ARCHITECTS NEWLAND AND COVERDALE WALKING TOUR

A tour that highlights some of the fine architectural contributions of two prominent Kingston architects to Old Sydenham Ward. The area contains many works by William Newlands and William Coverdale covering the period 1842-1917. Coverdale’s contributions are tied to the mid-19th century and Newlands’ are attributed to the late 19th century and in the case of Villa St. Clare (244 Barrie St.), the early 20th century.

APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES Please be respectful of private property.
William Coverdale, carpenter and architect (1801-1865) was born in England. He arrived in Kingston by 1833 from the Richelieu area of Quebec. He designed Kingston Penitentiary, Rockwood Lunatic Asylum and the Portsmouth Town Hall. He took over supervision of the construction of City Hall when George Browne left Kingston. Apart from these major works, Coverdale designed many different buildings, including simple cottages, churches, industrial buildings and country mansions. He was the City Architect from 1846-1865 and designed the present rear wing of City Hall after a fire destroyed the previous one in 1865.

William Newlands (1853-1926) was a native of Kingston. He began his career as an architect in 1882, designing churches, schools, houses and industrial buildings. His early works are described as often being in the Queen Anne Style, with later works exhibiting elements linked to a style known as Richardsonian Romanesque.

Leave the Visitor Information Office, walk out to the street and look back at the building you just left.

1 209 ONTARIO ST., the Kingston and Pembroke Railway station, was designed by Newlands in 1885. The railway brought natural resources from the north through Kingston enroute to their markets, thus encouraging Kingston's shipping, smelting and manufacturing industries. The station's symmetrical series of arches and the bellcast roof are important architectural features. (photo on next page)

Cross Ontario St. at the corner of Market St. (the nearest corner to you). Proceed up Market St., away from the water, for one block. Turn left on King St. and walk south crossing Clarence, Johnson, William, Earl and Gore Streets.

2 169 KING ST. E. was designed in 1885 by Newlands for banker Donald Fraser. Together with the other houses in this block, it shows changes in design and ornamentation over a quarter of a century. This three-bay, two-storey house is built on a high stone foundation. The one-storey verandah was added later. It has paired columns on brick piers and a plain balustrade. The corners of the façade have quoins with raised panels and the channeled hood-moulds over all windows have decorative keystones and ends. (photo on next page)

3 165-167 KING ST. E. is a double brick house commissioned by Richard Cartwright (later Sir Richard). Coverdale designed it in 1858 as a rental property. Conway Cartwright, Sir Richard's younger brother, lived here for a time. This house has distinctive paired windows with round heads in the second storey. The windows, together with the fanlights, are typical of Coverdale's designs. (photo on next page)

Cross Lower Union St.

4 131-133 KING ST. E. is a large Coverdale-designed limestone double house built in 1842 and 1843. The extension to the southwest was a later addition. The first owner was Nobel Palmer, a chemist (druggist) and founder of the Kingston Spectator. Half of the building was first occupied by Governor-General Sir Charles Metcalfe. The Kingston Seminary for Young Ladies occupied part of the building in 1851. (photo on next page)

Continue walking along King St., crossing West, Simcoe, Maitland and Emily Streets. As you approach a large stone tower (the Murney Tower) look to the left of it on the shoreline and see.

5 1 KING ST. W. (Newlands Pavilion) was designed by Newlands in 1896. Architectural drawings of this music pavilion are in the Queen's University Archives. It has a cross-form shingled roof decorated with wave-like scrolls on the cresting. The pavilion is open for visibility and maximum exposure to the lake breezes while at
the same time giving shelter from the sun. It was re-
stored in 1979 with new cedar framing, shingles, a
projection for a band, balusters, cresting and lat-
ticework by architect Lily Inglis with the support of
the Sydenham Ward Ratepayers Association, the
Ontario Heritage Foundation and the City.

**Walk away from the water, crossing King St. at the traffic
lights and proceed up (north) on Barrie St. Keep to the
left (west) side of the street.**

6  **18 BARRIE ST.** was extensively altered by Coverdale
between 1862 and 1865. It commands attention on
a prominent corner overlooking Macdonald Park.
The original house facing King Street was built by
architect Thomas Rogers in 1830. It is disguised
under Coverdale’s later remodeling and the 1905
addition of the portico for the Bermingham family.
The outline is irregular, but attention is primarily
focused on the portico. Four tall Ionic columns are
repeated on the one-storey side and end verandahs.
There is also an Ionic porch on the north side. The
house pulls together into the predominant mood of
Classical Revival, even though a surprising variety
of styles are used.

**Cross Okill St.**

7  **68-70 BARRIE ST.** is a brick double house built
by Newlands in 1905 and 1906 for H.F. Mooers.
An impressive three-stories (the top one under a
mansard roof), the building is made more interest-
ing by the two-storey bay windows and the aggres-
sive position of the deep balconies with colossal
Doric columns topped by colonettes on the attic
balconies. This house has spectacular views of the
park and, in turn, looks spectacular when seen
from the park.

**Cross Stuart St.**

8  **82-84 BARRIE ST.** is an 1889 double brick house
designed by Newlands. A proposed plan is in the
Queen’s University Archives. The first occupants
were Michael Flanagan, Kingston’s city clerk, and mer-
chant Robert Ford. Each unit of the house has a dif-
frent appearance, although united under a hipped
roof and resting on a stone foundation.

**Cross Union St.**
9 172-174 Barrie St. is a mirror image of 1897 semi-detached houses and good examples of Newlands’ work. The elements that define the character of this building are the two-storey bay windows with gabled balconies, brickwork and stone sills. The upper portion of 174 verandah was later enclosed. The lower windows and doors are topped by transoms with heavy mouldings. The double house bears a strong resemblance to its neighbor, 178.

10 178 Barrie St., a two-storey brick house, is similar in appearance to its neighbour to the south, 172-174. Both buildings were built in 1897 by the same architect and builder, Newlands and C.J. Graham respectively. 178 was built for Thomas Mills. The two-storey bay window is on a stone foundation and capped with a gable sheltering a balcony. It matches 172-174, including the variant of a Palladian window in the balcony. But the two-storey porch is markedly different, appearing lighter in form with delicate ornamentation giving the house more of a Queen Anne style.

Cross Clergy and Earl Streets.

11 244 Barrie St. (Villa St. Clare) is one of the earliest “modern” apartment buildings in Kingston. It was built by Newlands for Evangeline Elder in 1917. A set of architectural drawings is in the Queen's University Archives. This is an interesting example of an early apartment building style that marks the change from row houses to modern horizontal flats. The three-storey brick building features angled projecting bays at the front corners flanking recessed balconies on each level. Modern additions match the original style. This large building originally contained six apartments. It is now a condominium. (photo on next page)

Proceed up Barrie St. to Johnson St. Turn right and walk east on Johnson. Keep to the right side of the street.

12 228-230 Johnson St. is a handsome double house with paired windows, stone balconies and decorative brackets. It was built by Coverdale in 1852 for John Mowat. A former soldier, Mowat stayed in Kingston when his regiment was recalled to Britain in 1814. He became a grocer and a director of the Commercial Bank, the Board of Trade and the Kingston Gas Company. He was an elder of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and one of the
founders of Queen’s University. His son, Oliver Mowat, became Premier of Ontario. The Mowat family owned the western half of this house until 1903 and the eastern half until 1938.

13  **222 Johnson St.** is a large stone house on a high foundation. It towers over 218 on the east but is similar in scale to the double house on the west. Coverdale built this house in 1860 as a family home for Dr. J. R. Dickson who was also the owner of 218. Amongst other things, he was a city alderman and Dean of Medicine at Queen’s University. This three-bay, two-and-a-half-storey stone house has an entrance with a semicircular arched transom. The corners of the façade have projecting beveled ashlar quoins. All the windows have six over six double hung sash and louvered shutters.

**Cross Sydenham St.**

14  **178-180 Johnson St. (Greystone Manor)** was owned for many years by Thomas Askew. It was built by Coverdale in 1843. John A. Macdonald was a tenant from 1849 to 1852. Macdonald’s son, Hugh John, was born here. The shed dormer on the third floor is not original. This house shares many of the features of neighbouring stone and wood buildings along this stretch of Johnson St., including its flat façade, symmetry, side gable roof, and central entranceways. The series of double and terrace houses on this street make economical use not only of the land but also of the prevalent and on-the-spot building material – Kingston limestone.

**Cross Bagot and Wellington Streets.**

15  **90 Johnson St.** was built by Coverdale in 1851 for James A. Henderson, a barrister (lawyer) and later a judge. It is a handsome house with stone chimney caps that resemble those found on other Coverdale buildings. A verandah, facing east towards King St., can be seen on Brosius’ map of 1875. It was removed in 1886 when a double house (since demolished) was built next door. 90 was occupied by Anglican Bishop Kenneth Evans from 1952 until his death in 1966. The building then became the new Anglican Diocesan Centre.

Continue down Johnson St., crossing King to come to Ontario St. Turn left and walk to the Tourist Information Office two blocks north.