

**Fires**

**fire**



## THE GREAT FIRE OF 1877

On October 16, 1877, fire destroyed almost all the business buildings on the east side of Brock Street from Dundas to Colborne, with the exception of the Dominion Bank. The fire started when a deliveryman dropped a tray of lighted coal oil lamps. Damage amounted to more than \$10,000. The present buildings in this block were constructed between 1877 and 1883.



## GROSS & GRANGER FIRE, 1901

On June 9, 1901, fire broke out in the three-storey Gross & Granger hardware building on this site. When the flames reached boxes of live ammunition, bullets shot into the street and no one could go near the site for half an hour. Several people were wounded, but not seriously. The ruined building collapsed in 1902, destroying two wooden stores.



## MERRYWEATHER STEAM FIRE ENGINE, 1872

On Nov. 2, 1872, the Merryweather steam fire engine shot a stream of water over the top of All Saints Church steeple through 800 feet of hose from a well at Brock and Dundas Streets. The test convinced the Town to purchase the engine. In 1969, modern fire-fighting equipment could not equal this feat when the church was struck by lightning.

# History

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## PERRY'S CORNERS, 1836

On this site, Peter Perry (1792-1851) built a general store in 1836, establishing Downtown Whitby at the intersection of the Kingston Road (Hwy. 2) and the Brock Road leading from the north from Whitby Harbour. The settlement was known as Perry's Corners until about 1850, replacing Hamer's Corners at Dundas and Anderson Streets as Whitby's business centre.



## WHITBY'S NAME CHANGE, 1847

On July 10, 1847 at Scripture's Inn on this site, a public meeting was called to change the name of Windsor to Whitby because of confusion in mail and shipping, with Windsor near Detroit. Whitby village was first called Windsor in 1819 by John Scadding (1754-1824) after property he owned in Devonshire, England.



## FIRST DOMINION BANK BRANCH, 1871

The first branch of the Dominion Bank outside Toronto opened on Feb. 23, 1871 at 121 Brock Street North. In 1874, a new building was erected on this site which the bank occupied until 1970. James Holden, of Whitby, was responsible for locating the first branch in this town, because he was the first to raise the required financing.



## THE HITCHING RING, 1883

This brick building was a flour, feed, coal and wood dealership built by D.C Downey in 1883. On the south wall is the last hitching ring left in Downtown Whitby where one can tie up one's horse. The building was a coal and feed dealership until 1962 when it became a real estate and insurance office.



## SIR. JOHN A. MACDONALD, 1877

In the Royal Hotel, Canada's first Prime Minister, as Leader of the Opposition, delivered a speech on May 2, 1877 in support of the local Conservative candidate Thomas N. Gibbs of Oshawa. The Royal Hotel, operated by James Pringle, was built in 1872/73, replacing an earlier Royal Hotel that burned down.



# CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1913

James Rutledge, chairman of the Board of Education, laid the corner stone for this building on June 9, 1913. The library was funded by the Carnegie Corporation in the United States, and was officially opened by the County Clerk John E. Farewell on May 1, 1914. It served as Whitby's Public Library until 1973.

# Buildings

# Buildings

Town of  
Whitby



Heritage  
Building

## James Madill House – 312 Colborne Street West

This house, which originally fronted onto King Street, was constructed in 1876 as a rough cast stucco building for James and Margaret Madill, retired farmers from Marvers Township in Victoria County. In 1902, the house was sold to James Long, a local grain merchant and councillor, who bricked over the stucco exterior and added the front porch. The house was sold in 1974 to David Sims, a lawyer who established his law practice in the building.

The house is a surviving example of the Georgian architectural style, typical of many houses built in what is now Ontario between 1830 and 1890. The main door is the principal ornamental feature of the original Georgian facade.

In 1995, the James Madill House and the James Keith Gordon House to the south were sold to the Town of Whitby and are now known municipally as 312 Colborne Street West. The Town restored the two buildings in 2005.



Town of  
Whitby

Heritage  
Building



## THE CHRONICLE OFFICE

BUILT IN 1862 AS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WHITBY CHRONICLE, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOUNDED IN 1856. THE ITALIANATE DETAILING OF THE OFFICE REMAINS A VISIBLE REMINDER OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL CORE.

Town of  
Whitby



Heritage  
Building

## THE TERRACE

THE TERRACE, BUILT AS A FASHIONABLE ADDRESS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND THEIR OFFICES, IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF SMALL-TOWN ONTARIO ROW HOUSING STILL STANDING IN THE PROVINCE.

The Whitby Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee