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A. - Architecture - Cobourg (03-10)

Northumberland Parade

Gingerbread: Function and delightfully varied decoration

By Peggy Wright

Bargeboard, or gingerbread, is a gothic feature which first appeared on buildings to cover beam ends and verges.

Although Cobourg has a greater leaning towards classical and a more austere type of architecture not always suited to bargeboard, there are still some fine examples around the town.

It is a feature which was used with the Ontario cottage style of residence (classical revival), but it's truest form is seen in the gothic revival structure. Some has probably been removed as it fell into disrepair.

Building history

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As well as the practical use, gingerbread provided a fairly inexpensive decoration and lent a picturesque quality to a residence. When first used, it gave the aspiring woodworker a creative medium and localized designs were not unusual.

Today, the replacement cost

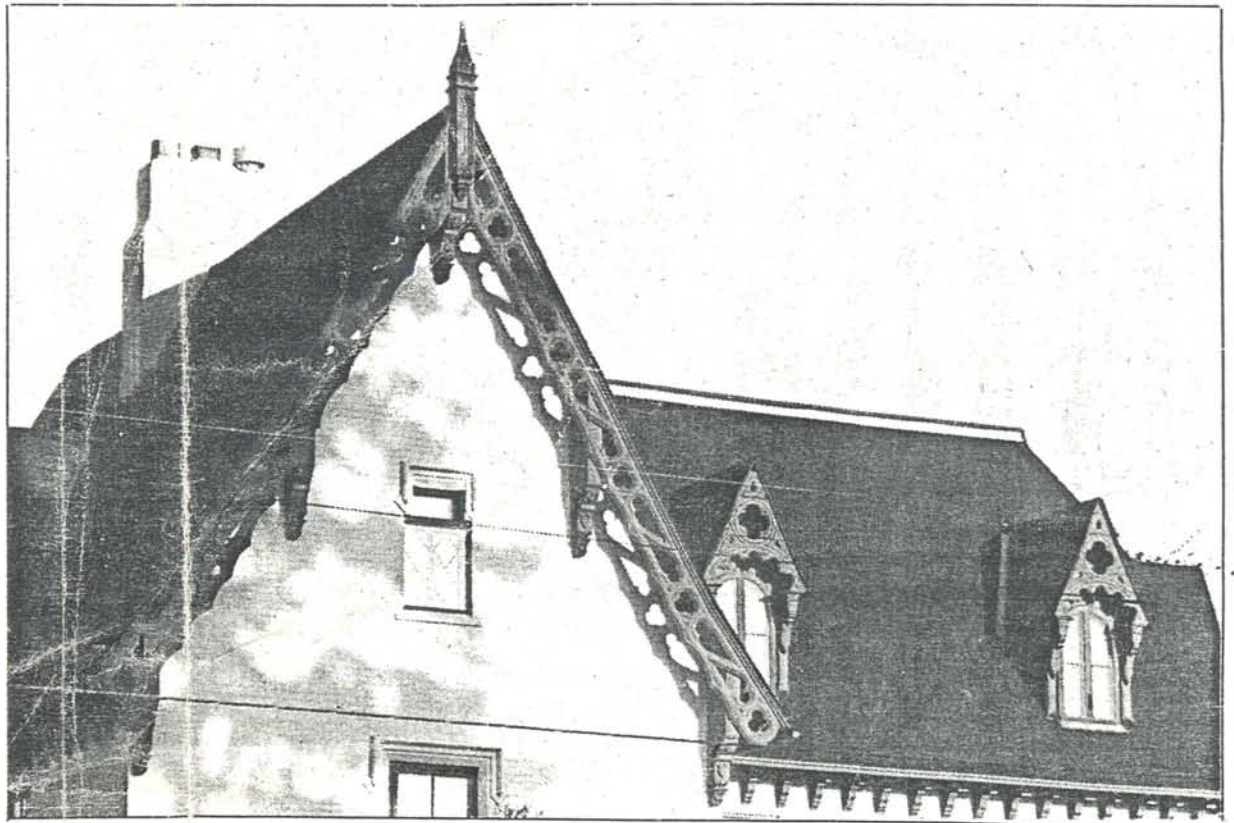
is obviously dear, but the feature seems to be enjoying somewhat of a revival, along with more traditional types of houses.

Leaves, the Celtic Cross and personalized patterns were all employed. The use of finials with bargeboard created an even more picturesque quality and upward movement. A look at the patterns used around Cobourg reveals many similarities.

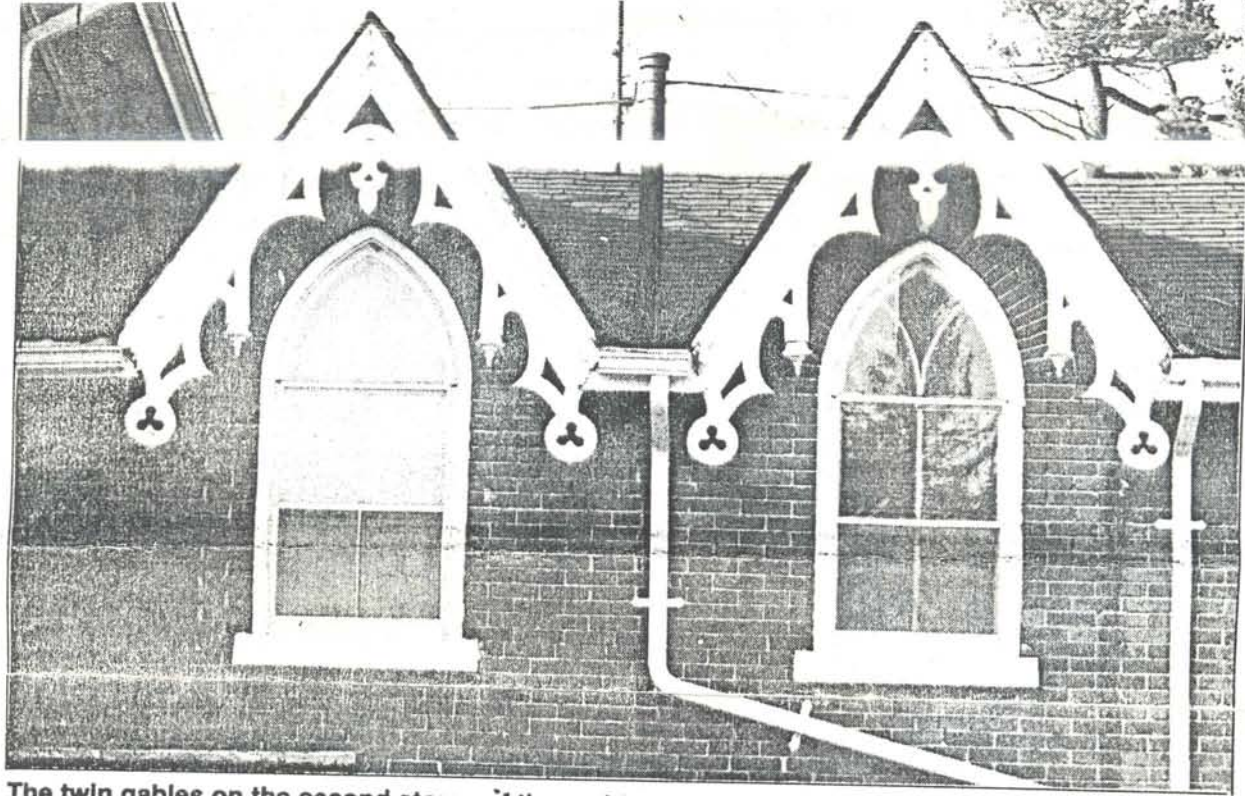
The *Cobourg Daily Star* would like to acknowledge the assistance of local historians Don and Robert Mikel for the information contained in this article.

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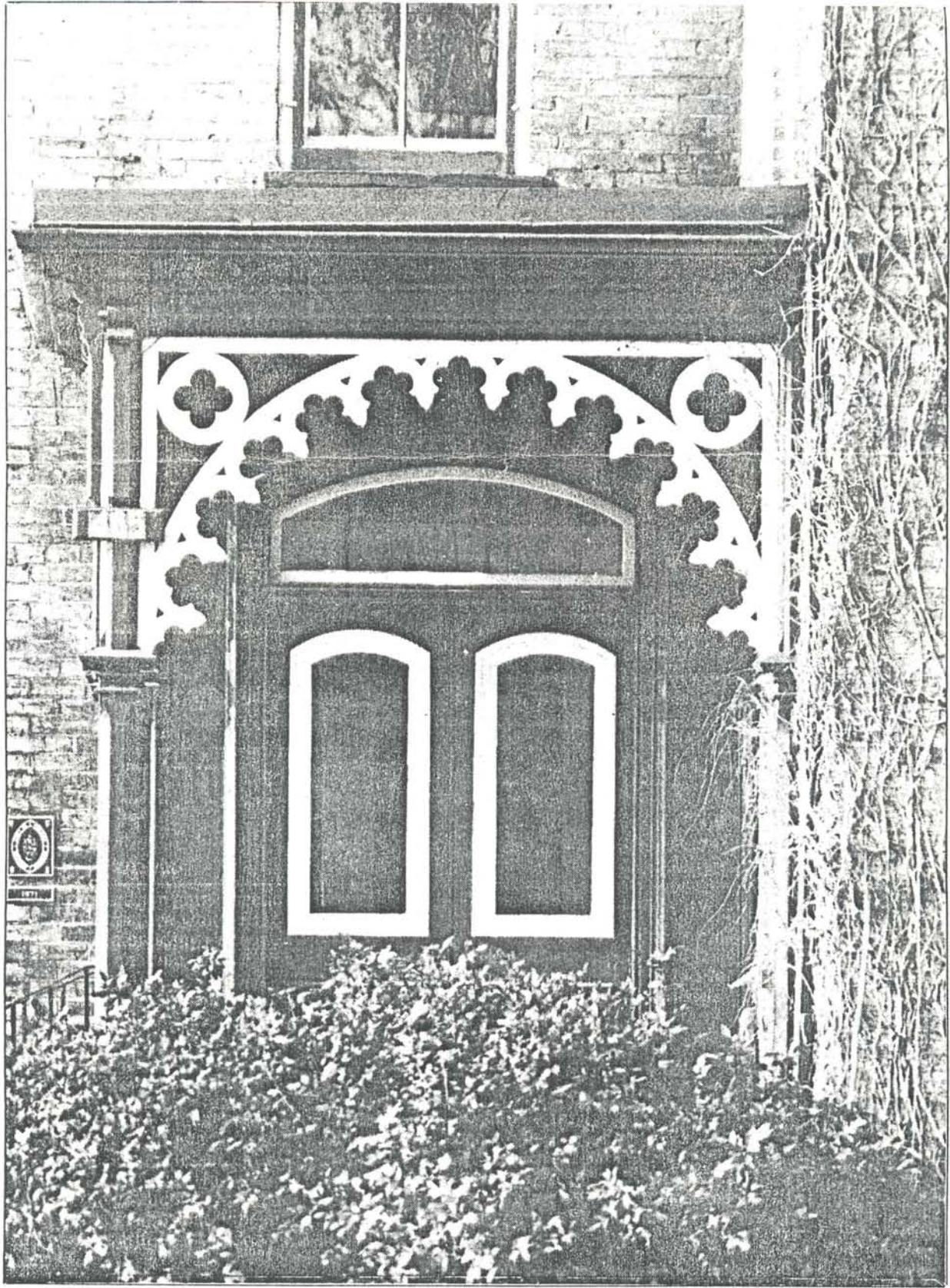
e of Homes



The roofline and fine windows of *Drumore* located on George St. This residence is the truest example of Gothic Revival architecture in Cobourg.



The twin gables on the second storey of the residence at the corner of Roe St. and University Ave.



The doorway at 465 George Street.