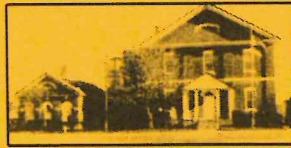## 14. Shire Hall

Shire Hall serves as the county offices and council chamber. The 1982 addition to the building added modern office space without detracting from the historic streetscape. The site selected for these two important buildings reflects the commercial dominance of the Hallowell side of the town and defines the western boundary of the affluent residential neighbourhood that developed along East Main Street. Interesting architectural features include the keystones in the window arches, the brackets under the window lintels and the massive main door.

15. The Registry Office

The Registry next to Shire Hall was designed and built as a depository for legal documents affecting land. This building is one of the best preserved examples of similar buildings erected in every Ontario county. It was moved in 1975 to a new building built in the old Jail Yard on York Street side of the Court House.

16. 338 Main Street

The simple frame house at 338 Main may have been built as early as 1850. Tremaine's 1863 map shows a building here. Note the delicate barge board trim under the gabled roof, the elegant drop at the apex of the gable and the decorative mouldings over the windows.

17. The Washburn House 339 Main Street

This house built for Ebenezer's son Simeon Washburn and his wife Deborah c.1835. It is one of the finest examples of a rich family's home of the era. It was inherited by Simeon's son Paul Ebenezer and his wife Phoebe Jane (Morgan) in 1858 and sold to the Anglican Church to serve as the rectory for the New Church in 1890. Note how it lines up with the other early houses on the street.
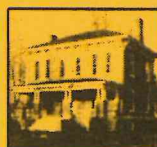
18. Wexford 341 Main Street

Colton House c.1883 at 341 Main Street, later named "Wexford", was built for Dr. Colton on a lot severed from the Washburn farm. The building's solid appearance contrasts with its more whimsical neighbour, the Merrill house. Wexford has many interesting details including the large double-flue chimneys with their projecting bands near the top. A delightful detail on this building are the french windows with fan lights opening on to the verandah.

19. The Merrill Inn 343 Main Street

The many gabled Merrill house with its ornate bargeboard trim is one of the dramatic East Main street neighbourhood houses. This elegant home has been converted into an inn. Edward Merrill, a Picton lawyer, purchased the lot on which the building stands in 1877 and the house was completed the next year. At about the same time Merrill purchased the lot at 2 Hill street overlooking Picton Bay where he built a scaled down version of the Main street house. Edward's father, Samuel Merrill, was the first lawyer to open a practice in Hallowell\Picton.

20. 344 Main

The property at 344 Main was owned by the Washburn family until 1859 and appears on Tremaine's 1863 map which suggests a date of construction c.1859. Although the arch, or lancet portion of the window under the central gable is no longer glazed, the window is a characteristic of Gothic Revival architecture.

21. Ross/McMullen House 347 Main Street

The plaque at the walkway leading to the Ross/McMullen House, built in 1868, tells us about the history of this building and the interesting people who lived here. This massive residence has some interesting features including the twin bay windows and the addition of a stone stable wing at the rear. The building has served as the home of branch 78 of the Royal Canadian Legion since 1948.
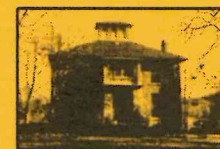
22. The Sills House 346 Main Street

Across the street is the Sills House c.1859. One of the earliest residences built east of the Town Hill, the Sills House set the scene for the affluent residential neighbourhood that would be established here. The two story vestibule is an early example of the many county homes with this feature. The upper vestibule with its framed pilaster bay window and the main door case with its transom and sidelights are notable features of this splendid building as are the triple-flue chimneys and the belvedere overlooking Picton harbour.
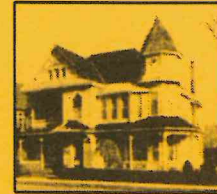
23. The Wilcocks House 352 Main Street

The Wilcocks House was built around 1897 by Augusta Wilcocks on land purchased from her father, a Picton merchant. This Queen Anne style house is a delightful addition to the fashionable turn of the century Main Street East neighbourhood. Note the upper floor gallery and decorative gables, the main floor verandah and the outstanding hexagonal turret.

24. The Striker house 353 Main Street

The Striker house at 353 Main Street was built in 1868 as shown in wrought iron above the upper center bay. Gideon Striker and his brother-in-law Robert Chapman operated what may be Ontario's first pharmacy at 237 Main Street. Striker represented Prince Edward in the provincial legislature for three consecutive terms from 1871 to 1883. This handsome building has a number of interesting features including the french doors above the entry, the wide pilasters on the main doorcase and the wrought iron balcony over the elegant main entrance.

25. 366 Main Street

366 Main Street, c. 1898, has a handsome brick drive shed facing Fairfield Street. The rounded windows and yellow brick accent make this elegant drive shed worth your attention.

Johnsons And Their Rich Neighbours

A walking tour of an historic neighbourhood

VIRGINIA MITCHELL

The Merrill Inn

Buildings reflect the people who built them and lived in them. The building's style, or mixture of styles, it's location and the buildings next to it are clues to the heritage of the district. They are a lasting indicator of the good times and the bad times that beset every community.

As you visit the buildings highlighted in this pamphlet, occasionally stand back and look at the whole "streetscape". Imagine what it looked like when the proud owners moved into their new homes.

Above all enjoy your tour and please visit the County's many museums. It will help you hone your sensitivity to the ambience of our community.

Map

LOT 2   LOT 3   LOT 4

Barker

Queen

Gladstone

Paul

Jane

Johnston

Maple

Bogus

East Main

Bay

Hill

Fair Grounds

Picton Bay

(Map with numbered locations 1–25)
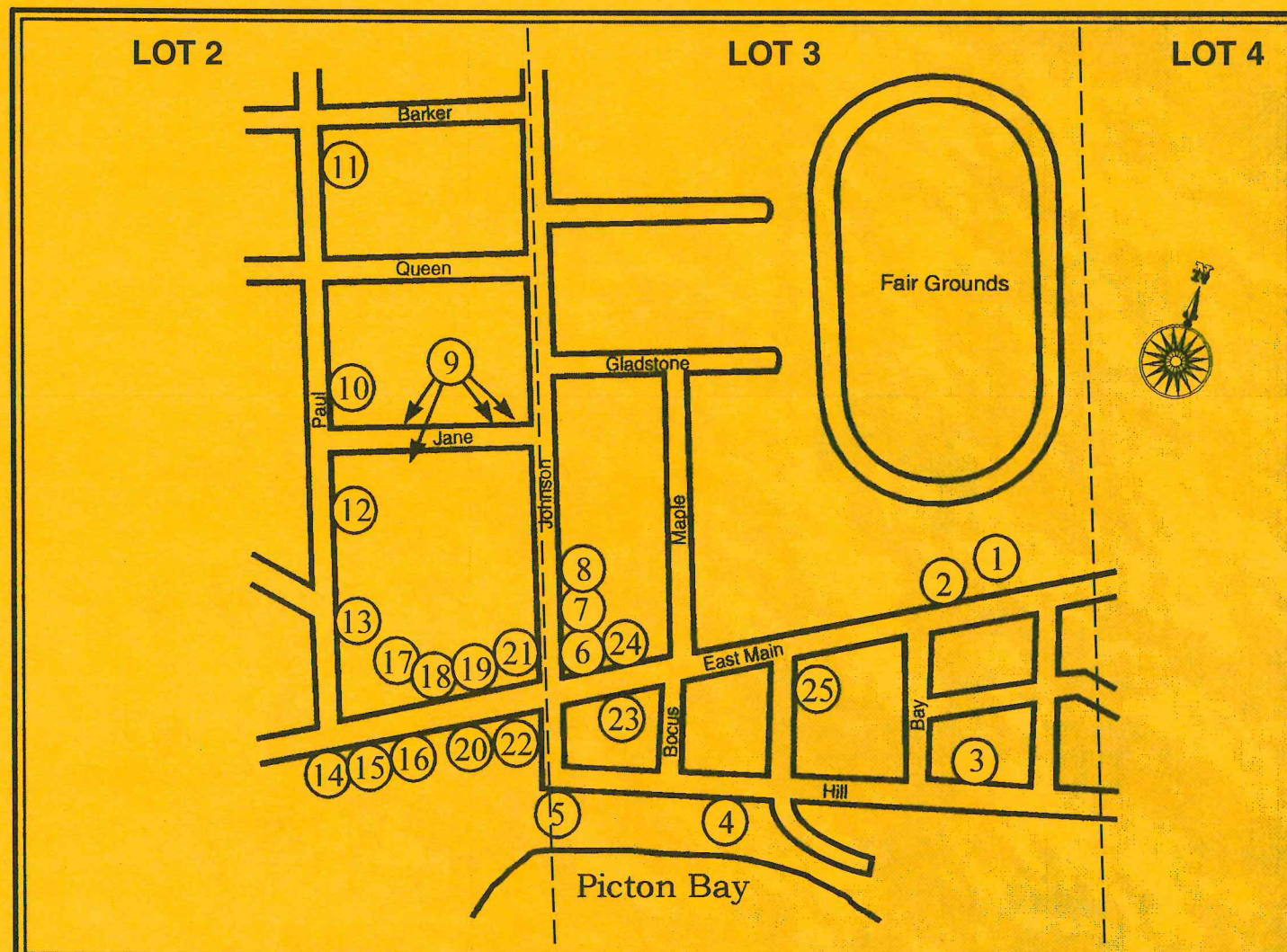
Johnsons And Their Rich Neighbours – Introduction

Andrew and Henry Johnson were given 750 acres of land as settlers. Included in this grant was Lot 3. One of the Johnsons built a sawmill on the creek running from what is now the Glenwood Cemetery to the Bay but they were primarily farmers.

Their neighbour on Lot 2, Ebenezer Washburn U.E., started as a farmer in Ernestown ,became a merchant and in 1798 he moved to his Hallowell property. He represented Prince Edward in the Assembly of Upper Canada 3rd and 4th Sessions (1800 to 1808). By 1808 he had acquired 1,190 acres of land in Hallowell Township. He died 12 November 1826.

One of his sons Simon Ebenezer, 1794-1837, became a prominent lawyer in York (Toronto). Another son Simeon carried on the family business and served as Surrogate Court Judge.

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1. The Crystal Palace

The Prince Edward County Agricultural Society was organized in 1831. Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir. John A. Macdonald, was secretary pro term in 1833 and 34 filling in for his cousin L.P. Mcpherson who was ill. In 1886 the Society bought the present grounds with track and grandstand from the Picton Driving Park Association. In 1890 they built the Crystal Palace from a plan submitted by Andrew Irving. It was not a copy of the Crystal Palace, built for the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, but a variation on Paxton's use of "lots of glass". Restoration began in 1990 with the official opening in June 1997.

2. The Old Boys' Entrance

Other important fairground buildings are the Grandstand and the "Prince Edward Old Boys Memorial Entrance". The latter, once the main entrance gates to the county fair grounds, was erected in 1920 as a memorial to the Prince Edward county soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War. The grandstand nearly fell victim to the wrecker's ball. In 1995 a citizens's group was formed to save the structure and rehabilitate it to the configuration shown in a 1904 photograph.
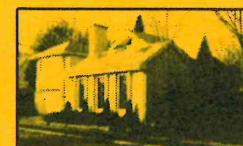
3. Dolphin Cottage
19 Hill Street

19 Hill Street. c. 1879, is known as Dolphin Cottage. Margaret Morrison formerly of Black River, North Marysburg, owned the house from 1897 to 1914. Miss Morrison's cousin Jennie Creighton was the wife of F. W. Woolworth. It was Margaret who loaned Woolworth five hundred dollars to launch a business that would grow to a chain of over a thousand stores. His first 5 and 10 Cent Store was opened in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 21 June, 1879. Until recently, a bronze plaque in the Woolworth's store in Watertown, N.Y., commemorated the relationship with Picton, one of the many close ties between the two communities throughout the 1800s. Note also the historic plaques and the magnificent view of Picton harbour from the park opposite Dolphin Cottage.

4. The Carter House
8 Hill Street

The Carter House, c.1890, was originally a frame house with four wings forming a cross. Additions over the years and the application of stucco in the 1920 has transformed it into more of a California Spanish style house than its original Swiss chalet style. Note the very large decorative brackets under the widely projecting eaves.

5. 2 Hill Street

The house at 2 Hill Street, the second house built for Edward Merrill, a Picton lawyer and judge, around 1879. Compare this house with his first one on Main Street. No. 19 on this tour. Judge Merrill, suffering from a terminal disease, hanged himself from the back balcony of this Hill Street Home.
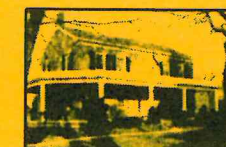
6. 349 Main Street

The lot at 349 Main Street remained in the Johnson family until 1898 and a House is shown on the property on an 1898 map but the actual date of construction is not known. Interesting architectural features include the bargeboard trim and finals on the gables, the squared bay window with its paneled cornice the highly decoratd verandah and the arched door case.

7. The Brown House
2 Johnson Street

Built c. 1900 for J. Roland Brown, a local lawyer, the house is an example of the "Colonial Revival" architectural style. This style combines Loyalist\Georgian with contemporary styles. Its perdimented portico supported by columns and the decorative urns on the upper balustrade are some of the interesting features of this house.

8. The Johnson Farm House
4 Johnson Street,

This neighbourhood grew around the Johnson and Washburn farms in the 1880's. The Johnson Farm House c.1835, facing south, lost its view of Main Street as the neighbourhood developed. The Johnson House is fine example of the Georgian architectural style that was brought to Upper Canada by the loyalists.

9. 17, 15, 6 and 5 Jane Street

These four houses are of similar construction. Many similar examples can be seen in the town. They were probably built some time after 1884. These simple gable roof, brick houses contribute to this attractive and harmonious streetscape.

10. Monmouth
26 Paul Street

Monmouth, for many years the home of the Capt. Ray Young family, is an elegant mansion modelled after English manor houses of the Tudor period. Monmouth was built in 1911 in the "Period Revival" architectural style. With its bay windows and elegant main entrance arched central transoms and main entrance sidelights, this handsome building stands out in the neighbourhood.

11. 40 Paul Street

40 Paul Street, c.1895, is an example of Queen Anne architecture featuring many covered verandah and porch areas, a conical tower over the verandah, intricate bargeboard trim and elaborate column arrangement supporting the main entrance portico.

12. 18 Paul Street

18 Paul Street is a three bay Italianate style popular in the 1870's and 80's. Note the intricate details on the verandah decoration and the brackets on the roof cornice.

13. 8 Paul Street

John Vance, a Picton lumber merchant, built his house at 8 Paul Street around 1860 facing Main Street. Later development filled the space between the house and Main Street Some of the interesting details on this handsome building are the vertical mullions separating the window sashes and the gable window with its triangular point. The ornamental brick band on the chimneys is characteristic of Prince Edward County chimneys.