

Wolseley Heritage Tour

Welcome to our
Heritage Tour of Wolseley.
It is our hope that this booklet will help bring
a new appreciation for the history and pioneer
spirit of rural Saskatchewan.

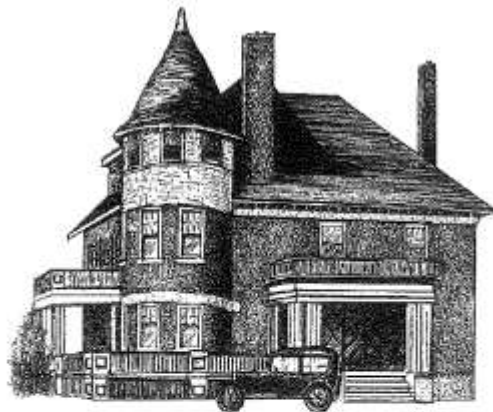
The co-operation of the present owners
of properties along the tour route
is greatly appreciated.
We request that persons
enjoying this tour respect the
privacy and integrity of the sites visited.



1) 97 Poplar Street: St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church has been a Wolseley landmark since 1900, but the St. Anne's Parish dates to 1884, when settlers arrived from Quebec. The first church, called Ste. Anne de la Peau du Loup (St. Anne of the Wolf Skin,) was built in 1890. In 1898, after a visit to this frame church, Maria Emilia Tarte of Montreal, eldest daughter of the federal Minister of Public Works, donated a 500-lb bell inscribed with "Maria Emilia." It now hangs in the bell tower of the present church. Five years after the brick church was built, Father Charles Maillard of Northern France became resident priest and, during the next 12 years, created the five oil paintings above and beside the altars (Maillard went on to design the interior and paint the murals of Our Lady of Assumption Roman Catholic Co-Cathedral at Gravelbourg.) In 1953, a grotto to the Blessed Virgin Mary was built on the site of the original rectory beside the church.

2) 106 Front Street: This 1900 home is typical of the Queen Anne style: asymmetrical façade; steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; and differing wall textures, such as brick, wood and shingles. It was constructed for the Andrew Elliott family: Andrew Sr. came from Quebec to homestead south of Wolseley in 1883 and died in 1901; and Andrew Jr., who also farmed, moved into the house in 1903 and died six years later. One of the subsequent owners was William George Bennett, an Independent Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1921-25, and a Conservative MLA from 1929-34. In 1982, Ernest and Rosemarie Boehme opened the home as Le Parisien Gourmet Restaurant, which was listed in *Where To Eat in Canada* for many years.

The sketches used in this booklet,
are based wherever possible
on historic information.
© Dennis Fjestad, 2004



3) **104 Front Street:** The original site of this grand home was the north end of the first swinging bridge at Sherbrooke Street. It was built in 1907 for Edwin Ashley (E.A.) Banbury, who arrived in the Wolseley district to farm in 1882 and soon married the daughter of William Dell (W.D.) Perley. E.A. established a livery stable in Wolseley, and, with his brother Robert, the lumberyard that became Beaver Lumber Company. His home was moved to its present location in 1985 by the Boehmes, who converted it to Banbury House Inn bed and breakfast. With its asymmetry, varied wall textures, classical columns and round tower with conical roof, it is a variation of the Queen Anne Revival style, and is a designated Municipal Heritage Property.

4) **100 King Street:** The plain façade of this brick home is relieved by the paired brackets near the corners of the truncated hip roof, and a lantern originally topped with cresting. Also note the richly patterned stained-glass windows. Farmer Rollie Scott built the home in 1905, and sold it to Thomas Edward Scriver, owner of the Wolseley News, in 1923. At one time, the home served as a RCMP barracks, with one room being used as a cell.



5) **200 and 202 Water Street:** Brothers Max and Norman Crozier arrived in Wolseley early in the 20th century and operated a men's clothing store, later a general store, until Max joined the army in 1914. They bought adjoining lots and, in 1905, built identical, mirror-image homes that combined the asymmetry and octagonal towers of the Queen Anne style with, originally, shingled and lapped siding of the Stick style. Notice also the bell-cast roofs. Norman, who never married, lived with his mother in the west home and Max, who met his wife when she was travelling through Wolseley as an elocutionist with a group of female singers and musicians, lived with their six children in the other. The Croziers left Wolseley in 1924.



6) **102 Wolfe Street:** As with so many other homes in Wolseley, the buff brick of this 1900 house is likely from the local brick plant. It is the brick barn and carriage house at the rear of the property, however, that has long elicited the most attention: bootleg liquor was allegedly stored on shelves that lined the walls of a small room under the floorboards of one stall.

7) **206 Front Street:** This interesting little house was built in a vernacular style with Italianate features, most notably the crowned headers above the doors and windows. It was constructed in 1891 by a bricklayer with obvious expertise: note the brick diapering (rectangular panels) with soldier toothing, as well as the frieze band along two sides. It is remembered as the home of Arthur and Emma Perley, who bought it in 1904. Arthur, the oldest son of William Dell Perley, farmed north of town, and also kept a dairy that had a contract with the CPR to make butter. The Perleys bought this home so their five children could attend school in town. At the age of 33, Arthur suddenly died of typhoid fever, the result of drinking from a slough on a hot harvest day. Emma continued to operate the farm with the use of tenants until the oldest of her five children was able to take over. She lived in this house until 1942.

8) **300 Front Street:** An October 1905 map shows both this house with its wrap-around verandah, and the Ogilvie Flour Mill elevator next to the CPR tracks directly across from the Perley Block at the end of Sherbrooke Street. Bill McGaffin owned the house, and operated the elevator, which was note-worthy because it was horse-powered.



9) **304 Front Street:** The style of this 1900 brick home is sometimes called "Folk Victorian" because of features such as the verandah's turned spindles and lace-like spandrels on an otherwise simple house form. Originally built by the CPR station agent, who also built a twin house immediately east, it soon became the home of Thomas Edward (Ed) Scriver, who wrote and published *The Wolseley News* from 1907 to 1962. He also served as mayor of Wolseley and president of the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association. When he died, the *Canadian Press* called him "the dean of Canada's weekly newspapermen." Active socialists, Ed and his wife, Lillie, were often hosts to CCF luminaries such as J.S. Woodsworth, M.J. Coldwell and Tommy Douglas.



10) 106 Cairo Street: When it was built in 1898, this substantial home featured both an open and a closed verandah, each with a flat roof lined with the same metal cresting still in place at the top of the hip roof. Stylistically eclectic, it originally combined Italianate features such as wide eaves, double-paired brackets and front bay and dormer, with decorative Victorian woodwork around the open veranda, and a Classical fan shape in the triangular pediment at the top of the bay. It was built for Dr. William Elliott, who practised medicine in Wolseley and district from 1893 to 1931. He was the district representative in the Territorial Legislature from 1898 to 1905, and Wolseley's first MLA, serving as a Conservative until 1912.

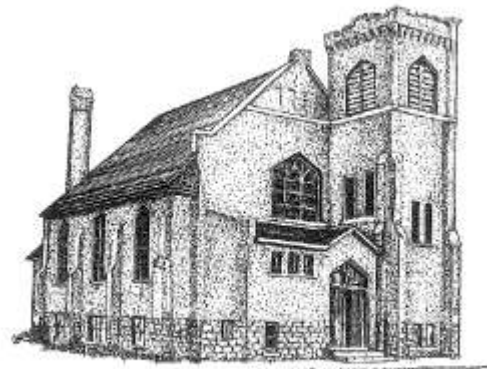


11) 109 Cairo Street: The first Presbyterian Church in Wolseley was built in 1884 near the current site of St. James United Church on Varennes Street, with most of the work being carried out by the Presbyterian minister, who was also a carpenter, and the Methodist minister. It was relocated to this location in 1905 to become a duplex for a number of years.

12) 400 Varennes Street: This dressed fieldstone and brick house was built in two parts, as evidenced by the adjoining and slightly different coloured brick corners in the middle of the west wall. The original house was built in 1900 and, in the early days, a verandah wrapped around the south and east side. The first memories of this house date to 1913, when Charles (C.K.) and Caroline Thompson moved here from their 1881 farm west of Ellisboro to allow their four daughters to attend school in town.



Lantern



13) 404 Varennes Street: The Presbyterian community built this church with a hundred thousand bricks from the Wolseley brick plant in 1906. In 1915, Wolseley's Presbyterians and Methodists joined to become the Federated Church. With the nation-wide union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist churches 10 years later, it became St. James United Church. Its style includes Gothic Revival buttresses and crenelated tower but, instead of the pointed Gothic-style arches, its door and the large front window have Tudor Arches. The Christian Education Building was added to the east in 1967.

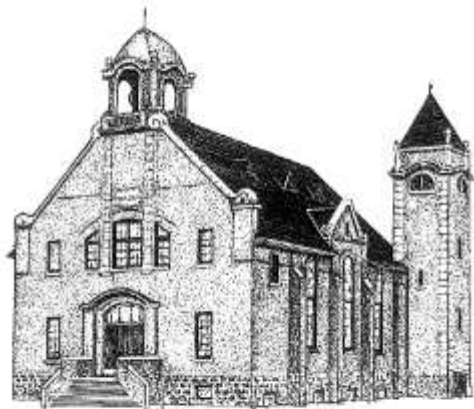
14) 204 Claude Street: The first school in Wolseley was established in 1883, located on Front Street, and taught by a well-educated English woman, Elizabeth Peach, who had arrived in the district with her widowed father, a railroad contractor, in 1881. She had been retained by W.D. Perley to teach his children and those of his friends. In 1889, this brick building was constructed as a two-room - one up and one down - public school, and it continued as such until a four-room school was built in 1900 on the site of the present Dr. Isman Public School at the corner of Varennes and Garnet Streets. Currently a private residence, the Claude Street structure has also served as the St. George's Anglican Church Parish Hall and a teacherage

15) 210 Claude Street: Now Tubman Funeral Home, the second floor of the original Thomas Ellis home can still be seen in the gable above the south-facing bay, where the year of its construction - 1903 - has been highlighted. The verandah wrapping around the Manitoba-brick house was replaced by various additions after 1945, when Garnett and Daisley Tubman moved their family from Ontario to establish a home-based funeral parlour and ambulance service.



209 Claude Street - St. George's Anglican Church

16) 209 Claude Street: Although the first Anglican communion service in Wolseley was held in 1885, the nave of St. George's Anglican Church was not completed and consecrated until 1902. By 1923, the south-facing porch had become a vestry, with the west-facing gothic window remodelled as a new door with covered porch. A parish hall was added in 1952. At about the same time, the altar table, handmade in the early 1800s from trees on the Lodge Wilcocks farm in Ontario, was donated to the church in memory of the early Wolseley-district pioneer J.H. Lodge Wilcocks.



17) 510 Varennes Street: The Wolseley Town Hall/Opera House was designed by Winnipeg architect J.H.G. Russell and built in 1906 at a cost of \$20,000. Its eclectic style includes: Gothic-like buttresses; Palladian-style windows at the front; and Romanesque arches in the bell tower. It also includes features of the Flemish style, such as the curled parapet gable at the front and the dormer windows of the side bays, as well as the rows of little gabled dormers and the finials at the corners of the roof over the north tower. The latter is where the fire hall's hoses were dried. Because of a building boom while the town hall/opera house was being built, the local brickyard could not meet the demand, so bricks were imported from Manitoba to finish the job. The match was not exact. Inside, the basement was occupied by the Town Office, council chambers, reading room, jail cells and library. The main floor includes a balcony and stage. An extensive restoration was completed by the community in 1993, with additional funding from the Saskatchewan government. It is a designated Provincial Heritage Property and Municipal Heritage Property.

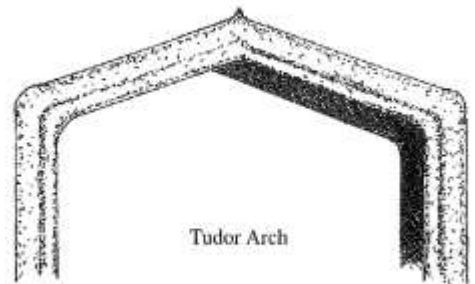


Crenellation



18) 104 Richmond Street: A vernacular version of the Second Empire Style, this dressed-fieldstone house was built in 1896 by Robert A. (R.A.) Magee, who arrived in Wolseley from Quebec in 1883. As a member of the Moose Mountain Scouts participating in the 1885 North-West Rebellion, he patrolled a 250-mile section of the United States border, for which he received a medal. He was the first mayor of Wolseley and a Liberal MLA from 1912 to 1921. R.A. and his brother, Richard, along with A.G. Thompson, formed the Magee and Thompson Co., a general merchant company that also operated a grist mill, livery barn and brickyard. The latter, registered in 1899 under R.A.'s name and located south of the CPR tracks, supplied most of the bricks for the Town Hall/Opera House as well as those for many houses in Wolseley. The Magee house is a designated Municipal Heritage Property.

19) 220 Richmond Street: Originally called "Hillcrest," this home was built in 1903 for David Porteous Kennedy (D.P.) and his bride Mary, both from Pembroke, Ontario. D.P. graduated from Osgood Law School, University of Toronto, and arrived in Sintaluta to practise law in 1900. A year later, he moved to Wolseley to become a partner of Levi Thomson and an active participant in sports and local government, including the position of mayor. While the Kennedys' enclosed front verandah and private tennis court are now gone, their house is still graced with cresting at the top of its hip roof and octagonal tower.



Tudor Arch



20) 319 Richmond Street: The Wolsley Court House, a Provincial Heritage Property, is the oldest existing court building in Saskatchewan, and the only one surviving from the era of Territorial Government. It was designed under the direction of Chief Architect for Canada Thomas Fuller, and built in 1894-95 to serve the judicial district of Eastern Assiniboia. Its stone basement still includes cells with heavy wooden doors and hardware. The main floor consisted of the courtroom and a room each for the judge, jury, sheriff and clerks. Following its closure as a courthouse in 1909, it was used as a jail by the Royal North West Mounted Police and later as a Detention Home for boys. In 1921, it became an annex to the new Home for the Infirm, which eventually became Lakeside Home. The latter was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the present Lakeside Home.

21) Historic Swinging Bridge Wolsley describes itself as "The Town Around A Lake," the lake being a reservoir created by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1902 to supply water for its steam engines. The creek that wanders through town on its way to join the Qu'Appelle River was dammed at Richmond Street, and an underground pipe took the water to a tank on Front Street. In 1906, to connect the homes on the north side of the reservoir with the businesses on the south, a swinging bridge was suspended between the two sections of Sherbrooke Street. It cost \$300. This bridge came down in a 1954 windstorm, was rebuilt in 1964 and came down again in 1991. The community completed a new swinging bridge at a cost of \$250,000 in 2004.



22) 708 Ouimet Street: E.A. Banbury built his first Wolsley home, this white frame house, in 1885 on a large lot that is now the site of the east half of Lakeside Home. When he decided to build his turreted brick home, now relocated and called Banbury House Inn, he moved this house across the street to its present location. Originally, an open verandah wrapped around the south and east sides and, to accommodate his wife, five children and his father, partitions divided some windows to allow light and air into each bedroom. In 1908, it became the home of harness-maker Walter Henderson, and it remained in that family until it became a home-based business called Clothing by Jean Elizabeth in 1997.

23) 900 Garden Street: In 1896, John Robson Garden (John R) of London, England, followed his older brother, Norman, to the Ellisboro district north of Wolsley to learn farming. He soon bought land, built a house and barn, and married an Ontario woman visiting her Ellisboro relatives. In 1906, he rented out the farmland, and built this brick house with a wide front verandah and balcony that commanded a view of the new lake. In the same year, he also opened a real estate and insurance business which, when he died in 1950, was continued by his son Grant. In 2005, the home was still in the Garden family.

24) Garnet Street North: First appearing in urban and rural Canada around 1910 was the "foursquare" house: square, with two or two and a half storeys, and almost always with a hip roof. Typical of that style, this house originally featured an open, wrap-around verandah with a second-storey balcony. It was built in 1912 by Thomas and Elizabeth Graham, who came from Ontario to farm. It remained the home of farmers or dairymen until, about 1979, it was bought by Gerald Schacht, who established a tree nursery. These trees are part of a tourism project being developed by the owners of what became Home Gardens in 1994.

25) Northwest Corner of Garnet and Thompson Streets: Many of the names in this guide are incised in the stones of Wolsley's cemeteries. The names in the first cemetery, which is still meticulously maintained about two km north of the second cemetery, date to the early 1880s. The original portion of the second cemetery, the centre, was surrounded by evergreen trees donated by E.A. Banbury before the turn of the century. Many are still standing.

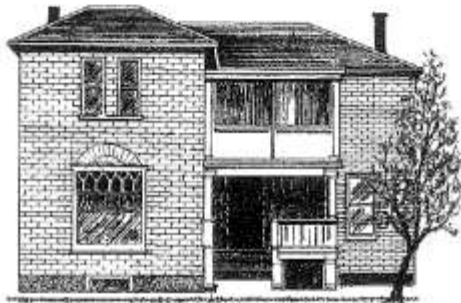


26) 101 Blanchard Street: In 1901, newly widowed Virginia West moved back to Wolsley with her three children, and had her father, Wolsley-district pioneer Godfroye Rainville, build a 10-room boarding house onto a small house on this site. Mrs. West and her family operated "The Boarding House" on and off until after she married and eventually moved away in the mid-1940s. It continued as a boarding house until 1978, and became the Wolsley and District Museum in 1981.

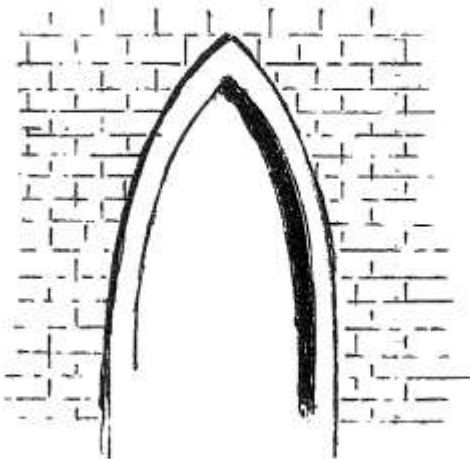
Two years later, the museum was expanded when the Beaver Lumber Company office was moved from its original position immediately north of the Leland Hotel on Sherbrooke Street to immediately north of the boarding house. The genesis of the Beaver Lumber Company was Banbury Bros. Lumber Company, established by E.A. Banbury and his brother Robert some years after they arrived in Wolsley in 1882. This company amalgamated with Wolsley's Gibson Lumber Co. in 1904 and, two years later, after further amalgamation with a Regina and a Winnipeg lumber company, became the Beaver Lumber Company. Looking for a wood-related name for the company, E.A. named it after the beavers he saw from his home overlooking "the dam." A nation-wide company, Beaver Lumber was bought by Molsons and later, in 2000, by Home Hardware Stores Ltd.

27) **206 Blanchard Street:** This simple, 1896 house on a fieldstone foundation is decorated only by the window architraves, an architectural term for moulding around a window or door. The home was built by Ernest Perley, son of William Dell (W.D.) Perley, who had moved his family from New Brunswick to Wolseley in 1882. W.D. was the first elected Member of Parliament for the riding of East Assiniboia and was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1889. Of the six Perley children, two died young, one son and one daughter are mentioned elsewhere in this guide, and the second daughter married lawyer Levi Thomson, a Liberal Member of Parliament from 1911 to 1921. Ernest, the second son, farmed extensively north of Wolseley, where he built a turreted brick home similar to that of his brother-in-law, E.A. Banbury. It was used primarily in the summer. A Conservative like his father, Ernest was elected to the House of Commons in 1930, where he served until he died in 1948.

The house immediately north of the Perley home was once the Perley barn. After the lake was created, it served as a change room for swimmers at the first beach. Some time later, it was moved eastward slightly and, in the late 1940s, was allegedly renovated as a private home and moved onto a new foundation on its present site. Other sources maintain the barn was dismantled and completely rebuilt as a new home on this site.



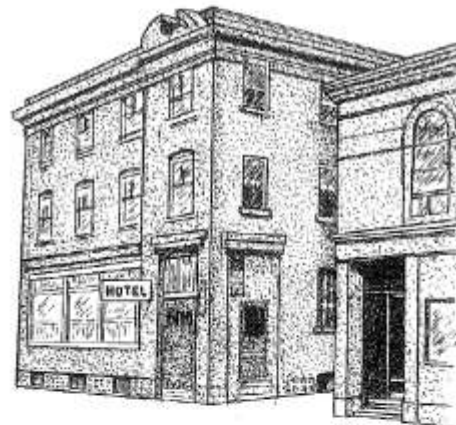
602 Varennes Street: Built in 1903 for Dr. Edwin Washington, a dentist who opened his Wolseley practice in 1901.



Gothic Arch



28) **610 Varennes Street:** The location of Wolseley's Town Office since 1963, this building was designed in 1937 as the local "Telephone Exchange" by the Regina architectural firm Storey and Van Egmond. It was originally faced with Ruff-Text brick made at Claybank but, with an addition to the east, the front was stuccoed to present a continuous construction material on the south and east façades. The original brick is still visible on the west side.



29) **111 Sherbrooke Street:** Robert and Eliza Hall, early homesteaders in the Wolseley area, built The Hotel Leland on Front Street, along with a store and living quarters above, shortly after their first hotel was destroyed by fire in 1905. In 1923, their second hotel was also destroyed by fire. Meanwhile, in 1906, W.D. Perley built the Empire Hotel at 111 Sherbrooke Street, but it closed several years later. So, when the Leland on Front Street burned down, the Halls bought the Empire and re-named it the Leland. The Halls' daughter Pearl and her husband, Charlie Corbett, operated the hotel in later years.



Dentils



30) 101-109 Sherbrooke Street: After erecting one of Wolseley's first grain elevators, Ernest Perley had the Perley Block built in 1906. It is on the site of Wolseley's first hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1905. The Perley Block now contains the Wolseley Public Library, which was organized as the Wolseley Mechanics Institute in 1893. It is Saskatchewan's oldest public library in continuous service to the community.



31) Front Street between Sherbrooke and Richmond Streets: Early photographs indicate the 1910 general merchant store at the corner of Front and Sherbrooke streets was originally brick with large display windows along Sherbrooke. By 1923, while it was the Union Bank of Canada, the roof had gained a deep, ornate cornice. The Credit Union, which bought the building in 1962, added stucco and a Mansard-style roof. Immediately west of this corner building was the ill-fated Hotel Leland. The buildings between the corner block and the 1921 TD Canada Trust were erected at various times between 1905 and 1928.

The TD Canada Trust Building, a replacement for the 1905 Bank of Toronto on the next block west, was constructed on the site of the original Canada Café. The building immediately west of TD Canada Trust was constructed in 1900. Mostly due to fire, these buildings are all that remain of a line of two- and three-storey buildings that once stretched for three blocks along the street that, for many years, was a typical portion of the "Number One Highway," the former name of the Trans-Canada Highway.

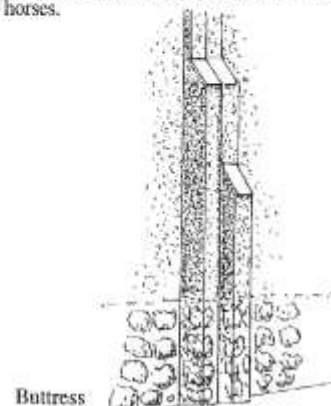
32) At one time, Wolseley had seven grain elevators, including the Perley Farm Elevator. By 2005, Wolseley had two: the easterly elevator was built by National around 1958, and was subsequently sold to Cargill, then N.R. Paterson and Sons; the original portion of the westerly elevator was built by Paterson in 1958, sold to Cargill and, in 2000, to Paterson. Growers International Organic Sales Inc., a Paterson company, began operating both in 2000.

33) 607 Poplar Street: Constructed in 1884 as the Moffatville Presbyterian Church, this building was originally located 12 km south of Wolseley and 1.6 km east of the fieldstone church, now known as St. Andrew's United Church, that replaced it in 1891. It was subsequently moved to become this private, two-storey home recognizable only by its size, shape and the placement of the front door and an upper window. Information about Moffat is available at the Wolseley and District Museum, and in the book *They Cast a Long Shadow* by Kay Parley.

34) 603 Poplar Street: In 1900, Ethel and Henry Hunt left Toronto to settle in Wolseley, where Henry worked at the Magee and Thompson general store and, in 1921, became the first superintendent of the Home for the Infirm. The Hunts' dressed fieldstone and brick home, built in 1902, is typical of the fine workmanship of stonemasons who came from Scotland to practise their craft in what was then a part of the North West Territories. Note the dentils in the brick arches over the front window and door.

35) South Corner of Birch Street and Cherry: Most of the eastern-European immigrants to settle in Wolseley lived south of the CPR track. Those who spoke German attended the 1905 Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church, which was located northwest of the Garden home and is now demolished. Their children attended this tiny, frame "German School," which was half its present size. From 1913 to 1918, the school was taught by Rev. H.W. Moehring, pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church. The school closed when he left Wolseley.

36) Corner of Garnet Street and Willow: Catalogue homes – the plan, instructions and all the pre-cut materials – became available in Canada in 1904 through catalogues published by, for example, Aladdin Homes and the T. Eaton Company. A lesser known company of this kind was the British Columbia Mills Timber & Trading Company (BC Mills.) It appears to be responsible for the plan and the pre-cut materials used to build this house in 1910, for a man remembered as "Mr. Northrop." In 1912, Mr. Northrop built exactly the same house (as illustrated in the book *Catalogue Houses: Eatons' and Others* by Les Henry) near Glenavon, and sold his Wolseley home to a local farmer, Tom Rigney, who wanted his five children to attend school in town. A number of years later, the house was owned by the Sanderson family, which was known for its award-winning – gold and silver medals at the 1971 Pan American Games, for example – horses.



Glossary

Bellcast roof: a roof that flares out at the eaves

Bracket: a projecting support, usually triangular, under a horizontal structural part such as an eave.

Buttress: a vertical strip of masonry or brickwork supporting a wall and usually projecting from it.

Classical: derived from the architecture of ancient Greece or Rome.

Crenellation: a regular series of gaps in a parapet, originally intended for defence.

Cornice: a projecting moulding that crowns the top of a wall.

Cresting: a decorative rail, usually cast iron, along the ridge of a roof.

Dentils: small, tooth-like square blocks, often used as a decorative feature in a cornice.

Flemish style: sometimes known as Dutch style.

Frieze: a decorative horizontal band.

Gable: the triangular portion of wall beneath the end of a gabled roof, which slopes on two sides.

Gothic Revival style: a revival, around the 1820s, of a style that included features such as buttresses, pinnacles, crenelation, and narrow, pointed windows.

Italianate style: based on a romanticized ideal of the southern Italian villa, this style was popular for two- and three-storey houses from the 1830s until about 1910. Common features include a low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves and decorative brackets, and tall narrow windows with elaborate crowns.

Lantern: a windowed structure at the top of a roof or dome; a small cupola.

Nave: the principal room or space in a church that accommodates the congregation.

Palladian window: a three-part window consisting of a tall centre window, usually round-headed, flanked by two shorter, narrower windows.

Parapet: a portion of a wall that projects above a roof.

Pediment: the triangular gable end of a roof, usually over an entrance or window.

Queen Anne style: the dominant style of domestic building from about 1880 until 1900, it originated in England, and combined medieval and classical elements that resulted in an eclectic style stressing balance rather than symmetry.

Romanesque Revival: sometimes called Richardson Romanesque, this style emerged in the 1880s with characteristics that included walls of large, rough-faced masonry blocks, and massive, round-arched entrances.

Stick style: defined primarily by decorative detailing such as varied patterns of wood siding, shingles and other stickwork. It was followed by the Queen Anne style.

Spandrel: the roughly triangular surface between two adjacent arches.

Second Empire style: principally characterized by the mansard roof - a double pitched roof with a steep lower slope - with dormer windows in the lower slope. Originated in France during the reign of Napoleon III, 1852-70.

Tudor arch: a shallow-pointed arch.

Vernacular: design deriving its form and materials from local or inherited tradition.

Vestry: a church room for keeping the vestments, the official robes of the clergy and choir.

