

# The history of Kitchissippi’s heritage buildings

BY CHARLIE SENACK

City council is in a mad dash to save properties on Ottawa’s heritage register before they are taken off by year’s end.

The buildings, which have some kind of historical significance, are on the municipal register to give them more protection from being demolished. If an owner decides to tear down the building, the city is given 60 days to choose if they want to save the structure through heritage designation.

Out of all Ontario municipalities, Ottawa has the largest number of properties on the heritage register at 4,600.

Due to Bill 23 which was brought forward by the Doug Ford-led provincial government, buildings remaining on the list by Jan 1, 2025, will be removed and can not be re-listed for five years, opening them up to possible development.

But city hall has found a loophole to buy more time.

Because newly listed properties can remain on the list for two years, Ottawa’s built heritage committee has agreed to de-list most of the properties through various stages and re-list them in January.

“It’s a made in Ottawa solution,” said Rideau-Rockcliffe Coun. Rawlson King, chair of the built heritage committee.

“We don’t want to lose all the work that was undertaken. Staff have committed to ensuring the information around the listed properties are archived and retained on the website,” he added. “At the end of the day we’d love to see them re-listed when we know that we will be able to get the designation of key properties.”

King said designation will also come in packages to ensure more properties are saved. Heritage staff are working to see if that

will be done by community or architectural features.

KT historian **Dave Allston** has created a comprehensive list of 20 properties in Kitchissippi that are on the heritage register and are worthy of designation.

## 1. STEWART FARM HOUSE • 32 GRANVILLE AVENUE Built: 1871-1872

Once a farmhouse belonging to the Stewart family, it is one of a few remaining buildings in the Kitchissippi community

from the 19th century. Their family farm was the only development the neighbourhood saw until after World War I.

## 2. ST. FRANCOIS D’ASSISE CHURCH • 1062 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1913-1915

This landmark of Hintonburg has been seen from many vantage points across the city for the last 100 years. Built with superior materials and craftsmanship, it has been an important hub to the francophone population of Hintonburg, which first established the paroisse in 1890.

## 3. FORMER ST GEORGE’S HOME/HOLY ROSARY CHURCH • 1153 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1870s

Part of this site might date back as far as 1855, but the Fitzgibbon House was built in the 1870s. It was later modified to become the New Orpington Lodge, also known as the St. George’s Receiving Home for Boys. The central portion was a grand two-and-a-half storey wood-framed home built by James Fitzgibbon, who was an engineer on Colonel By’s staff. In 1895, Lord Archibald Douglas, who had been arranging for the emigration and placement of Catholic children from England, acquired the home and converted it into “New Orpington Lodge” — later

renamed St. George’s Home. It was used by the Navy for storage and testing during WWII before being changed to Holy Rosary Church in 1947.

## 4. THICKE-KOT HOUSE • 124 COWLEY AVENUE Built: 1906-1907

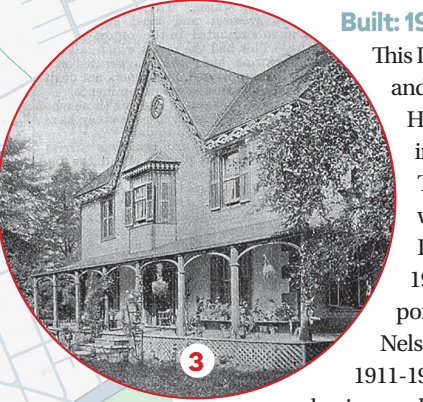
This house dates back to Champlain Park’s cottage era as “Riverside Park.” It was constructed by Charles Thicke from one of the community’s most prominent families at the time. Champlain Park was established as a summer resort upon the opening of the electric railway line to Britannia.

## 5. JANE BIRCH-PAYSANT HOUSE • 379 CHURCHILL AVENUE NORTH Built: 1873

Jane Birch, daughter of Thomas Birch, built this home. The family arrived in the area in 1838 and was one of the area’s pioneers. In fact, the east half of Westboro — east of Churchill — was originally known as Birchton. Jane Birch was enterprising and opened Westboro’s first commercial grocery store here in 1873. She later married Pierre Paysant, who became an important figure in early Westboro.

## 6. FORWARD-ABBAYFIELD HOUSE • 425 PARKDALE AVENUE Built: 1900-1901

Located on Parkdale, this building was constructed by James Forward (known as “Honest Jim”), who was one of Hintonburg’s most prominent and well-loved citizens. He operated a flour and feed mill on Wellington until 1942, served on the Hintonburg Village council for five years, and later represented



the community as Alderman for 26 years. It was sold to the Amethyst Women’s Addiction Centre and later Abbeyfield House.

## 7. JUBINVILLE-VACHON HOUSE • 50 CARRUTHERS AVENUE Built: 1872-1873

This building is one of the original houses of Mechanicsville. Its location at the north end of the street is in close proximity to the river and Lazy Bay. Its owners, the Vachon family, were longtime ice dealers to the west end who had extensive operations in Mechanicsville on and around this property.

## 8. TUNNEY HOUSE • 64 LYNDAL AVENUE Built: 1891

This house was constructed by Anthony Tunney, the namesake of Tunney’s Pasture. He was a key resident of Mechanicsville, and one of its original lot buyers in 1872.

## 9. RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU TO CANADA • 539 ISLAND PARK DRIVE Built: 1929-1930

Built in the Tudor style of architecture by Stafford F. Kirkpatrick, this stately home was designed by Noffke, Morin and Sylvester. Kirkpatrick was the vice-president and managing director of the Deloro Smelting and Mining Company of Ottawa. He retired in 1939 and leased the home for free as a school for fleeing British schoolchildren, known as Byron House School, for the duration of WWII. In 1945, it was sold to the Republic of Peru.

## 10. FORMER TOLLKEEPERS HOUSE • 1121 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1883-1884

Richmond Road was for many years a toll road, from Hintonburg through to Bells Corners, managed by the Bytown and

Nepean Road Company. The original toll house at the corner of Parkdale burned in a fire in 1883, and a new building was built to replace it at 1121 Wellington. A small fire in 1888 led to some rebuilding, but the structure is largely the same today. The toll house was in operation here until 1895. 1121 Wellington then became the office of Kitchissippi’s first doctor Israel G. Smith until 1907, then a pharmacy until 1958, and a shoe repair shop until about 2010, when it became Oresta.

## 11. CALDWELL HOUSE • 259 KIRCHOFFER AVENUE Built: 1911-1912

This house was built by J.Y. Caldwell, who acquired the property from CPR. This house was one of the first three built in the area, and was a showcase home for the neighbourhood. It was later the long-time home of Charles E. Clark and his family.

## 12. CUTHBERTSON HOUSE • 146 BAYSWATER AVENUE Built: 1886

Built by David Cuthbertson, a top builder of the late 19th century in Ottawa, the house is well-known to those traveling through Hintonburg, at the important intersection of Bayswater and Gladstone.

## 13. MACLEAN BLOCK • 1008-1024 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1901 & 1911-1912

This Iconic commercial and residential block of Hintonburg was built in two main portions. The western section was constructed by D. H. MacLean in 1901, and the eastern portion by Henry and Nelson Fauteux between 1911-1912. Many important businesses have operated from this building, including the early Wong Sing Chinese laundry, Doucet & Charbonneau dry goods, Fauteux & Fauteux paints, and Kitchissippi’s first LCBO.

## 14. GILCHRIST MERCHANT • 1111 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1889

An early example of a commercial building in Hintonburg, this merchant shop was constructed when Hintonburg was still part of Nepean Township. It was built by Francis Holmes Gilchrist, one of the Village’s inaugural councillors. The building temporarily acted as the Richmond Road tollhouse in 1888-1890 after a fire had destroyed the previous one. It was originally a store for eggs, and in 1892 became a flour and feed store called Gilchrist & Son.

## 15. CHARLES OGILVY HOUSE • 488 EDISON AVENUE Built: 1907-1908

This home was built by W.J. Hamilton for Charles Ogilvy, who was founder of the Ottawa-based Ogilvy department store chain. A provision of Ogilvy’s will left the home to his wife for use until her death after which it would be given to Charles Ogilvy Ltd as a rest

and convalescence home for employees. It was sold to the Institut Jeanne D’Arc in 1973.

## 16. F.X. SAUVE HOUSE • 85 CARRUTHERS AVENUE Built: 1872-1873

Likely the oldest still-standing house in Mechanicsville, it was constructed by F.X. Sauve. He worked as a stonemason on the original Parliament Buildings, and was one of the builders of St. Francois D’Assise Church.

## 17. JONES BLOCK • 978-992 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1903

This iconic building at the Somerset-Wellington turn was constructed by Edward C. Jones. It replaced a previous block that burned by fire a year prior. It was labeled as “the finest structure in the municipality” and was the site of Hintonburg’s first pool room opened by Paul Pelletier in 1904.

## 18. PROUDMAN HOUSE AND STORE • 1112-1114 WELLINGTON STREET WEST Built: 1906-1907 – though perhaps a decade sooner

This is an excellent example of the early days of Hintonburg commerce, a mixed commercial-residential building that has been in the heart of the community since its village days. Some research indicates it was constructed in 1906 by John Proudman, who operated a shoe store in the building while residing upstairs for many years.

## 19. WILLIAM ROSS/PORT HOUSE • 363 CLIFTON AVENUE Built: 1914

Constructed by William Ross, who had laid out a small subdivision consisting largely of the length of Clifton Avenue, he divided the street into 52 building lots and offered them for sale. Ross built himself a stately home at 363 Clifton, which later became the home of Charles A. Port and his family in 1940.

## 20. ST. GEORGE’S CHURCH • 415 PICCADILLY AVENUE NORTH Built: 1923-1924

This long-time English community Catholic Church predates nearly all of the houses in Wellington Village. It originally served the households from Holland west to Britannia and from the Ottawa River south to Manotick. Designed by Noffke, Morin and Sylvester, its interior has remained virtually unchanged for a century.