**Owen Sound, originally known as Sydenham, was first surveyed in 1840. The community gained its current name in 1853, when it was incorporated as a town in 1857 and as a city in 1920. Much of Owen Sound’s history is briefly explained by following these self-guided tours, with suggested routes highlighted on the map.**

- Many of these sites are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, marked on the tours with a . Sites marked with are part of the Freedom Trail, a trail dedicated to honouring Owen Sound’s Black History. For more information, visit our website at www.owensoundtourism.ca

### East Side Tour

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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Canadian Pacific Railway Station</strong> 1198 1st Ave East</td>
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<td><strong>Station Hotel</strong> 1199 1st Ave East</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Salvation Corners</strong> 10th &amp; 4th Ave East</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Beth Ezekiel Synagogue</strong> 150 5th Ave East</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Church of the Nazarene</strong> 386 10th St East</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>St. George’s Anglican Church</strong> 1049 4th Ave East</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td><strong>Craftsman House 832 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>F.X. D’Orr LePan Cottage 518 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Maclean Estate Bed &amp; Breakfast 404 9th St East</strong></td>
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### West Side Tour

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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Rixon House 894 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Butchart Estate 919 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Row Housing 935 to 1000 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Registry Office 1240 4th Ave East</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Maitland House 1253 5th Ave East</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Grey County Jail 1259 3rd Ave East</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Old Grey County Court House 1235 3rd Ave East</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Fire Hall 1299 3rd Ave East</strong></td>
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Downtown Tour

**Origins of the Commercial District**

2nd Avenue and 8th Street East mark the first interaction of the village of Sydenham. 8th Street East was the first street to be cut through the bush, away from the settlement by the Sydenham River. Look up as you walk the upper streets and you will notice the more representative of the original architecture than today's modern store fronts. Originally, on 2nd Avenue East’s 800 block, you would have walked down three steps on the west side, and up two steps on the east side.

**LEGGATE BUILDING**

790 2nd Ave East

This structure was built for William Leggate in 1906, with shops below and apartments above. Leggate established the Owen Sound Furniture House in 1914.

**CITY HALL**

508 2nd Ave East

The original Town Hall was built here in 1868 and it included an eight-sided wooden cupola with a dummy clock face which chimed 9:03—correct twice a day! This clock was replaced in 1920 with a square tower and four-sided clock and chimes to commemorate the city’s incorporation. Gutted by fire in 1961, the present City Hall was built in 1965. The space adjacent to the lobby is called Hero’s Square, featuring plaques honouring other prominent citizens, including the story of “Daddy” Hall, veteran of the War of 1812, escaped slave and town crier.

**COULSON BRITISH HOTEL**

801 2nd Ave East

Three years after his arrival in 1854, J.P. Coulson opened Coulson’s British Hotel, a two-story village inn, the first major hotel. It had 80 rooms, stables, dining rooms, a bar, and a women’s parlor. It soon became the hub of an expanding empire, which included stage coach lines, mail and freight services.

**PARKER’S DRUGSTORE**

854-856 2nd Ave East

Originally the home of Parker’s Drugstore, part of Upper Canada’s (Ontario) first druggists chain (Renfrew), this building later became Owen Sound’s first telegraph and telephone exchange, which was later taken over by Bell. The words “Parker’s” and “Toiletries” are still visible above the entrance doorway.

**FULDOR HARDWARE**

874 2nd Ave East

Edgar Allen Fulford was born in Sydenham Township. He opened his first hardware store across from City Hall, and moved to this location in 1945. Original fittings and fixtures help maintain this store’s old-fashioned atmosphere.

**COATES & BEST BUILDING**

883 2nd Ave East

Built in 1902 for Edgar Craighton, this building stood on the southeast corner and books until 2007. J.P. Coates opened his stationary store here before WWII, then went into partnership with Morley Best to create Coates & Best.

**ROXY THEATRE**

251 9th St East

Built in 1912 as the Grand Opera House, it was purchased in the 1950s by John Griffin and renamed “Griffin’s Theatre”. With the departure of the movie palaces in the 1950s, it became an Odeon Theatre. The Owen Sound Little Theatre, formed in 1961, bought the building in 1986 and renovated it for their use.

**OLD POST OFFICE**

291 9th St East

Built in the Beaux-Arts style as a Post Office in 1910, the building was sold in 1972. It is occupied by commercial uses and apartments. The main floor is constructed of rock-faced limestone. The second level of the stone, and the third is set by alternating pediment and curved-roof dormers.

**VERNACULAR COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

881 3rd Ave East

Built circa 1910, this building was first occupied by Lang & Gichrist, druggists, with Imperial Optical and several doctors as tenants by mid-century.

**DANNATION CORNERS**

Intersection of 10th St. and 2nd Ave East

Known as “Dannation Corners,” four hotels once stood here, one on each corner. A block west, you will find “Salvation Corners”, where four churches still stand.

**CHICAGO BUILDING**

901 10th St East

Typical of late 19th century commercial buildings, this structure is a mix of late Victorian styles. This building is now home of the Owen Sound and District Co-op, a gallery showcasing local artists.

**SLOAN BUILDING**

229 10th St East

Irish-born John Sloan constructed this building around 1897, as a melodeon factory and sales outlet. He lived upstairs with his family until his death in about 1892.

**SELDON HOUSE**

1005 2nd Ave East

Built in 1857 as a hotel. Building has 4 rooms, three parlors, a bar, dining room and commercial and residential spaces. From 1904 to 1937 it was operated by descendants of Mrs. R.J. Dole—a founder of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, who did not serve alcohol. The exterior of the building was restored in the 1980s.

**SELDON BLOCK**

1002 2nd Ave East

Built around 1880, this three-storey, six-sided building was originally named the “Superior Block.” It was later named the “Griffin’s Block” for John Charles Griffin, who came to Owen Sound in 1875 and established a tavern and a harness shop.

**COMMERCIAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS**

958/966 & 992 2nd Ave East

These heritage buildings are typical of 19th century small town Ontario main streets. 2nd Ave East, built circa 1868, has a strong association with the tradition of independent druggists. Arthur Woods Manley, a chemist, opened his business here in 1885. In the 1940s it was Cecil McLeod Drugs.

**MCKAY BROS. LTD. STORE**

942 2nd Ave East

Built in 1905, this three-storey Beaux-Arts building originally housed Ryan Bros., a dry goods store. That same year the four McKay brothers arrived in Owen Sound and set up shop across the street. Due to stiff competition, the Ryan’s sold out to the McKay brothers in 1924 for $60,000. McKay Bros. operated until 1989. Today you can still see the front ‘Ryan Bros’ and more obvious ‘McKay’s Dry Goods’ painted on the south side of the building.

**WHOLE FOODS STORE**

941 2nd Ave East

Once home to Douglas & Taylor Jewellers, the ground level storefront of this Victorian era building was remodelled in the 1920s.

**F.N. D’ORR LEPAN STORE**

132 9th St East

Irish immigrant Frederick Nicholas O’Rorke (see Waterworks Side Guide #15) purchased a lot on the northwest corner of 9th and 2nd Avenue in 1848 for $150. He built a two-storey structure and opened a general store, which also sold wine and liquor. The store moved to this location in 1905 and was demolished in 2006. The new building here sports a replica boomtown front from the one on the original Lepan store.

**SOLD OUT**

1005 2nd Ave East

Originally the home of F.N. D’Orr LePan Store. The building was vacant from 1937 to 1985. The new building here sports a replica boomtown front from the one on the original Lepan store.

**WOMEN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION**

898 1st Ave West

This 1917 building served as a meeting hall on the site of the Owen Sound Hall, the village’s first church, which had many members who were escaped slaves. In 1882 it was purchased as a meeting hall for the WCTU, which got its start in Owen Sound. A Lutheran Church in 1943, then a Christian Science Society in 1963, it passed into private hands in 2006.

**TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY**

924 1st Ave West

Established in 1947 as a memorial to iconic Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson, the gallery houses nationally significant collection of Thomson’s works and artifacts. Completely renovated in 2006, the gallery features exhibition halls, collection storage, an educational studio and auditorium.

**OWN SOUND & NORTH GREY UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY**

824 1st Ave West

A Mechanics’ Institute lending library had existed since 1855, but free public library service was not available until the present building was opened in 1914 with an Andrew Carnegie grant. The addition dates from 1972. The original building was restored in 2003.

**KENNEDY TERRACE**

91-719 2nd Ave West

This site originally housed Osborne Furniture Factory, a board & batten building on a stone foundation, then a farming mill factory. In 1956, after the factory burned down, local contractor J.C. Kennedy built this terrace on the original foundation.

**WATERWORKS/MARKET BUILDING**

110-114 8th St East

The Market Building was constructed in 1898 as a private waterworks and taken over by the town in 1980. It is believed that some of the earliest church services for Blacks, namely “Little Zion Church” were held at this location. The building became a farmers’ market in 1985. The ground-floor site has been in continual use as a market for over 160 years, open year-round every Saturday morning.

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**OWEN SOUND GARAGE**

90 9th St East

Built in 1911 for Kilbourne Real Estate; this was soon the home of the Owen Sound Garage, owned by H.H. Bowman (see Mill Dam Tour, #8), dealer in Ford and Oakland automobiles. An automobile-related business continued to be offered from this site into the late 1970s. It is being redeveloped in 2013 as The Sydenham, a condominium residence.

**Downtown Tour**

1-888-675-5555 • www.owensoundtourism.ca

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**Downtown Tour**

1-888-675-5555 • www.owensoundtourism.ca
Owen Sound Bay is a broad valley that cuts through the Niagara Escarpment. The valley preceded the last great ice age, but was broadened by the action of glacial ice, then by the erosive forces of the Sydenham and Pottawatomi rivers. During his preliminary survey of Lake Huron in 1815, Captain William Fitzwilliam Owen named it ‘Owen’s Sound’ for his brother, Admiral Sir Edward William Campbell Rich Owen.

During his preliminary survey of Lake Huron in 1815, Captain William Fitzwilliam Owen named it ‘Owen’s Sound’ for his brother, Admiral Sir Edward William Campbell Rich Owen.

*Canadian National Railway Station* 1155 1st Ave West

This station was built in 1932, replacing the Grand Trunk Station of 1894. Passenger service ended in 1970, freight service in 1986. The tracks were removed in 1995, except for this short strip. The station now houses the Marine & Rail Museum, and the City’s Visitor Information Centre.

*Kennedy’s Foundry* 1144 1st Ave West

This site was home to a machine shop and foundry begun in 1856 by Scottish immigrant William Kennedy. It reached its zenith during WWII as Black Clawson Kennedy, where propellers for Canadian-built ships were cast. It was one of a number of industries that employed Black workers.

*Mollock House* 242 11th St West

In 1856, Francis Ebenzer Molock (1835-1910) escaped from slavery in Maryland with the assistance of Harriet Tubman, the famous conductor on the Underground Railroad. He made his way to Owen Sound where he built this house during the 1870s with his wife, Mary. They raised a family of nine children here.

*British Methodist Episcopal Church* 245 11th St West

In 1856, a British Methodist Episcopal congregation was established (see Mill Dam Tour, #12). Members held the first Emancipation Picnic in 1862, and have done so every year since. Built in 1889 as Westside Methodist Church (see #3), this building was sold to the BME congregation in 1911.

*F.W. Harrison House* 1050 4th Ave West

Home of the eldest son of pioneer lumberman John Harrison, Frederick William Harrison (1863-1916) and his wife, Amy M. Adair. In 1894 they re-fashioned the existing house in the Beaux-Arts style. He was elected Mayor in 1909 and was responsible for Harrison Park (See Mill Dam Tour, #14) being transferred to the town of Owen Sound and the new street numbering systems. This site was home to a machine shop and foundry begun in 1856 by Scottish immigrant William Kennedy. It reached its zenith during WWII as Black Clawson Kennedy, where propellers for Canadian-built ships were cast. It was one of a number of industries that employed Black workers.

*Central Westside United Church* 310 10th St West

Completed in 1911 at a cost of $28,000. Westside Methodist Church (See #4) was constructed of local materials. The cornerstone was laid by Vincent Massey on May 26, 1910. Designed to be seen diagonally from across the street, it was built with Renaissance proportions in the Ablon Style. The congregation joined the United Church of Canada in 1925.

*Billy Bishop Home & Museum* 945 3rd Ave West

Built in the Queen Anne Revival Style in 1884, this is the boyhood home of William Avery “Billy” Bishop, World War I flying ace and Victoria Cross recipient. A museum since 1987, it was named a National Historic Site in May 2002.

*Former U.S. Consulate* 932 3rd Ave West

This Italian Villa style house was used as home and office for U.S. Consul Col. Seyfert early in the 20th century, evidence of Owen Sound’s place in American shipping. It was built in 1890 for hardware merchant John Reardon and was later owned by police magistrate Alfred Creasor, and industrialist Colin Russell.

James and Rebecca Harrison purchased this 1890s house in 1905. James was the youngest son of John Harrison, whose Pleasure Grounds became Harrison Park (See Mill Dam Tour, Harrison Park) in 1912. James was also the secretary of the family business, John Harrison & Sons Co. Ltd. lumber mill.

*Lemon House* 284 9th St West

Newlyweds Morley and Mary Lemon purchased this 1891 home in 1910. It remained in the family for the rest of the 20th century. Three generations of Lemons have sat on Owen Sound Council. The Lemon Bros. grocery business eventually became National Grocers.

*Wilkinson House* 949 2nd Ave West

Built in 1912 by F.C. (Charles) Wilkinson, a shoe store owner, this Arts and Craft style house stayed in the family until the 21st century. Restored in 2002, care was taken to maintain the authenticity of the traditional façade and interior decorating.

*Wright House* 935 2nd Ave West

The most outstanding quality of this 1922 building is the intricate three-storey tower on the north-west corner of the building. The mansard roof signals this as the Second Empire style, though it contains many High Victorian elements.

*Queen Anne Revival House* 949 2nd Ave West

Built in 1895, this structure is in the Queen Anne Revival style, with characteristics such as the tower, verandah, irregular massing, stepped roof, gables and various types of sheathing on the facade.

*Notter House* 219 10th St West

Built in 1869 by Richard Notter, city mayor in 1887-1889, this Second Empire structure has a mansard roof, typical of the style, with brackets, pointed dormers and ornate molding.

*George Meir House* 1010 2nd Ave West

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, the Meirs moved to New York in 1840 and Owen Sound in 1856, where they established a grocery business. Son George (1847-1898) began construction of this double house in the late 1890s, but died before it was completed. His sisters lived in the house until 1925.

*Mrs. Dow & Pollock House* 1000 1st Ave West

This Queen Anne Revival style house was built by Dr. William George Dow in 1893-94, both for his family and his practice. Dr. Dow’s niece, Grace, and her husband, Dr. Alan Pollock, purchased the house in 1937. It was used as a medical centre and residence until 1978, when Dr. Pollock resigned his practice.

*Charles Rankin House* 996 1st Ave West

Appointed Deputy Provincial Surveyor in 1820, Charles Rankin surveyed most of Grey and Bruce counties, including the town site of what is now Owen Sound. He lived in this house from 1851 until his death in 1886. A private banker and a wealthy man, he lived simply, as evidenced in this plain dwelling, originally frame, and brooked over at a later time.
DENTAL CLINIC
704 2nd Ave East
Like its neighbour at #712, the Dental Clinic is an Italianate structure with a low pitched roof, decorative eves, and the highly ornamental window hoods so often found in this style.

MAUGAN SNIDER HOUSE
111 7th St East
This house was built in 1848 for George and Jane Maugan Snider. They housed the Buchan family for two years while Buchan Manor (see #5) was built. Buchan’s daughter, Mary, married Jane’s younger brother, Grey County Sheriff Joseph Maugan. Of log construction, later veneered with brick, huge, unpeeled logs support the house.

BUCHAN MANOR
682 2nd Ave East
This Georgian style house was built in 1815 by John Buchan of Back Bay,信使 casting a major role in the founding of the General & Marine Hospital, was Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Surgeon for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The house was built about 1870.

POLIETT PLACE
695 2nd Ave East
The Victorian Gothic Revival style house was built about 1875 by boot and shoe store owner James Frizzell. It was named after Poliett Street, in turn named after Governor General Lord Sydenham (Charles Poliett Thompson), who presided over the first parliament of Canada. It was later occupied by the McLaughans, owners of the McLaughan Biscuit & Confectionery Company (see #10).

Note: During winter, the Mill Dam may not be kept snow free.

DENTAL BLOCK HOUSE
665 2nd Ave West
Thomas Dates built this house in 1909. A chemical engineer with the Sun Cement Company, Dates built it to demonstrate what could be done with cement blocks.

W.G. MCLAUCHLAN HOUSE
680 2nd Ave West
James Mclauchlan had immigrated from Scotland in 1854. His biscuit and confectionery company, J.H. McLaughlan & Sons, based in Williamson in 1869, became one of Grey County’s largest manufacturers and was sold to National Grocers in the 1940s. His son, William, built this stately Tudor Revival residence in 1910; the family lived here until 1978.

SCOTT/MANLEY HOUSE
712 2nd Ave East
Thomas Scott came to Owen Sound in 1850 and was a Mason, town councillor, harbour master, mayor and Conservative MPP. At one time he owned all the land from 7th Street to the mill dam. The stone cottage was later enlarged by druggist Arthur Wood (see Downtown Tour, #15).

PETTIGREW/URQUHART HOUSE
745 2nd Ave East
This lot is believed to have been the site of the first Black church in Owen Sound. Pettigrew built this "Ontario Cottage" circa 1855. A stone cellar accommodated the kitchen and staff quarters. Grocery merchant Donald P. Urquhart bought it in 1880, and it remained in his family until 1974.

WEBSTER/CASE HOUSE
767 2nd Ave East
Built in 1910 this residence housed two of Owen Sound’s mayors, William Webster (1918), and Garfield Case (1945). In a 1945 by-election, Progressive Conservative Prime of Styles, the ideas are local interpretations of those styles depending on local resources, materials and craftspeople. Generally, styles appear locally 10 to 25 years later than larger centres.

Architectural Guide

ITALIANATE: 1830-1900
From English picturesque tradition, rustic; low pitched hip roofs; cross section; decorative trim (columns, pilasters, capitals).

GOTHIC: 1890-1960
High Victorian; pointed arches, decorated, spires, towers; angular bays.

GREENISH: 1780-1870
Symmetrical; elevations with Classical proportions, typically five-bay fronts, side gables.

BEAUTIFUL ARTS: 1890-1940
Upper class houses; symmetrical; uses classical Greek forms; supported by columns or pilasters; front gable plan.

CLASSIC REVIVAL: 1830-1860
Originated with interest in classic Greek forms; low pitched, carved & turned woodwork, arch openings; common church style.

ONTARIO COTTAGE: 1820-1875
Form of the Picturesque, includes Gothic Revival decorative elements; T-shaped, storey, gable.

RANKIN PARK
75 2nd Ave East
(See West Side Tour, #3). In 1912 Owen Sound acquired the Park and continued its development. The Inn was built in 1915 using local stone. Destroyed by fire in 1985, this Inn was richly detailed in the Arts and Crafts style. King chose North Grey as a riding for General Andrew McNaughton, Minister of National Defence. The conception issue dominated the election. In a surprise outcome, Case, the Progressive Conservative candidate defeated McNaughton (see #8).

SAYOY THEATRE
747 2nd Ave East
Built in 1912, this theatre saw minstral shows, Vaudeville and silent movies, with the first talking picture show in 1930. In 1961, the Savoy was sold to Odeon Theatres. In the mid-1980s, the building was completely renovated to accommodate apartments above and storefronts at street level.

WILCOX/BOWMAN HOUSE
606 2nd Ave West
Milliner and "tough goods" merchant Buel Wilcox built this vernacular Ontario Gothic house in 1870. H.H. Bowman purchased the home in the early 1900s and constructed the addition. Bowman was the campaign manager for General Andrew McNaughton in the by-election of 1945 (see #13). An entrepreneur with many business interests, he built the first Ford automobile franchise in the City (see Downtown Tour, #19).

GREENWOOD CEMETERY
190 1st Ave East
Opened to the public in 1854. Greenwood Cemetery contains one of the oldest houses in Owen Sound, now used as an office, built in the late 1840s. A small red brick Gothic Revival Chapel was later added in 1923. The Mausoleum is also of interest. The latter, covered in Italian limestone and finished with Italian marble (see #17). It has several beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows. A Cemetery Walking Tour is available.

QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL
1890-1920
Complex roofs; asymmetrical elevations; side gables; towers; intricate woodwork.

MILL DAM & FISH LADDER
In the 1840s, Surveyor Charles Rankin set aside 35 acres for a mill reserve on the Sydenham River. The first dam and a grist mill were built soon after by John Frost. Rainbow trout use the fish ladder in the spring, so it could be said the family always dined under the flag of the British Empire.

Pettigrew/Urquhart House

\[\text{Architectural Guide} \]

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