

In 1998 Tavistock celebrated its 150th anniversary. What a celebration it was!! Anniversary weekend stretched to six days of jam-packed events. People came from all over, some travelling hundreds and thousands of miles to renew their ties with their hometown.

Since its beginning in 1848 Tavistock has been a village and a community rich in recorded history. Research completed for the anniversary confirmed elements of local lore, discovered new facts and, most importantly, promoted our history in a myriad of ways.

Susan Luckhardt, then a resident of Tavistock, wrote a series of articles entitled "Tavistock's Victorian Architecture". Each story featured a well-known home or business and described its architectural elements and its owners. Susan's work gives us a new appreciation of our grand old buildings.

Susan's stories were published in the Tavistock Gazette in 1998 and are posted here for new readers to learn from and enjoy.

Part 1: 218 Woodstock Street North
 44 Hope Street West
 94 William Street South
 52 Woodstock Street South

Part 2: 76 Woodstock Street South
 The Glasgow Warehouse - 24 Woodstock Street South
 106 William Street South
 18 Maria Street

Part 3: 113 Woodstock Street North
 5 Woodstock Street North
 Oxford Hotel - 40 Woodstock Street South

As you are reading these stories, please remember the original date of publication was 1998. Time brings changes.

Stories begin on the next page. Please scroll down.

TAVISTOCK'S Victorian Architecture

A Sesquicentennial Series by Susan Luckhardt



The term "Victorian" is often misused to describe a particular architectural style when in fact "Victorian" is merely a blanket term which refers to a time period from the latter half of the 1800's to the early 1900's. Within this entire Victorian era, named for Queen Victoria, various styles of architecture existed. Some Victorian styles found in Tavistock include Gothic, Neoclassical Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Edwardian. Each is defined by features or characteristics particular to its own style. Quite often some similar features can be found on more than one of these styles at the same time as the transition through architectural elements overlapped within the periods.

Local examples of these Victorian styles will be discussed in this and following columns with the purpose of enhancing the way in which we view architecture.

Acknowledgement is given to Tim Mosher as well as to the Stratford-Perth Archives for use of records in the creation of this series.

218 Woodstock St, N,

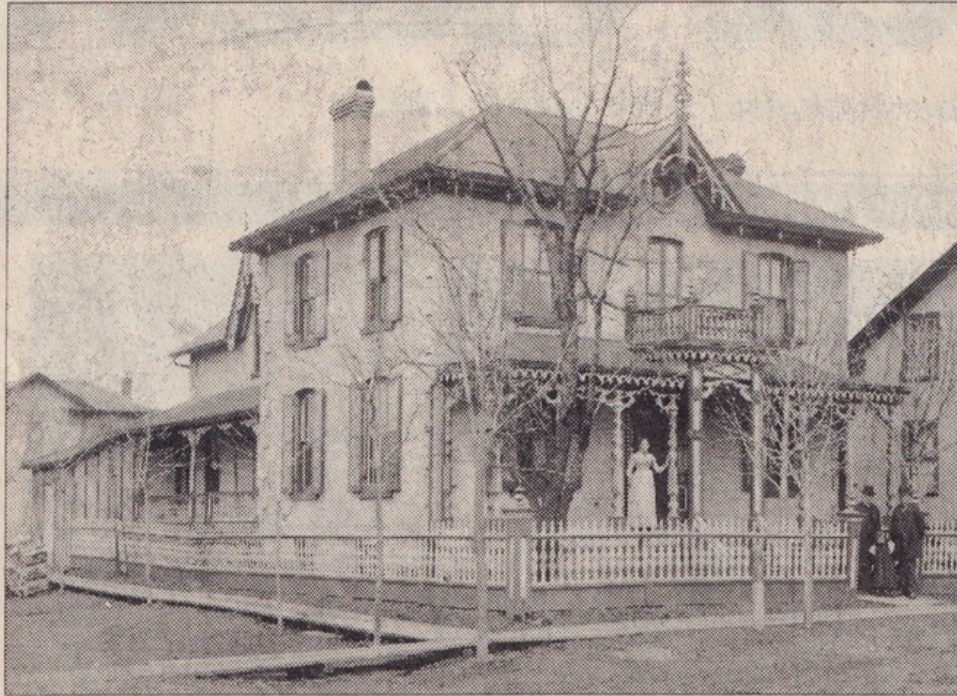
This house was built in the Italianate style of architecture in the early 1890s by John Lemp Sr. who was a woodworker and a master mechanic. His woodcarving skills are evident in the interior woodwork which includes intricate inlay work, as well as in the intricate gingerbread trim which adorns the exterior of the house. Italianate features of note include the deep, projecting eaves; the bracketing at the eaves; the use of bay windows and the L shaped front facade.

John Lemp Sr. was known locally for the eight foot high clocks he built and detailed with wood inlay. He also manufactured Tavistock's first horseless carriage. His son, John Lemp Jr., became a photographer here and throughout his career captured in detail through photographs many aspects of local life.

The above photo, from The Lemp Studio Collection, is one of over 200 to be featured in the new book entitled "Crossroads in Time", available June 1st from Tavistock Rotary Club members to celebrate their 50th Anniversary and Tavistock's 150th.

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44 Hope St. W., Tavistock

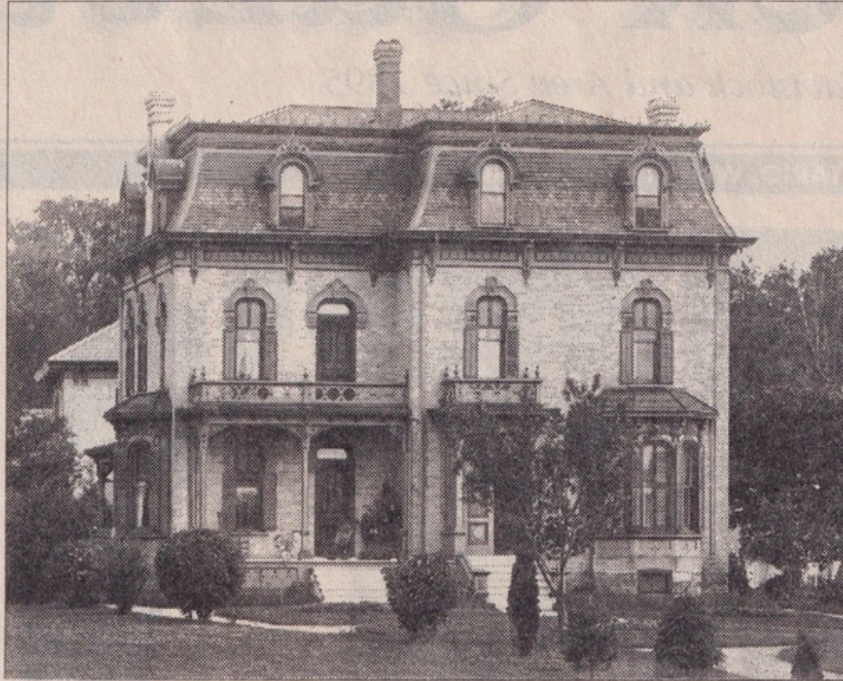
This house is an excellent example of Italianate architecture complete with bracketing under the eaves so typical of this style. Other Italianate features include the centre gable at the front facade highlighted by a round window; the round topped four pane windows and the use of quoining in the brickwork. In this case quoining is used over each window as a lintel as well as on the corners of the structure. Quoining was not only a decorative element, it also provided strength to the building and often bricks used for quoining were fired to be harder than those used on the rest of the structure. Henry Diebel constructed this house after purchasing the site in February 1876. John Klein, an

early village merchant, owned the residence from 1878 until 1884. Beginning in 1885, this house became the residence of prominent area doctors, the first of whom was Dr. James P. Rankin. Dr. Rankin was followed by Dr. Steele (1888-1922), Dr. Charles R. McTavish, Dr. Harold M. Taylor (1930-1967) and Dr. Wayne Weston. Medicine was practiced from this location until Dr. Taylor established the Tavistock medical office at 24 Hope Street West, just a few doors down the street.

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94 William Street South

The impressive Second Empire house built by Frederick W. Krug Sr., who came to Tavistock in the 1860's, is now part of the Maples Home for Seniors. Once an excellent example of the Second Empire style, the yellow brick house boasted a mansard roof with intricate ironwork at the roofline and on the third storey windows; bay windows; wonderful porches; decorative chimneys; wide frieze board and brackets; and decorative lintels with grape keystone detail over each window. The mansard roof, of French architectural influence, was in this case highlighted by coloured slate tiles used in a decorative pattern. The property which consisted of beautifully manicured lawns complete with tennis court, once fronted onto Woodstock Street South. Frederick Krug Sr. owned and operated the Glasgow Warehouse, a mercantile which was once the centre of village activity.

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52 Woodstock Street South

The original portion of this house consisted of a two storey frame structure with clapboard siding constructed about 1855. The single storey portion to the east was added later and dates back to 1870.

About 1890 Dr. Otto G. Niemeier made extensive changes to the structure which included the addition of a red brick facade complete with round arched (palladian) windows and a corner entry. The new facade borrowed these features from the Neo-classical Revival architectural style. The building was remodelled and refitted inside at the same time.

Early occupants were tradesmen and businessmen including a

tinsmith, a weaver, various storekeepers, a jeweller and a tailor. Dr. Niemeier, whose name still appears above the door, was the first doctor to work from this building. Later doctors who practiced here included Dr. Lorne J. Campbell, Dr. Frederick Cawthorpe and veterinarian Dr. George Blum.

This structure is now protected as a significant property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

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