

HISTORIC BROOKLIN VILLAGE

A WALKING TOUR

In 1840, the settlement located at what is now known as the village of Brooklin consisted of four houses and was known as Winchester. By 1846, the settlement had become a village with a population of 300 including a doctor, Dr. Allison, who arrived in 1843.

The name of the village was changed to Brooklin shortly before the establishment of a Post Office in 1847.

The population of Brooklin had grown to approximately 550 by 1851, and there was a circulating library. The village had a large business sector including three grist mills, a tannery, a woolen mill, a soap and candle factory, and two baking soda or saleratus factories.

In 1851, a number of residents of Brooklin sent a petition to the government of Canada West "praying" that Brooklin be named the County Town of the newly formed County of Ontario. Whitby was named the County Town, but in 1968 the village of Brooklin was amalgamated into the Town of Whitby.

Whitby LACAC 2005

1. **** Grass Park** - This was originally the site of the Globe Hotel which was built sometime before 1857 and destroyed by fire Feb. 11, 1885. In 1907, the site was purchased by Charles Grass (1861-1941) who kept it as a park. In 1951 the citizens of Brooklin collected \$1,600 through public subscription to pay for the park and gave it to the Township.
2. **3 Cassels Rd. W.** (c.1855) This was the home of William Loe Smith during his illustrious career as a newspaper man, traveler, farmer and political reformer. In 1911, he began a reforestation project on his farm in Orono. He died in Brooklin in 1945.
3. **3 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1889) This Victorian vernacular home was built by Charles Grass. He operated, but did not own, the mill for many years. The house was owned by the Grass family until 1950. In the late 1990s, for several summers, the Disney Children's TV series "Jett Jackson" was filmed here. Note the cedar shingle fish scale design on the north gable.
4. **24 Princess St.** (c.1935) This house was built by Dr. John Moore, brother of Dr. James Moore. He came to Brooklin in 1891 and was a doctor here for 46 years. He was Reeve of Whitby Township 1912-1914 and served on the Brooklin School Board. The English cross bond brick pattern is rare to see and would have been expensive to produce.
5. **United Church** (c.1867) Originally built as a Wesleyan Methodist Church, it opened for services on Dec. 22, 1867. It cost \$3,000 to build, with seating for 700. The top of the spire is 110 feet from the ground. It became a United Church in 1925, and the Sunday School addition was completed in 1959.
6. **23 Princess St.** (c.1879) Methodist Parsonage James Bickell laid the cornerstone on May 24, 1879. A.P. Cameron was the builder and it cost \$1,700 to build. In 1917, it became one of the first buildings to be wired for electricity in Brooklin.
7. **21 Princess St.** (c.1895) Dr. Milton H. Starr House - Dr. Starr was born in Whitby Township in 1838. His son, Clarence Leslie (1868-1928), was Assistant Professor of Medicine at University of Toronto and a surgeon at Sick Children's Hospital. Alfred Roberts was the architect who built the house and Thomas Deverell was the mason. Note the Queen Anne features, chevron shingle pattern on the west gable and the basket weave pattern on the turret.
8. **15 Princess St.** (c.1877) This house, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, was built for Benjamin Campbell, son of John Campbell a founder of Brooklin. Benjamin was a Whitby Township councilor 1871-1875 and Deputy Reeve 1873-76. From 1962-1979, Donald Creighton, one of Canada's greatest historians and Companion of the Order of Canada resided here, and built the rear addition in 1967 for a library. It is a distinctive Victorian house with Gothic revival features and still has the original shutters. The house has been renowned for its gardens since the 1920s.
9. **11 Princess St.** (c.1943) This house, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, is of a modified war-time bungalow style. It is a rare example of a custom built stone and brick home during the Second World War. It has a tapestry brickwork pattern with an ashlar stone pattern on the street façade. Arthur James Cook built the house after retiring from his business as a butcher shop owner. He was a Whitby Township Councillor in 1933-34.
10. **1 Princess St.** (c.1859) This is a good example of a mid 19th century farm house. The property was sold to John Sheppard in 1858.
11. **** 39 Cassels Rd. E.** - (c.1848) Brooklin Mill This brick mill was built for John Campbell after the original frame mill built in 1840 was destroyed by fire. The cedar swamp that originally covered the site was filled with 15 feet of trees and stones to reach bedrock so that the foundation could be built on solid ground. The date is still visible on the west side gable. The mill could produce 50 barrels of flour a day, and operated as a flour mill for 149 years, ceasing operation in 1991.
12. **42 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1845) The Hunter-Darlington House, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, is possibly the oldest house in Brooklin. It was built by the physician, Dr. James Hunter, and later sold to his son-in-law, Rev. Robert Darlington. The house served as a Post Office until the Reverend's death in 1881. This storey and half, roughcast stucco house with its simple roofline and bell-cast porch has many characteristics of a Regency cottage.
13. **45 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1876) Originally built as a Bible Christian Church, it served as a Baptist Church from 1884 until 1916. From 1920-66, it was the Municipal Offices for the Township of Whitby and also served as a library during this time. It has been the Brooklin Community Centre since 1967.
14. **Church St.** During the 1800s there were three churches on this street including the Bible Christian Church. A Presbyterian Church was on the site of the present day Mitchell Bros. store, and the Methodist Episcopal Church on the south west corner at Albert St. with its cemetery dating from 1847-1884.
15. **14 Church St.** (c.1965) Good example of the simplified style of the modern movement. The building was originally the Whitby Township Municipal Office.
16. **57 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1848) This is one of the oldest houses in Brooklin and was originally a frame house that has been stuccoed over since the 1950s. It was owned by Richard T. Harrison, a former Whitby Township Clerk who died in 1882. In 1927, Mrs. R.S. McLaughlin bought it for her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Mowbray.
17. **60 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1911) This house was built by Dr. James Moore, Registrar of Deeds from 1931-41. He was a medical officer in the First World War, and in 1929 became the first President of the newly formed Brooklin Legion. Note the standing seam metal roof on the porch.
18. **64 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1912) This house was built in 1912 by Uriah Jones, a hardware dealer in Brooklin.
19. **65 Cassels Rd. E.** (c.1860) This house was bought by Samuel Manning in 1889 and various members of his family lived here until 1966. The historic wire fence is no longer available in this design. The shed is original to the house, as are the shutters, windows and glass and front porch. Also, note the tin roof.
20. **33 Duke St.** (c.1860) This stone granite dressed ashlar brick design home was bought by James Mitchell in 1878. Note the tri-brick spacer pattern in the stone work.
21. **31 Duke St.** (c.1954) This house is a good example of a limestone concrete block style.
22. **107 Winchester Rd. E.** (c.1879) Anglican Church Rectory - note the paladeau style windows, Victorian gingerbread trim, and the dressed granite foundation.

23. 101 Winchester Rd. E. (c.1869) St. Thomas Anglican Church was designed by Henry Langley, and opened for services on Dec. 19, 1869. The foundation was put under the church in 1905, and the Memorial Hall added in 1987. Rev. James H. Harris met with a slight accident when he decided to ring in the 20th century at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1900. The bell fell onto the front lawn of the church from its moorings in the bell tower, flinging the Reverend to the floor of the church tower.

24. 20 Charles St. (c.1875) This house was built by James Hunter and Robert Darlington who sold it to John O'Day (1834-1904). O'Day was an Irish orphan who became a drover, transporting goods for farmers. He lived in Brooklin for most of his life. Note the double window above the porch and oval window on the porch wall. A fine example of a vernacular farm house with an American influence.

25. 65 Bagot St. (c.1921) This house was built for Henry McBrien, Whitby Township Clerk from 1922-40 and a secretary of the Brooklin Spring Fair. He was a prominent breeder of livestock and retired to Brooklin in 1922.

26. 60 Queen St. (c.1868) Alexander Campbell House - This house is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and was the home of Alexander Campbell, an early owner of the mill. Originally of a frame construction and later bricked over, it has many common elements of late Victorian architecture.

27. 90 Queen St. (c.1865) The property was sold to Thomas Burke (1832-1900) in 1856 and owned by his family until 1907. In 1900, Thomas was killed at the age of 67 when he was hit by a train near his home. The Port Whitby-Port Perry (The Nip and Tuck) Railway ran along Queen St. and the train station was on the southwest corner of St. Thomas St. and Winchester Rd. Thomas was one of Brooklin's oldest residents.

28. 137 Baldwin St. (c.1885) This house was built by Daniel Holliday Jr. who was a Whitby Township Clerk. He owned the property from 1884-1888. In 1910, it was bought by Arthur Johnston, a very prominent farmer from Greenwood who retired to Brooklin. In 1931, Dr. John McKinney bought the house and owned it until 1979. Dr. McKinney died in 1998 at age 94. He received the Peter Perry Award in 1994 and the McKinney Recreation Centre is named after him.

29. 139 Baldwin St. (c.1885) This house was built by Thomas Routley, and is a good example of the vernacular of the area for its time.

30. 138 Baldwin St. (c.1876) This house was built by Robert Campbell Warren, a store owner in Brooklin. Charles Levi Mackey owned the house from 1926-46. He was Reeve of Whitby Township, 1930-32, and Whitby Township Councillor, 1925-28. He died in 1968 at the age of 95.

31. 105 Colston Ave. (c.1870s) This house was built by Samuel Bond, a retired farmer. The Bond Family owned the house until 1952.

32. 90 Colston Ave. (c.1859) Stephen Thomas Mead House - This house, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, was built by Stephen Mead Thomas, one of five brothers who were wealthy builders and merchants in the early days of Brooklin. Thomas established Groveside Cemetery in 1874. He sold the house in 1881 and moved to Delaware, U.S.A. Note the good example of a dry stone wall in the yard.

33. 110 Baldwin St. (c.1892) Thomas Jackson Holliday purchased the property in 1884. The home was purchased in 1910 by David Burns (1850-1922), a poet who published two volumes of poems, "Random Writings".

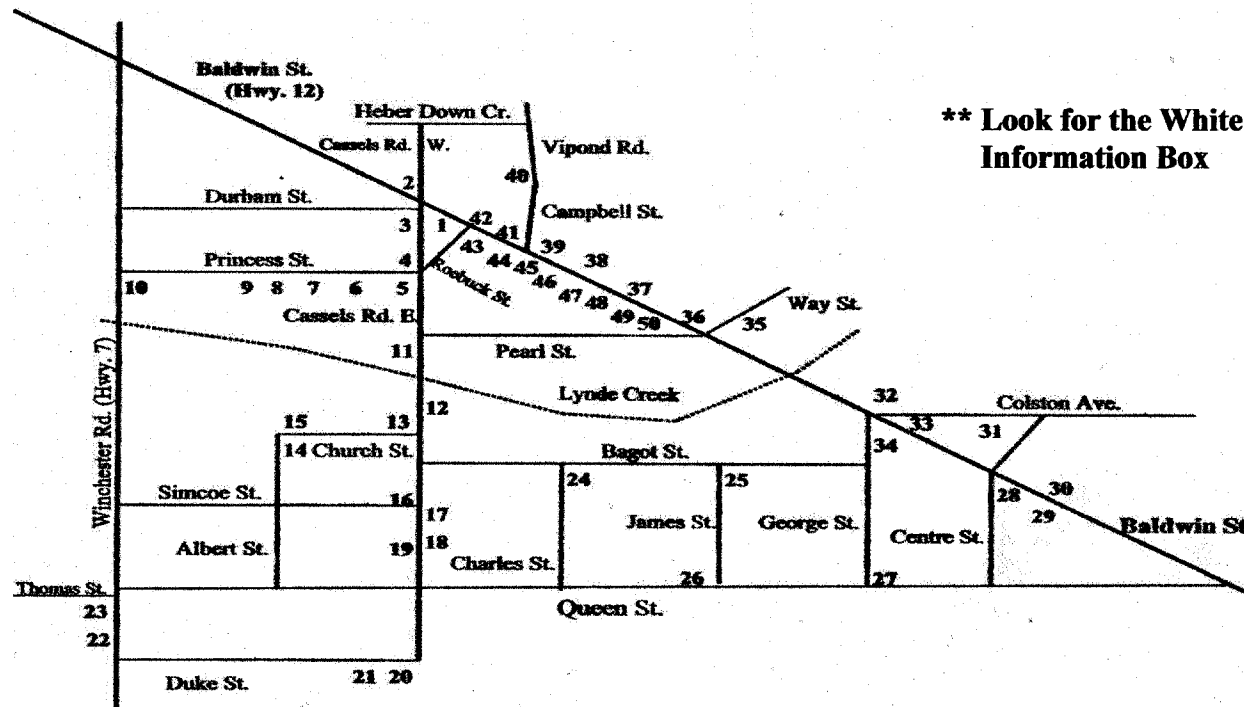
34. 26 George St. (c.1870) It was owned by Amos W. Campbell from 1907-11; and from 1942-90 by Clarence Pengelly and his wife Gladys, the organist at Brooklin United Church.

35. 3 Way St. (c. 1895) This house was built by Samuel Wickett, in 1870, who bought the tannery which burned in 1881. In 1885, he sold it and moved to Toronto where he started a tannery together with James Bickell who previously owned a mill in Brooklin.

36. **** 72 Baldwin St.**

37. **** 66 Baldwin St.** This simply constructed building was purchased in 1922 by the Home Telephone Co. Ltd. to house the local telephone exchange. The exchange was operated by the Vaughan Telephone Co. Ltd. from 1940-1954 when it was sold to Bell Canada.

38. **** 58 Baldwin St.** (c.1880) Holliday Store. It was built by the Balfour's, and sold to the Holliday's who operated the first floor store from 1884 until 1912. The second floor accommodated the Whitby Township Municipal Office from the mid 1880s until 1920; the third floor was used by the Oddfellows Lodge from 1884 to 1955.



**** Look for the White Information Box**

39. **** 56 Baldwin St.** (c.1882) Originally built as the McQuay House Hotel, it operated as a hotel into the mid 1900s. In 1967, it was purchased by Branch 152 of The Royal Canadian Legion. It operated as a hotel until 1964.

40. 5 Vipond Rd. (c.1840) Dr. Jonathan Foote House. It was originally built as a single storey dwelling. Dr. Foote (1804-1885) was born in Cornwall, Vermont and settled near Oshawa around 1830. He moved to Brooklin in the 1840s where his flourishing medical practice extended from Scarborough to Hope Township. Subsequent owners included the Vipond family who tended the property from 1883-1954.

41. **** 50 Baldwin St.**

42. 46 Baldwin St. (c.late 1800s) Originally located on the west side of Baldwin St. between the local hotel (now the Legion) and the Balfour Store, it was moved to this location in 1902 by William J. Haycraft for use as his butcher shop.

43. **** 45 Baldwin St.**

44. **** 49 Baldwin St.** (c.1906) This building was built by George Pringle and sold to Everett Shortridge in 1925. Everett was a local character known as "The Mayor of Brooklin".

45. **** 53 Baldwin St.** (c.1898) This house was built by John Crozier Allens (1870-1949). John was a harness maker in Brooklin for over 50 years and his shop was located beside the house.

46. **** 55 Baldwin St.** (c.1860) This building served as the Brooklin Post Office from 1888 through 1960. Post master D.W. MacDonald tended both the mail and his store from 1888 until 1928.

47. **** 57 Baldwin St.** (c.1855) — Old Wesleyan Methodist Church. This building was moved to its present location from Winchester Rd. when the new Church (United Church) opened in 1868. The gingerbread trim was added after 1975.

48. **** 61 Baldwin St.**

49. **** 65 Baldwin St.**

50. **** 71 Baldwin St.**

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