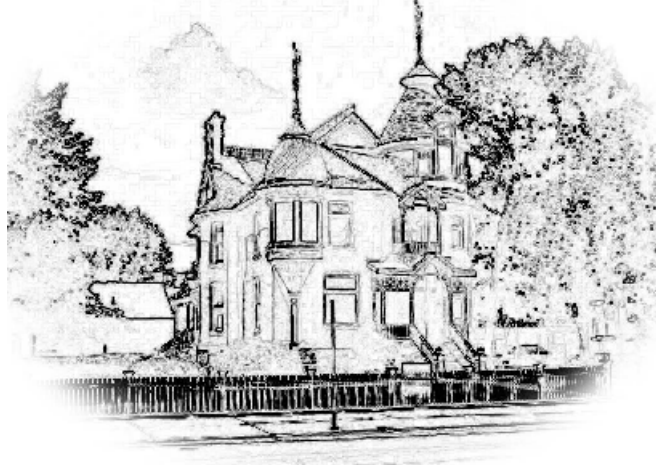


# SARNIA HERITAGE BUILDINGS AND SITES WALKING TOUR



## The Lawrence House

Lumber baron, William F. Lawrence built this Queen Anne style house in 1892 at a cost of \$30,000. Highlights of the structure's interior include a large alcove stairway, 5 spacious bedrooms on the second floor and a tower room on the third floor that served as a children's games room.

The exterior design features such intriguing aspects as the tower itself, the circular bay window in the southeast corner of the second level, and the tall decorated chimney on the south side of the house.

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

*Your tour begins and ends at the Maclean Centre (Mamma Rosa), Centennial Park - Front Street (No. 1 on the map). There is ample free parking for your vehicle at Bayshore Parking Lot located adjacent to the gas station or to the north of the Maclean Centre. This outing should take approximately one and one-half hours by using two short cuts - access to the back of Discovery House Museum off Water St. and through the gardens of St. Andrew's Church from Front St.*

*To return to your car after visiting the last house (Mulberry House), please walk west (left) on London Road towards the waterfront and turn right on Front St. to reach the Maclean Centre.*

**If you have time, you should visit the following note-worthy sites.**  
**The George Street School Bell - #24 (Lochiel & College St. N.)**  
**The Boer War Memorial Drinking Fountain - # 25**  
**(Sarnia Public Library grounds -Christina & Wellington Sts.)**  
**The Lawrence House - # 26 (127 Christina St. S.)**

1. **The Henry T. Ross Substation** - Water & Maxwell Sts.  
 Building as part of the Sarnia Consumer's Gas Plan in 1880, this station produced and marketed fuel gas for lighting

and heating. By 1894, the plant was generating electric power with a GE dynamo driven by a Goldy-McCullough 100hp. steam engine that produced enough power to light 500 incandescent lamps. When the street railway became electrified, the company had to boost its energy production to meet the new demand.

In 1916, Ontario Hydro took over the electrical power production and Union Gas took over the fuel gas production. Sarnia Consumer's Gas ceased to exist and this building became an Ontario Hydro sub-station.

2. **Discovery House Museum** - 475 Christina St. N.

This home was built between 1869 and 1875 by Charles M. Garvey, a Sarnia lawyer. In 1953, the house was bought by Lewis and Laurette Gordon and served as a family residence and rooming house for 35 years.

In 1988, renovations revealed fish scaled shingles, original Victorian-style railing around the wraparound porch and a tiny matching balcony on the Gable Room window. The interior of the house has ten foot sliding paneled doors, a covered staircase, four fireplaces (three of which are made of carved wood), and unique oak flooring on the main level.

3. **S.L. McKay House** - 453 Christina St. N.

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

4. **McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home** - 431 Christina St. N

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

5. **Our Lady of Mercy Church** - 390 Christina St. N.

Originally, St. Michael's Church occupied this site which was donated by George Durand (a Protestant) in honour of his wife (a Catholic). In 1857, the Catholic community built a wooden church which they named Our Lady of Mercy and St. Michael's became the rectory.

Twenty years later the present European Gothic structure replaced the old wooden church. The new building featured the lovely large rose window you see above the pediment of the double front doors.

6. **Brogden House** - 326 Vidal St. N.

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

7. **Colonel Bob Mackenzie House** -308 Vidal St. N.

This house, built in 1876, is a fine example of the durability of solid stucco construction. Notice the unique dormer and the verandah roof.

8. **Misener House** - 286 Vidal St. N. \*\*

This Victorian house of Queen Anne style was built in 1896 for Thomas Cook, a former Mayor of Sarnia. In 1927, it was sold to Captain Scott Misener, founder of the Misener Steamship Co. of Sarnia, later moved to Port Colborne. The unique feature of this house include original clapboard walls and its two storey curved front walls.

9. **Row House** - 116 - 118 Maria St.

Constructed in 1880, this house is the first two-family house in Sarnia. Note the pediment roofline and the molded hoods over the windows.

10. **Skilbeck House** - 112 Maria St. \*\*

Robert Skilbeck, who established Canada's first trust company in Sarnia, built this house in 1834 in the Regency style that flourished from 1810 to 1840. the house features a low hip roof, rectangular transom around the door and large multi-paned windows on the first floor. The dormers on the second floor were added to the structure in the 1930's.

11. **Mackenzie House** - 316 Christina St. N.

This house was built by Alexander Mackenzie, Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister, for his brother John. It typifies the Ontario Classic design that was prevalent throughout the province during the late 1800's. Still visible from the interior in the window above the front door are the initials of John's wife, Charlotte, which she inscribed with her diamond ring.

Be sure to see the historic plaque in front of the house.

12. **The Beatty House** - 301 Christina St. N.

Also referred to as the Scott Building, this house was built in 1875 for Moses Masurete, a Sarnia merchant. Shortly after its completion, he sold it to John D. Beatty, a principal in the Great West Transportation Co.. Mr. Beatty's company was responsible for producing two of the largest and most luxurious wooden hull passenger steamers on the Great Lakes, the

"United Empire" and the "Monarch". Upon Mr. Beatty's death, the house passed on to his daughter Ann, wife of the owner of Doherty Stove Works. It was sold to the Scott's in 1947.

13. **Russell's (Sarnia) Brewery** - 301 Front St. N.

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

14. **St. Andrew's Church** - 261 Christina St. N.

Built in 1867 on lands donated by Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Cameron, St. Andrew's is Sarnia's oldest surviving church building. Alexander Mackenzie, a resident of Sarnia and the second prime minister of Canada, laid the cornerstone as part of the July 1<sup>st</sup>, Confederation celebrations. This building replaced the original sanctuary which was built in 1841.

The steeple, pointed arches over the doors and windows, and the buttresses were copied from the Gothic design used in the cathedrals in Europe and England. Unlike those great cathedrals however, the buttresses of St. Andrew's were constructed for purely decorative reasons and not as a source of wall support.

15. **Drawbridge Inn** - 283 Christina St. N.

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

16. **Fleming House** - 251 Vidal St. N. \*\*

Constructed in the 1870's, by Michael Fleming, an agent of the Montreal telegraph Company and former Sarnia mayor, this impressive Second Empire home features a mansard roof, ornate porch pillars and a ballroom on the third floor. The wrought iron fence around the house is one of the last of its type in Sarnia.

The Kenneith Art Gallery presently occupies the House.

17. **St. George's Anglican Church** - 248 Vidal St. N.

St. George's Church was built in 1883 to replace St. Paul's Anglican Church on London Road. The first pipe organ used in this church was salvaged from a sunken ship.

Artifacts from St. Paul's are carefully stored at St. George's. They include a cornerstone dated 1848, a baptismal font, a wooden plaque with the text of the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments inlaid in gold and a commemorative plaque to the builder, R.E. Vidal.

18. **LeSueur House** - 240 Vidal St. N.

One of Sarnia's former Mayor, Robert E. LeSueur, lived in this house which was constructed in 1900. One interesting feature of this building is its original curved glass panes that make up the turret windows.

19. **Central United Church** - 220 George St.

This church which was built 1882, is the last of four churches built for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation. The first church built in 1830 on Chief Wawanosh property on Devine St., served as a mission house and school for both First Nation people and white settlers. The second church built at the corner of Brock and Lochiel Streets, was completed just at the time of the Fenian Raids. The third church which was destroyed by fire, was built on Vidal Street, south of George Street, in 1864.

This church houses one of the largest pipe organs in the area, which can be broadcast over a sound system located in the tower. Chimes in the church were donated in memory of the many members of the congregation who lost their lives in World War II.

20. **The Paton House** - 283 Brock St. N.

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

21. **Carruthers House** - 144 Maria St. (Maria & Brock)

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

22. **McKellar-Carter House** - 303 Brock St. N. \*\*

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

Paul and Anne Carter bought the home in 1974 and restored it to its original grandeur.

23. **Mulberry House (Saddy House)** - 197 London Road

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

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

The late Marceil Saddy, former Mayor of Sarnia and previous owner of the House, bequeathed it to the Sarnia Foundation upon

his death. The Foundation eventually sold the house.

24. **The George St. School Bell** -180 College Ave N\*\*

This bell is the only remaining relic of the George Street School (one of the original schools in the city) which was demolished in 1937. The bell is mounted on a stone cairn, as a memorial to the early schools of the city. It received heritage designation in 1998.

25. **The Boer War Memorial Drinking Fountain** \*\*(Sarnia Library Grounds - Christina St.)

This memorial was built in 1907 with money donated primarily by school children through a "dime fund" established in the County's schools in 1902. Damaged during the demolition of the old library, it was restored and received heritage designation in 1998.

26. **The Lawrence House** \*\* (See front cover)

\*\* *Properties with heritage designation plaques*  
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