotham, in 1859. Higinbotham had arrived from Brantford in 1849, opening the first drug store on Carden Street across from Market Square, and then expanded to this new building which became known as Medical Hall. He introduced the first plate glass window and the first tiled floors in Guelph. He also supplied the first kerosene and coal-oil lamps used in the town, and imported the first bottled chloroform from the United States. He and his successors leased the upper floors as accommodation for various enterprises, including law and dental offices and photographic studios. The quality of the building's warm, amber-grey walls of locally quarried limestone, as well as the carved stone cornice, window lintels and bracketed sills, provide an excellent example of the superior masonry work of the late 1850s. The treatment of the cornice mouldings echoes the curved corner and adds distinction to the building and its site. In 1919 the

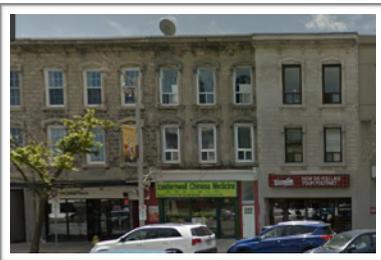


Courtesy of Guelph Museums 2009\_32\_5175

building was sold by the Higinbotham family to the Dominion Bank, later to become the Toronto-Dominion Bank. Extensive alterations were made in 1939, 1962 and again in 1977 when the entire structure was cleaned, the stone restored, multi-paned windows reinstalled and the interior modernized. The quality of

the restoration was recognized by the Guelph Arts Council Bronze Plaque Award in 1978, and in 1979 the City designated the building as a structure of heritage significance.

*Cross Macdonell at the lights and proceed north on the west side of Wyndham.*



### **16-20 Wyndham Street Elliott Block**

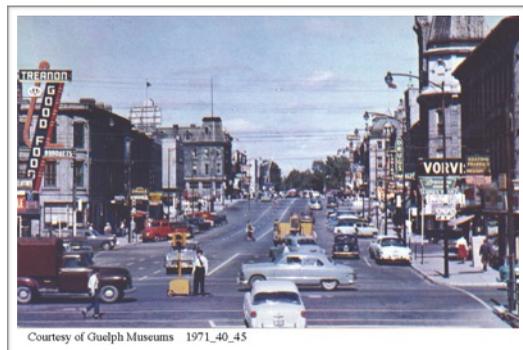
The three-storey unit on Wyndham Street, immediately north of the Medical Hall building, was constructed by the same builder as the corner unit. It duplicates the corner building's window pattern, masonry technique and carved stone detailing, creating a unified streetscape. A slight indentation in the cornice indicates the independence of the two buildings. This block was built in 1858-59 for George Elliott who became Guelph's fourth mayor in 1858. He moved his extensive grocery business from Market Square to #18, the central unit of this block. Later #18 was operated by G. and



Courtesy of Guelph Museums 1985\_82\_3

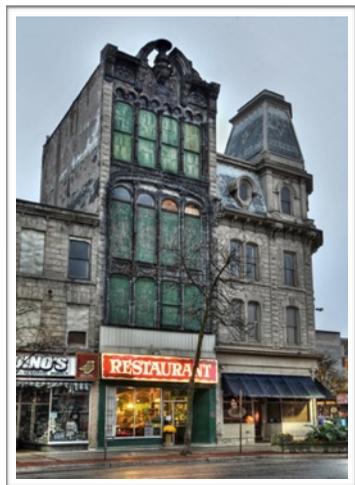
A. Hadden, and this segment remained as a grocery store until the early 1900s when it became D. R. Rowan's dry goods shop. The southern store, #16, served as an express and telegraph office for over 25 years and later

housed the J. D. McArthur Shoe Store and then the Hales' Meat Market. Unit #20, the northern section, was a shoe store under various names during much of the period between 1867 and 1900.



## 15 Wyndham Street Petrie Building

This four-storey building has a unique iron facade with an elaborate cornice with a druggist's mortar and pestle of metal-covered wood. The stamped, galvanized iron facade is believed to have been prefabricated by Bakewell and Mullins of Salem, Ohio. This unusual building was constructed as the result of a joint venture between A. B. Petrie and W. H. Cutten relating to the corner site of the former Great Western Hotel, which was demolished in 1880. Petrie took



responsibility for the northern portion, #15, which when completed in 1882 became the location of his store and drug manufacturing business. An ambitious and enterprising pharmacist, Petrie had had three or four previous locations in Guelph since commencing business in the community in 1866. Although Petrie ceased his own operation in 1917, the building continued to house pharmacies and drug firms until 1972. The bottom photo was taken in 2014 just prior to planned restoration.



## 19-25 Wyndham Street - Coulson Block

Still on the east side of the street, this Neo-Classical Vernacular three-storey block was built in 1854 by Day and Heffernan. The well-known Guelph jewellery firm of Savage and Company, whose wooden watch of black, white and gold hung above the street, remained in operation at #19 for well over a century. On either side of Savage's were such grocery firms as John A. Wood in the 1880s, Robert Mitchell in the 1890s, Jackson and Hallett in the 1880s and Benallick (top left) in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The upper floors provided space for dentists, insurance companies, milliners and photographers.

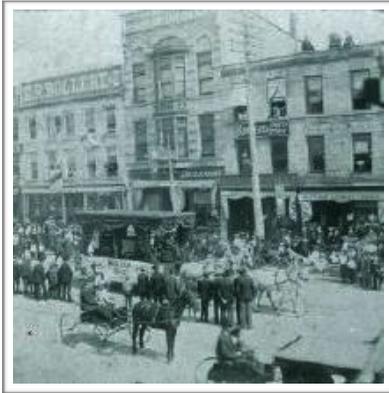


## 27 Wyndham Street

This tall building was built about 1890 in the Romanesque Revival style. It is a three-storey structure but appears larger due to the highly ornamental parapet front. Between 1902 and 1930 this was known as Kandy Kitchen, an ice-cream parlour and confectionery, a 1916 interior image of which is shown below. It was operated by Yeates and Thomas of the Royal Dairy. A large semi-circular marquee of Tiffany glass protected the entrance to the richly decorated interior, and a winding ornamental staircase led to



the high-ceilinged banquet hall, known as the Royal Canadian Cafe on the second floor. Over the past fifty years the upper floors have been converted to apartments.



## 29-35 Wyndham Street

The original shops on the east side of Wyndham Street, north of Macdonnell, were built in 1848 and were the first stores on the street. After the majority of them were wiped out by fires in 1854, William Day and Thomas Heffernan constructed a range of ten to twelve three-storey units under a unified cornice, their continuous stone facade an impressive length. This continuity was broken in later years when three units of a greater height were inserted, but otherwise the structures have changed little since they were built in 1855-56. The four northern shops #29-35 have had an interesting history with various long-term tenants associated with the clothing trade. The most northerly, #35, housed W. Campbell's Elephant Shoe Store, its hanging sign a large painted elephant. Between 1864 and 1904 #33 housed the T. J. Day bookstore whose sign bore the slogan "Day Sells Cheap." The ownership of the property remained in the Day estate until 1970. Other nineteenth-century occupants included Rutherford's clothing in the 1870s and Thornton and Douglas tailors in the 1890s.



## 37-43 Wyndham Street - Pequegnat-Cosford Block

Containing four storefronts, this block of three-storey smoothly dressed limestone structures was built about 1860. It is Greek Revival in style. In the 1960s, some of the third-floor windows in the southern portion were closed in as shown in the photo on the right. The Pequegnat Jewellery firm conducted business at this location for 103 years (see 1965 photo below). For many years the principal tenants of this block were clothing and footwear merchants. Shaw and Murton, merchant tailors, and Heffernan's Britannia House were well-known landmarks in the nineteenth century. Between 1930 and 1960, Zellers Limited utilized the two southern units. The Tinder Box (United Cigar Store) occupied a wedge-shaped unit at #43 for over half a century.



*Continue walking along the west side of  
Wyndham Street until you reach St. George's Square.*



## St George's Square

The top image (1952) shows the north end of St. George's Square. The expanded Customs House is in the centre of the image and the former Tovell Block is on the north-west corner. The baronial Bank of Commerce can be seen on the corner of Quebec Street. The centre of the square served as a transfer location of city buses. The second photo shows the south-east end of St. George's Square in 1955.



Courtesy of Guelph Museums 1971\_40\_44

The third photo (1970) shows Quebec Street is open, and Woolworth's is on the south corner of Quebec and Wyndham. On the north corner of Quebec and Wyndham you can see the new Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The bottom image (1975) shows the building that existed prior to the Royal Bank on the south-west corner.



Courtesy of Guelph Museums 1988\_24\_17

*Cross to the north side of Quebec Street and return through the Bank of Montreal parking lot to return to your start point.*