

# THE CHATHAM-KENT MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER



Community of Blenheim



# Community of Blenheim

## 54 Chatham Street North

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1880

**Historical Significance:** The construction date of this home sets it apart from most residences in the municipality, particularly Blenheim. Additionally, the ornate wood work suggests that the initial owner was either a skilled craftsmen or had the means to hire one. The home is a great example of Blenheim's nineteenth century affluence.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The mansard roof, cornice, dormers, and wood detailing make this house an exquisite example of Second Empire design. The hearts that were cut in the front entrance are a great illustration of architectural folk art. The residence is unique by both municipal and provincial standards.

**Contextual Significance:** The house is a landmark driving into Blenheim from the countryside.

**Legal Description:** PT LOT 1, SOUTH OF  
MCGREGOR STREET PLAN 88 AS IN 441258  
BLENHEIM

**Additional Notes:**





# Community of Blenheim

## 59 Ellen Street

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1885

**Historical Significance:** Trinity Anglican Church is one of the oldest and most decorative buildings in Blenheim. It was constructed by mason and general contractor, Joseph J. Cookson. Cookson built several other important properties in Blenheim. In his later years he served the town as mayor.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The design features of this building include Romanesque Revival and Gothic Revival influences. The arched stained glass windows are unique. The polychromatic brick work adds detail and accentuates the rest of the building. The Chancel was extended in 1904 and 1925. In 1969, a new entrance was created.

**Contextual Significance:** The building is at a prominent location on Ellen street. Moreover, the church's steeple can be seen from a noticeable distance around the community. It is a landmark in Blenheim.

**Legal Description:** PLAN 91 LOT 49 PT LOT 54  
PLUS RP 24R889 PART 3 RP 24R2615 PART  
1

**Additional Notes:** Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little





# Community of Blenheim

## 46 George Street

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1865

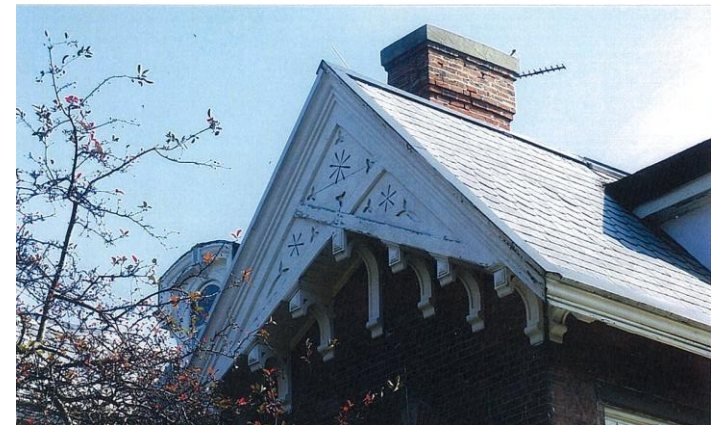
**Historical Significance:** This home was the residence of three local doctors: Dr. James Samson, Dr. Charles B. Langford, and Dr. John Graham. Samson built the residence for his family and his practise in 1864. There are few structures that date back to the 1860's in the Blenheim area and even fewer in the municipality that housed three different family practises.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The house is a massive brick mansion. The verge boards, steep sloping gables, and lancet windows are an outstanding display of Gothic Revival design. Other features include: slate roof, five dormers, painted wooden brackets, corbelled cornice, and two chimneys. This structure is very rare by municipal and provincial standards.

**Contextual Significance:** The residence is located on a particularly visible corner lot in Blenheim: George & McGregor streets. It is also close to three different early church establishments.

**Legal Description:** LOTS 5 & 6, & PT LOT 7, PLAN 88, SOUTH OF MCGREGOR STREET & ALL OF LOT 39, PLAN 91 AS IN 225476 BLENHEIM

**Additional Notes:** Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little





# Community of Blenheim

## 49 George Street



**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1895

**Historical Significance:** Blenheim United Church is one of the oldest religious structures in the community. It was originally the Erskine Presbyterian Church from 1895-1925. It did not become the Blenheim United Church until 1932. The architects/contractors for the project were J.L. Wilson and W.C. Craddock. Joseph J. Cookson was the builder and Rev. Waddell was the pastor for over 36 years. A stained glass window stands in the pastor's memory.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The architectural design of this building is extremely rare and eclectic. The building's most dominant influences appear to come from Queen Anne architectural features. The asymmetrical layout, bell tower, and large turret are distinct elements of this structure.

**Contextual Significance:** The residence is located on an extremely visible corner lot in Blenheim: George & McGregor streets.

**Legal Description:** LOT 2 & PT LOTS 3 & 4,  
SOUTH OF MCGREGOR STREET PLAN 88  
AS IN BL3454, BL 3455, BL10443 BLENHEIM

**Additional Notes:** Photos and information courtesy of Mary Lou Little 8



# Community of Blenheim

## 141 Park Alley

**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1885

**Historical Significance:** This residence was home to one of Blenheim's wealthiest settlers in the late nineteenth century. In more recent years it has been converted from a private residence into a funeral home. Previous owners included Abigail Wixon, George Thompson, and Hamilton Needham. George Thompson was one of Blenheim's mayors and a long time councillor.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The design features of this building are highly unique. The steep gables and verge boarding, in combination with brackets under the eaves, and asymmetrical layout provide an original mix of Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne architectural styles. The dormers placed on the turret draws ones eyes upwards. It reflects the extraordinary amount of detail put into the structure. The house is unique by both municipal and provincial standards.

**Contextual Significance:** Unlike many funeral homes in the municipality this building retains much of its original façade. It is placed on a large double lot.

**Legal Description:** LOTS 5,7 & 9 & PT LOTS 6,8 & 10  
BLOCK AZ, PLAN 102 AS IN 443773 BLENHEIM

**Additional Notes:** Photos courtesy of Mary Lou Little





# Community of Blenheim

## 101 Talbot Street West



**Historic Period and/or Date of Erection:** circa 1875

**Historical Significance:** This building is one of the few remaining nineteenth century corner block hotels in The Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The structure was originally built in the 1870's and was called the Sheldon House. It was considered one of the finest hotels along the Talbot Trail for over 50 years.

**Architectural Significance/Description:** The complex is an important example of the evolution of design and function as it is composed of a variety of architectural styles. The styles include: Victorian commercial, Second Empire, Mission Revival, and late Gothic Vernacular. Important features include the main three storey brick structure with a unique polygonal front façade, a one storey semi-detached structure with boom town façade, and a Second Empire addition west of the main block.

**Contextual Significance:** The building is on a recognizable and important corner lot in the community of Blenheim (Talbot Street and Marlborough Road). It was at a convenient spot for travellers coming and going down the Talbot Trail.

**Legal Description:** LOT 84,86 & 87 & PT LOTS 82 & 83  
PLAN 91 AS IN 312490 BLENHEIM

**Additional Notes:**

