

LACAC tour explores Cobourg's fine old ho



Beaux Arts style summer home on King St. East belonged George M. Clark, solicitor-general of the CPR, and to the Hawes family. Twenty-one servants were needed to maintain the home. The Beaux Arts was an attempt to bring back the classical style popular around the turn of the century.

The LACAC tour of Cobourg made a leisurely two and a half hour circuit of some of the town's oldest and most distinguished buildings on Sunday, Nov. 2.

The tour was sold out in advance and many were unable to get a place on the bus. Tour organizer Marion Hagen said there may be a second tour in the spring.

Commentator was Rob Michael, a Cobourg man who is now studying for his Masters in History at the University of Toronto.





The Calhoun apartments was once the Georgian home of James Calcutt, who built Cobourg's first brewery. The original doorway of the 1832-33 home is still standing. The colored glass was added later.



This Queen Anne style home at the corner of George and Spencer Sts. belonged to the Crossen family. The family manufactured

Cobourg was founded in 1798 but the most prosperous period of its history is between 1824, when it became capital for the district, and 1860, said Michael.

At that time it was the fifth largest town in Ontario and had one of the best harbors.

Many homes of both the wealthy and working classes date from this prosperous period.

Along Albert and Tweed Sts. Michael pointed out Ontario cottage style homes built in the 1830s and 40s which belonged to Cobourg laborers.

These have a wide hospitable doorway in the centre with windows placed symmetrically on either side.

Small homes of a later period along Tremaine St. are in a Greek revival style with returning eaves and Greek style porches.

The major commercial section of Cobourg was always along King St., said Michael, but the centre of the town was closer to McGill St. in early years and jumped west to Division in the 1840s.

The poor Irish immigrants settled south of King in the Queen and Forth areas while the wealthy, mainly United Empire Loyalists, were in the east and northeast of the town. Later development was up George St.

At one time American summer estates on large blocks of land stretched along King St. from Green St. to Coverdale Rd.

John Douglas Armour, who later became Chief Justice of Ontario, bought the Calcutt home in the mid-1800s. The Armour family added panelling, probably of oak, and parquay floors in some rooms. This ornately carved section is the fireplace.



This home corner of C



This building be the oldest as a barrack



nes

This home on Ontario St. was a single story Ontario cottage when built by the Burnetts in 1862. The Field family modernized and added a second story in a Victorian style.

A few of these are now standing, among them the ostentacious Beaux Arts home which is now the administration building of Brookside School, and the Sidbrook hospital.

The Georgian style Calhoun apartments on Durham St. were built by James Calcutt, an Irish immigrant who built Cobourg's first brewery and a mill.

Three homes on the west side of Ontario St. were built in the 1840s by the Burnett family who were builders in Cobourg and built Victoria Hall.

Two were later owned by the Field family who added a second storey and new porch style.

Villa St. Joseph on the lake at Tremaine St. belonged to the Ley family, the Allen family and General Grant's daughter Nellie Sartoris. It was an orphanage in the early 1900s.

Participants in the tour were able to get out of the bus and walk



Queen Anne style was a mixture of
black chimneys and old shingles of the
countryside with irregular shapes,
and stained glass.



win peaked roof is on the
1 Henry Sts. It was built
around 1850 for Dr. Austin.



urham St. is believed to
g in Cobourg and served
g the war of 1812. It is

behind the home of James Calcutt, now the
Calhoun Apartments, and he used it as a
stable.