

Colborne walking tour

A comprehensive introductory pamphlet produced by cramahe.ca details the following architectural highlights easily visited during a walking tour of Colborne:

Victoria Square

Originally laid out in the 1815 town plans as an important part of the village for public get-togethers, the square is an unusual feature for the region and reflects its late 18th century Empire Loyalist heritage. In 1871 the name was changed to Victoria Square to honour the reigning monarch. The two 6,000-pound circa 1844 cannon have been standing on guard since 1907. The First World War monument, a statue of a Canadian soldier, was erected in 1919. A new gazebo is slated for the anniversary weekend in 2009.

Colborne United Church

corner of Percy and Church Streets
This is the site of the first church in Colborne – the Wesleyan Methodist, built in 1823. The present Colborne United Church was built in 1862. Its Elizabethan Gothic Revival style features angular shaped gables, a high pitch double cross gable roof, and a pyramidal dormered front tower with Gothic windows. The Daniel Lewis Simmons family donated the pipe organ in 1910.

The Keeler Home

– 9 Church Street
The Keelers bought this land in 1812 and the home was built in 1820 in one of the best examples of Neo Classic design in the area. The founder of the village of Colborne died in the house at the age of 77 years in 1839.

The Snetsinger Home

– 8 Victory Street
Built in 1899, this is one of the only examples of a Queen Anne Revival in the village. Typical characteristics of this style are two or more storeys, stoop hip roofs, generally offset towers, and broad verandas.

Old St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

During the winter of 1829 limestone was hauled by oxen to the site of the building in order to complete the stone Italianate style church in 1830. The pulpit and spire were started in 1832 and completed the following year. The land the church is built on was donated by the village founder's son, Joseph Abbot Keeler, the only payment being that a seat be reserved in it for him.

Registry Office

– 51 King Street
The land for the Registry Office was originally purchased from Joseph Keeler by John M. Grover in 1859. Mr. Grover also contributed funds to build the structure and became east Northumberland's first Registrar. The Neo-Classic office is built of Flemish Bond red brick. Closed in 1991 by the province, it is retained by the municipality. It now serves as home to the Colborne Art Gallery and was renovated in 2007.

Seaton House

– 57 King Street
The back half of this house and the coach house were built in the 1830s. The Italianate-Victorian brick portion was added in 1847. John Bennett Marks, a former Master of Arms in Kingston during the War of 1812 purchased the house in 1866. Miss Emily Spilsbury, granddaughter of Marks' friend Lieutenant Francis Brockwell Spilsbury, cared for the ailing Marks, who left Seaton House to her in his will. Emily married a naval captain who lost his life at sea. The last several owners claim the ghost of the captain still searches the property to this day for Emily.

The Kernaghan Home

– 56 King Street East
Built in 1850s, this Classic Revival style home remained in the same family until 1860.

The Coxall Home

– 8 North Street
The strong Italianate style of this 1888 home was popular for town houses around the time of Confederation. Buildings of this style were often

square; the main blocks of these houses had lower-pitched roofs. The exterior construction is Flemish Bond red brick. The home sits on original Keeler Crown land.

The Thomas Brown House

Italianate Victorian in style, this gracious home was built in two stages with the back peg and beam construction built in 1863 and the front added in 1879 by Mr. Brown, owner of a prosperous retail store in Colborne.

The McKay Home

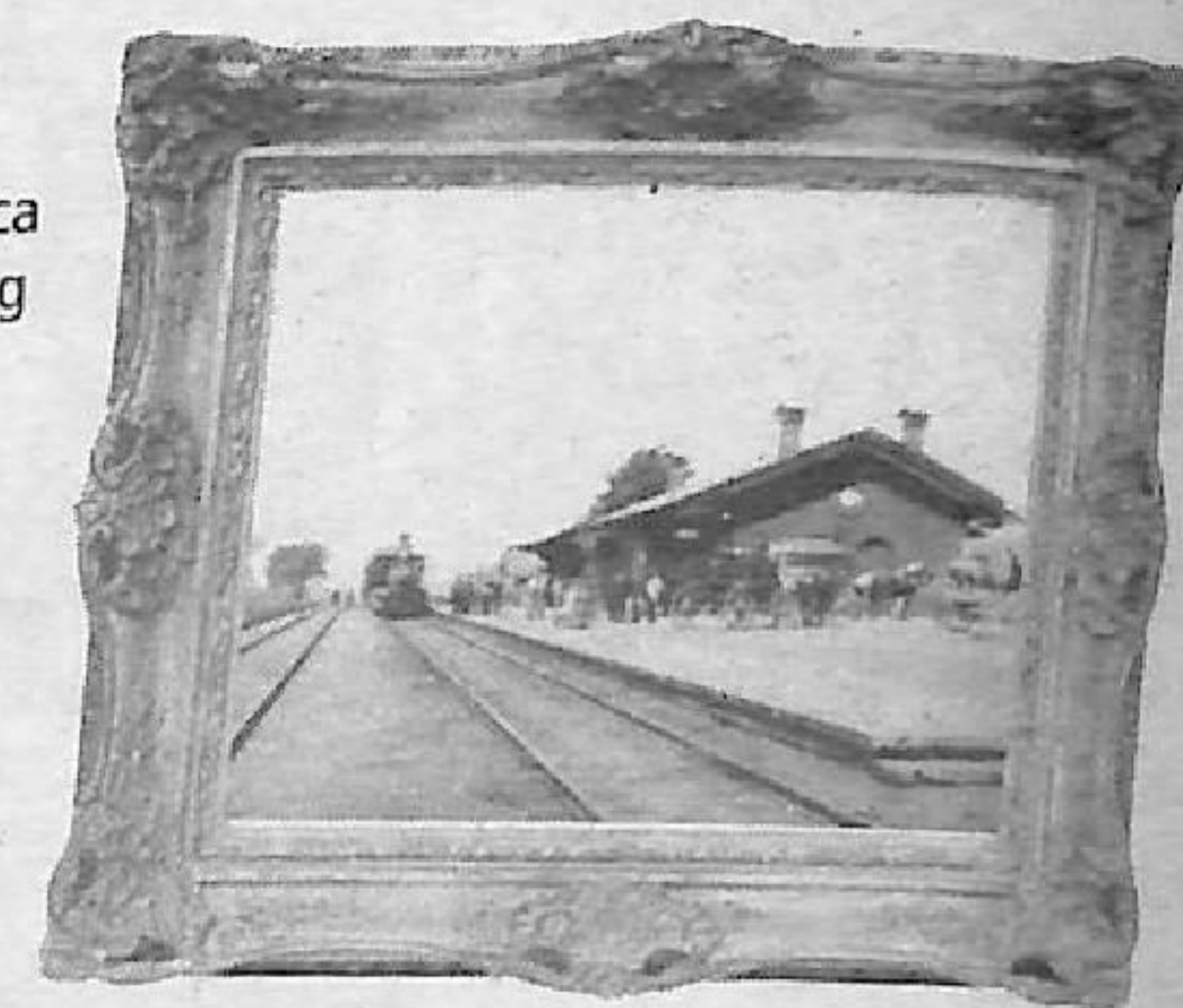
– 16 Division Street
This 1920 home is the only example of Prairie Cottage style in the village. This was a very popular catalogue design from 1910 to about 1930. Built from stucco over poured concrete, the house is of unusual construction as wood frame was the much less expensive material of choice for the time. The exterior doors and windows are all original.

The Thornton Residence

– 3 King Street West
Built in 1810, this is reputed to be the oldest home in Colborne. Built in the Georgian tradition with a central hall plan, the house is thought to have been constructed in two stages, with an eight-foot square chimney in the centre for cooking and heating.

The Cumming Residence

– 7 King Street West
Named for Cuthbert Cumming, a retired Hudson's Bay trader and his wife Jane, who purchased this property May 5, 1845, the house was built in the late 1830s. This is a Georgian-styled Ontario Cottage with its wide eave overhang.



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