

the village of hastings



hastings

AN ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

A sampling of the various heritage styles
found in the village of Hastings

Enjoy The Walk!



60 Bridge Street – Doxcee House

Architect Stanley Dennis of New York City designed this exuberant house and the house next door in the Queen Anne Revival style in 1892 for the Doxcee brothers, owners of the local sash, door and trim mill. The house exhibits a wealth of architectural detail and trim, inside and out, demonstrating and thereby advertising the quality of the products that this prominent family business manufactured. Tom Cruickshank and John de Visser featured the house in "Century Home Magazine" and the book "Old Ontario

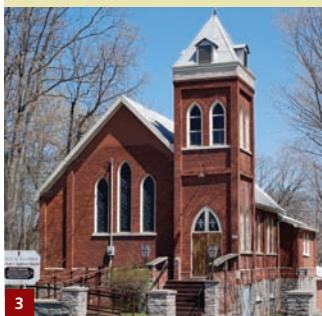
Houses". The house is a character in the novel "Sixty Bridge Street South", 2009, by Phil Jones a former resident.



45 Bridge Street – The Maples

"The Maples" was built in the early 1860's by McDonnell and Bartley for Henry Martin Fowlds, son of the Village elder Henry Sr. This impressive two-storey Georgian-style house exhibits a formality that descended from Loyalist architecture of the late 18th century. The locally made bricks were laid in English bond pattern. Unlike conventional houses with a staircase in the front hall, the main staircase ascends from the back off the kitchen. The original resident Henry Jr. worked in the family lumber and milling business and was

a builder and shopkeeper. He was the Postmaster, a position held by members of the Fowlds' family for ninety years. When Henry Jr. died in 1907, he left the house to his daughter Louisa who in turn left her estate to charities and donated parkland along the riverbank to the Village.



38 Bridge Street – St. George's

"St. George's Anglican Church" was erected in 1908. The Anglican congregation chose a conservative style of building that was very much a 19th century design. It was built to replace an 1862 church that stood at the corner of Water and Church Streets. Both the nave and the tower boast Gothic windows and are framed by engaged brick pilasters that trace the building's elements and echo the buttresses found on earlier churches. The interior woodwork and stencil decoration is representative of the Arts

and Crafts movement. The 'Robert McCausland Limited Glass Studio' of Toronto, the oldest stained glass company still in operation in North America, created the windows. The first rectory of the village's Anglican congregation is still standing at 160 Clyde Street.



4

30 Bridge Street South – Ashfield House

McDonnell and Bartley built “Ashfield House” in 1859 for James Steele Fowlds (eldest son of Henry Fowlds). This mid-century style demonstrates the transition to a picturesque building profile with the introduction of arched windows in the projecting gables, elaborate wide returned eaves and fine brickwork. James Fowld's granddaughter Helen Fowlds Marryat bought the house from her aunt in 1936 and lived there until her death. Helen, a nurse in Europe during WW1, received the Royal Red

Cross for bravery from the King. The medal is displayed in Hastings Legion Branch 106. She was a journalist and insurance agent who became the Hastings village historian and left her papers to the Trent University Archives.



5

33 Bridge Street South – Fowlds House

This handsome five bay red brick, storey and a half house was built by McDonnell and Bartley for the Fowlds family in the 1860's. The front door is recessed within paneled reveals and is framed by sidelights and a glazed transom that provide illumination for the vestibule. Pairs of shuttered double-hung sash windows flank the entrance. Upstairs, under a large Gothic Revival inspired gable is an arched opening that contains a pair of narrow French doors and a late Georgian style semi-circular fanlight with radiating

glazing bars. The present portico onto which the doors open is not original. Note the outline of the original bell cast verandah roof over the windows.



6

49 Front Street West – Bayview Manor (Toad Hall)

“Bayview Manor” currently named “Toad Hall”, was built in 1885 by John Peters one of several local contractors who went on to build and operate the “Montreal House” (see 2 - 6 Front St. E.). This large red brick Victorian house sits on a limestone foundation under a hipped roof with projecting gable and segmental arched windows in the attic. Note the paired brackets under the eaves and elaborate turnings and trim in the second story verandah under the scalloped, shingled gable. The house served as a boarding house and

guesthouse between the wars and was also used as a doctor's office. It became a B & B in 1973 to cater to tourists and the sport fishing industry.



7

133 Front Street West – Lowden Hill

McDonnell and Bartley built “Lowden Hill” in 1859 for William Fowlds, another of Henry Sr.’s sons. The design derives from the ubiquitous Ontario cottage. The arched window in the gable and the projecting bay windows flanking the front door demonstrate a certain sophistication and formality. Note that one of the openings in the left bay window is a door. Local folklore suggests that this was used for family wakes. Although a lumberman, William Fowlds continued his father’s desire to build in

sturdy three layer brick, indicating his wealth and station in the community. Following family tradition, the staircase to the upstairs is through the kitchen in the back of the house. “Lowden Hill” was designated a Trent Hills Heritage Property in 2002.



8

136 Front Street West – Hazelbank

“Hazelbank” is a large two-storey timber-frame house built in 1857 for Henry Fowlds, the patriarch of the lumber and milling family that dominated village growth and development. The original front door with glazed transom and sidelights was replaced in the twentieth century. The house, once surrounded by beautiful gardens, still dominates the shoreline overlooking the Trent River. Historically this is one of the most important buildings in Hastings for it was here that Fowlds developed his plans

for the village and his commercial enterprises. A series of fires at the mills and an unsound business venture led to Henry Fowld’s early retirement. The Fowlds family houses were subsequently made of brick.



9

41 New Street – John Howard House

John A. Howard, publisher of the Hastings Star from 1879-93, was also an undertaker. He commissioned John Peters to build this large one and a half storey red brick house in 1885. This picturesque late Victorian home exhibits elements of the Italianate style. Note the robust brackets under the eaves and the arched windows with contrasting buff brick trim and the decorative brackets on the verandah posts. Additional architectural elements of note are the two upstairs verandahs and the projecting bracketed bay windows

to the right of the front door. Howard printed the ‘Hastings Star’ from an out building on the property. His son continued the undertaking business after his death. The house was later called the ‘Coughlan’ house, because this prominent local family owned it in the early 1900’s.



43 Albert Street East – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church was built in 1865 under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Quirk at the cost of \$10,000. The magnificent limestone bell tower, trimmed with dressed quoins, has pairs of louvered lancet openings over the rose windows above the door. The tower terminates with a corbelled frieze and is capped by what was known as a “carpet tack spire”; so named because it resembles an inverted carpet tack. This building’s high quality masonry demonstrates a level of craftsman-

ship not seen elsewhere in town. The church’s stone stable, located at 90 Victoria Street, served as the Separate School from the early 20th century until 1974, and is now the home of the Hastings Historical Society.



65 Albert Street East – J. Ross House

This house appears on the 1868 “Donnelly Plan”, a survey of the Village, but was probably built much earlier. It was part of James Crooks’ 1810 purchase and transferred to Henry Fowlds in 1851 and later deeded to John and James Ross in 1867. The fine door case with sidelights and transom dominates the three bay facade of this charming well-proportioned clapboard house. Loyalists who emigrated after the American Revolution introduced this classic building form to Upper Canada. The style was quickly adopted by

Ontario builders and used throughout the province from the beginning to the late 19th century. Local availability of raw materials and lumber mills encouraged wooden construction.



89 Albert Street East – Saltbox

This delightful clapboard “saltbox” house was built in the late 1840’s or early 1850’s. John and James Ross held the first deed in 1867. The family still owned the property at the time of incorporation of the Village in 1874. Elements such as the sidelights and the reserved but formal door-frame, the arched window under the decorative gable, the wide window moldings, frieze, returned eaves and handsome brick chimneys contrast with the modest scale of the building and project an image of sophistication not often

found in the early buildings of Hastings. This type of house was once very common in Trent Hills. Few of the remaining examples have been as well maintained as this one and most have been covered with vinyl siding and have lost their original charm.



84 Albert Street – Thos. Hill House

This storey and a half Ontario Cottage, built in the 1870's for Thomas Hill, is an exceptional example of the genre. Buff brick quoins, window surrounds and decorative brackets, combined with great proportions and scale make this a true gem. The bargeboard trim (gingerbread) in the gable and the brackets on the verandah posts contribute to the decorative charm of this cottage style house. The house remained in the Hill family until W. E. Wilson purchased it for his dentistry practice in 1904.

Local residents remember having teeth extracted in the back room overlooking the Breithaupt Leather water tower.



57 Victoria Street West

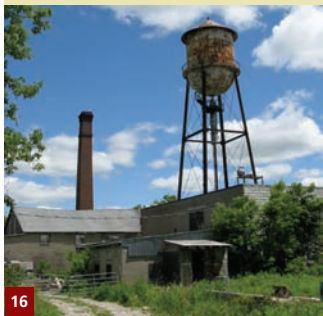
This important early house began life as a one-storey building in the first half of the 19th century when James Crooks founded the village as "Crooks Rapids". This was probably a Regency cottage and it would likely have had a hipped roof and a bellcast verandah across the principal facade. The dressed stone quoins on the corners of the house were not replicated when the second storey was added at a later date. Note the different shade of brick used in the upper level added when this became a two-

storey building. The original formal front door was replaced with a double entranceway when the house was converted to multi-family use.



29 Front Street East – The Albion Hotel

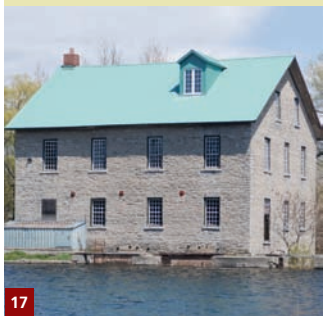
McDonnell and Bartley built "The Albion Hotel" ca 1860 for Henry Fowlds. The triple brick construction, door with transom and sidelights, and sturdy chimneys define this handsome Georgian style building. The horizontal emphasis of the building was transformed by the addition of an exuberant two-storey late Victorian verandah. One can imagine visitors "taking the air" on the second floor balcony while gazing down Front Street. In 1885 Richard Coughlan, Hastings first doctor, bought the house and used it as an office, apothecary and home until his death in 1908. In the early 1900's the ground floor facade was altered again, creating a shop front. The building has housed a bakery, Legion Hall, scrap metal business, antique shop and artists' studio and guest house. In 2012 the building was designated.



79 & 87 Front Street East – Tannery water tower and smoke stack

The water tower and brick chimney stand as symbols of Hastings' industrial past, reminding us of the importance of manufacturing in the town's early days. The original Hastings Tanning Co. Ltd. was built by Isaac Thomas in 1854 and replaced in 1895 by a larger establishment. The tannery was purchased in 1906 by the Breithaupt Leather Co. of Berlin (now Kitchener, Ontario) and throughout the First World War and the Great Depression supplied much needed jobs. Following a disastrous fire in 1918, the

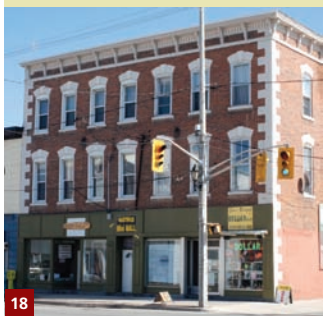
present concrete block buildings were erected. Only the 1895 brick chimney survived from the earlier tannery. The steel water tower was manufactured in Bridgeburg, Ontario (now Fort Erie) and transported here by train. Breithaupt Leather Works closed in 1982.



50 Front Street East – Fowlds Mill

"Fowlds Mill of 1871" is the grand landmark building of Hastings. James Fowlds, eldest son of Henry, built this magnificent limestone building after the family's original gristmill burned in 1870. This icon of the town's manufacturing past is the oldest remaining industrial structure in Hastings and has been carefully maintained by the present owner. With the advent of electricity in 1910, the mill was converted to hydroelectric power generation making Hastings a leader in twentieth century technology. Renamed "The

Tannery Power House", it was used by the Breithaupt Leather Company, until it closed in 1982. The mill still has the capability to produce hydroelectric power.



2-6 Front Street East – The Montreal House

John Peters, one of the early builders in Hastings, built "The Montreal House" in 1862, on the site of Henry Fowld's original lumber mill that was destroyed by fire. Note the bracketed frieze and cornice along the roofline, the decorative contrasting quoins and the keystone window arches. This impressive structure is the last "downtown building" remaining at the town's main intersection. Originally, the ground floor contained retail shops and the top floors housed "The Montreal House". It was operated by

Mr. Peters to cater to Montreal business interests who built textile mills on the south side of the river. The building continues to house retail shops on the ground floor and apartments above. A mural entitled "The Heroes of Hastings" is on the west wall of the building.



THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS straddles the Trent River near the border of Northumberland and Peterborough Counties. In 1810 William Hare the first Crown land grant holder sold 850 acres to Scots entrepreneur James Crooks who named the site "Crooks Rapids." In 1835 the Government began planning the Trent Canal system and by 1844, a dam and log slide were completed at Hastings. Richard Birdsall was hired to survey the village site. In 1851 Crooks sold his holdings to fellow Scot Henry Fowlds, an ambitious lumberman from nearby Westwood. Fowlds renamed the village Hastings and resident families including Coughlan, Birdsall, West, Fife, Ross, Scriver and Breckenridge purchased title to their properties. Fowlds set up brickworks and a sawmill and hired Norwood contractors McDonnell and Bartley to build homes and businesses for the growing population. Hastings industry included grist, woolen and lumber mills. With the growth of agriculture in the hinterlands, farmers supplied the grain for the mill, dairy products for the cheese factories and fresh produce for local markets. The Doxsee Brothers built a sash and door factory. Montreal entrepreneurs built textile mills staffed by workers from Quebec who lived in "French town" on the south shore. Fires ravaged businesses in 1870. Fowld's rebuilt the gristmill in 1871 and the downtown flourished through the 1890's. The Hastings Tanning Ltd., incorporated in 1854, was purchased by the Breithaupt Leather Company in 1906 and operated until 1982.

Hastings men and women served in both World Wars and were active in sports, church groups and community organizations. Hastings native Aubrey 'Dit' Clapper, a 20-year NHL veteran and member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, has a street named after him. Fishing and tourism are now the basis of the village economy. In 2012 Hastings was declared the "Ultimate Fishing Town" in Canada.