

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MIDLAND



Midland Heritage Committee

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The Town of Midland

575 Dominion Ave, Midland





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TOWN OF MIDLAND

MACARTNEY'S DRUG, BOOKS AND FANCY FOODS

The MacCartney building still stands on the northeast corner of King Street and Dominion Avenue, although it has lost its original top floor. Look for the "Dominion Place" sign above Graffiti Art.

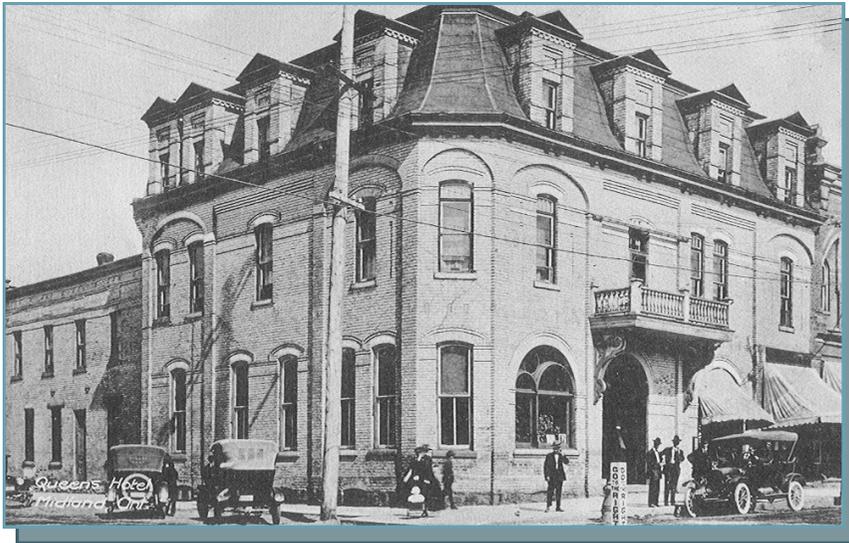


DID YOU KNOW...

A very safe, clean and hospitable community, Midland has a population of over 17,000. It is the economic hub of Southern Georgian Bay, which boasts a population exceeding 48,000 within a 25 km radius.

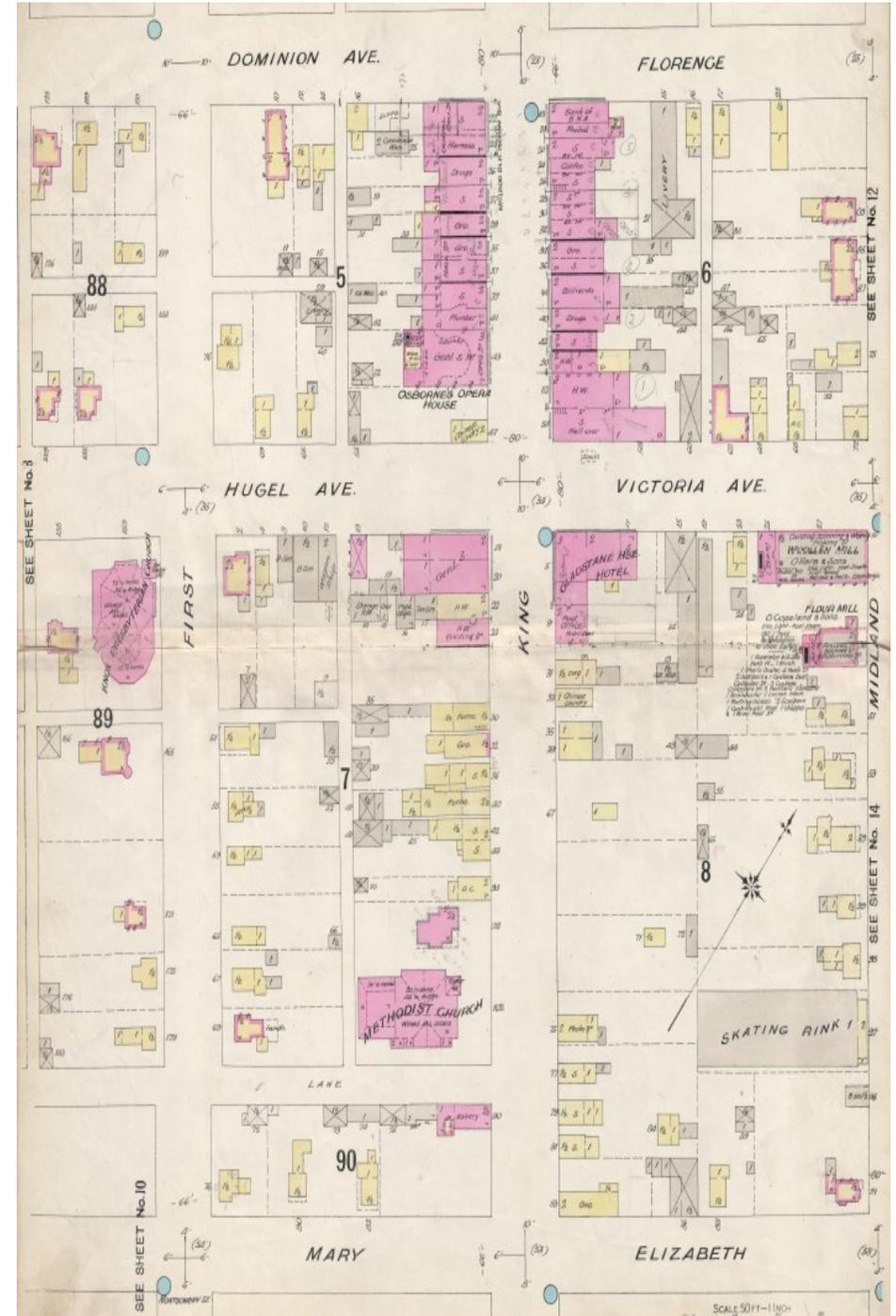
THE QUEEN'S HOTEL

The Queen's Hotel was one of two hotels in Midland in 1876. Originally a wooden structure, the Hotel was destroyed by a fire, but rebuilt with brick by William Rogers, who owned the property until 1982. The Schoolbus Surf Shop, Den's Skillet and The Works Hair Salon currently occupy the building.



DID YOU KNOW...

The Town of Midland Parks System encompasses over 321.33 acres of parkland throughout 28 community parks. In addition, there are 18.038 km of trails throughout the Town with many more planned for the immediate future.



TOWN OF MIDLAND

GLADSTANE HOUSE AND GEORGIAN HOTEL

The Gladstane House was built in 1872 by one of the founding settlers of Midland, Thomas Gladstane. Gladstane also served as the Town's first Postmaster. The Gladstane House later became the landmark Georgian Hotel. The original building was demolished in 1963. It is presently Maurice's Valu-Mart.



DID YOU KNOW...

The town of Midland was founded when, in 1871, the Midland Railway of Canada selected the sparsely populated community of Mundy's Bay as the new terminus of the Midland railway.

TOWN OF MIDLAND

THE WESTERN BANK OF CANADA BUILDING

This three storey brick building was built in 1882 for the Burton Brothers. It was the first bank in Midland. In 1900, the building was purchased from the Burton Brothers. Boasting 16 departments, the Playfair-Prestion store became one of the largest and best department stores in Canada at the time. Today it is the home of the Bayshore Lanes Bowling Alley and is missing the third storey.



DID YOU KNOW...

In Midland, the land area is 199.94 km² with a population density of 177.2 persons/ km². This compares to the national land area of 8,965,121.42 km² with a population density of 3.7 persons/ km²

A.A. OSBORNE AND COMPANY AND OPERA HOUSE

Arthur Osborn and Charles Smith formed the firm of A.A Osborne & Company, which featured "Midland's Two Greatest Store—Midland Bazaar and Star Grocery." This building housed the grocery department on the ground level and the Opera House on the second and third floors. The old façade is now painted over with a mural of trumpeter swans, above Global Pet Food.



DID YOU KNOW...

In 1954, the shipyards moved their entire operation to Collingwood and this had a significant impact on the local economy. Nevertheless, gradual and continued diversification in all sectors brought the Town's population to 11,000 by 1972.

HORRELL'S CORNER

Built in 1887 on the southwest corner of King Street and Hugel Avenue, the J.B. Horrell & Sons Dry Goods Store was owned by John Box Horrell, the first Reeve of the Village of Midland and the first Mayor of the Town of Midland. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is now at this location.



DID YOU KNOW...

In the summer months, the area's population grows to over 100,000 with seasonal visitors to more than 8,000 cottages, resort hotels, provincial and national parks in the surrounding municipalities of Penetanguishene, Tiny and Tay.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The King Street Methodist Church (presently St. Paul's United Church) was constructed in 1897. Its name changed in 1925, when St Paul's became a part of the new United Church of Canada.



DID YOU KNOW...

Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, Midland was home to the Huron/ Ouendat nations, who were considered one of the most advanced nations in North America. The Jesuits arrived in the 1600s, and the British followed shortly thereafter.

THE HEWIS HOUSE HOTEL

The Hewis House Hotel was built on the southwest corner of Bay and King Street by David Hewis in the 1890s. An empty parking lot is now on this property.



DID YOU KNOW...

In 1993, the Financial Times newspaper referred to Midland as a "high-tech super town". ELCAN, now part of the American-based Raytheon Corporation, is the largest employer in Midland with over 900 employees.

THE AMERICAN HOTEL

On the west side of King Street stood the American Hotel, where the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce is currently located. It is said that a small boat could be launched from the back of the American, made possible by the proximity of the waters of the Bay in its early years.



DID YOU KNOW...

A local consortium of business leaders headed by James Playfair, David Pratt and Douglas White, to name only three, was responsible for continued expansion in wholesaling, retailing, and industrial manufacturing.

THE MIDLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The building currently occupied by the Midland Public Library was constructed in 1913 as a Federal Government building, serving as a Post Office, Custom Office, Steamship Inspection Office and Licensing Facility. It served these functions until 1967 when it was renovated and opened as a public library.



DID YOU KNOW...

On October 24, 1878, Midland reached a population of over 1,000 and was incorporated into a village.