

# THE CHATHAM-KENT MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER



## Listed Properties in the Community of Dresden

# Community of Dresden

## 246 Camden Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 8-Sep-2014

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** 1907

**Historical Significance:** This residence was the second of two Laird brother homes. This home was built for Captain Thomas Laird in 1907. The other Laird family home was for Thomas' brother Frank. In 1883, the brothers purchased a lumber mill in Dresden, where they made their fortune from the successful operation of their mill. Due to decline in operations with local deforestation, the brothers diversified their product line and imported wood from Georgian Bay with their sailing schooner, captained by Thomas. The Laird family owned the home until 1953.

**Architectural Significance / Description:** This residence is designed in the Queen Anne architectural style. Some of the more notable features associated with this style include the large 2 ½ storey asymmetrical plan, steep hip roof complimented by one gable, and broad veranda.

**Legal Description:** PLAN 129 LOT 15 PT LOT 12  
PTLOT 13 PT LOT 16 PT LOT 18PT LOT 19



# Community of Dresden

## 620 Crossing Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1885

**Historical Significance:** This massive residence was originally built for Ed Houston, a local cordwood and timber dealer. Initially, his business was quite successful and expanded into stave manufacturing. Unfortunately, his good luck did not last long. In the mid 1890s, Houston's businesses were victimized by two devastating fires. This resulted in bankruptcy and house foreclosure. The building has functioned as a funeral home since the early 1900s, first as the Wilson Clark Funeral Home, then the Walter B. Holmes Funeral Home, and since 1979 as the Thomas L. DeBurger Funeral home. Mr. Holmes also operated an ambulance service from this location in the 1940s and 1950s.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The building's large mansard roof illustrates a strong Second Empire influence. The residence's widow's walk, wrought iron ornamentation, and original windows are particularly significant architectural features.

**Contextual Significance:** The present day Thomas L. DeBurger Funeral home is located in a dominant position on a large corner lot ( Robinson and Cross Streets), across the road from one of Dresden's major parks.

**Legal Description:** LOT 69 & PART OF LOT 70, PLAN 133 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 179 Hughes Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 8-Sep-2014

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** 1900

**Historical Significance:**

**Architectural Significance / Description:** This residence is designed in the Queen Anne architectural style. Some of the more notable features associated with this style include the large 2 ½ storey asymmetrical plan, steep hip roof complimented by multiple gables, broad veranda, tall chimney, and lacy details.

**Contextual Significance:**

**Legal Description:** PLAN 134 N PT BLK A



# Community of Dresden

## 379 Hughes Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1907

**Historical Significance:** This residence was a McVean home called "Georgia Place." It was built for Osgood McVean and his wife Catherine. Osgood was the co-proprietor of the O & W McVean Co. with his brother William. The brothers were one of Dresden's largest employers in the early twentieth century. Sarah McVean, Osgood's daughter, grew up at this residence. She went on to become Dresden's only female doctor after her graduation in 1910.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The McVean house is an exceptional example of Edwardian Classicism. The gambrel roof, front dormer, and symmetrical design are distinct features. The front portico also displays a Classical Revival influence.

**Contextual Significance:** The home is located at an important intersection (Hughes & West Streets).

**Legal Description:** PART OF BLOCK E, PLAN 134  
DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 396 Hughes Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1850

**Historical Significance:** This house is the most travelled in Dresden and the oldest residence on Hughes Street. It was originally constructed on Metcalfe Street, moved to St. George Street in 1870, and was positioned at its present location in 1900. The home was originally constructed for Martha Webster, widow of George Webster. She later married Dr. T.R. McInnes. He moved into the property and became close friends with famed black settler Josiah Henson. Their relationship inspired McInnes to write a poem called "Hard Times Come Again No More". He also wrote a number of other pieces and became a nationally respected writer.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** This Georgian style residence has a number of features distinctive to Dresden homes. The transom over the front door and sidelights are good examples.

**Contextual Significance:** The home is located at an important intersection (Hughes & West Streets).

**Legal Description:** PART OF LOTS 73 & 74,  
PLAN 133 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 508 Hughes Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1865

**Historical Significance:** “The Homestead”, as it has been called by Dresden’s citizens, was originally built for either John Bates or Philander Kimmerly. Shortly after its completion it was purchased by the patriarch of Dresden’s famed McVean family, Alexander McVean. Alexander was a close friend to Canada’s first Prime Minister John A. Macdonald. During one of his campaigns, Macdonald visited Dresden. Historians believe that he stayed at the McVean residence during the trip.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The home is a unique vernacular adaptation of Gothic Revival design. The verge boards and multiple chimneys are important architectural features of this house. The front veranda has also been nicely preserved.

**Contextual Significance:** The home was built to have a perfect vantage point overlooking McVean’s hub and spoke factory. It is on a large corner lot (Hughes and Strathglass).

**Legal Description:** PART OF LOT 82, PLAN 133, BEING PART 2, 24R-1153 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 103-107 Main Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:**

**Historical Significance:** The earliest ownership of this commercial property dates back to 1906 when Cyrenius Watson sold the building to The National Trust Company Ltd. The building was passed through many owners as a commercial use, but is again owned by the National Trust Company and currently operates as the local CIBC bank.

**Architectural Significance / Description:** This large commercial building features a horizontal brick pattern with an ornate entrance and a large window. Additionally, the building has detailed cornice.

**Contextual Significance:** This building is located at one of the main intersections in the community of Dresden.

**Legal Description:** PLAN 133 N PT LOT 48



# Community of Dresden

## 207 Main Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1865

**Historical Significance:** This commercial building is one of the oldest surviving examples in the town of Dresden. It was constructed shortly after the American Civil War and could have had a connection to escaped slaves. Many former slaves came to Canada via the Underground Railroad and became successful entrepreneurs in Chatham-Kent.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The shop front of this building details designs common to the mid-late nineteenth centuries. The brackets, cornice, and windows resemble Italianate influences.

**Contextual Significance:** The building is on the corner of Main and Tecumseh streets.

**Legal Description:** PART OF LOT 18, SOUTH OF MAIN STREET, PLAN 131 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 211 Metcalfe Avenue East



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1850

**Historical Significance:** This dwelling is a great example of mid-nineteenth century rural living in the Dresden area. D. R. Van Allen, the founder of the village, was the first to live on this site. Robert Smith (formerly Schmidt), moved into the residence around a decade after Van Allen came to Dresden. Smith is well known around Ontario for his mid-nineteenth century wooden furniture. He took advantage of the area's abundant black walnut supply.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** This Georgian structure maintains its original symmetry on the front façade. Additions were made on later parts of the house.

**Contextual Significance:** The home is located along the banks of the Sydenham River. The position would have made it easier to transport the materials that were needed to make this house.

**Legal Description:** LOT 59, PLAN 127 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 397 Metcalfe Avenue East



**Date Added to Registry:** 8-Sep-2014

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** 1890

**Historical Significance:**

**Architectural Significance / Description:** This residence is designed in the Gothic Revival architectural style. One of the more notable features associated with this style is the sharply pitched gables.

**Contextual Significance:** This home is located in proximity to the Sydenham River.

**Legal Description:** PLAN 127 LOT 69



# Community of Dresden

## 135 Metcalfe Avenue West



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1865

**Historical Significance:** Most historians agree that this residence was built by James Charity. Charity operated a crockery store in Dresden for about three years before he eventually settled in Chatham. During his stay in Chatham, this ambitious black settler, was able to purchase a number of properties. One of those properties was rented by the Provincial Freeman Newspaper.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** Not all important buildings are pretty. This unassuming building is very similar in style, construction, and proportion, to Josiah Henson's home. These examples have been identified as Black architecture because of their similarity to early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings found in the Carolinas, Georgia, and other southern slave states.

**Contextual Significance:** The home is built near the banks of the Sydenham River.

**Legal Description:** LOT 81 & PART OF LOT 2,  
BLOCK A, PLAN 128 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 488 St George Street North



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1870

**Historical Significance:** This domicile was originally built for Norris B. Carscallen and his wife Christy. Norris was a respected lawyer in the community. The Carscallen's were descendents of United Empire Loyalists. Norris became mayor in 1908-1909. He was one of three family members to serve as Dresden's mayor. The second owner of the house was Lloyd Payne, a family doctor. His practise was later taken over by his son John.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** This twin peak structure has a strong Gothic Revival architectural style. Two features of note are symbols found in the house's design. One plaque depicts a crown and beaver symbol—indicative of the legal profession. Another crest, located in the screen doors, illustrates two medical symbols. These touches add to the house's provenance.

**Contextual Significance:** The house is located on a large corner lot (St George and Walnut Streets.)

**Legal Description:** LOTS 148, 159, 160 & PART OF LOT 161, PLAN 138 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 203 St George Street South



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1890

**Historical Significance:** St. James Presbyterian Church is an early example of Dresden's ingenuity. In order to get to its present location it was pulled down the frozen Sydenham River from North Dresden.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The church's steeple, lancet windows, and steep front gable demonstrate a Gothic Revival influence.

**Contextual Significance:** The church is very close to the Sydenham River.

**Legal Description:** LOT 29 & PART OF LOT 28,  
PLAN 127 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 350 St George Street South



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1865

**Historical Significance:** The property, originally owned by Thomas Hughes, was sold to The Church Society of the Diocese of Huron in 1862. The church was originally called the Episcopal Mission Church to the Freed Population of Canada. It was an important place of worship for settlers that came to the community via the Underground Railroad. Moreover, it is Dresden's second oldest remaining place of worship.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The brick sanctuary has a number of notable Gothic Revival features. They include the steep front gable and lancet windows. The symmetrical placement of the windows and the large double wooden doors add an aesthetic appeal to the front façade.

**Contextual Significance:** The structure is on a large corner lot (St. George Street South & Queen Street West).

**Legal Description:** LOTS 3, 73 & 74, BLOCK C, PLAN 128 DRESDEN



# Community of Dresden

## 426-482 St George Street South



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1870-1890

**Historical Significance:** This commercial block was the core of nineteenth century Dresden. It was where most of the town's goods and services were purchased. The block would have included grocery, hardware, men's/ladies' wear stores among other things. Few blocks in Chatham-Kent have more collective historical significance than this one.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** This group of buildings include a number of styles and interesting details. However, Italianate and Renaissance Revival architectural features are the most dominant. The arched windows, cornices, brackets, dentil and quoin brick work are among the best examples used on a commercial block in the municipality.

**Contextual Significance:** The buildings are on the most recognizable stretch of road in the community of Dresden.

**Legal Description:** (426) PART OF LOT 72, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOT 72, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 AS IN 365421 DRESDEN, (434) PART OF LOT 71, BLOCK D, PLAN 128, SUBJECT TO EASEMENT OVER PART OF LOT 71, BLOCK D, PLAN 128, DESIGNATED AS PART 7, 24R-1244, AS IN 301363 DRESDEN (438) PART OF LOT 71, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 DRESDEN (444) PART OF LOT 71, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 DRESDEN (452) PART OF LOT 70, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOT 70, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 AS IN 375692, TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOTS 2 & 3, PLAN 133 AS IN 375692, TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOTS 3 & 70, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 AS IN 375692 (454) PART OF LOT 70, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOTS 3 & 70, BLOCK D, PLAN 128 AS IN 392090 DRESDEN (466) PART OF LOTS 1, 2 & 3, PLAN 133, SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH R.O.W. AS IN 644550 ; CHATHAM-KENT (480) PART OF LOTS 1 & 2, PLAN 133 SUBJECT TO R.O.W. OVER PART OF LOT 2, PLAN 133 AS IN 417552 DRESDEN

**Additional Notes:** This entry includes the addresses 412, 426, 434, 438, 442, 444, 446, 452, 454, 456, 458, 462, 466, 472, 474, 480, 482, This list includes eight different property owners.



# Community of Dresden

## 179 St John Street East



**Date Added to Registry:** 8-Sep-2014

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** 1890

**Historical Significance:** The earliest known resident of this home is James Eves (estate owner), who resided there until 1958.

**Architectural Significance / Description:** This residence is designed in the Vernacular architectural style, with some influence of the Italianate and Second Empire architectural styles. Some of the more notable features associated with the Italianate and Second Empire styles include the window surrounds and cornice, and two storey bay respectively.

**Contextual Significance:**

**Legal Description:** PLAN 127 LOT 33 E PT LOT 32



# Community of Dresden

## 582 Water Street



**Date Added to Registry:** 18-Jan-2010

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** Circa 1855

**Historical Significance:** Brick construction was not widely used in Dresden until after 1870. This home predates that period. Most historians believe that this structure is the oldest brick residence in the town. The home was originally built by William Wright, founder of Fairport. He also had a number of business connections to Josiah Henson.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The symmetrical windows on the front façade and side wall are significant features of this 1/2 Georgian design. The returns on the front gable display a Classical Revival influence.

**Contextual Significance:** The house was built near the Sydenham River. If any materials were needed for the building they were likely brought down the river.

**Legal Description:** LOT 9, SOUTH OF WATER STREET, PLAN 131 DRESDEN

