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EARL STREET WALKING TOUR

This walk covers four city blocks of Earl Street,
one of the oldest streets in Kingston.

APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES *Please be respectful of private property.*



rue Clergy St.

rue Brock St.

rue Johnston St.

rue Sydenham St.

rue William St.

rue Earl St.

rue Bagot St.

rue West St.

rue Gore St.

rue Wellington St.

rue Lower Union St.

rue King St. E.

rue Ontario St.



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Earl Street

Earl Street has a wide range of homes, some originally built for factory workers and others for the wealthy. In order of typical construction, they include a variety of frame, stone, stone and brick and all-brick homes. They have different features such as rooflines, porches, trim, chimneys, windows and transoms. All the houses contribute to the “streetscapes” that are so important in the district. This street had two earlier names — Centre St. and Arthur St. In 1850 it was renamed Earl St. after Captain Hugh Earl of the Provincial Marine. His wife, Anne, was one of the daughters of Molly Brant and Sir William Johnson. Anne owned a large piece of land between West and Johnson Streets above Bagot St. Her half-brother, Sir John Johnson, owned the adjacent land between Johnson and Princess Streets.

Begin at the intersection of King and Earl Streets.

Walk downhill on the left (north) side of Earl St. towards the water. Notice the row of brick houses at 16-18-20-20½ Earl St. These were homes for employees of the Locomotive Works, flour mill, shipyard and other industries that used to be on Ontario St.

Cross Earl Street to the south side and proceed up the street (away from the water). Look across the street.

1 21 EARL ST. This two-storey stone house was built before 1832 by the prominent Cartwright family. It has a high basement on the street side. The main door might have originally been at the rear (north), facing the garden, which was reached through gates to the east. A stone wall runs north from the house, dividing the city block on which it sits.

2 47 EARL ST. is of frame construction. It was built as a boarding house in 1841. The wood is now hidden by stucco. During the 19th century most homes in Kingston were small frame buildings like this one.

3 49-53-55 EARL ST. 49 EARL, a single house, was built about 1834. 53-55 were built about 1844. This pair of houses was designed by Thomas Rogers, the first architect to settle in Kingston. 53 was the home of the owner, an engineer, who built 55 to rent out.

4 65 EARL ST. is a frame cottage sandwiched between two brick houses. Called “LaSalle Cottage”, it was built after 1865. Thomas Hanley (brother of Joseph Power) and his family lived in this house at least 1890-1950. The family were connected with the Great North Western Telegraph Company and then the Canadian National Telegraph Company for 62 years.



5 67 EARL ST. on the corner was built in 1847. The roof balcony was added about 1900 and the two roof windows about 1960. Joseph Hanley (brother of Thomas) and his descendants lived in this house from 1858 to about 1950. They were well known 1871-1946 as Grand Trunk Railway (later CNR) and steamship ticket agents.



6 91 EARL ST. was built in the early 1840s. Beginning in 1806 the land was owned by the Roman Catholic bishop and then by the Church itself. The first tenant rented the land to operate a milk delivery and cartage business. The Church sold it to a labourer in 1879. This simple dwelling is one of very few surviving “ordinary” houses from the period.



7 73 SYDENHAM ST. is at the corner of Sydenham St. This two-storey brick house was built in 1888 for John McKay who had a leather and fur business. There is interesting terra cotta (hard, kiln-fired clay) decoration at the second floor level and bargeboards on the west dormer.



8 46 SYDENHAM ST. is on the right hand corner at Earl St. Called “Rosemount”, it was built in 1849-50 in the style of a Tuscan villa. The first owner was a Mr. Hardy who owned a dry-goods business. It is now an inn and spa. This large home used to have extensive verandahs. Note the balconies, tall chimneys with decorative arches, the finial on the tower and, especially, the restored original cast iron fence.



9 149-151 EARL ST. Built in 1873-74, they have a high basement and three storeys, making them taller than the surrounding houses. A fashionable mansard roof (flat or almost flat top with sloping sides) covers their top floors. Notice the pattern of the slate shingles and the detailing of the façades.

10 155 EARL ST. was built in 1848-49. The family of John Kerr, the manager of the gas works, lived in it from 1854-1904. It was once painted red and then grey. Traces of those colours remain. The porch may be original.

11 161 EARL ST. was built for the Fraser family in 1847-48. Mr. Fraser was in the wholesale hardware business. The Frasers had ten children. Various nephews from Scotland also lived with them while attending Queen’s. William Coverdale (see also Newlands and Coverdale Walking Tour, p.52)

designed this house, as well as 155 and 169.

12 169 EARL ST. was built in 1849-50. A fire destroyed the second storey in 1876 and it was rebuilt. This home was once the Agnes Maule Machar Home for Protestant Women. The front of the house was once painted grey.

Cross the street and proceed back down Earl Street.

13 158-160-162 EARL ST. was built of brick in 1867. They are called “Mozart Terrace” (a terrace is a row of attached houses that look alike). Note the tower.

14 148 EARL ST. was built in 1870 by Thomas Moore, a tailor. This was his home but he also had many rental properties. A window on the left side was converted into a door, which led to the office of Dr. Macgregor who lived here for 40 years.

15 132-134 EARL ST. was built in 1866. Sir John A. Macdonald’s widowed brother-in-law lived at 134 for 25 years and Sir John’s unmarried sister Louisa lived here before she died in 1888. The house was one of those owned and rented out by Thomas Moore, who lived at 148.

16 118-120-122 EARL ST. was built in 1868. They were built of stone with fashionable brick façades and were advertised as “professional gentlemen’s residences”.

17 82 TO 96 EARL ST. If you look closely you will see that this row of six attached houses actually consists of three pairs of houses.

18 66-68 EARL ST. on the SE corner of Wellington St. was built in 1842. Note the doors’ curved tops with “Venetian” windows at the top, and the false door recess on the Wellington St. side of 68.

19 52 EARL ST. was built in 1886, designed by Joseph Power. Note his “sunburst” design on the façade. This was originally the home and office of Dr. Anglin. Attached on the west side is 56, built in 1905 and possibly also designed by Joseph Power. The doorway and windows all have different shapes.

If you wish to make your way to City Hall and Springer Market Square, continue up Earl Street half a block (the starting point of the tour). Turn left on King Street. ■

