

HERITAGE MERIT AWARDS

The Heritage Merit Awards were established by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (now named the Midland Heritage Committee) in 1994. The Heritage Merit Awards recognize property owners that have assisted in the preservation and conservation of their existing home or building, which is of historic and/or architectural importance in the Town of Midland. This has been done by property owners through maintenance of their building, undergoing structural reconstructions, which are sensitive to the architecture and by improving the landscape features. The plaques presented to award the recipients can be mounted on the exterior of a building.

The Midland Heritage Committee mandate is to help foster the preservation and conservation of homes and buildings having historic and/or architectural merit in the Town of Midland. The Committee also seeks to further the community's awareness of heritage values and to promote the preservation of historical structures for the enjoyment of future generations. The awards are presented in order to honour those who assist the Committee in achieving their mandate and preserving the Community's heritage.

1994 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - St. Mark's Anglican Church - 303 Third Street***
Church Rectory renovations, including wrap-around front veranda.
- ***Commercial Category - Mr. and Mrs. Pape - 555 Bay Street***
Improvements to building facade having heritage theme.

1995 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Dr. and Mrs. Pruesse - 70 Fifth Street***
Improvements to home, especially porches in front yard which are in keeping with the architectural vernacular of the era of construction.
- ***Commercial Category - Mr. and Mrs. Brabant - 203-207 King Street***
Placement of mural depicting department store in keeping with original use of building - in early part of century the building was the largest department store north of Toronto.

1996 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Dr. James Small - 408 King Street***
Restoration of pillars on front porch in keeping with architectural integrity of residence.
- ***Commercial Category - Ferguson & Boeckle - 531 King Street***
Construction of office building, using hand-hewn logs, portraying building technique, which exemplifies Midland's pioneer era.

1997 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Mrs. Duncan - 632 Hugel Avenue***
Restoration of porch which included the historically detailed reconstruction utilizing the original window frames in keeping with the architectural integrity of the home.
- ***Commercial Category - Mr. Ens - 340 Dominion Avenue***
Preservation of former Manly Chew Residence, by maintaining the facade of the building.

Special presentation in 1997:

Stepping perch - located in front of 248 Sixth Street

- This unique structure, constructed in the late 1800's, was used for persons dismounting from a horse-drawn carriage and is the only remaining example of same within the Town. Mr. Trueman, once Clerk of the Town of Midland resided in the home during this era.

1998 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Mr. and Mrs. R. Presse - 318 Third Street***
Maintenance and preservation of original structure, especially the "Juliet" balcony that has been retained in its original state.
- ***Commercial Category - Chin & Orr Office - 382 King Street***
Preservation of existing facade of building and improving the landscape features for a building having historic and architectural importance in the Town.

1999 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Mr. and Mrs. Hutton – 659 Dominion Avenue***
Maintenance and building improvements made to preserve and retain the original structure. Renovations employed materials, colors and styles that complement the original structure and bring out the beauty of the heritage home.
- ***Commercial Category – Mr. and Mrs. Douglas – 535 Yonge Street***
Preservation and conservation of the existing building, which is of historic and architectural importance in the Town, by maintaining and improving the façade of the building and surrounding landscape features.

2000 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category – Two Awards***
Mr. and Mrs. Blei – 356 Hugel Avenue
Maintenance of the unique heritage home with the owners' retention of the original structure. The house was constructed in 1920 for a Dr. McClinton. The stonemason was a Mr. LeBlanc whose descendants still ply the trade today. The home was, at one time, the residence of prominent businessman, Mr. Albert Pinchin. By maintaining the original windows and structural elements of the building design, the beauty of this heritage home is enhanced and it is a great example of a "Prairie Style" architecture which was promoted by Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1910's and 1920's and which is not commonly found in Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Strathearn – 401 Manly Street

Maintenance of the home, in order to preserve, enhance and retain the original structure. By maintaining the structural elements of the building design, specifically the unenclosed veranda, second-storey porch, gingerbread accents and original windows, this heritage home is an example of Edwardian Classicism architecture. This type of architecture was commonly used from 1900-1930 and was typically highlighted with a veranda or portico, set against a smooth exterior brick finish.

- ***Commercial Category – Two Awards***
Roxy Theatre – Messrs. Paul and David Babcock-333 King Street
Preservation and conservation of the existing building, which is of architectural importance in the Town. The façade of the building employs an Art Deco design, unique to the area. The Art Deco style, with its angular outlines, was popular from

1925-1940 and is described as a “highly decorative, colouristic and abstract style”. The owners have maintained the façade of the building and enhanced its features with exterior paint applications. The concrete façade was painted in the summer of 1999, with pastel colours typifying the Art Deco style.

Trustees St. Margaret’s Roman Catholic Church – 589 Hugel Avenue –Father Jeff Masterson, Pastor

This Award recognizes the remodeling of the original sacristy and winter chapel into the new chapel, the addition of a meeting room, a new entrance and a pergola to link that entrance to the west entrance of the Church; all of which is in keeping and enhancing the architecture of the existing building. By maintaining the building’s architecture and improving the landscaping features, the Church and the new addition compliment the architectural style of Gothic Revival.

2001 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Mr. and Mrs. Monteith - 421 Midland Avenue***
Maintenance of the unique heritage home and the owners’ retention of the original structure. By maintaining the original porch and structural elements of the building design, the beauty of this heritage home is enhanced.
- ***Commercial Category - Wendat Building - 237 Second Street***
The Wendat Building was constructed in 1913 and although it has been renovated a number of times, the latest renovations a number of years ago reinstalled windows in their original locations and the mass and style of the building were retained. The re-use of the structure is also seen as a great conservation measure.

Each property owner was presented with a plaque entitled “Midland Heritage”, which highlights and identifies their building as having significant heritage value within the community.

2002 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category - Mr. and Mrs. Stuewe - 8986 County Road 93***
Maintenance of the unique heritage log home and preservation of original structure. The home is touted as a prime example of early log construction. The squared logs with dovetailed corners exemplify the craftsmanship from a bygone era.
- ***Commercial Category – Edwards Village Square Mall – 295 King Street***
The building was originally constructed in 1926, with extensive renovations completed in the med 1980’s. The new façade depicting the turn of the century raised valance was created on the King Street frontage and has been very well maintained over the years. The name of the original owners has been retained, which conserves the heritage significance within the Community.

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- ***Special presentation of Designated property – Frazer House/Dr. Campbell – 687 King Street***

A number of years ago, the Midland Heritage Committee designated the Frazer House as the first of many historical structures in the Community. At the time, the plaques were not available when the building was designated.

2003 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category* – Mr. Jim Downer – 645 Bay Street**
- ***Commercial Category* – Mr. Stewart McIntyre – 600 Bay Street**

2004 Award Recipients

- **Mr. Julian Kusek – 613 Dominion Avenue**
- **Mr. James Glennie – 322 Russell Street**

2005 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category* – Mr. Clinton Truax – 414 King Street**
This house is the former residence of Norman Lyon Playfair, one of Midland's original leading businessmen and lumber mill operator. Although the exact date of construction has not been determined, the 1904 Midland Insurance Plan identifies the house as being a 2 and ½ storey brick structure with prominent windows on three sides. The house architecture is known as Gothic Revival which was a popular architectural style prominent in the years leading up to the 20th century. This style employs dichromatic brick patterns, roof gables and dormers, various window shapes and sizes, mixed design vergeboards and verandas. The windows are supported by limestone sills and the foundation appears to be cut granite stone.
- ***Commercial Category* – Library Restaurant – 526 Hugel Avenue**
With funding from the Carnegie Institute, the new Midland Public Library was opened on January 7th, 1915. Carnegie Libraries were standard design and production buildings with each building design determined by the size of the community that it was intended to serve. The standard building design employs the Edwardian Classicism architectural vernacular that was common at the turn of the century. This is evidenced with the brick façade that is highlighted by a concentration of stylized and often exaggerated elements such as the subdued pilasters and piers that were favoured over colossal columns enhancing the main entrance, the large window and elliptic surrounds with brick banding.

2006 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category* – Sid & Rose Tjeerdsma – 695 Dominion Avenue**
The house was built for Peter Potvin and his wife Elizabeth around 1898 – 1899. The house was wood framed and one of the first in Midland to have electricity.
- ***Commercial Category* – Buckley Insurance & Investment – 437 King Street**

2007 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category* – The Cobblestone Homes of 482, 486 and 490 Midland Avenue**
The cobblestone houses on Midland Avenue appear to be patterned after a building style that originated in upper New York State in the mid nineteenth century. There over 700 examples of cobblestone buildings in the Rochester area alone. It is no doubt that the exposure to this building technique and its introduction into Ontario was influenced by travelers on the great lakes to which it is suspected that is how it

may have found its way into our community. The houses at 482, 486 and 490 Midland Avenue appear to have been built in the late teens or early 1920's and all by the same contractor. The similarities of the three structures are striking even though modern applications have been added. Each building is a story and a half with a squared dormer window on the front over looking the streetscape. The cobblestones are natural river washed stones, probably gathered from the Georgian Bay shoreline, each about the size of a potato that lends the masonry a handsome, yet delicate texture. Most examples of the US version of cobblestone veneer has a horizontal mortar line between each layer of cobblestones, whereas the Midland version maintains the horizontal line of stones without the accompanying mortar line. Equally, the US form of construction employs a defined concrete lintel over the windows and door openings and prominent window sills. The Midland version is typified by excluding an obvious lintel and sill and bordering the openings with the cobblestones.

- ***Residential Category – Winter House – 427 King Street***

While the exact building date is not known, the location of the house appears in the 1904 Town Fire Insurance Plans. This red brick house was built in the Victorian Gothic style, and is highlighted with distinctively peaked roof lines adorned with gingerbread along the fascia, symmetrically placed windows, wrap around porches and bay windows. The north site of the building shows evidence of a former door way that is closed in with brick, yet the concrete lintel remains. The gable ends were traditionally finished in a “fish scale” cedar shake and the recent improvements have replaced them with square end cedar shakes. The square columns that denote the Victorian gothic style remain although the traditional porch railing has been removed to expose the finely detailed picture window and door casements. The coach house was refurbished by the current owners.

2008 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category – McMullen House – 352 First Street***

This house is noted in the 1904 Fire Insurance Maps as the remnant of an original farm holding. This house is recognized as being the oldest structure in Town, dating back to 1855. The original structure was built by Richard a farmer and builder. In 1907 Margaret Murphy sold the homestead to John Toole, who served as the Town Reeve for several terms in the late teens and early 20's. From 1908 to 1918 Toole sold the vacant lots and evidently the house to John C. McMullen. The house remained in the McMullen family until 1984. John McMullen was an outstanding contractor and builder who played an important role in the Town's early development. During his long construction career he erected well over 300 houses plus commercial and public buildings within a 50 mile radius. Prominent among these were St, Margaret's Roman Catholic Church, the McMurtry Block, Catalino's Store and the re-modeling of Edward's Specialty Shop in 1924. John McMullen was a prominent and substantial pioneer in the advancement of the community and was actively involved with the Anglican Church and was the elected Reeve in 1929.

- ***Residential Category – Horrell House – 282 Fifth Street***

This house is noted in the 1904 Fire Insurance Maps as a single detached home situated on an acre of land at the south west corner of Hugel Avenue and Fifth Street. It appears that this house was built for Mr. John Box Horrell sometime in the late 1880's. Mr. Horrell was Mayor of Midland during the Village years of 1884, '85 and '87 and again during the Town years from 1890 to 1897, while all this time

operating a successful general merchandizing store on King Street. The architectural style of the house would be interpreted as Queen Anne Revival Style (1880 – 1910) which is the most eclectic of the nineteenth century styles, the most varied, colorful and light hearted. This style is identified by the decorative motifs in the brick or wood that is combined with a variety of roof shapes to create a richly decorated irregular form. Among the more prominent features of this home is the front façade with the offset three storey tower with pilasters, square columns flush with the surface, extending to a tall hip roof. This incorporates the main entrance from the porch and on the upper floors, inset windows capped with decorative arched soldier course brick lintels.

- ***Commercial Category – Jeffery Block – 234 and 236 King Street***

Identifying a building as a 'Block' was a common moniker of that era as it implied a grandiose structure. Mr. C. W. Jeffery was one of Midland's pioneer citizens and successful business men. The 'Jeffery' hardware dates back to the late 1890's when it was first established in the Gris  Block located on the south west corner of Dominion Avenue and King Street. In 1901 the Jeffery Block was completed and new firm of C. W. Jeffery & Sons started a hardware business from this location. The second storey of the building was the new home of the local Y. M. C. A. and it was said to be, at that time, the best equipped quarters of any association in a small Ontario town. This space was also used as a ballroom for gala functions. The top floor was completed and outfitted for the Odd Fellows lodge meeting rooms. The third floor was also used for a time as the High School quarters until the new quarters were completed in 1904 at the corner of Sixth and Yonge Streets. The architectural style is reminiscent of the later Romanesque Revival Style that was popularized in Canada by Thomas Fuller, who was the Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works of Canada and notable designer of post offices and custom houses, including the Town's library. With its ease of construction and emphasis on large windows, permitting plenty of light to enter the building, the Romanesque Revival was a popular choice for commercial buildings.

2009 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category – Joseph Lavigne – 302 Manly Street***

The land on which the "Lavigne" home is situated was a gift from Mr. James Playfair to the Lavigne family. The Lavigne family built two homes on the property, one for Joseph and Josephine and a second one for their son Captain William Lavigne. William built both houses likely between 1905 and 1910 and the Lavigne's moved into their new home beside him. The home is located on the west side of Manly Street between Elizabeth Street and Hugel Avenue. The architectural style of the Lavigne home appears to be Edwardian Classicism. The style in itself is seen in Ontario between 1900 and 1930 and is associated with the reign of British monarch Edward VII. It was a reaction to the decorative excess of the late Victorian style revivals that flourished in the late 1800's. While it exhibits some restrained classical inspiration the style is also know for its simplicity after the excesses of the Queen Anne style. They are largely devoid of exterior ornament with the exception of generous verandas which often feature stout classical columns and chunky railings. Typical of Edwardian architecture, the Lavigne House is a two and a half storey, red stretcher brick home having shingles in the upper dormer and medium hipped roof. The home features many windows in the typical one over one style with a decorative stained glass fanlight and window. The front picture window features the stained glass excellently.

2010 Award Recipients

- ***Residential Category – Captain Burke’s House – 435 Hugel Avenue***
This house was once the residence of Captain Frederick John Burke, likely born in 1885. The date of construction of the existing structure is unknown; however it is believed to be around 1906. The home is reminiscent of the Queen Anne Style of architecture. The house is a two and half story red stretcher brick home having a square plan with a large, gable end on the front of the home and octagonal window. There are two verandas and porches under the gables and eaves. The current owners have worked to preserve the many features of the Queen Anne style, including the original fireplaces, stained glass and lead glass windows, the built in buffet, and many other features.
- ***Commercial Category – Steer’s Cabins – 830 Yonge Street (c/o Norman’s Garden Gallery)***
This is the last remaining structure from Steer’s Cabins, an accommodation/vacation spot for visitors to Little Lake Park. Steer’s Cabins operated as an overnight accommodation business from the early 1940’s up until 1979. There were 23 sleeper cabins located on the property in a horseshoe formation. Also on the site was a cookhouse, and a centrally located washroom/shower facility. In addition to the cabins, there was a White Rose gasoline station (later Shell Canada) and a small store. It was torn down in the early 1980’s, but in 2004, the Norman family made significant effort to restore and preserve this original.

2011 Award Recipient

- ***Commercial Category – Ciboulette & Cie – 248 King Street***
The building was once part of the Ingram Block, formerly owned by George and Alex Ingram, and operated as the Midland General Store. The store was known for its products: from clothes to quilting and sewing supplies to sundries, the shoppers varied from farmers and factory workers to the families of Christian Island to The Gray Sisters. In the more recent past, the property was home to the National Bank. In December 2009, an extensive interior renovation of the property began, in which the original hardwood floors were unearthed, as well as the original tin ceiling. Today the property is home to a food shop that celebrates the local foods of the area and the heritage culture of the community.

2012 Award Recipient

- ***Residential Category – 251 Queen Street (Hillside Holme)***

2013 Award Recipient

- ***Commercial Category – 600 Hugel Avenue (Sedgewick Post and Hogg)***
- ***Residential Category – 441 Hugel Avenue (Smith Residence)***

2014 Award Recipient

- ***Residential Category – 423 Hugel Avenue (Skoggard and Scarth)***

2015 Award Recipient

- ***Commercial/Institutional Category – 308 King Street (St. Paul’s United Church)***

