

## MAP OF THE TOUR AREA



### LEGEND

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 25 Cross Street    | 7. 45 Melville Street  |
| 2. 43 Cross Street    | 8. 113 Melville Street |
| 3. 53 Cross Street    | 9. 42 Melville Street  |
| 4. 40 Cross Street    | 10. 36 Melville Street |
| 5. 7 Melville Street  | 11. 32 Cross Street    |
| 6. 31 Melville Street |                        |

Dundas Museum and Archives Presents

## A WALKING TOUR OF THE CROSS-MELVILLE DISTRICT



TOWN HALL



DUNDAS MUSEUM  
& ARCHIVES

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## HISTORY OF

# CROSS-MELVILLE DISTRICT

Development in the Cross-Melville District began in the early to mid 19th century as Dundas became a prosperous town with a strong foundation in Industrial expansion. During the 1890's Dundas' industrial and commercial industry began to collapse, but just as one area of Dundas was failing, the Cross-Melville residential area was expanding rapidly. Aside from their unique character, a distinguishing feature to many of the Cross-Melville homes, is the initial sizing of the lots. When walking around the district, you will be able to see that various homes have a very deep frontage, some ranging up to 60 feet, and depths of one hundred and twenty feet. The district once housed many prominent members of the Dundas community, including T.H. MacKenzie, J. Coleman, W. Notman who all owned property in this area. The regal, solid and unique characteristics of the home, is reflected by those who held a significant role in the community, many of them being mayors, lawyers, Justice of the Peace, and store owners. Many of the homes discussed in this tour highlight these individuals, and their success in the prosperous town of Dundas. In 1990, the beauty and enriched history of the Cross-Melville District was

recognized as it became classified as a heritage district in Ontario. Since then, these homes have been protected to ensure that the distinguishing characteristics of these heritage properties are not destroyed or altered, to maintain historical integrity. The properties were chosen for their beautiful architectural elements and highlights the lives of prominent community members of the 19th century.



## GLOSSARY

**Bay Window:** A set of windows or a single window on the ground level of a house that projects outside of the building, creating an alcove inside the house. They might be supported by corbels or brackets. When a bay window is rounded or curved, it is called a bow window.

**Cornice:** A molded protrusion that crowns/finishes whatever feature it is attached to; sometimes included as the upper section of an entablature.

**Dormer Windows:** Projecting from a roof, this window is used to admit air and light into the attic and resembles a small, house-like structure. The roof of dormer windows typically mirror the roof of the house.

**Eaves:** The portion underneath a sloped roof that extends further than a building's wall.

**Facade:** The side of a building that faces an open space, such as a street. This is typically the front side of the building.

**Gable:** A feature of a pitched roof, gables are the triangle-shaped upper portion of the wall; the base of this triangle is not usually completed with a horizontal feature like a pediment would.

**Pediment:** The triangular space forming the gable of a low-pitched roof; can also be a triangular element found above a window, door, or porch.

**Transom:** Semi-circular or rectangular windows, often including stained glass decoration, found above doorways.

**Verandah:** A roofed open portico or gallery on a building's exterior.

**Vernacular Style:** Influenced but not defined by a particular style, vernacular buildings are made from easily available materials and exhibit local design characteristics.

### Types of Roofs



Front Gable



Hip



Side Gable

## 32 CROSS STREET



William Notman

32 Cross Street in 1981

Built in 1846, this Classical Revival home was originally owned by Colonel William Notman. Notman was a well established member of the Dundas community. He was a successful lawyer, politician and military man. Prior to renovations, this stone building was known for its well balanced proportions, symmetry, low pitched hip roof, decorative cornice, and formally 12 pane windows. As you can see, the facade of the home is covered with five equally spaced windows and a central door. The columns that frame the entryway add an element of elegance to the home, giving it a stately finish. This home underwent various renovations from 1896 to 1927. While the original foundation of the home remains intact, exterior additions were done. These renovations included a side entrance along the south side of the home, a rear dining room, and a front and rear porch. Exterior renovations were carefully constructed to match the aesthetic of the original build.

**FUN FACT!**  
 In 1924, this home was purchased by H. Graham Bertram. After buying the home he made various changes to it, including a conservatory which is still standing.

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## 25 CROSS STREET



**FUN FACT!**

The brick used to build this home was upcycled from the Grafton House Stable.

25 Cross street in 2012

Built in 1946, this Colonial Revival house was not the original structure that occupied the lot. The land was once owned by James Coleman, who was the Mayor of Dundas from 1850-1852.

Coleman's home was then demolished and

the building you can now see was then constructed. It is believed that the current house was constructed by Mrs. Grafton. This two story red brick Colonial Revival house attributes its architectural style to its symmetry, bay-level windows, side gable roof designed with small dormer windows along various sides of the roof, and a small centered portico, with a front gable awning, that is supported by columns. A grand addition to this house is the large retaining wall that encloses the lot, giving the house a stately finishing look.



Mrs. Grafton

## 36 MELVILLE STREET



36 Melville in 1981

“Homestead”, constructed from 1866 to 1867 was originally owned and inhabited by Thomas Wilson and his wife Agnes Jardine. Wilson was a prominent member of the Dundas community. He acted as Town Clerk, Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, a member of the School Board, and Mayor from

1876 to 1878, and once again in 1885. In the early 1860's, when Thomas Wilson traveled to his native home, Scotland, Wilson commissioned an architect from Glasgow to create plans for a home which ended up being the home you see today. This Ontario Vernacular Cottage-Style home was a popular architectural design for its time. An element popular to the style is the

decorative front porch. The facade of the house was constructed with limestone, while the remaining walls and elevated basement were built with a rough stone finish.

**FUN FACT!**

This heritage home can be enjoyed by many as it is a bed and breakfast called “The Homestead 1867.”

## 42 MELVILLE STREET



42 Melville Street in 1981

Built circa 1879-1880, this Ontario Cottage is a great representation of its building style in the Cross-Melville District and is highlighted by its unique architectural design. The facade of the home is decorated with two large, 2/2 bay level windows and a central door that is finished with transom and sidelight. The aesthetic of the windows and door on the facade are decorated by carved pediment mouldings giving it an elegant touch. This home is inclosed by a street view, gable roof and the exterior walls of the home are covered with stucco. An appealing architectural aspect of this home is the allusion it presents. While the front portion of the home is and appears to be one story, a slope of the ground at the rear of the lot, allowed for a back half of the room to be two stories tall.

## 43 CROSS STREET



43 Cross Street in 2016

This home was the residence of George Rolph and was built in 1820, making it the oldest standing house in the Cross-Melville District. The architectural build of this home is rather mysterious, as the home has undergone many major renovations since its original build. Presently, the current structure and design of the home is



George Rolph

classified as a Colonial/Georgian Revival. Elements of this two story home that make this a Colonial/Georgian Revival is the stucco exterior, two symmetrical bay windows, 6-over-6 paned windows with shutters and a small front porch framed by columns located at the centre facade of the home. The foundation of this unique 'U' shaped home has elements of its original build. This includes half a recycled barn and a house that was structurally relocated to this lot and then added to the homes earlier foundation. Despite the mystery around this home, the building itself has been maintained very well considering its age.



Stone with the initial "G.R." used as a property marker

### FUN FACT!

George Rolph wanted a grand home to rival that of Sir Allan MacNabs Dundurn Castle. Only two stately gates and fences were constructed and ironically now guard an entrance to Dundurn Castle.

## 53 CROSS STREET



53 Cross Street in 2009

Built in 1880, this building has both a unique construction history, and architectural style to Dundas. This home was not originally constructed as the large home you see today and was once a semi-detached home. An eye-catching element to the home is the two tower-like projections that bring symmetry, and cohesiveness to the home. The home is enclosed by a hip roof, and the two story projections are finished by front gable dormers and return eaves that merge with the roof. In the centre of the gables is a dormer window, decorated with brick voussoir. When the house was constructed from a semi-detached to single home, the original entry point was one of the largest, and most noticeable construction elements to the public. The original doors were replaced by a central pseudo Neo-Classical entry way.

## 113 MELVILLE STREET



113 Melville Street in 1981

“Lawnside”, built in 1892 for the Lennard Family is a Queen Anne architectural style. This building type is known for its irregular, asymmetrical build, ornate and complex detailing, and steeply pitched gable roof. Distinguishable features of this home are the veranda along the facade of the home, two story bay window, and original stained glass windows that allow ample amounts of sunlight into this odd asymmetrical home.

### FUN FACT!

In over 125 years, this home has only had 3 owners.

## 45 MELVILLE STREET



45 Melville Street in 1981

“Melville Lawn” was built by J. Wood in 1876, and sold to J.S. Grafton in 1880. Grafton was well-known within the Dundas community, and a successful businessman. This house is not defined by one architectural style, and includes elements from various building styles. Georgian and Classical houses were popular at the time this house was constructed. The elements of those architectural styles are reflected in the perfect symmetry of the facade of the house, and the regal porch turned sunroom, along the east side of the home. Italiane elements can be found in the low-pitch hipped roof and the central gable located at the facade of the home.

## 40 CROSS STREET



40 Cross Street in 2016

This regal redbrick home was built in 1927, and resembles the architectural style of Colonial Revival buildings. Colonial Revival style homes were popular in Ontario from the early to mid 1900's. The facade of the home is well balanced due to the windows and center-halled doorway. The house gains its Colonial Revival title from it's bay windows, shutters, side gable roof, recessed entryway, and the bricked columns framing the small porch. The windows found on this house are a particularly interesting part of the home's architectural style. Located on the second floor of the home and above the entryway is a beautiful oriel window with a rough stone corbel finish. A raised dormer window can also be located in the side gable roof. The protruding window adds an architectural twist to this Colonial Revival home.

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## 7 MELVILLE STREET



7 Melville Street in 1981

This Gothic Revival Style home was built in 1850, and is a unique home to the Cross-Melville District that adds diverse character to the neighbourhood. The roof of the home is high pitched with a front facing gable. Attached to the gable is a decorative bargeboard design and a pointed ornament located on the point of the roof. Unlike typical Gothic Revival style homes, 7 Melville street opted for rounded illusion windows as opposed to the typical pointed arch windows. Compared to many of these homes in this district, this home is designed with an asymmetrical build including a side hall entrance, with a transom located above the door, two french windows and a veranda that covers the facade of the home.

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## 31 MELVILLE STREET



31 Melville Street in 1981

This Regency, picturesque home on Melville street was built in 1840 by Alexander Chalmers. Chalmers was a town tradesman and worked as a saddle and harness maker. The architectural style of this home was a popular build for tradesmen in the Dundas area during the 19th C. Elements of this home, like the hipped roof, can also be found on the 'Wood Dale' property. During the 19th century, hipped roofs were used by British Settlers, and were a means to show wealth. In 1856, this house was purchased by Reverend Mark Stark, and it acted as a rectory for the neighbouring Knox Presbyterian church. Under his ownership, Stark named the home "Kirkhill Cottage", and since then, this home has been referred to as a cottage. This one story home has an exterior stucco finish, hip roof, and gable found in the center of the home. Sometime between 1874 to 1902, gothic detail and trims were added to the home by a carpenter, William Shell. On the left side of the home, a one and a half story addition can be found. The detailing and decorations on the addition was chosen to match the aesthetic on the original structure. The styling of this home, including it's addition, is unique to the Cross-Melville District and gives it more attention, especially in contrast to the neighbouring church.