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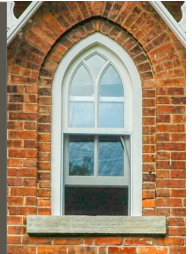
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Orangeville *Preserves*



Looking back >>>

Castle Leslie

This impressive Georgian-influenced villa was built by Guy Leslie in 1859. It is thought to be the first two storey home built in Orangeville.

Leslie was an Irish immigrant who originally settled and farmed in Garafraxa before Orangeville existed. Leslie was deeply involved in Wellington County politics serving on Garafraxa Township Council. He was also appointed Clerk of the Ninth Division Court of Wellington County in 1857, and later was Clerk of the First Division Court in the newly formed Dufferin County until his death in 1887. Leslie also promoted the incorporation of Orangeville as a village in 1863, was appointed the village's first treasurer in 1864, and became Orangeville's postmaster in 1865, a position he held until 1880.



Castle Leslie at 260/262 Broadway

Georgian Architecture

*Early brick and stone buildings were in the
Georgian style*

The first shelters built by settlers were log homes – no surprise when one considers the ready availability of old growth timber coupled with the need to clear land for subsistence farming. These were replaced by more permanent and substantial structures of stone, brick and milled wood. In Ontario and Orangeville, the influence of settlers from Great Britain as well as United Empire Loyalists fleeing the US can be seen in the construction of Georgian style buildings that replaced the log house.

The term Georgian refers to the period spanning the reigns of the Georges; architecturally it is understood to refer to the continued use of the English Renaissance and Palladian Classicism styles. In Ontario, these Georgian buildings can best be described as solid and symmetrical. Locally a vernacular interpretation of the style is found in the many one, or one and a half storey cottages featuring a gable end roof, and a three bay front made up of a central doorway with one window on each side. These small cottages were variously clad in stone (10 Wellington Street), rough cast plaster (most re-clad in some form of siding as at 17 Sarah Street), with later versions clad in brick (94 Mill Street). These small but attractive cottages were built from the 1850s into the mid 1870s in Orangeville and over 40 examples can be found throughout the Town.

Notable buildings, such as Greystones at 63 Broadway and Castle Leslie at 260/262 Broadway, are fine two storey examples of the style.

Before Settlement > Getting around

Before 1851, the Division Road separating Wellington and Peel Counties was the main east-west track. Settlement had been taking place in a somewhat haphazard pattern to the south side of this road following the path of Mill Creek. The creek was the focus of early settlement as it powered the mills and thus dictated the residences of the millers. Industrial and residential growth clustered around these nodes. The 1851 Plan of Subdivision created by Chisholm Miller for Orange Lawrence incorporated these existing patterns and structures within a more regular pattern of streets and lots.

Jesse Ketchum III commissioned Charles Wheelock to create a plan of survey in July of 1856 on lands north of the Division Road which he had inherited from his uncle, Seneca Ketchum. They renamed the Division Road as Broadway having a 100 foot road allowance. The existing road which ran north from Broadway was originally the 1st Line West of Hurontario Street in Mono and became First Street on the Ketchum plan. The blocks on the plan were laid out in a rectilinear grid with the north-south roads named numerically as streets and meeting Broadway at right angles while the east-west roads were named numerically as avenues. Ketchum's plan did not attempt to integrate the roads on the south side of Broadway. The result is that every intersection along Broadway formed a T; not one road went straight through at Broadway!



An Orangeville Georgian

Cottage

94 Mill Street

The house at 94 Mill Street was built in 1876, at the end of the period where these types of Georgian buildings were constructed. It has the medium pitched gable end roof, a central doorway with a minimally ornamented surround and flanking windows typical of this vernacular cottage. Like other Georgian cottages built in the late 1860s and 1870s it is clad in the local red brick while those built in the 1850s and early 1860s used stone or rough cast plaster.

This house was built by James and Olivia McKim who also built 96 and 98 Mill Street. Tax records indicate that all three houses were rented out. It is likely that the McKims were providing rental housing for the influx of workers and tradesmen to Orangeville during the economic boom years following the opening of the railway to Orangeville in 1871.

Resources

If you would like to discover more about a heritage property in Orangeville, there are resources to get you started.

Orangeville has an online tool where information already gathered on the 500+ heritage properties is available for public viewing. The following link takes you to the Data Orangeville site. Scroll down to the Heritage Building App and click on Open to access the records.

https://data.orangeville.ca/apps_public.html

To begin researching a particular property, the land registry abstract books can be accessed online at OnLand, the Ontario Land Registry Access. With the plan, block and lot number for a property, all the instruments (grants, land transfers, mortgages, etc.) for that property can be viewed. The following link will take you to the Dufferin County abstract books which include those for Orangeville.

<https://www.onland.ca/ui/7/books/search/1?page=1>

The Orangeville Public Library has the tax assessment records for Orangeville from the years 1865 to 1900 on microfilm. These records are invaluable for determining if a property, during any given year, has a building on it, the owner and any occupants.

Heritage Orangeville is here to help with research or any other heritage property matter.

Contact us >>>

Heritage Orangeville, Municipal Building,
87 Broadway, Orangeville, ON L9W 1K1
heritage@orangeville.ca
519-941-0440