

A Walking Tour of Woodfield

excerpted from the book

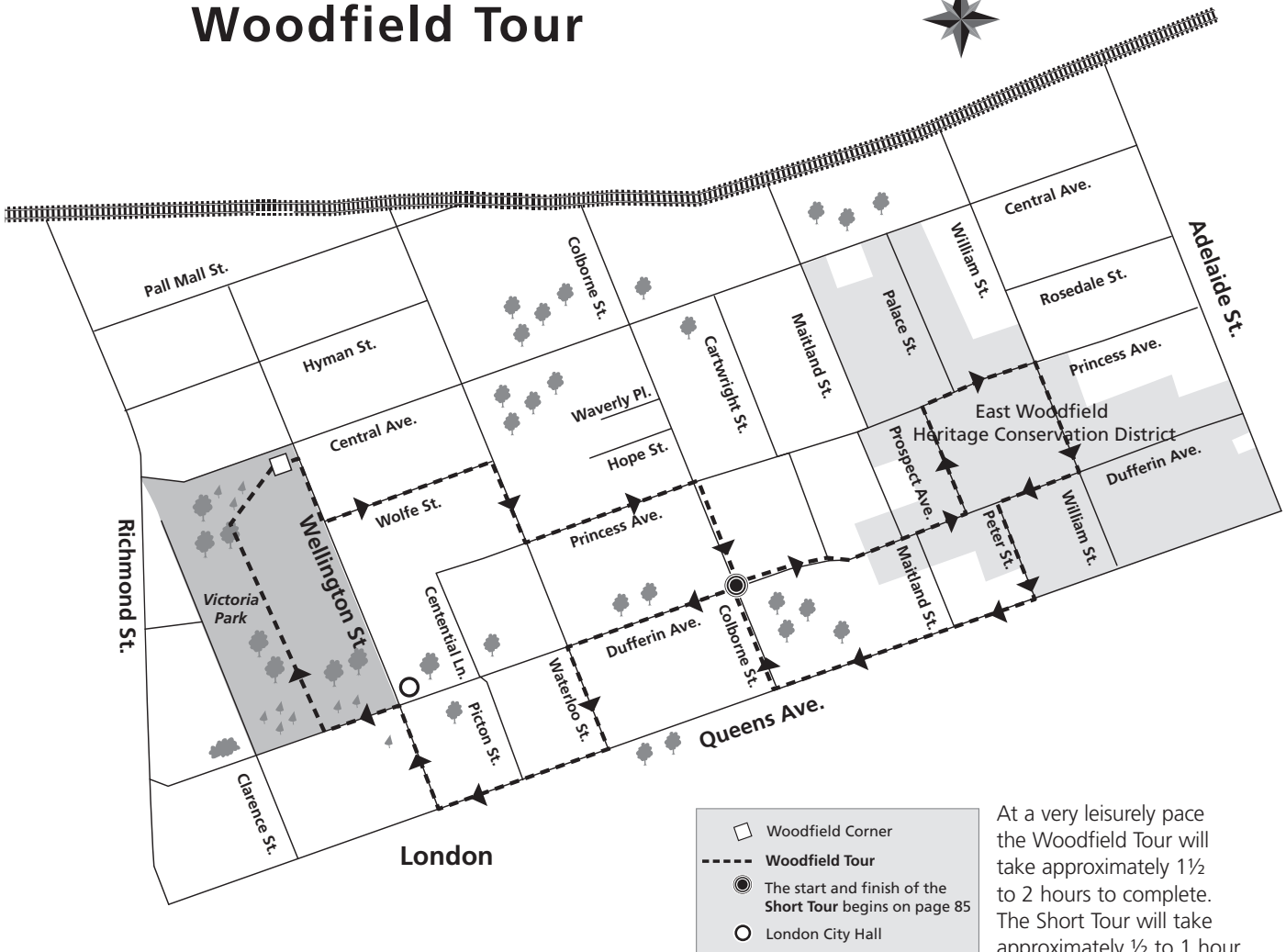
Residential to the Core



The **WOODFIELD** Community Association



Woodfield Tour



At a very leisurely pace the Woodfield Tour will take approximately 1½ to 2 hours to complete. The Short Tour will take approximately ½ to 1 hour.

Woodfield is part of the historic heart of London and it flourished in the latter part of the 19th century. The upper and middle classes built their homes along Queens Avenue, Dufferin Avenue, and Princess Avenue. Although Woodfield has suffered from the growth of the business district, much of it has remained unchanged and it is still possible to feel the charm and beauty of the area.

As you can see from the map, Woodfield is very close to downtown. Much time and effort, mainly by the Woodfield Community Association, has been spent fighting inappropriate rezoning applications. Although it is of course impossible to keep all office conversion

away, Woodfield remains a largely residential neighbourhood. During the 1950s and 60s, it became fashionable for families to leave the downtown and move into subdivisions. But recently there has been a turn-around and people are now moving back into the large homes, and bringing them back to the single-family dwellings they once were.

Most of the houses on the tour were built during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) and reflect a wide variety of architectural styles. You'll pass buildings built in the Romanesque style, the Queen Anne style, the Ontario Cottage style, the Italianate style and so on.



A Special Place for Woodfield



Woodfielders are excited that the City of London is proposing to officially recognize their neighbourhood by creating a landscaped entry point at the northeast corner of Victoria Park. At “Woodfield Corner” there will be bench seating extending from a large pillared entryway to the park. A planting bed with graphic and written displays detailing

Woodfield’s history is also planned. Woodfield Corner will make an ideal gathering place and starting point for walking tours through the neighbourhood. With this visible recognition of the district’s historic importance, we hope that more and more Londoners will come to know – and love – Woodfield.

Significant architects in Woodfield

During the 1850s, London attracted architects eager to take part in the development of a new community. During the next 80 years, three men made significant contributions to the development and the overall design of London: William Robinson (1812-94), George Durrand (1850-1889) and John H. Moore (1837-1930). These three architects were responsible for many of the City’s significant business and residential buildings. The bulk of these buildings are found here in Woodfield. Unfortunately, many significant buildings have been demolished, often in the name of progress.

William Robinson was city engineer for 21 years and the most influential architect in the city’s history. Some of his achievements include: 469 Colborne Street, 477 Waterloo Street, 350 Queens Avenue (First-St Andrew’s Church) and 367 Princess Avenue.

George Durand’s career, although relatively short, was impressive. In fact, he was the most important Victorian architect in southwestern Ontario during the late 19th century. He apprenticed at the architectural firm of William

B. Robinson and was later employed by Thomas Fuller whose firm designed the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. Unfortunately, many of Durand’s homes have been demolished. However, a few do remain in Woodfield and in other parts of London, such as 177 Queens Avenue (London Club), Talbot Street Baptist Church (now the First Christian Reform Church) and the mansion that became the Central Baptist Church on Queens Avenue at Adelaide Street.

John Moore also articulated with Robinson and went on to design not only residential homes but many of the factories built before the First World War. He married Louise McClary who was the daughter of Oliver McClary, founder of McClary Stoves. Like Durand and Robinson, many of his buildings have been demolished. He designed the main Arts and Administration buildings at the University of Western Ontario, the London Armoury (now the Delta London Armouries Hotel), 360 Queens Avenue, 400 Queens Avenue (Arthur McClary House), 471 Waterloo Street (Robert MacDonald House) and 553 Dufferin Avenue.



Woodfield Tour

Your tour begins at Woodfield Corner (the northeast corner) in Victoria Park

Victoria Park

Originally the site of the British Garrison. In response to the 1837-38 Rebellion, British troops were stationed in London from 1838 to 1871. The garrison lands were sold to the city after the British Army left. Part of these lands became Victoria Park, which was opened by Lord Dufferin in 1874.

Refer to pages 26 and 27 for photographs of some of the houses demolished for make room for City Hall, Centennial Hall and Centennial Apartments.

Walk south and turn left (east) onto Wolfe Street

Wolfe Street

Not a street of the wealthy elite, but with Victorian houses for the comfortable middle class.

314 Wolfe Street

built c 1888 (designated)



This is a prototype of a High Victorian domestic structure. The verandah is remarkable and the woodwork very decorative, featuring paired slender columns. The railings are original. The upper balcony has been faithfully reconstructed. The concrete block sup-

ports are somewhat later. Note the slate roof and the patterned shingles on the dormer. The house is built of the local white brick.

315 Wolfe Street

built 1908 (designated)



Attractive late Victorian residence, refreshingly different. Probably built for Walter Simson, a partner in a wholesale hat company. Massive centre gable, enclosed porch and above, a beautiful elliptical window.

318 Wolfe Street

built 1890



This house was designed by George Durand and built for John D. LeBel, a lumber merchant from Quebec, apparently "a gentleman of experience with ample capital." It has a few English features such as the small paned windows, and the lowered eaves. While the

building's bay window has been massively re-interpreted, it still sits comfortably in the centre of this residential street.

317 Wolfe Street

built c 1900



Built for William J. Legg. A design of simple and restrained character, asymmetrical façade with tower and cut stone foundation and generous double front wooden door with stained glass transom.

Pause at the corner of Wolfe and Waterloo

559 Waterloo Street

built 1908



Another house built for William J. Legg, a few years after his Wolfe Street residence. Particularly suited to its corner location, with the tower having been sited at an angle to the house. Note the fish-scale roofing on the tower.



**Look east across
Waterloo Street**

570-572 Waterloo Street
built 1875



562 Waterloo Street
built 1875



554 Waterloo Street
built 1875



These three large houses (554, 562 and 570-72 Waterloo) were built during the 1870s when

Italianate was the preferred style in London. Italianate is recognizable by its use of a series of paired brackets at the eaves, and a generally square shape with large bays. Usually the entry is located at one side of the front façade.

**Continue south (right)
on Waterloo Street**

526/528 Waterloo Street
built 1874 (designated)



This Italianate style double house is extremely symmetrical and well-proportioned. The bay windows are a later alteration to the original house. This strong style was very popular for townhouses in the mid-19th century. Some of the characteristics of this style of house are the round-headed windows and prominent decorative brackets under the wide eaves.

**Turn east (left) on
Princess Avenue**

**339, 341, 343, 345, 347 and
349 Princess Avenue**
Princess Terrace built c 1886



Terrace housing or row housing is a very traditional British custom. In Ontario, this form of housing was only found in larger urban areas. Late 19th century (High Victorian) in style, the roof-line is broken by three gables with decorative wooden details and round windows.

Renovated a number of years ago, the old porches were removed because they were infested with carpenter ants. The pattern of the brick and the form of the chimneys establish that the buildings were constructed in the latter portion of the 19th century.

359 and 361 Princess Avenue
built c 1888



Large double house with high windows, large bays and double verandah. The double chimneys are most likely of the original design.



367 Princess Avenue
built c 1874



Built in the late Georgian/early Victorian Style, it features balanced façades, center doors and small paned windows. Originally, this house had shutters. Brick has been used in a variety of ways to add textural interest. There are brick keystones over the windows and visual support for brackets.

**Turn south (right)
at Colborne Street**

**520 (c 1890) and 522 (c 1907)
Colborne Street**



Designed by Moore and Henry, these two houses are built together, which is a little unusual. The first resident at 522 Colborne Street was John Dromgole who worked for W. J. Reid & Co., a well known glassware, china and crockery store. He later established a wholesale crockery business under the name of John Dromgole & Co.

516 Colborne Street
built c 1898



The first occupant was Samuel J. Radcliffe, principal of the London Collegiate Institute from 1899 to 1907.

512 Colborne Street
built 1913 (designated)



This is often called the H.E. Boomer House, referring to the first owner. Built in the rather grand Edwardian Classicism style. The classical elements can be seen in the two Palladian windows, one in the gable and one in the dormer.

513 Colborne Street
built c 1850 (designated)



This Ontario cottage was the home of Miss Hazel Taylor, a piano teacher who taught hundreds of children in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. The hip roof, one-and-a-half storeys, and central doorway are hallmarks of an Ontario cottage. The name has been applied to a style of home that flourished in Upper Canada between 1830 and 1840. It evolved from the simple, symmetrical British Regency cottage, popular prior to the Victorian era.

The oldest part of this cottage may have been built as early as 1840. A large verandah used to extend across the front of the building but is now replaced by a smaller porch. The large dormer containing four windows with 15 smaller panes was added in the 1940s. A side extension was added much later.



504 Colborne Street
built c 1872



Built for Alexander McBride, this is a very fine example of an Italianate house.

501-503 Colborne Street
built c 1902 (designated)



Built by George Tambling, who had a construction business and built many houses in the core. His signature was the red brick, grey stone foundation and slate roof (since removed). One of Mr. Tambling's three daughters received the double house. Each daughter was given a house by her father, whereas the seven sons were left to fend for themselves. The daughter and her husband lived in one side on the two floors, the third floor was for the servants and the other side was rented. Each side consists of 3,500 square feet of living space.

Turn east (left) on Dufferin Avenue to continue the tour

The optional short tour also starts here ●

412 Dufferin Avenue
built 1907 (designated)



An excellent example of a middle class Edwardian residence. This two storey house has a stone foundation, a steep multiple gable roof, an entrance way offset left, a projected bay on the west side of the building and two small bay windows.

You are now entering the East Woodfield Heritage Conservation District

464-466 Dufferin Avenue
built c 1889



This was known for many years as Fitzgerald's Corners. This property was originally part of a larger parcel of land which belonged to Ira

Schofield, London's first magistrate. In the late 1930s and through the 1940s, number 464 was a fur store. Over time, it has also been a butcher shop, barber shop, real estate office, drug store, doctor's office and laundromat.

James Fitzgerald started a grocery store at number 466 in 1890 and it remained as such until 1972 when it became a variety store.

The front portion of the building is typical of a popular commercial style of architecture which persisted from mid to late century and is usually associated with row dwellings. Look at the dormers, one for each dwelling, and the curved arch brick pattern above the windows. The rear addition of the building lacks the parapet walls (low wall along the edge of a roof) but contains ornamentation on the woodwork, absent from the front portion. There is fretwork below the porch roof incorporating the spindle designs. Note the lines of the bargeboard and an intricate pattern in the triangle at the top of the gable.

486 Dufferin Avenue
built 1902 (designated)



This fine example of a romantic Queen Anne-style townhouse was built for George A. Mathewson, an executive with the London Free Press and later the London Advertiser. The house is two-and-one-half storeys in height with a three-and-one-half storey corner turret, topped by an unusually



ornate skirted finial. The verandah extends across the front and side and has a wooden ceiling.

499 Dufferin Avenue
built c 1881



This house was built for Lemuel H. Ingram, a founder of the Smallman and Ingram Department Store, and was long occupied by the Ingram family. Its Victorian features are enhanced by the glass enclosure of part of the extensive wrap-around porch. An L-shaped gable roof is punctuated by a gabled dormer filled in with the same half-timbered paneling that exists in the façade gables. The gables are unusual in that the fascia line is broken at midpoint. The north elevation two-storey bay is surrounded by wood moulding.

493 Dufferin Avenue
built 1902



Lemuel Ingram's brother lived in this house, built on the original west lawn of 499 Dufferin. Built in

the High Victorian style, there is an unusual gently-curved bay which is dissected by windows. With its tripartite dormer and balcony over the porch, the house radiates classic charm.

The Smallman and Ingram Department Store, which became one of the biggest in London, was eventually purchased by Simpson's.

**Turn north (left) on
Prospect Avenue**

3 Prospect Avenue
built c 1880



This Italianate-style house was once the home of Charles J. Beal, an accountant at the Hyman Tannery. His son, Herbert, became the first principal of the technical high school located on Dundas Street between William and Maitland. It later became his namesake.

Prospect Avenue was originally called Salter Street, named after Dr. John Salter, a druggist who owned most of the properties on the street. It is another street which has kept its old atmosphere and charm. Note the hitching rings in the curbs. These were almost lost a few years ago when the street was re-paved, but saved and re-inserted at the request of the residents.

Imagine for a moment life in Woodfield a century ago. You would find yourself standing on wooden sidewalks on this street (replaced by concrete ones in 1911 and 1913).

In winter, the only snow cleared was on the sidewalks by a horse-drawn plough. Roads were not cleared and they flooded in the spring. The horses were around until the Depression of the 1930s.

Children in the area went to Lord Roberts School, which replaced the former Princess Avenue School in 1915. Lord Roberts was considered innovative and at one time had a swimming pool.

5, 7 and 9 Prospect Avenue
built c 1884
(7 and 9 are designated)

These three cottages on the west side of Prospect were built by the same person. The owner occupied the middle one. This one is closest to its original state, still frame with a pretty porch. 5 Prospect has been covered in vinyl siding and the porch taken off, and 9 Prospect has been pebble stuccoed with a more recent porch added on.





26 Prospect Avenue
built c 1881 (designated)



This two-storey frame house was built for school inspector William Carson who had purchased the land from John Salter (see photo of William Carson and his family on page 18) The family of William O. Carson, who was Chief Librarian of the London Public Library from 1906-1916, lived here until the present owners bought it in 1977. They added a small addition to the south, but were careful to fit it in with the rest of the house. On the outside, it is frame with a small mansard roof and the corners have been shaped to match the bay on the front.

Note the paneled double doors and the rope twist pattern around the bay windows as well as the iron cresting.

The laneway to the north is typical of many London laneways which run behind or along peoples' properties. The owners of 26 Prospect still have the old right-of-way document from 1885 which gives permission to drive all sorts of vehicles down the lane-way such as "sleighs, wagons and carriages, laden or unladen, also to drive all manner of cattle and beasts whatsoever by day or by night."

36 Prospect Avenue
built 1878



This is possibly the oldest house on Prospect Avenue built by John Salter. It was purchased by the grandfather of Miss Howie, who was born in this house in 1911 and who lived here until the mid 1990s.

489 Princess Avenue
built 1881



This Gothic-style clapboard house at the corner of Princess and Prospect has been called a "fantasy in wood." It was built by London notable Charles F. Colwell, a printer who came to the city in 1867. He worked for both the Advertiser and the Free Press before opening Colwell's Popular Music House.

One of Woodfield's most unique properties, the house features extensive classical moulding around doors and windows, a frieze with cornice brackets and

significant treillage in the front gable in addition to a variety of pediment styles on the window heads. The dynamic façade is topped by unpredictable but compatible rooflines. A pleasure to view.

Turn east (right) on Princess Avenue

510 Princess Avenue
built 1882-83 (designated)



A fine example of domestic Italianate architecture, this house was built for Reuben Brummit, a blacksmith and carriage-spring maker.

Note the (reproduction) hitching post on the boulevard in front of the house. They were once common in Woodfield.

507 Princess Avenue
built c 1885 (designated)



This High Victorian townhouse was built for William D. Taylor, a



piano tuner. A Mr. Gibson once lived here and was the first resident in the neighbourhood to buy a motorcar. He acquired his driver's license after merely driving around Victoria Park twice.

The porch is a later addition with twin columns and Ionic capitals. Note the bull's eye window in the gable. Cresting on top of the bays has been removed.

522 Princess Avenue
built c 1890



This white brick townhouse was built in the Queen Anne style with strong vertical lines accentuated by a steep, hipped roof. The offset front gable features decorated fascia and bargeboard with a small rectangular double window surmounted by brackets. The upper windows, which are new and have lost their transoms, are crowned with voussoirs. Note the original stained glass windows at the front and side of the house. The wooden shed-roof verandah is supported by slender turned wood columns and brackets. It features a gablet over the front entrance.

524 Princess Avenue
built c 1890



This medium-size Victorian house has elegant corbelled chimneys which pierce the gables of a medium hipped roof. There is an L-shaped gable with decorated bargeboard and a small square leaded window. The main windows are plate glass with leaded transoms, voussoirs and shutters. The balcony and verandah have matching balustrades.

527 Princess Avenue
built 1899-1900 (designated)



This Queen Anne Revival was built by architect J. M. Moore for Frank Cooper, London's leading portrait photographer.

This massive 4,500 square-foot house was once a nine-room boarding house but has been restored by more recent owners who bought it in 1990. It is slightly asymmetrical with turrets and towers and features six fireplaces.

529 Princess Avenue
built 1880 (designated)



This generally Italianate house was built for Dr. John Salter, the well-know "patriarch druggist" who died in 1881. By 1884 it was occupied by Maxwell D. Fraser, a noted London barrister who had "easily one of the best practices in London." It was later occupied by his son Harrison G. Fraser.

Architect Moore rebuilt the brick kitchen and servants' wing on the west side c 1900 when he built the Cooper house (next door) where the Frasers formerly had a tennis court.

Turn south (right)
on William Street

515 William Street
built between 1878 and 1881



This house is believed to be the work of George Durand and combines several styles of architecture.



The regular roof and dominant front gable are Queen Anne, whereas the cornice brackets and tall narrow windows are Italianate. Note the unusual semi-elliptical shape of the verge board on the gable. The house features interesting keystones in the brick work about the windows, nice trim and bay windows.

509 William Street
built 1880 (designated)



This Italianate-style house was built for Rowland Dennis and remained in the Dennis family until 1961. Dennis worked as a blacksmith but by 1890 he billed himself as a maker of "ornamental and architectural wire and iron work including cresting, finials and vanes." Presumably all the very detailed cresting on this house was made by Dennis' shop.

Note the yellow brick coach house, decorated with bargeboards and bichromatic brickwork. This structure is shared with the owner's neighbour.

**Turn west (right) on
Dufferin Avenue**

532 Dufferin Avenue
built c 1887 (designated)



A handsome example of a Victorian residence, it was built for Robert D. Millar, the secretary-treasurer of the Advertiser Printing and Publishing Co. The company's newspaper, the London Advertiser, was a formidable competitor to the London Free Press until 1936.

The house has many High Victorian features such as the immense and ornate bargeboards in the gables and the lattice work on the verandah. The third floor dormers are a recent addition.

518 Dufferin Avenue
built 1876



This High Victorian structure is a unique interpretation of the Ontario cottage style. The house is taller than most cottages and the centre bargeboard-trimmed gable is larger. Note the stained glass transoms in the front windows and over the front door. There is a

rural air about the white, painted brick house and it sits as an interesting contrast to the many Italianate houses surrounding it.

510-512 Dufferin Avenue
built c 1880



This unique double house is set further back than the houses on adjacent properties. Double houses were not uncommon in 19th-century Woodfield. With the exception of the later porch addition, the fine architectural features of this Italianate-style home include twin, narrow semi-circular headed windows in the centre above the two main entrances. The other windows are segmental, capped by brick voussoirs and framed with shutters. Brick pilasters and entablature form a frame for the whole building.

506 Dufferin Avenue
built 1876



This simple Ontario cottage presents an unchanged exterior to the



street, belying a large addition to the rear. The front door is centred under a gable with a small semi-circular headed louvre within. The two flanking front windows retain the admirable proportions of this style and are enhanced by glass transoms. The façade is enlivened by a gingerbread porch.

*Turn south (left)
on Peter Street*

22 Peter Street
built c 1870 (designated)



This clapboard house is an excellent example of a one-and-a-half storey Ontario farmhouse placed in an urban setting. It was built for Oran Benson, a melodeon maker, and was later occupied by furniture maker Robert Bennett. He installed the very handsome inlaid wooden floors inside. Later, this was the home of Evelyn Crooks, one of the original founders of the Woodfield Community Association. A plaque commemorating her contributions can be found at the base of the magnolia tree in the front yard.

23 Peter Street
built c 1877 (designated)



Exceptionally fine example of an Italianate townhouse. Symmetrically balanced in composition with a multi-paneled door with transom and sidelights providing the principal focus of the street façade.

518 Queens Avenue (at Peter)
built 1874



The Duffield mansion, built for James Duffield who became an oil millionaire when oil was found in Petrolia and London became a refinery town. It belonged to the same family until 1940, but has since served various institutional uses. Presently, it is a comfortable retirement home.

It was built in the Second Empire Style, distinguished by the mansard roof and a decorated frieze under the cornice.

The Coach House at 518 Queens



Although changed from its original use, the Duffield mansion coach house still stands. If you look closely, you can see where the old entrance has been filled in with bricks. Generally, Woodfield's remaining coach houses are not visible from the street and most, while originally built to accommodate horse and carriage have been converted to garages.

*Turn west (right) on
Queens Avenue*

498 Queens Avenue
built 1973



A good example of what has replaced the disappearing London. A magnificent home from 1876, built by Durand's architectural firm Robinson and Tracy, was torn down. See the original mansion on page 28.



513 Queens Avenue
built c 1887



Gordon Jeffery. The reconstruction included a large private music room, three stories high, in the west part of the house. The music room incorporated a large Baroque pipe organ (shown below). It was designed and built by Gabriel Kney & Co. of London, Ontario for Gordon Jeffery. It was a three manual organ with 54 stops. After his death the organ was acquired by The Fathers of the Oratory of St. Philip of Neri, Holy Family Church in Toronto. The organ was adapted by Gober Organs Incorporated of Elora, Ontario for their church.

507 Queens Avenue
built 1887



Photo of organ courtesy of Gabriel Kney

513 and 507 Queens Avenue were built in a mirror image. High Victorian in style with gable roofs and bichromatic brickwork.

491-499 Queens Avenue

This terrace was completely renovated c 1970 for art patron



466 and 468 Queens Avenue
built c 1878 and earlier



These two houses were actually built at different times. 468 is the oldest part. Its date of construction is unknown at this time. 466 was built c 1878. The elegant doorways are original and the beautiful rounded stained glass window is an early replacement.

408-410 Queens Avenue
built 1909



Designed by the eminent local architect John Moore as was its neighbour, 400 Queens Avenue. It is an impressive Late Victorian double house of red brick with a large classical verandah. It was built for Arthur McClary, probably as a rental property.



400 Queens Avenue

built c 1909



This simplified version of the Queen Anne style was built for Oliver McClary's son, Arthur. There is no tower, the front and side bays project only slightly and the porch across the front of the house is symmetrical. Often in the past, expensive houses were built on corner properties such as this.

*Turn north (right)
at Colborne*

468 Colborne Street

built 1902-1903



(The Mocha Mosque
Shriners Club)

Built for John (Bamlet) Smallman, a founding partner in Smallman and Ingram department store.

Smallman lived in this house until his death in 1916. Thereafter it was occupied by his sisters until

the last of them died in the 1950s. The maiden sisters were driven out every day by their coachman.

It is almost impossible to describe its architecture. It has been called a "monumental Edwardian pile." Note the round turret and massive gables.

*Turn west (left) on
Dufferin Avenue to
continue the tour*

*The optional short
tour also ends here* ●

385 Dufferin Avenue

built 1907



This classic Queen Anne-style red brick house features a cut-stone foundation, strong semi-circular tower and a Palladian window on the front façade. Window glass on both floors has been rounded to follow the curve of the tower. There is a two-storey square oriel window on the west side of the house with a decorated base, part of which survives.

370 and 368 Dufferin Avenue

370 built c 1864

368 built c 1875



These houses are called the "sister houses" because they were built by Alexander McLean for his two daughters. Number 370 was built for Ellen Irvine. For years both houses were occupied by descendants of the McLeans. Both are simple designs possibly reflecting the sisters' taste. Built as town-houses with few side windows and elegant doorways. The doorway of number 368 is of most importance with its arched side-lights, deep curved mouldings and the bull's eye window above the door. Shutters add to the charm of the houses.

*Pause at the corner of
Dufferin Avenue and
Waterloo Street to study
the corner properties*



509 Waterloo Street
Central Secondary School
built 1921



This building, designed in Collegiate Gothic, replaced an 1878 school which burned in 1920.

496 Waterloo
built 1893



Another of London's fine Queen Anne style homes, a style popular from the 1850s into the early 1900s and known for asymmetrical shapes achieved by placing towers and gabled bays onto a square form.

484 Waterloo Street
built c 1875



A large porch was later added to the house. Note the enclosed upper balcony used as a sleeping porch. Other examples of sleeping porches can be found throughout Woodfield.

477 Waterloo Street
built c 1878



This Regency-style cottage displaying a symmetrical façade and a gable over the central entrance was designed by William Robinson. It was built for Nathaniel Reid, a crockery importer, and later occupied by other prominent London families such as the Carlings and Helen Gibbons. One-and-a-half storeys with low hip roof, centre door and large windows create classic dimensions.

Turn south (left) at Waterloo Street

471 Waterloo Street
built 1910 – 1911



Built for R.D. McDonald, a cigar manufacturer, this house displays many Neo-Classical details popular in this period particularly in the



use of Corinthian columns.
Designed by John Moore.

350 Queens Avenue
First-St Andrew's
United Church
built 1868-69



Designed by London architect William Robinson, this large Gothic-style church is one of the three churches built by a highly-fractured Presbyterian population during the 1860s. Many were of Scottish descent, by then one of the largest groups in the city and well represented among the merchant class.

A provincial plaque noting the life of founder Reverend William Proudfoot is on the front lawn.

444 Waterloo Street
built c 1875



Formerly the home of George Durand, a prominent London architect who designed many of the large mansions in Woodfield and elsewhere in London in the 1880s. A typical Italianate-style building, it has had several alterations made to the ground floor

Turn west (right) on
Queens Avenue

305 Queens Avenue
Former Central Library
built c 1939

Influenced by the Art Deco style, the building has a smooth, streamlined look, almost devoid of ornamentation. The classical columns of an earlier period are here reduced to a fluted pilaster set between the windows. The building served as the Central Library until 2002, and the upper level as London's art gallery until 1980. Above the door is Socrates, his beard stained with the deadly hemlock.



300 Queens Avenue
built c 1876



Built for a Dundas Street hat maker, Edmond Beltz, the building now houses the swimming pool for the neighbouring condominiums. It is an Italianate building with paired brackets, a hip roof and a central tower, part of which has been lost.

Turn north (right) on
Wellington Street



460 Wellington Street
The former Hayman Court
apartments
built c 1910



460 Wellington Street is part of the apartment complex on the east side of this intersection that was built between 1908 and 1921. The complex is still as handsome today as it was when it was built. It includes 440 Wellington Street on the north side of Queens Avenue and London's first apartment houses, The Alexandra and Victoria on Queens Avenue.

They were built by John Hayman, an Englishman who settled in London in 1868. Four years later, he started his own contracting business. Today, the family firm still retains his name.

People and the City Monument
1991 (on the median Wellington Street, between Dufferin Avenue and Queens Avenue)



This monument, designed by Stuart Reid and Doreen Balabanoff, portrays a large number of Londoners who have made contributions to the city and to Canada in various fields. A plaque identifying each person is located on the boulevard adjacent to the monument.

468 Wellington Street
Metropolitan United Church
built 1896



Originally known as First Methodist, the church would have counted many of Woodfield's residents among its parishioners. Designed by Edmund Burke of Toronto, it is a Romanesque-style building, featuring a heavy, rusticated stone base and a series of narrow window openings in the tower. Much of the original stained glass came from Hobbs Glass, a London firm.

Enter Victoria Park at the southeast corner. To your left is 255 Dufferin Avenue.

255 Dufferin Avenue
Former London Life head office
(now Great-West Life)
built 1926 with additions in 1950 and 1964



In 1926, London Life decided to build a new office on the site of two large mansions facing Victoria Park. Initially, the City opposed the move but relented when the company began to consider relocating to another city. The company had been founded in 1874 by a group of London investors led by Joseph Jeffery.

The building's design, the work of John M. Moore and his son O. Roy Moore, relies heavily on Neo-Classical elements including fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. Only the east half of the Dufferin Avenue façade was completed in 1927. A large addition, c 1950, designed by Mathers and Haldenby, extended the Dufferin Street façade and included a seven-storey tower behind it. The large Queens Avenue addition, designed by the Marani, Morris and Allen firm, was begun in 1964.



Continue walking toward the middle of the park

Boer War Monument



Near the Boer War Monument are two cannons captured from the Russian army by British troops during the Crimean War. The third cannon is British.

Provincial Plaque



Near the north end of the park is a blue plaque describing the British Garrison that was stationed here.

Return to the northeast corner of Victoria Park