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Town of Whitby
Office of the Town Clerk
575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAY 04 2015

April 30, 2015

Sent Via Courier

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Re: Passage of By-law to Designate James Keith Gordon House and James Madill House
312 Colborne Street West, Whitby

Please be advised that the Town of Whitby Council enacted By-law # 6988-15 at its meeting held on April 20, 2015 to designate the above noted property in the Town of Whitby, as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, O.18, Part IV, Section 29.

A copy of the Notice of Passing of the by-law, in addition to copy of By-law # 6988-15 has been attached for your reference.

Further information regarding this matter may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Cassel".

Susan Cassel, DPA
Deputy Clerk
905-430-4300 ext. 2364
cassels@whitby.ca

SC/lam

Encl.

Copy: D. Wilcox, Town Clerk
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning
S. Ashton, Planner II, Planning Department
A. Oosterlo, Committee Secretary



The Corporation of the Town of Whitby
Office of the Town Clerk
575 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca

Town of Whitby Notice

Notice of Passing of Heritage Designation By-law

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby enacted By-law # 6988-15 at its meeting held on April 20, 2015 to designate the following property in the Town of Whitby, as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Part IV, Section 29.

**James Keith Gordon House
James Madill House
312 Colborne Street West
Lot 21, 1st Double Range PL H50032
Lot 22, 1st Double Range PL H50032
Lot 23, 1st Double Range PL H50032
Lot 24, 1st Double Range PL H50032
Whitby, Ontario**

Description of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest

The James Keith Gordon House (formerly 316 Colborne Street)

The cultural heritage value of the James Keith Gordon House can be seen in the modest house design and site arrangement. This building, located in the south-west corner of the property, is an example of the Ontario Gothic Revival style constructed in the later 19th century in Whitby. Typical of this style, the well proportioned building form along with its street setback and positioning are all essential to its character. The house was constructed in 1877 by prominent local mason, Thomas Deverill and carpenter William Webster for lawyer, James Keith Gordon (1830-1909).

The James Madill House (formerly 117 King Street)

The cultural heritage value of the James Madill House can be seen in the quality of workmanship, design and site arrangement. This building, located at the north-west corner of the property, is an example of the Georgian style constructed in the later 19th century in Whitby. Typical of this style, the well-proportioned building form, along with its street setback and positioning are all essential to its character. The house was constructed in 1876 for James Madill, a retired farmer.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The James Keith Gordon House

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the James Keith Gordon House as an example of an Ontario Gothic Revival style include:

- Rectangular plan with a one and a half-storey addition on the rear or eastern elevation
- Original wooden window frames, trim and sashes with double hung single pane two-over-two windows
- Original exterior stucco finish which has undergone restoration and repainting

The James Madill House

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the James Madill House as an example of a two-storey Georgian styled dwelling include:

- Rectangular plan with symmetrical front façade featuring a three bay design and incorporating a low hipped roof
- Projecting eaves with a plain soffit delineated by a molded frieze and paired brackets
- Red stretcher-bond brickwork with window openings defined by flat segmental arches
- Original wooden window frames and exterior trim. While not original to the building, the windows are two over two wooden sash and new wooden storm windows have been installed to preserve the integrity of the original building design

A copy of the by-law is available from the Office of the Town Clerk upon request.

Dated at the Town of Whitby this 6th day of May, 2015.

Debi A. Wilcox, MPA, CMO, CMM III
Town Clerk
Town of Whitby
Phone: 905.430.4315
Fax: 905.686.7005
Email: clerk@whitby.ca

Publication: May 6, 2015 Whitby This Week

Copy: File – P55-JK
S. Ashton, Staff Liaison, LACAC Heritage Whitby
A. Oosterlo, Committee Secretary
D. Wilcox, Town Clerk



Town of Whitby By-law # 6988-15

Heritage Designation By-law

Being a By-law to designate the James Keith Gordon House and James Madill House, 312 Colborne Street West, Lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, Plan H50032, 1st Double Range, Whitby as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Whitby considers it desirable to designate the property, hereinafter described to be of cultural heritage value and interest;

And Whereas, the Council of the said Corporation has caused to be served to the owner, general public and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of its intention to designate the property known as the James Keith Gordon House and James Madill House to be of cultural heritage value and interest and has caused such notice to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Whitby;

And Whereas, no person has served a notice of objection to the proposed designation on the Clerk of the said Corporation;

Now therefore, the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Whitby hereby enacts as follows:

1. General

- 1.1. The property known as the James Keith Gordon House and James Madill House, 312 Colborne Street West, Lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, Plan H50032, 1st Double Range, and more particularly described in Schedule 'A' attached to and forming part of this by-law is designated as being of cultural heritage value and interest.

2. Schedule(s)

- 2.1. Schedule 'A' – Designation Statement and Report of 312 Colborne Street West, Whitby as prepared on November 10, 2014 by D. Gardner.

3. Effective Date

- 3.1. The provisions of this by-law shall come into force and take effect on the day of the final passing thereof.

By-law Name: Heritage Designation By-law
By-law # 6988-15

Page 2 of 2

By-law read and passed this 20th day of April, 2015.



Don Mitchell

Don Mitchell, Mayor



Debi A. Wilcox, Town Clerk

312 COLBORNE STREET WEST

WHITBY, ONTARIO

DESIGNATION STATEMENT AND REPORT

James Madill House and James Keith Gordon House

Prepared by Deirdre Gardner November 10, 2014

DESIGNATION STATEMENT

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

**312 COLBORNE STREET WEST, WHITBY, ONTARIO
PLAN H-50032 LOT 21, 22**

The subject property is bordered by Colborne Street to the south, the Central Public Library to the west, a commercial plaza to the north, and a municipal parking area to the east. The property consists of two heritage buildings; the James Madill House located at the north-west corner of the property, and the James Keith Gordon House located at the south-west corner of the property.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The James Madill House (formerly 117 King Street)

The cultural heritage value of the James Madill House can be seen in the quality of workmanship, design and site arrangement. This building, located at the north-west corner of the property, is an example of the Georgian style constructed in the later 19th century in Whitby. Typical of this style, the well-proportioned building form, along with its street setback and positioning are all essential to its character.

The house was constructed in 1876 for James Madill, a retired farmer.

The James Keith Gordon House (formerly 316 Colborne Street)

The cultural heritage value of the James Keith Gordon House can be seen in the modest house design and site arrangement. This building, located in the south-west corner of the property, is an example of the Ontario Gothic Revival style constructed in the later 19th century in Whitby. Typical of this style, the well-proportioned building form along with its street setback and positioning are all essential to its character.

The house was constructed in 1877 by prominent local mason, Thomas Deverill and carpenter William Webster for lawyer, James Keith Gordon (1830-1909).

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The James Madill House (formerly 117 King Street)

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the James Madill House as an example of a two-storey Georgian styled dwelling include:

- Rectangular plan with symmetrical front façade featuring a three bay design and incorporating a low hipped roof
- Projecting eaves with a plain soffit delineated by a molded frieze and paired brackets
- Red stretcher-bond brickwork with window openings defined by flat segmental arches
- Original wooden window frames and exterior trim. While not original to the building, the windows are two over two wooden sash and new wooden storm windows have been installed to preserve the integrity of the original building design

The James Keith Gordon House (formerly 316 Colborne Street)

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the James Keith Gordon House as an example of an Ontario Gothic Revival style include:

- Rectangular plan with a one and a half-storey addition on the rear or eastern elevation
- Original wooden window frames, trim and sashes with double hung single pane two-over-two windows
- Original exterior stucco finish which has undergone restoration and repainting

DESIGNATION REPORT
THE JAMES MADILL HOUSE
312 COLBORNE STREET WEST
WHITBY, ONTARIO
PLAN H-50032 LOT 21, 22

Prepared by Deirdre Gardner November 10, 2014

The James Keith Gordon House (formerly 316 Colborne Street)

Key exterior attributes that exemplify the heritage value of the James Keith Gordon House as an example of an Ontario Gothic Revival style include:

- Rectangular plan with a one and a half-storey addition on the rear or eastern elevation
- Original wooden window frames, trim and sashes with double hung single pane two-over-two windows
- Original exterior stucco finish which has undergone restoration and repainting

**THE JAMES MADILL HOUSE, 312 COLBORNE STREET WEST, WHITBY, ONTARIO
PLAN H-50032 LOT 21, 22**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The James Madill House, was built in 1876, on the property municipally referred to as 117 King Street, and was originally a roughcast stucco building that was finished in brick circa 1902. The house was built on the north half of lot 21 of the Werden Plan. The lot was originally part of the land owned by Asa Werden, a prominent land owner who owned all of the land extending from Brock Street in the east to Henry Street in the west, Dundas Street to the north and Burns Street to the south. These lands were registered as Werden's Plan in 1854. The lot was originally purchased by William Shaw who sold the lot to John Shaw on December 12, 1854. John Shaw sold the lot to Robert Spence on January 27, 1855. The property remained in the Spence family until Mary Spence, widow of Robert, sold the lot to James Jaffrey on September 6, 1873. On June 30, 1876, James Jaffrey sold the lot to James Madill, a retired farmer.

CONTEXT

The James Madill House is a two-storey brick house located near the north-east corner of the intersection of King Street and Colborne Street West in Whitby. The house faces west on King Street.

The James Madill House is a Georgian style house, typical of many of the houses built in Ontario during the period from 1830-1890. The house was constructed in 1876 when a number of significant buildings were constructed on Colborne Street. Located on the south-east corner of Colborne Street near King Street was the Whitby Collegiate Institute that was completed in 1873. The original school building on the site was the Whitby Grammar School that was built in 1846. Also constructed in the mid-1870s, was the Methodist Tabernacle Church built in 1875-76 at the south-east corner of Colborne and Centre Streets. The Whitby Baptist Church was located on the north-west corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. The building was constructed as a Canada Presbyterian Church in 1869 then the congregation amalgamated with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1875. From 1876 to 1967, the former Presbyterian Church served as the Whitby Baptist Church until it was demolished in 1977.

On November 9, 1876, the local newspaper, the *Whitby Chronicle*, provided a report of new construction in town including: "Mr. Madill, two-storey roughcast building 30 x 32, off Centre Street." The house was being constructed on King Street but misidentified as being on Centre Street which is the next block to the east.

In 1902, after the house was purchased by James Long, a brick exterior finish replaced the original roughcast stucco and a projecting brick front porch was added over the main entrance. In 1975, after Sembra Holdings purchased the property, a concrete block addition with a stucco finish was added to the east or rear façade of the house, and on the south side of the house an enclosed stairway was added. The stairway was also constructed of concrete block with a stucco finish.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The James Madill House is a good example of the Georgian architectural style. In Britain, the Georgian period extends through the reigns of the four British King Georges (George I to George IV reigning from 1715-1830) to the ascension of Queen Victoria in 1837. The style incorporated influences and elements of architecture from classical Rome, the Renaissance and the designs of 16th century architect, Andrea Palladio.

In Upper Canada, provincial craftsmen built houses in the Georgian style decades after the popularity of the style had waned in Britain. Georgian architecture can be characterized by a formal arrangement of distinctive details. Symmetrical compositions were enriched with classical details. The Georgian style in Upper Canada incorporated symmetrical facades, Georgian proportions, sash windows and external shutters.

Georgian houses were typically well-proportioned and rectangular in shape. Houses were often situated close to the street and designed to fit the shape of the lot. Georgian houses were characterized by the handsome symmetry of their front facades with the entrance doorway the chief feature. Doorways were often embellished with decorative woodwork including pilasters, sidelights and rectangular transoms, or more elaborate decorative semi-elliptical transoms, and elaborate pediments. Windows were evenly spaced and directly in line with each other and the doorway adding to the symmetry. The windows were usually double hung with six panes per sash. Shutters, usually louvered, further embellished and protected the windows. The standard room placement in Georgian houses is four rooms to a floor, "four over four", opening off a central hall, with interior chimneys at each end of the house. Wings were commonly added to the rear, creating an L or T in the floor plan.

JAMES MADILL HOUSE

The James Madill House is a two-storey house rectangular in plan. The house has a symmetrical front façade featuring a three bay design and incorporating a low hipped roof. It has projecting eaves with a plain soffit delineated by a molded frieze and paired brackets. The chimney on the northern elevation was rebuilt in May 1996 and is not original.

The front porch dates from circa 1902 when the original roughcast exterior finish was replaced by a brick exterior. The house incorporates red stretcher-bond brickwork. The front porch projects from the central main entrance with straight stairs and is composed of brick arches on the side and front elevations. The porch design also incorporates corner brick pillars and a repeating decorative saw-tooth brick course near the roof line and the lower walls of the sides of the porch. The main door is the principal ornamental feature of the original Georgian façade defined by a boxed corner molding and a transom above the door.

The window openings are delineated by flat segmental arches. The plain window frames and exterior trim are wooden and original. While not original to the building, the windows are two over two wooden sash. New wooden storm windows have been installed to preserve the

integrity of the original building design.

The east or rear façade of the house has had a concrete block addition added in 1975. On the south side of the house, an enclosed stairway constructed of concrete block with a stucco finish was added. The windows on the eastern elevation are divided into two panes and constructed of hollow metal frames.

The exterior of the house had been painted in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The paint was chemically removed from the exterior brick in 2004. The house interior was also modernized at this time.

OWNERSHIP HISTORY

James Madill (1821-1911) was born in County Monaghan, Ireland on December 11, 1821 and came to Pickering Township in 1837. He married Margaret Finney (1825-1907) on July 28, 1846 and farmed in Manvers Township from 1845 to 1873. The Madill's retired to Whitby in 1873 and purchased the lot on King Street in June 1876. The Madill's resided at 117 King Street from 1876 to 1897. In 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Madill moved to Toronto to reside with their son, James Jr. Their house was sold on May 9, 1902 to James Long (1848-1921).

Mr. Long was born in Pickering Township in 1848. In 1886, he opened a flour, feed and grocery business on the north side of Dundas Street West in Whitby which remained in business until his death in 1921. After the sale of the house to James Long, the roughcast exterior was finished in brick and a projecting brick front porch was added over the main entrance. Mr. Long was a Whitby council member representing the centre ward from 1885-1886, and served on the executive of the South Ontario County Liberal Association. He married Margaret Anne Ryan (1872-1962) in 1892 and had a large family of eight children. After his death in 1921, the Long family continued to reside at 117 King Street until 1950. The daughters of James Long sold the property to Katherine Osborne, the wife of a real estate agent, Gordon F. Osborne who sold the house to Raymond and Nevada Kennedy who sold the house back to the Osborne's in 1952. On January 23, 1953, the house was sold to Hylke Visser. The Visser family came to Whitby from Holland in 1953 and operated the Visser Bakery at 141 Brock Street South. On February 11, 1974, Hylke (Herb) Visser Jr. sold the house to David J. Sims, a lawyer who established his law office in the building.

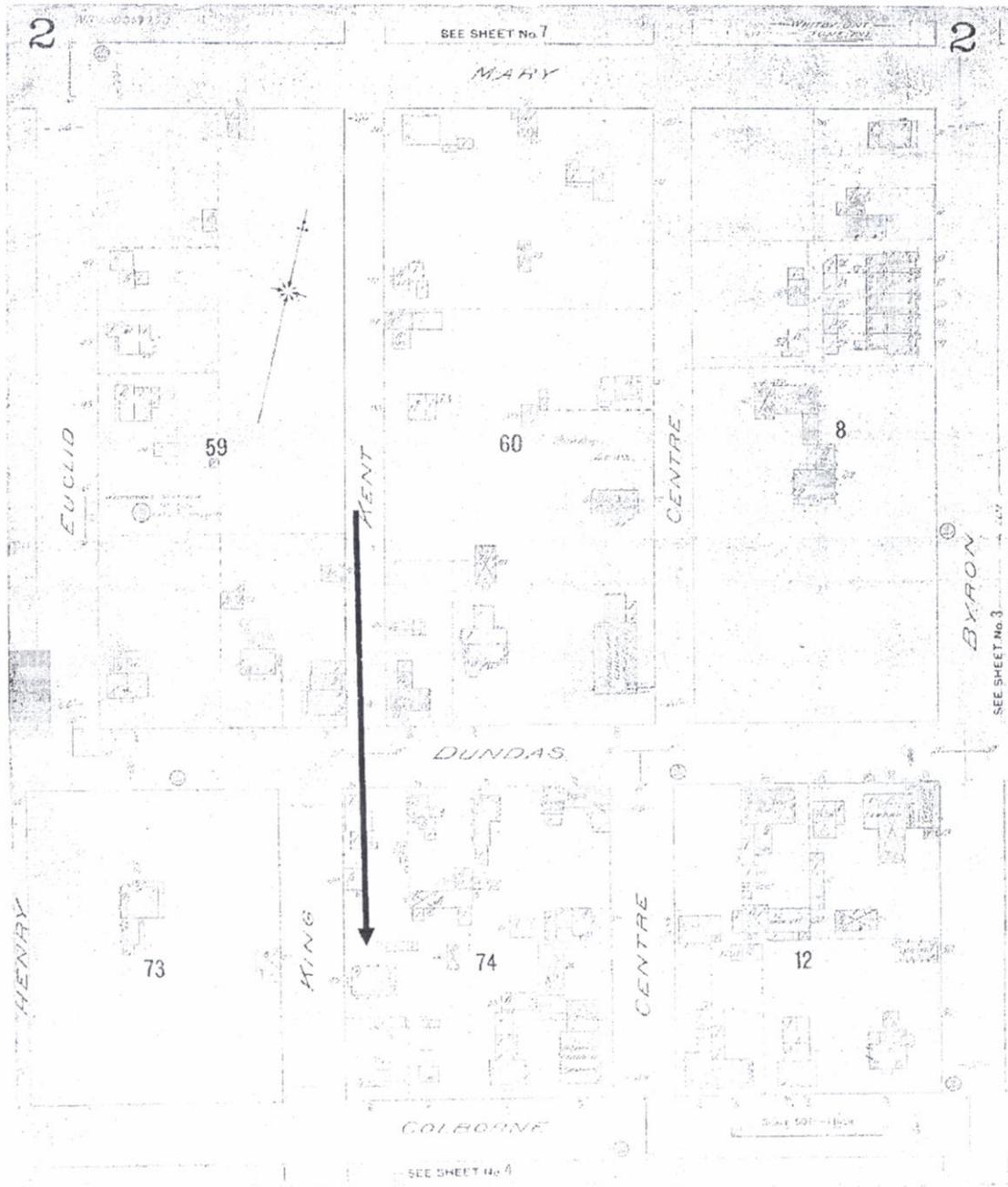
David J. Sims established a law practice in Whitby in 1973. In 1979, David Sims, with the assistance of All Saints Anglican Church, purchased the neighbouring house at 316 Colborne Street West (the James Keith Gordon House) to be used as a halfway house for persons suffering from mental illness. Colborne House eventually became known as Colborne Community Services and established five half-way houses in Whitby. Colborne House opened in 1979 and by 1994, had moved to a new location.

David J. Sims sold 117 King Street to Sembra Holdings Limited on April 3, 1975. On August 10, 1995, Sembra Holdings sold 117 King Street and 316 Colborne Street West to the Town of Whitby. These properties were amalgamated and are municipally referred to 312 Colborne Street West.

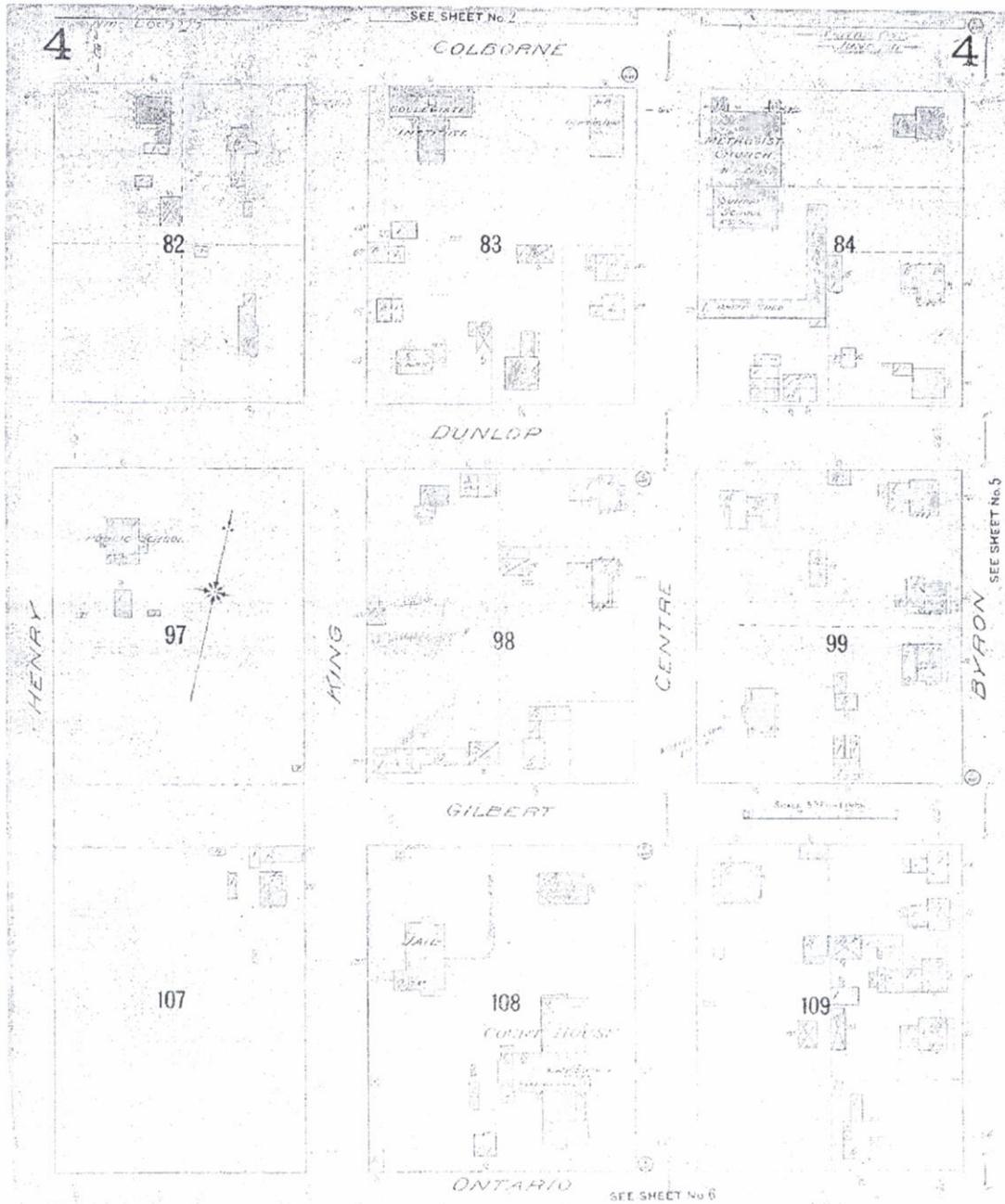
The properties were going to be demolished to provide additional parking for the new library that was constructed during 2004-2005. A Heritage Buildings Condition Report was conducted to assess building conditions, and possible renovation or adaptive reuse options. This assessment was the basis for retention and proposed heritage designation of the two buildings once they were restored and updated. A decision was made to restore the two houses and designate them under the Ontario Heritage Act.

integrity of the original building design.

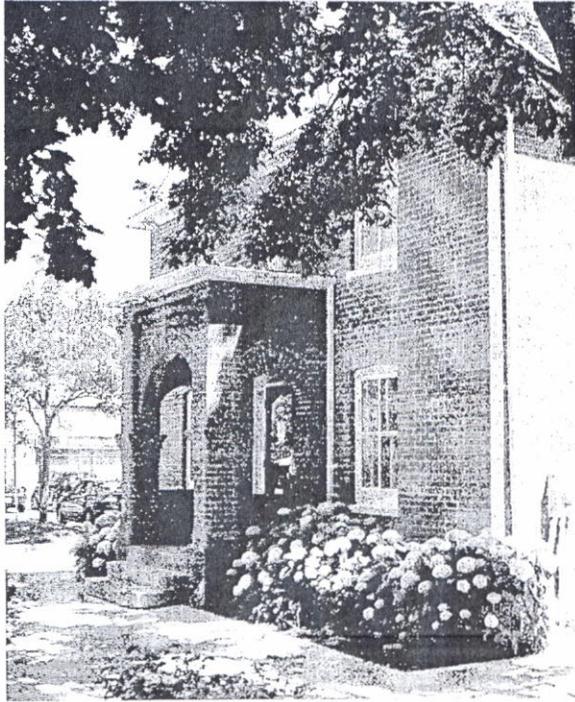
The east or rear façade of the house has had a concrete block addition added in 1975. On the south side of the house, an enclosed stairway constructed of concrete block with a stucco finish was added. The windows on the eastern elevation are divided into two panes and constructed of hollow metal frames.



Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas, June 1911 displaying the corner of King and Colborne Streets. The arrow identifies the location of 117 King Street.



Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas, June 1911 displaying the school and church adjacent to the corner of King and Colborne Streets.



Front entrance of 117 King Street with brick porch added circa 1902.

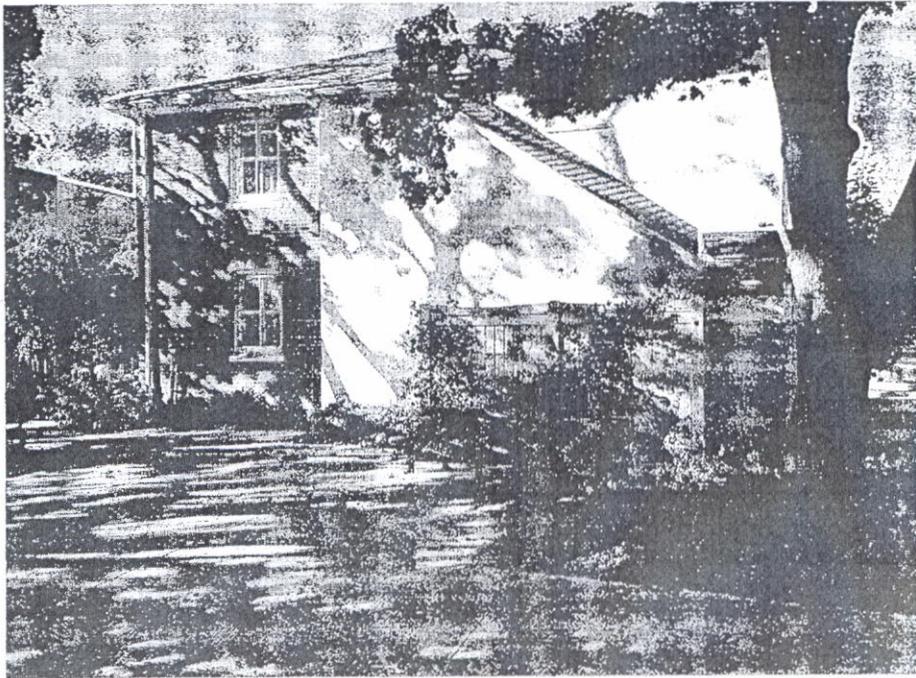
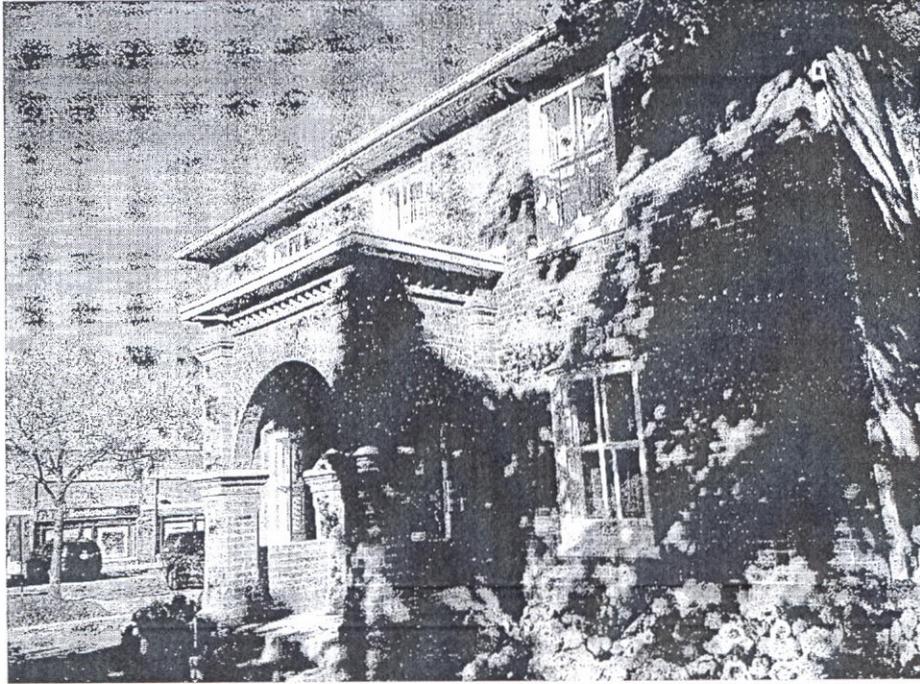


Detail of front entrance with transom, wood molding and arch detail of front porch.

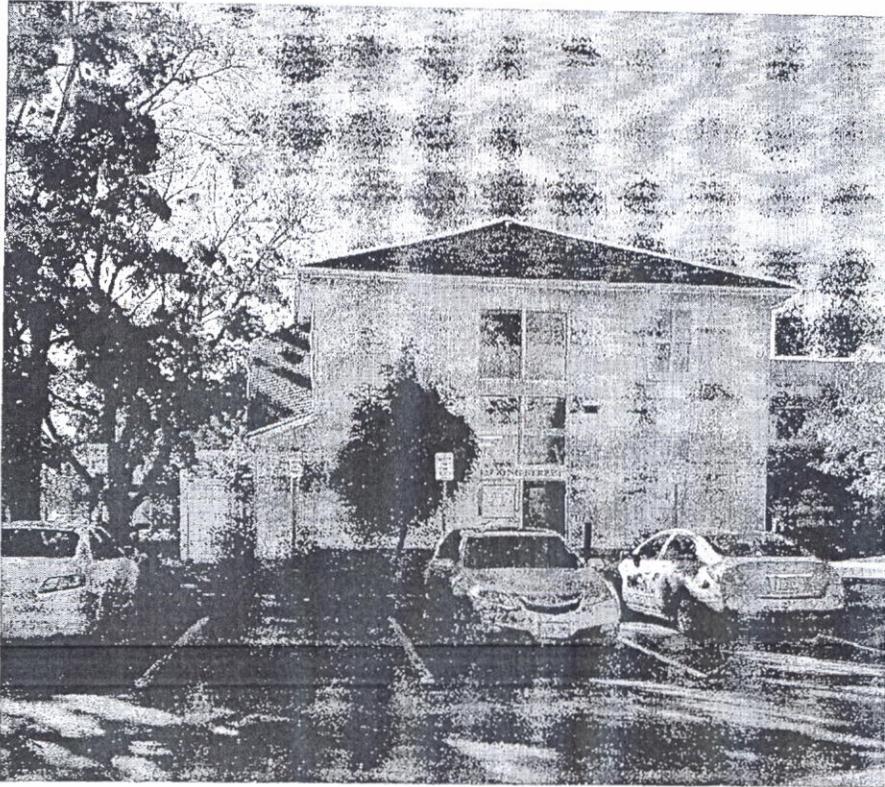


Northwest corner of 117 King Street, Whitby, Ontario

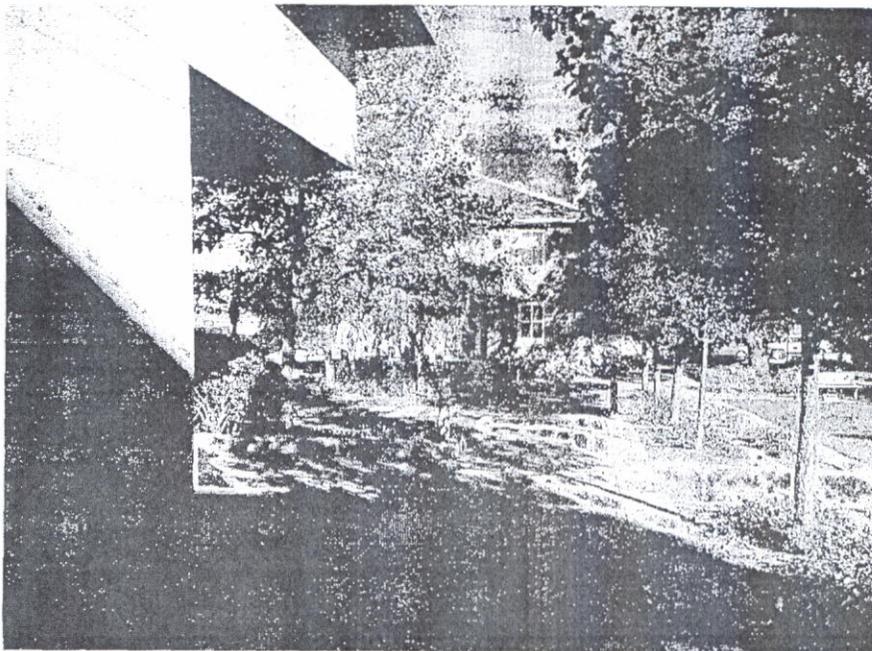




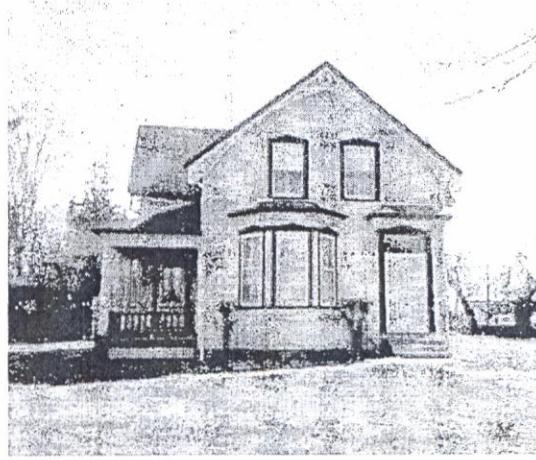
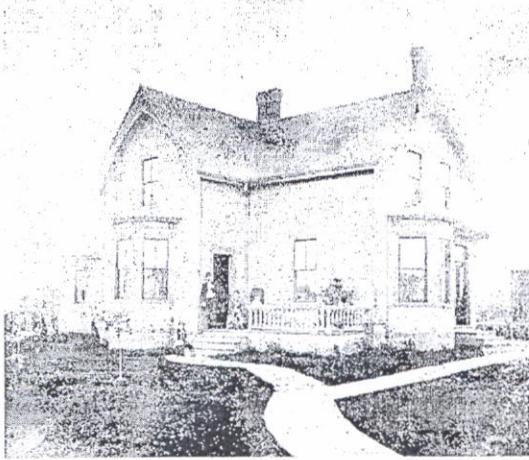
Eastern elevation with stairway addition.



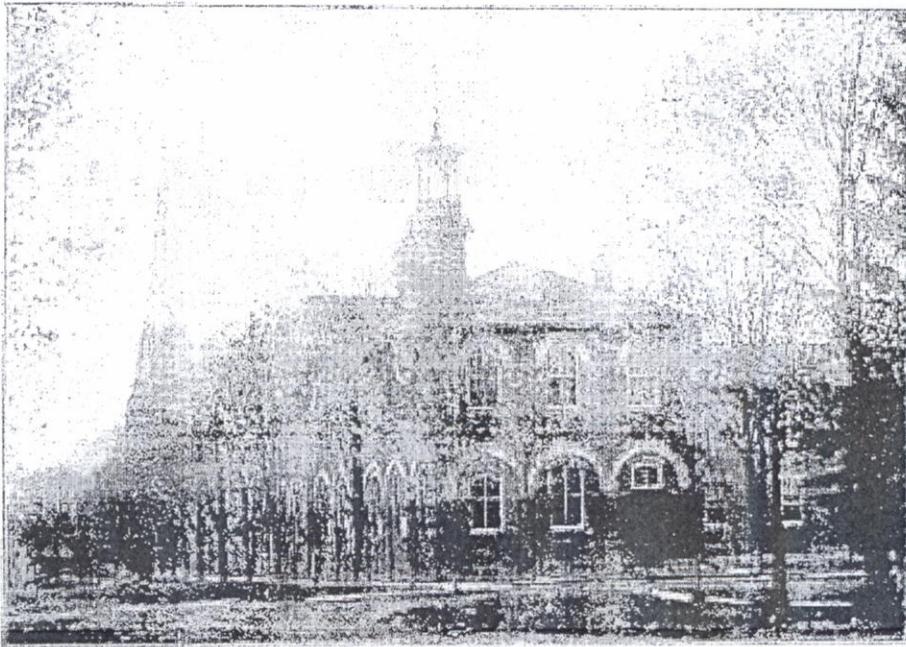
Rear addition of 117 King Street, Whitby



CONTEXT AND SETTING - ARCHIVAL PHOTOS



A view of the house on the south-west corner of King and Colborne Street built between 1875 and 1880 by Andrew M. Ross (1851-1936), who was a dry goods merchant and a mayor of Whitby. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



WHITBY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The Whitby Collegiate Institute built in 1873 was located on the south-east corner of Colborne Street remodeled in 1915 and demolished in 1975-76. This view looking east on Colborne Street from King Street appeared in the Ontario County Souvenir, 1854-1904. The church steeple in the background is the Methodist Tabernacle Church situated at Colborne and Centre Streets.

The original building on the site was the Whitby Grammar School built in 1846. The building served as the Collegiate Institute from 1880-1911 and as Whitby High School from 1911-1954. After Henry Street High School was built in 1954, this school was used as a Senior Public School for grades 7 and 8. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



The Methodist Tabernacle Church was built in 1875-76 at the south-east corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. It became the Whitby United Church in 1925 and St. Mark's United Church in 1962. On April 1, 1929, a storm blew down the church steeple. The steeple fell onto Colborne Street. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)

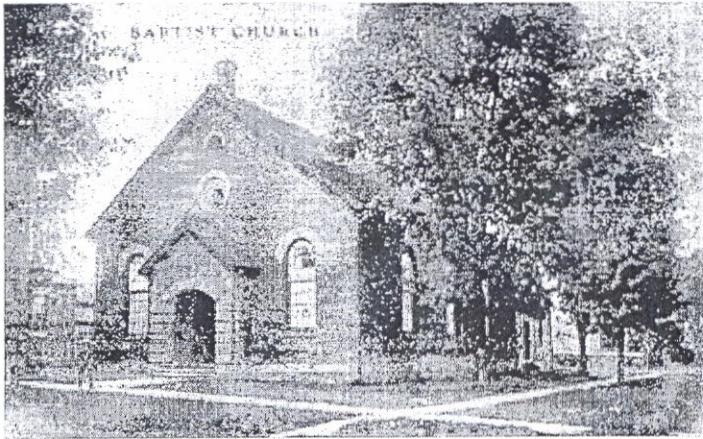
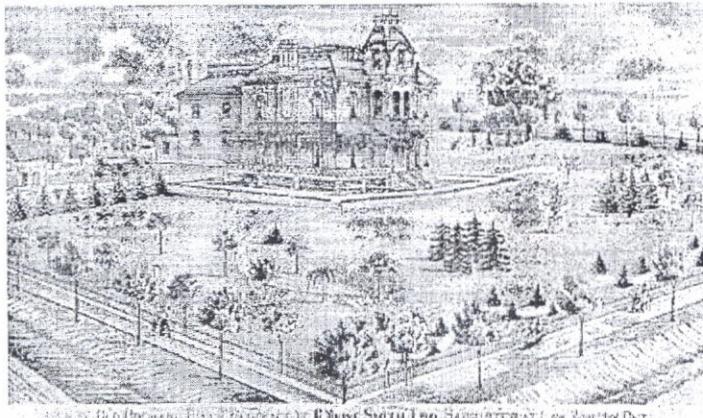
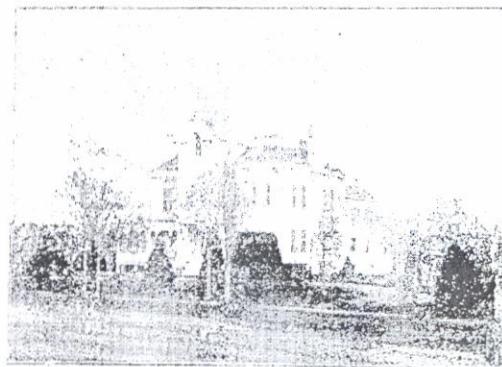


Photo of the Whitby Baptist Church circa 1910 located on the north-west corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. This building was constructed as a Canada Presbyterian Church in 1869 and the congregation amalgamated with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1875. From 1876 to 1967 it served as the Whitby Baptist Church until it was demolished in 1977. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



Adjacent to 312 Colborne Street was the house owned by G.Y. Smith, a lawyer and later a judge. The house was situated on the large lot bounded by Dundas, Henry, Colborne and King Streets. The house was built in 1877 and later demolished in 1958. A later owner was Samuel Trees, owner of the blanket factory and later the buckle factory. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



See the sketch of James G. Y. Smith's house
SAMUEL TREES
Whitby, Ontario

Globe and Mail, Toronto, 26 Oct 1889 (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas, June 1911

Photographs, Whitby Archives and Whitby Planning Department

Books

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Reports

GBCA. *Heritage Buildings Condition Update Report, Historic Whitby Houses, 117 King Street and 316 Colborne Street*. November 14, 2012.

Brian Winter. *Historical Report, The James Keith Gordon House, 316 Colborne Street, Whitby, Ontario*. February 4, 2010.

Brian Winter. *Historical Report, The James Madill House, 117 King Street, Whitby, Ontario*. February 4, 2010.

DESIGNATION REPORT
THE JAMES KEITH GORDON HOUSE

312 COLBORNE STREET WEST
WHITBY, ONTARIO
PLAN H-50032 LOT 21, 22

Prepared by Deirdre Gardner November 10, 2014

**THE JAMES KEITH GORDON HOUSE, 312 COLBORNE STREET WEST,
WHITBY, ONTARIO
PLAN H-50032 LOT 21, 22**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The James Keith Gordon House, was built in 1877 by local builders, Thomas Deverill, a mason and prominent builder in Whitby, and William Webster, a carpenter. The local newspaper, the *Whitby Chronicle*, reported on November 22, 1877, that "Mr. J.K. Gordon has had built a comfortable roughcast residence almost opposite the high school. The size is 32 x 24, with wing 16 feet square. Cost about \$1200."

The house was built on the south half of lot 21 of Werden's Plan. The lot was originally part of the land owned by Asa Werden, a prominent land owner who owned all of the land extending from Brock Street in the east to Henry Street in the west, Dundas Street to the north and Burns Street to the south. These lands were registered as Werden's Plan in 1854.

William Gordon (1825-1907) purchased the south half of lot 21 on May 9, 1864. On February 17, 1877, William Gordon sold the lot to James Cameron who immediately sold the property to James Keith Gordon (1830-1909). James Keith Gordon was born in Scotland and immigrated to Whitby in 1838. Mr. Gordon was a lawyer in Whitby and opened a law office in December 1863. He remained in practice for forty-five years. James Keith Gordon married Victoria Pentland (1837-1918), the daughter of Reverend John Pentland, the first rector of St. John's Anglican Church located at Port Whitby.

CONTEXT

The James Gordon House, located at the south-west corner of 312 Colborne Street West is a one and a half storey house. The house faces south on Colborne Street but originally faced west. The Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas of June 1911 confirms the house had a similar setback to other contemporary structures located on King Street and Colborne Street West.

The James Keith Gordon House is a roughcast Ontario Gothic Revival style building, typical of many of the houses built in Ontario during the period 1830 to 1890. The house was constructed in 1877 when a number of significant buildings were constructed on Colborne Street. Located on the south-east corner of Colborne Street across from the location of the James Keith Gordon house was the Whitby Collegiate Institute that was completed in 1873. The original school building on the site was the Whitby Grammar School that was built in 1846. Also constructed in the mid-1870s, was the Methodist Tabernacle Church built in 1875-76 at the south-east corner of Colborne and Centre Streets. The Whitby Baptist Church was located on the north-west corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. The building was constructed as a Canada Presbyterian Church in 1869 then the congregation amalgamated with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1875. From 1876 to 1967, it served as the Whitby Baptist Church until it was demolished in 1977.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The James Keith Gordon House is built in the Gothic Revival style in a design often referred to as the "Ontario House" or "Ontario Farmhouse" style, a distinctive example of Ontario vernacular architecture, which featured characteristic Gothic Revival detailing.

This residential style found extensively in Southern Ontario was recognizable by its symmetrical façade with centre gable, and elegant bargeboard designs derived from Gothic window tracery. The design incorporated an emphasis on vertical elements with steep gables, tall and narrow windows and often an arched window in the central gable dormer. The houses were often rectangular in plan with kitchen additions added to the rear which created a T shaped plan. There are many variations on this basic design, depending on local materials with exterior finishes including stone, brick, stucco, board and batten and wood siding. Interior chimneys were located at each end of the house.

The Gothic Revival was one of the most popular residential styles in Ontario in the 19th century. The style was promoted in the Canadian Farmer in the 1860s. Part of the popularity of the style was associated with the tax laws in Upper Canada during this period. The one and a half storey design created a less expensive tax rate than a full two-storey structure. As the style evolved, the pitch of the roofs became steeper to allow for more space on the second floor while keeping within the tax limits.

JAMES KEITH GORDON HOUSE

The James Keith Gordon House is a one and a half-storey house rectangular in plan designed in the Ontario Gothic Revival style and built in 1877. The house has a one and a half-storey addition on the rear or eastern elevation.

The main entrance would have originally have been on the King Street elevation below the central gable facing west. The enclosed porch on the southern façade would have been an open air side porch which has now become the principal entrance. An archival photo dating from 1904 (see below) shows details of the original open air porch including the supports, shutters, and screen door. Original exterior decorative details such as bargeboard and shutters are missing except for one drop finial on the western façade.

The covered porch is of wood construction and is an addition dating from circa the 1920s. The architectural style of the porch is of this later era and includes window and door details of this period.

The original exterior roughcast stucco would have been applied over wood sheathing often eight inch shiplap with a V-groove at each horizontal joint. The exterior stucco finish underwent restoration in 2005 and was repainted.

The majority of the wooden window frames, trim and sashes are original and are double hung single pane two-over-two windows. All exterior storm windows were replaced with new wood storms during the last major renovation in 2005 preserving the integrity of the original building design.

OWNERSHIP HISTORY

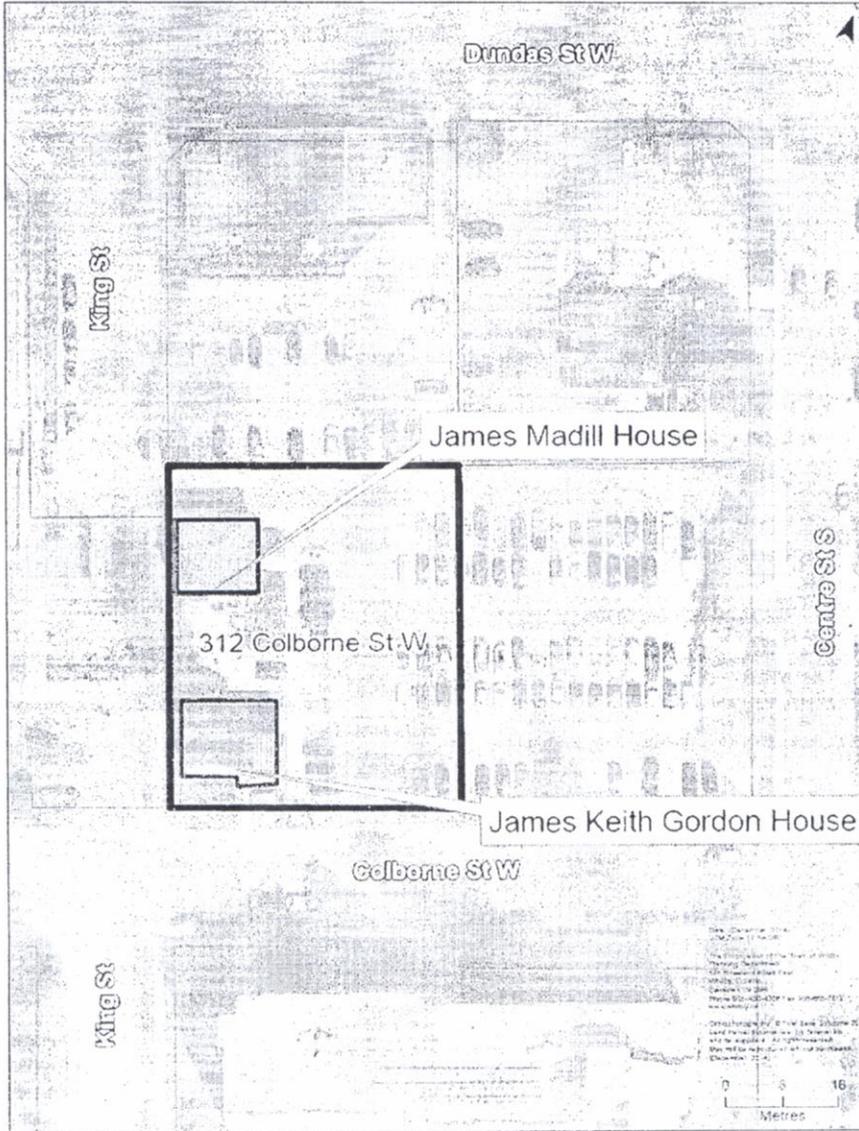
The James Keith Gordon House remained in the Gordon family from its time of construction in 1877 until the death of Mrs. James Keith Gordon in 1918. From 1918 to 1953, the house was owned by Annie Elizabeth Rodd who purchased the house on July 22, 1918. From 1953 to 1968, the house was owned by Edna Florence Guthrie (1887-1982).

On October 21, 1968, Edna Guthrie sold the house to James O. Dalrymple, a surgeon who resided in the house then rented the property. On August 15, 1979, Dr. Dalrymple sold the house to lawyers David Sims, John Brady, Michael McInerney, and Robert Morton.

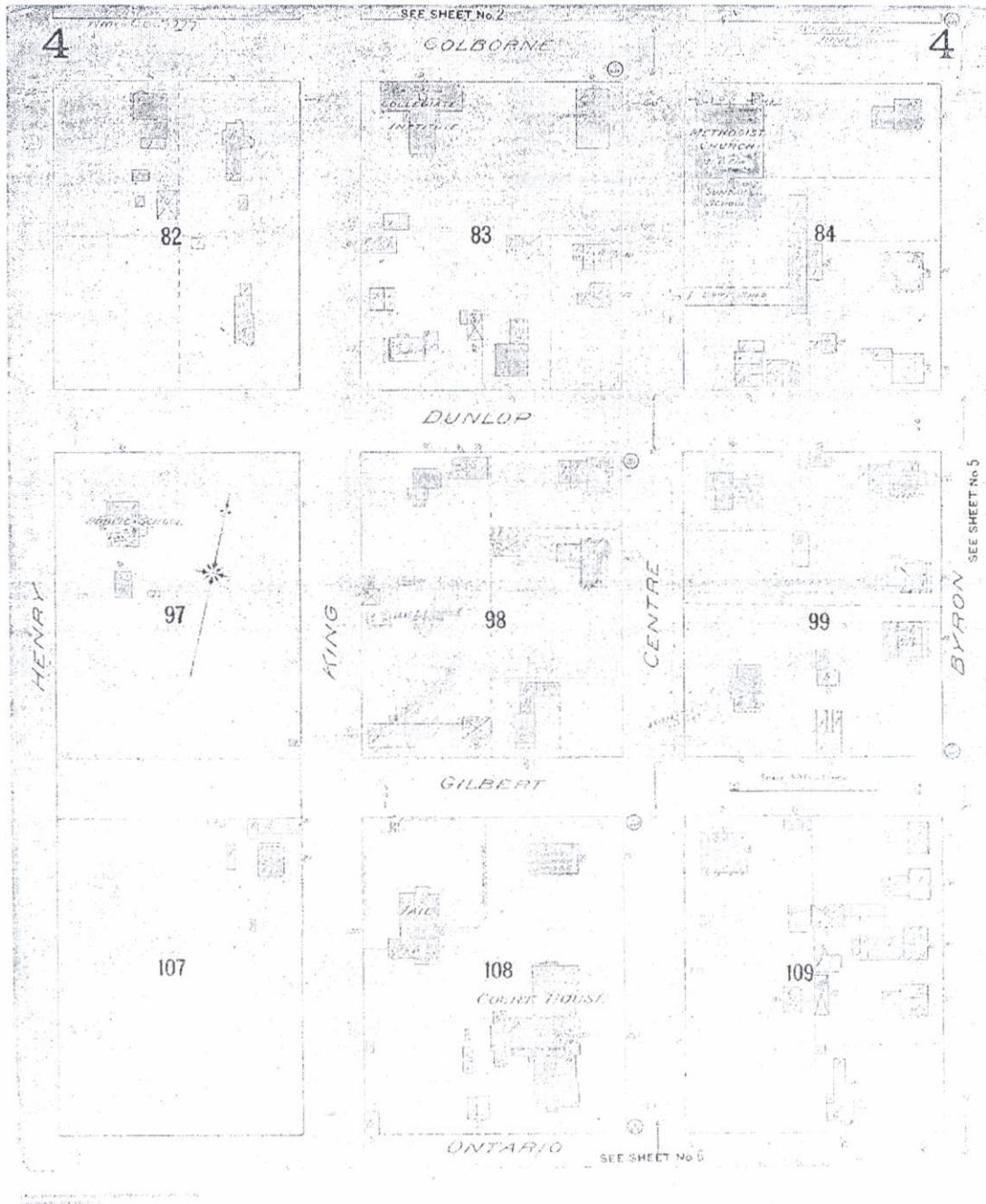
In 1979, David Sims, with the assistance of All Saints Anglican Church, purchased 316 Colborne Street (James Keith Gordon House) to be used as a halfway house for persons suffering from mental illness. The building became known as Colborne House and eventually became known as Colborne Community Services and established five half-way houses in Whitby. Colborne House opened in 1979 and by the 1990s, had moved to a new location.

In September 1990, 316 Colborne Street West, was sold to Sembra Holdings Limited. On August 10, 1995, Sembra Holdings sold both 316 Colborne Street West and 117 King Street to the Town of Whitby. These properties were amalgamated and are municipally referred to as 312 Colborne Street West.

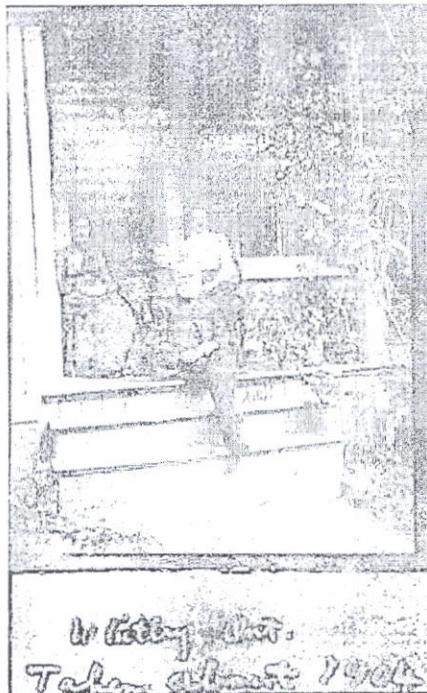
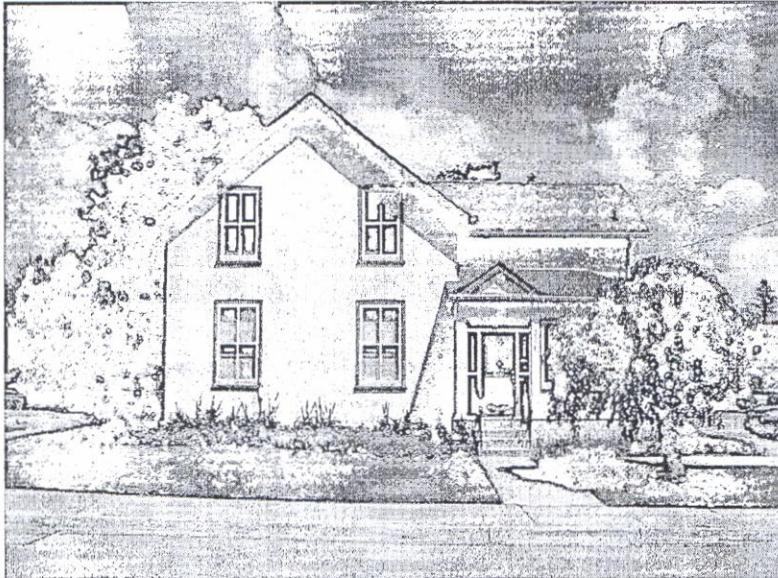
The properties were going to be demolished to provide additional parking for the new library that was constructed during 2004-2005. A Heritage Buildings Condition Report was conducted to assess building conditions, and possible renovation or adaptive reuse options. This assessment was the basis for retention and proposed heritage designation of the two buildings once they were restored and updated. A decision was made to restore the two houses and designate them under the Ontario Heritage Act.



Aerial Map of 312 Colborne Street West showing current roads, property boundary, and location of the James Madill House and James Keith Gordon House, both located on the site.

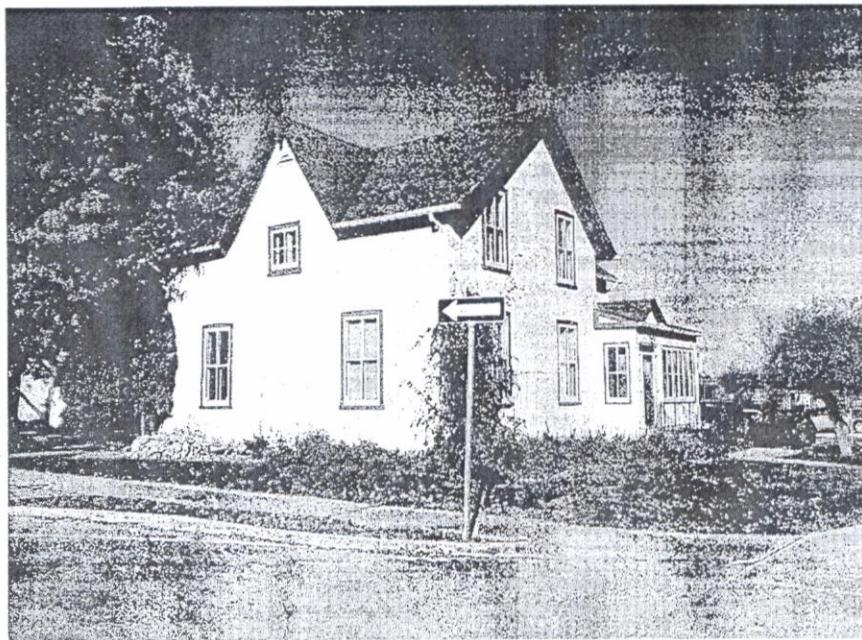
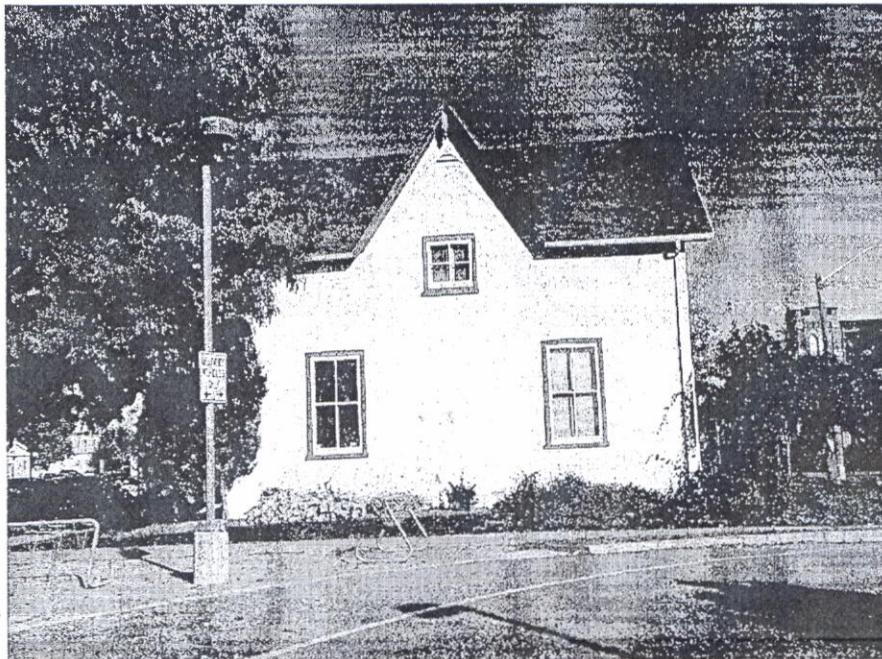


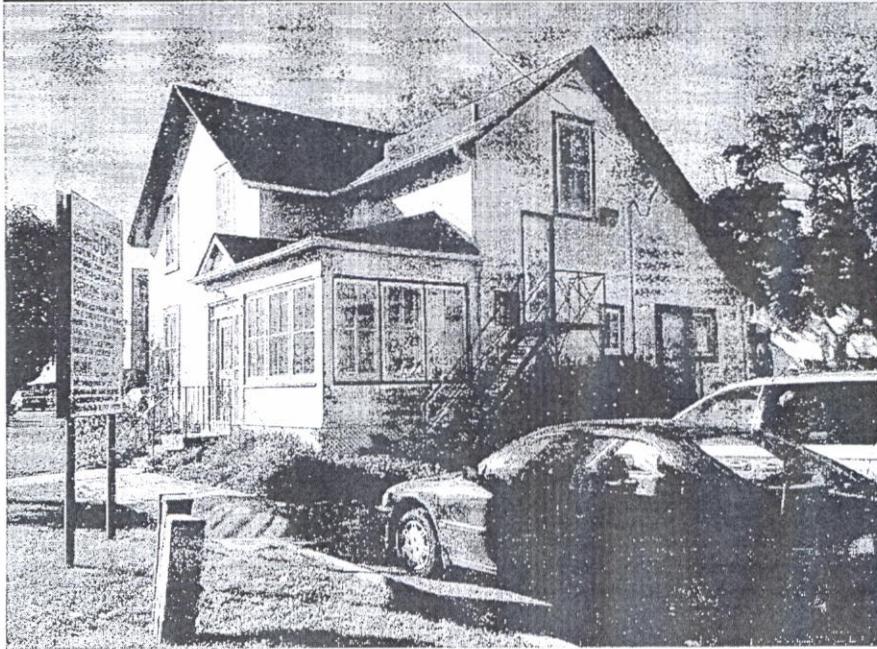
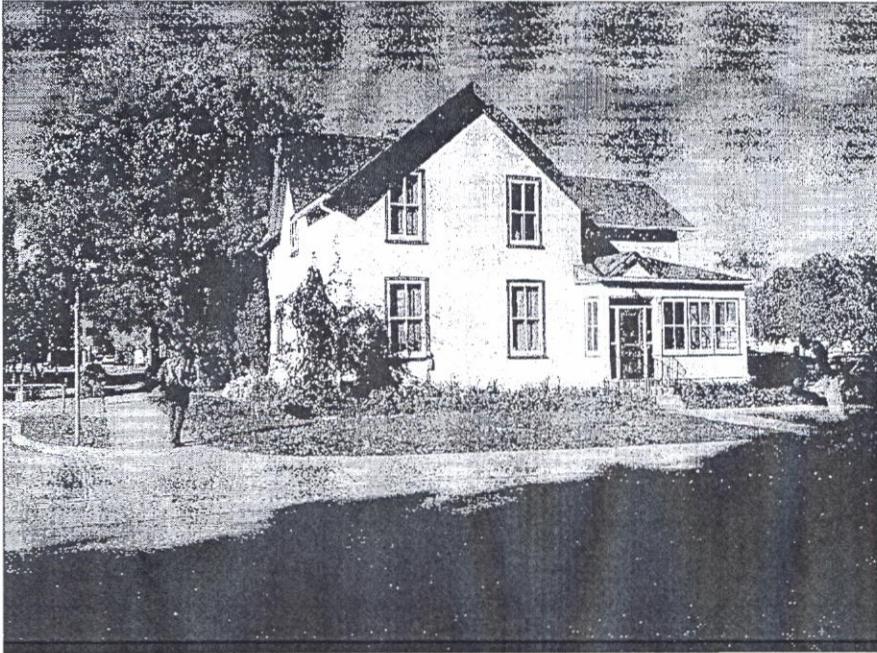
Goad's Fire Insurance Atlas, June 1911 provides a view of the neighbouring buildings.

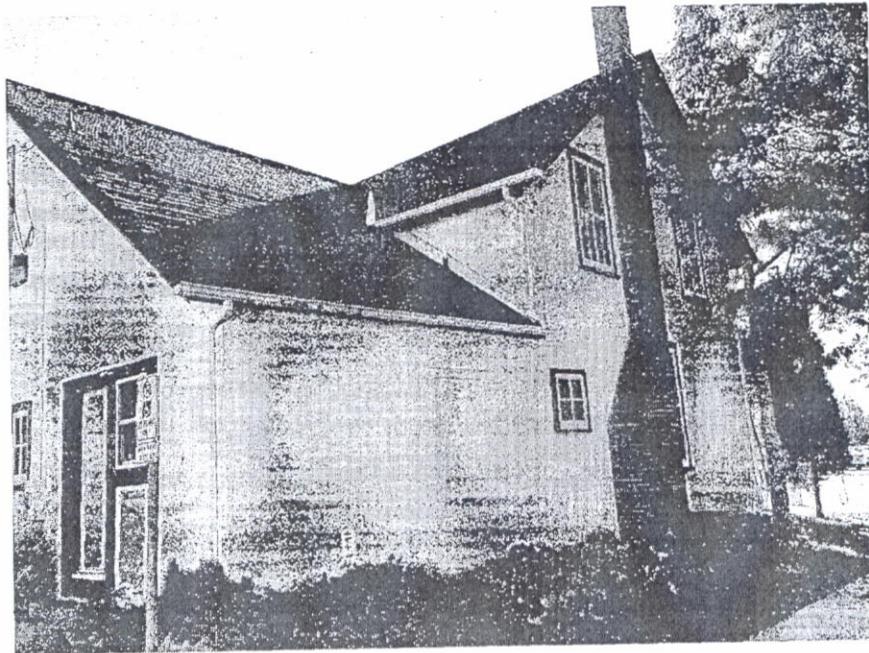
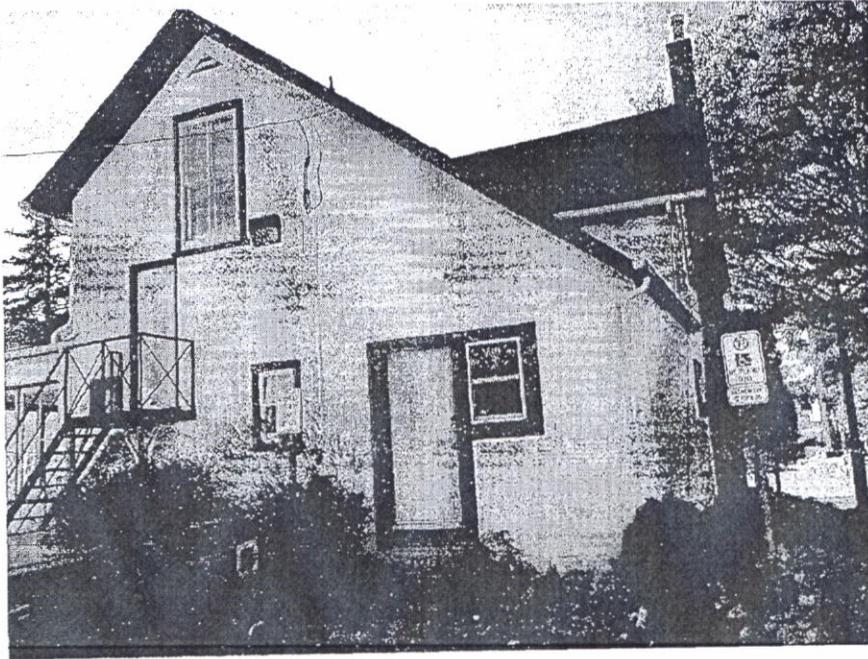


Members of the Gordon family seated on the front porch of their residence located at the north-east corner of King and Colborne Streets in 1904. From left to right: Victoria Gordon (nee Pentland, 1837-1918), Paul M. Newton (1898-1997), James Keith Gordon (1830-1909), and Jean Newton (nee Gordon, 1868-1946).

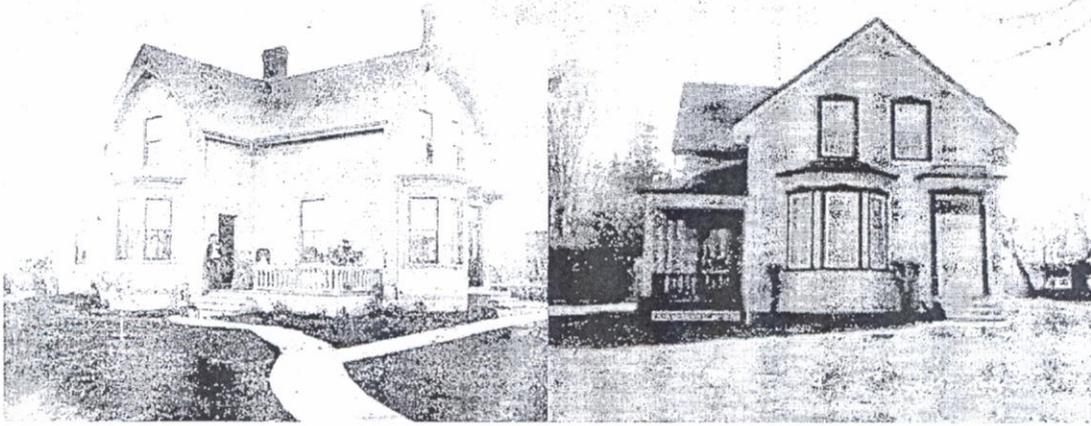
(Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



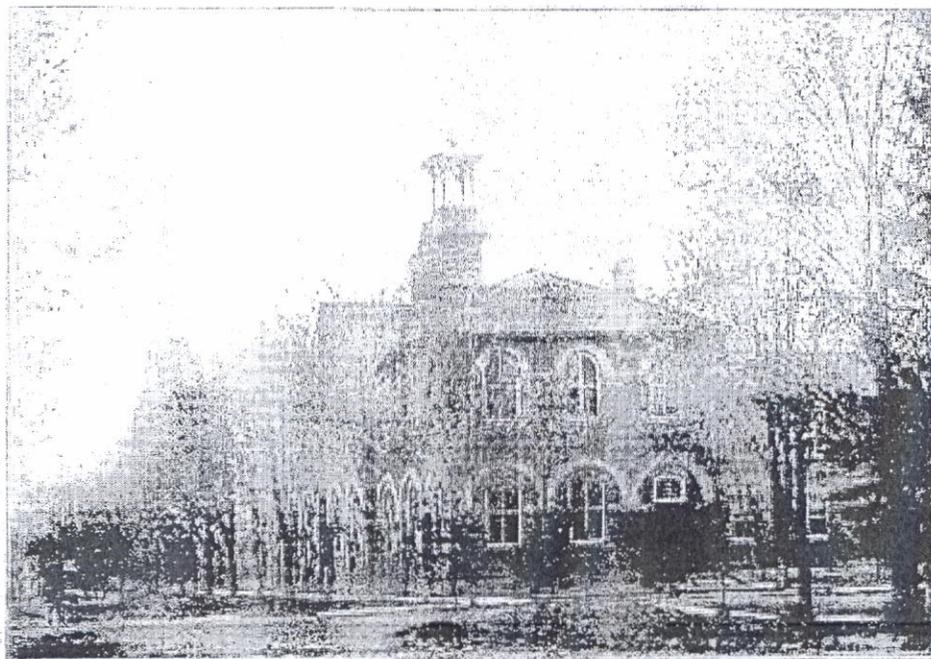




CONTEXT AND SETTING - ARCHIVAL PHOTOS



A view of the house on the south-west corner of King and Colborne Street built between 1875 and 1880 by Andrew M. Ross (1851-1936), who was a dry goods merchant and a mayor of Whitby. This contemporary house of 312 Colborne Street provides a sample of period bargeboard and detailing. The 1890 archival photo also records the style of the original side porch, then the later alteration. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



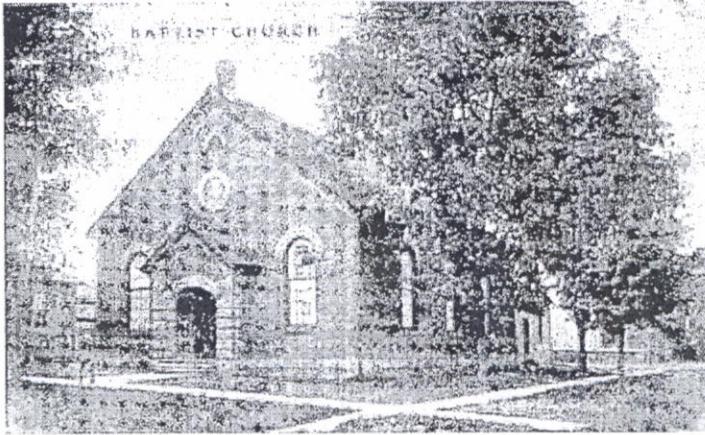
WHITBY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The Whitby Collegiate Institute built in 1873 was located on the south-east corner of Colborne Street remodeled in 1915 and demolished in 1975-76. This view looking east on Colborne Street from King Street appeared in the Ontario County Souvenir, 1854-1904. The church steeple in the background is the Methodist Tabernacle situated at Colborne and Centre Streets.

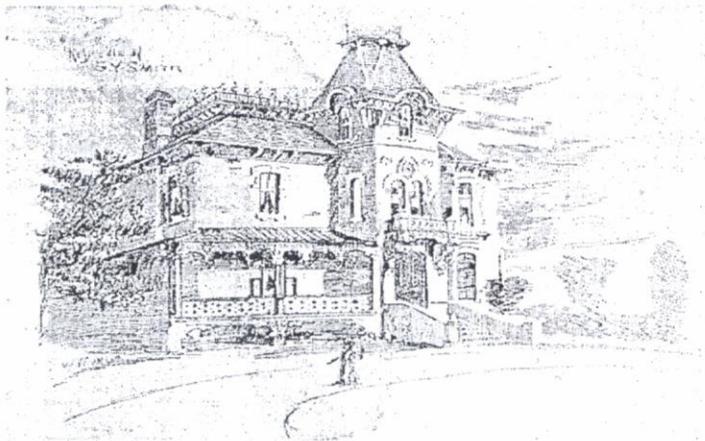
The original building on the site was the Whitby Grammar School built in 1846. The building served as the Collegiate Institute from 1880-1911 and as Whitby High School from 1911-1954. After Henry Street High School was built in 1954, this school was used as a Senior Public School for grades 7 and 8. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



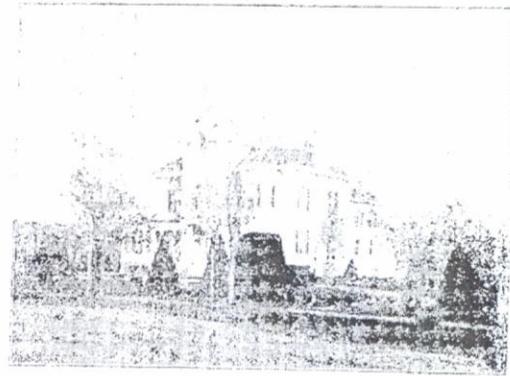
The Methodist Tabernacle was built in 1875-76 at the south-east corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. It became the Whitby United Church in 1925 and St. Mark's United Church in 1962. On April 1, 1929, a storm blew down the church steeple. The steeple fell onto Colborne Street. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



The Whitby Baptist Church circa 1910 on the north-west corner of Centre and Colborne Streets. This building was constructed as a Canada Presbyterian Church in 1869 and the congregation amalgamated with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1875. From 1876 to 1967 it served as the Whitby Baptist Church until it was demolished in 1977. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



Adjacent to 312 Colborne Street was the house owned by G.Y. Smith, a lawyer and later a judge. The house was situated on the large lot bounded by Dundas, Henry, Colborne and King Streets. The house was built in 1877 and later demolished in 1958. A later owner was Samuel Trees, owner of the blanket factory and later the buckle factory. (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)



Photograph of the house owned by G. Y. Smith, 312 Colborne Street, Whitby, Ontario, 1889.

The Globe and Mail, Toronto, 26 Oct 1889 (Whitby Archives Photo Collection)

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Brian Winter. Historical Report, The James Madill House, 117 King Street, Whitby, Ontario. February 4, 2010.