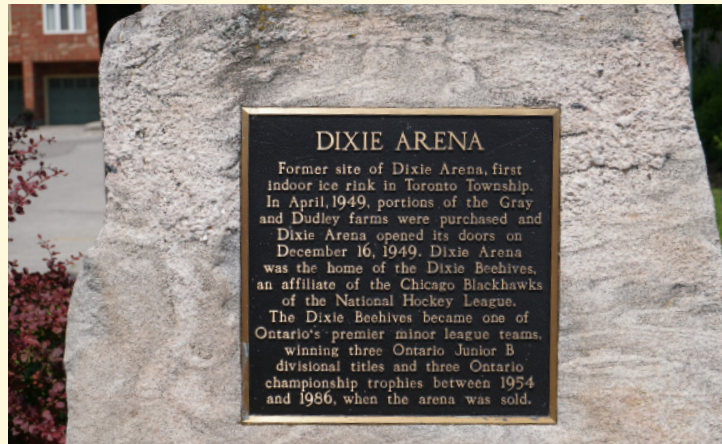


8. Dixie Arena

1168 Arena Road (Built 1949)

It used to be that if you saw young people from Dixie out before the crack of dawn in winter, odds were they had skates flung over their shoulder and were on their way to Dixie Arena. Opened on December 16, 1949, Dixie Arena was the first indoor ice rink in Toronto Township and the home of the Dixie Beehives, an affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks of the National Hockey League. The arena served Toronto Township, the Town of Mississauga and the City of Mississauga for many years. It was sold and demolished in 1996.



Dixie Arena Plaque

9. Former Dixie Public School

2520 Dixie Road (Built c1923)

On the southwest side of Dixie and Dundas Roads, is the former Dixie Public School building. Opened in 1923, this four-room school was built as a replacement for the smaller log schoolhouse originally built in 1844. Increasing suburbanization in the 1950s forced the old school to close its doors in the spring of 1960 and students were transferred into the new Dixie Road Public School. For a time the building was used as an office by the Ministry of Transportation, before being purchased in 1983 by Serbian Orthodox Church St. Sava.



Former Dixie Public School

10. Clarke House

2240 Dixie Road

This private home was built in 1925 by the Clarke family, with the rear garage added after the Second World War. The house was constructed using hand-carved stones. The house has elements of different architectural styles, including Georgian and Classical Revival. The elegant, and formerly rural, country house remains a private family home.

11. Pallett Green (Park)

1576 Dundas Street East

Pallett Green is named in honour of the Pallett family and is connected to their former farm property. William Pallett came to Canada from England with his wife Mary and their seven children, and in 1858 moved to Sydenham (Dixie) and rented a 200-acre farm. Sons Robert, William Henry, Thomas and Charles all bought farms near here. The original farm, where Pallett Green is located, passed from Robert to his son William, and then to grandson Roy, who raised horses and poultry. The Palletts were rooted in their community as successful apple and vegetable producers. They helped build Bethesda Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1865 and were involved with the Dixie Women's Institute. In 1918, they opened the Dixie Fruit Market, went on to help form the Dixie Arena Gardens, were involved with the Dixie Beehives hockey team and in 1944 helped start the Dixie Growers Cold Storage facility. The original farm passed from Roy to his son Don, and in the 1940s Don was involved in founding the Dixie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Co-operative. In 1982, the farm was sold and Pleasant View Farms relocated nearby, where it was operated until 2012. There is an interpretive plaque here that commemorates this significant early family.

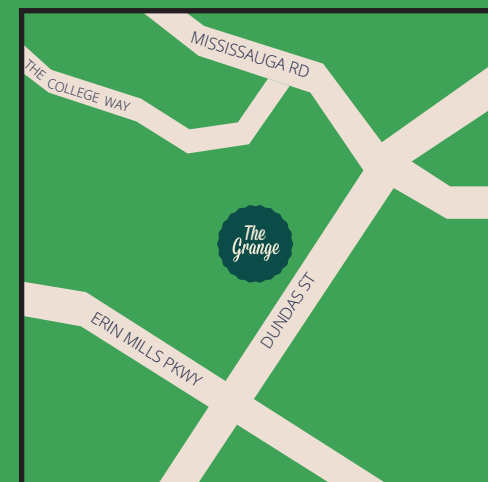


Middle Road Bridge

12. Middle Road Bridge

End of Sherway Drive

Located at the end of Sherway Drive and spanning the Etobicoke Creek, this bridge is the oldest example of a concrete truss bridge in Canada. Built in 1909-1910, the bridge was designed by Frank Barber of Barber and Young in Toronto and constructed by O.L. Hicks of Humber Bay, who is recognized for his unique construction method which involved the placement of ice on concrete to slow down the setting process in order to ensure a good bond between successive pours. Constructed on the stone abutments of a former bridge, the Middle Road Bridge is an enduring remnant of the historic Middle Road, which was a major transportation corridor connecting the former counties of York and Peel until it was surpassed by the Queen Elizabeth Way in the late 1930s. In the early 1900s, it was used by horses, carts and cattle to cross the waterway. Later, automobiles used the bridge, although it only allowed for one lane of traffic. Now a pedestrian bridge, it is located on the edge of a quiet residential suburb.



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Dixie History

If Cooksville enjoyed commercial success, Dixie reveled in its importance as a place of congregation and as an agricultural centre. The community was originally dubbed “Irishtown” for the many Irish Catholics who chose to settle here. Dixie’s close proximity to Cooksville prevented the village from developing a strong character of its own and by the beginning of the 20th century Dixie, Cooksville and the small hamlet of Burnhamthorpe were intertwined. Dixie developed into a prosperous garden community, with produce markets dotting the Dundas Highway. Dixie was also home to Toronto Township’s first indoor ice rink, the Dixie Arena, and to the Dixie Cold Storage facility. The little village of Dixie has been known at various times as Fountain Hill, Fonthill, Onion Town, Irish Town, and Sydenham. The first settler in the Dixie area was Phillip Cody, a United Empire Loyalist from Massachusetts, who arrived about 1806. Cody’s Tavern became an early stopping place for settlers while they completed their settlement duties. One of Cody’s first patrons was the newlywed couple of Joseph and Jane Silverthorn. A hotel, store, carpentry shop and the Union Chapel soon sprung up along Dundas Street, between what is now Cawthra and Tomken roads, and these became the heart of the thriving little village. The community was officially renamed “Dixie” in 1865 after a beloved local doctor, Dr. Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie.

1. Dixie Union Chapel

707 Dundas Street East (Est. c1810)

A lack of formal religious services in the Township prompted the settlers of Dixie and Cooksville to meet at Philip Cody’s tavern in 1808 and plan to build a chapel. The three Protestant congregations reached an agreement for use: Anglicans worshipped at 9:30 am on Sundays, Methodists at 2 pm, and Presbyterians at 7 pm. Over time, other congregations formed and also came to use the chapel, including, briefly, Baptists and Congregationalists. Each had their own day and time for use of the building, making it a Union (not United) church. Cody and Moses Teeter donated land at the northeast corner of what is now Dundas Street and Cawthra Road. The first burial in the cemetery took place in 1810, and the first log chapel was completed in 1816. In the fall of 1836 construction began on a new stone chapel, which was officially opened in the Spring of 1838. Of the founding Protestant congregations, the Methodists (now United) were the first to leave, building a new church of their own in Cooksville in 1844. The Presbyterian congregation built their own church, immediately to the North of the cemetery, in 1910. A small Baptist congregation used the chapel for services until 1922. The Anglican (Church of England) congregation built a new church, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, next door to the old chapel in 1870. This church burned in 1924 and was replaced by the surviving Anglican Church in 1926. During the building of the new church, the Anglican congregation met, once again, in the old chapel. From the early 1930s until 1955, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church utilized the old chapel for Sunday school classes, at which time a new church hall was added to their building. Established in 1810, Dixie Union Cemetery is the oldest established cemetery in Mississauga and our City’s only site which predates the War of 1812. The cemetery property was deeded to trustees by Philip Cody in 1809, and the first burial occurred in 1810 – that of 3-year-old Philip Harris. It is believed that only about one half of burials in the cemetery are marked by visible gravestones. The property is now owned by the City of Mississauga.



Dixie Union Chapel

2. St. John the Baptist Anglican Church

719 Dundas Street East (Built c1925)

Built in 1870, when the Anglican parish had outgrown the Dixie Union Chapel, this red brick church was served by the Erindale parish of St. Peter’s until 1950. Prior to this, the minister assigned to St. Peter’s also travelled to Dixie for Sunday service. In 1924, the original building was lost to fire. The new church was completed in 1925 and is an example of the High Victorian Gothic Church Style. An addition was added in 1954.

3. Hickey-Carson House

775 Dundas Street East (Built c1919)

The building was originally built as a residence by James Crawford in 1919, after the lot had been severed from the larger Gummerson farm in 1918. Crawford sold the house to Rose Hickey in 1920. Rose later married Dominick Carsoni. Dominick, who was born in Italy, worked nearby at the Cooksville Brickyard. He later anglicized his name to Dominic Carson. The house remained in the Hickey-Carson family until 1985, at which time it was sold and converted for commercial usage. The building is a two storey red brick structure with a wraparound porch on the front and side facades supported by round wood columns and the original balustrade. The adjacent Cedar Creek Lane is a remnant farm lane from the Gummerson-Simpson farm.

4. Dixie Presbyterian Church

3065 Cawthra Road (Built c1910)

The cornerstone for the Dixie Presbyterian Church was laid on June 10, 1910, and the new church was ready for service in December of that year. The design of Dixie Presbyterian was in keeping with the style of country churches of its time. The body of the church is rectangular, faced with Milton red brick, with a rectangular corner bell tower and entrance, and stylized representations of buttresses along the sides and at the corners. As was then customary, the windows were candle-shaped, mainly of plain glass. In the 1970s, these were replaced by stained glass windows.

5. Cherry Hill House

680 Silvercreek Boulevard (Built c1817-22)

The original Cherry Hill House, a simple log cabin, was built in 1807 by 20-year-old Joseph Silverthorn, across the street from Cody’s Tavern. In 1817, Joseph built a larger home. The Silverthorn family had emigrated to the United States in the 1700s from England and they had brought some cherry trees with them. This two-storey Georgian structure with its large Regency-styled veranda was completed in 1822, and was considered one of the most elegant homes in Peel County. The Silverthorns had three sons and nine daughters. Joseph and Jane died within months of each other in 1879 and 1880, after 75 years of marriage, and the house was inherited by their three unmarried daughters, Janet, Helen and Augusta. Over time the house fell into disrepair. It was moved to its present location in 1973 to make way for the widening of Cawthra Road, and now is home to commercial purposes. The Cherry Hill House is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Mississauga.



Cherry Hill House

6. Tomken Road

Tomken Road, formerly known as Second Line East, is a surveyed road dating back to 1806. The road was renamed after Thomas Laird Kennedy (TOM KENnedy). Kennedy was born on a farm near here in 1878, the son of John Kennedy and Mary Elgie. He was educated locally and in Toronto, and became active in local politics. He served with distinction in the First World War, attaining the rank of Colonel. Elected in 1919 to the provincial parliament as a Conservative member for Peel, he retained this seat, with the exception of one term, until his death in 1959. A fruit grower most of his life, he was concerned with farming and rural affairs, and served as Minister of Agriculture 1930 - 1934 and 1943 - 1952. Kennedy served as Premier of Ontario in 1948-1949. As a result of his great personal popularity and long public service, he was affectionately known as “Old Man Ontario”. An Ontario Heritage Trust plaque honouring Colonel T.L. Kennedy is in front of Dixie Public School (1120 Flagship Drive).



Dixie Presbyterian Church

7. St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church

921 Flagship Drive (Built c1971)

The first St. Patrick’s church was opened in 1872. It was built on the south west corner of Dundas Street and Dixie Road in a part of Toronto Township often called Irishtown. Irishtown area first drew the attention of the Catholic Diocese when a large number of Irish Catholics settled in the Dixie area during the Irish potato famine of the 1840s. St. Patrick’s church served as a central location for the parish and removed the need for Irish Catholics living in the area to go to either Trafalgar or Elmbank to attend mass. The current St. Patrick’s church in Dixie was opened in 1971, and the old church was torn down in 1973.