12. Masonic Temple

(c. 1845) 47 Port Street

One of the most important influences on Port Credit's social and religious development was the introduction of Methodism. The primary leaders in the Methodist movement were Rev. Peter Jones, a Mississauga chief of Welsh and Native heritage, his brother John, and Egerton Ryerson, who would eventually establish Ontario's public school system. The Jones brothers began preaching, in 1826, to the Native Mississaugas, who erected a shelter to serve as a chapel and a school. In 1828, the church was rebuilt as a log mission house, and then in the mid 1840s a new lime and lumber building was constructed on Lakeshore Road. In 1894, this building was moved to its present location where it was used as a community hall. The local Masonic lodge bought and renovated the building in 1915.

13. Harrison House

(c. 1880) 54 Port Street

David Harrison was born in Ireland in the late 1830s. His father, David Sr., settled in Port Credit around 1840. David Jr. made his living initially as a carpenter and farm labourer, with forays as a sailor on the old stonehooking barques "Defiance" and "Swallow". He also assisted in laying down the first corduroy road along Lakeshore Road. This property was acquired by David Harrison in 1879 and the house stayed in the Harrison family until 1981.

14. Port Credit Fire Hall

(1955) 62 Port Street

This two-storey red brick building is the oldest fire hall remaining in Mississauga. The fire hall was officially opened on December 12, 1955. Built by local builders H. Lee & Sons, the building originally served as a combination fire hall and police hall.

15. Lynd House

(c. 1907) 15 Mississauga Road S.

Prior to the construction of this house, James Robinson Shaw's tavern was located here. Shaw, a staunch Methodist, found that managing a tavern was not desirable and he closed the establishment after only one year. Reverend Garnet Lynd, James Shaw's grandson, later purchased the property and built this home in 1907.

Masonic Temple

16. Clarke Memorial Hall

(c. 1922) 161 Lakeshore Road W.

Mary Louise Clarke and her husband, Alfred Russell Clarke, were among the wealthier Torontonians who established summer retreats at Lorne Park Estates. Mary Louise had Clarke Memorial Hall built in 1922 in memory of her husband. Alfred Russell Clarke was on his way to England for business in 1915, aboard the now famous ocean liner "Lusitania." Although he survived the sinking, Alfred caught pneumonia and died shortly afterwards in a London hospital, never returning to Canada. The hall itself was finished in 1922, and upon completion, Mary donated the hall to the United Church. During the Depression, due to financial reasons, the church gave control of the hall to the Village of Port Credit. For many years the hall was used as a community hall and was the site of municipal offices from 1941 to 1974. The building's classical columns, Italianate brackets, Renaissance Revival Dutch gable and the Spanish clay roof tiles show the architectural eclecticism common during the 1920s.

17. First United Church

(c. 1894) 151 Lakeshore Road W.

The earlier church on the site, which was built in 1845, was relocated and a portion of the present building was built in 1894. Formerly the Port Credit Methodist Church, this building became an incorporated chapel of the First United Church in 1925. It had been the third meeting place for Port Credit's Methodists, and was originally constructed of red brick. New additions and an extension were added in 1942 and 1950 respectively, and the entire church was sheathed in cut stone to harmonize the exterior. The original portion of the church, now missing its original tower, fronts onto Lakeshore Road, while the 1950 extension is home to First United Church.

18. St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church

(c. 1880) 145 Lakeshore Road W.

Irish Catholics first immigrated to Port Credit after the war of 1812, with many early Irish families settling in the immediate Port Credit area by the 1830s and 1840s. At first, the faithful travelled to mass at St. Paul's in Toronto or the Fifth Line Church at Elmbank, and later to St. Peter's in Trafalgar or St. Patrick's in Dixie. A Catholic church was eventually built on this site in 1880. The church itself remained a part of the St. Patrick's Parish at Dixie until 1913. The cornerstone for the present church was laid in 1952. Stained glass windows from the 1880 church have been preserved in this building. The small cemetery beside the church is the final resting place for many early Irish Catholic settlers from the area.

19. Peer House

(c. 1867) 7 John Street

Built by Emma and James Peer, this clapboard house features a central gable and a decorative vergeboard. Several families of Peers lived in the Port Credit and Clarkson area and were active in the commercial sailing and stonehooker trades during the latter part of the 19th century. The house is now being used for commercial purposes.

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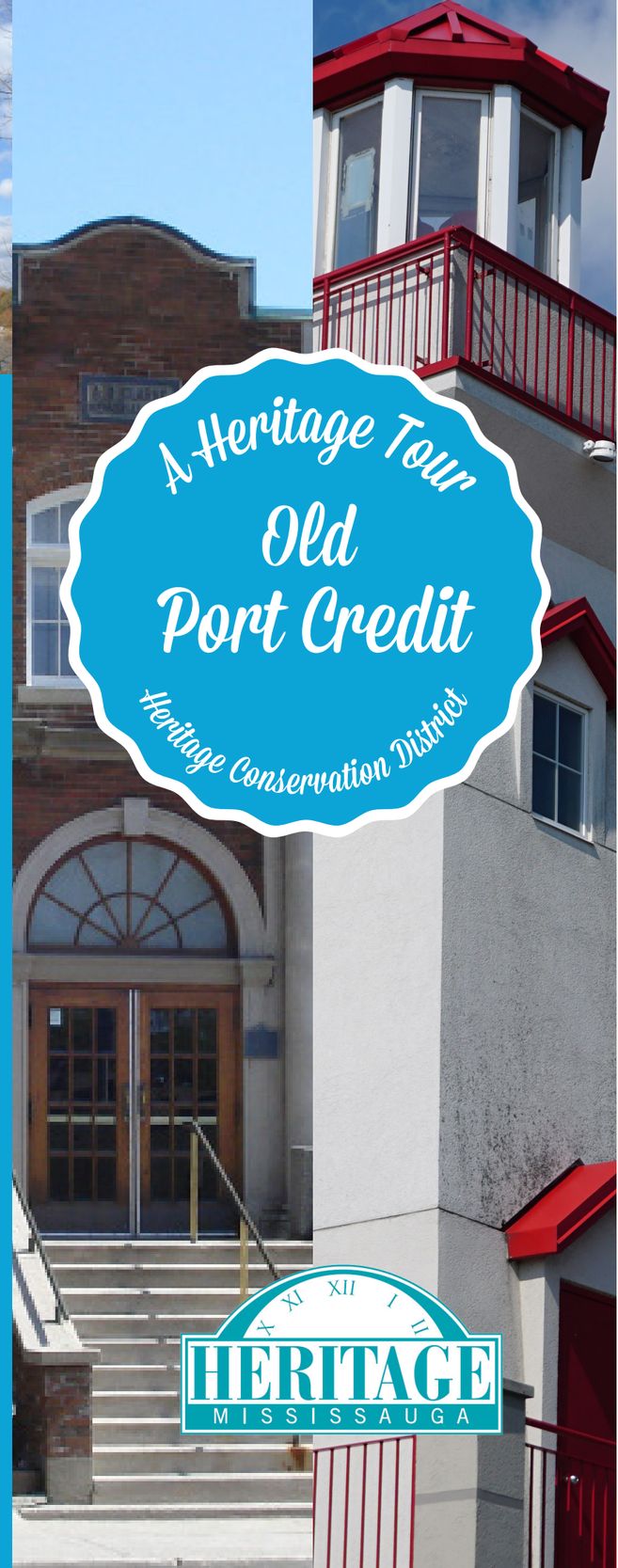

A Heritage Tour
Old Port Credit
Heritage Conservation District

HERITAGE MISSISSAUGA

Port Credit History

The story of Port Credit begins long before the arrival of non-Native settlers. Archaeological evidence suggests that Native peoples were attracted to the Credit River Valley over a period of thousands of years. By 1700 the Ojibwa had driven the Iroquois from the North Shore of Lake Ontario, and a group of Ojibwa, known as the Mississaugas, had settled around the mouth of the Credit River. The Mississaugas referred to the river as "Missinihe" or "Trusting Water", a name derived from the custom of trading on trust, or credit. The British Crown established a trading post and Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River in 1796. On August 2nd, 1805, at the mouth of the Credit River, the Mississaugas signed a land treaty with the British Crown. The Mississaugas reserved a one-mile strip of land on either side of the River. Old Port Credit Village, on the west side of the Credit River, was surveyed by Robert Lynn on June 20, 1835, and construction of a harbour began almost immediately. The departure of the Mississaugas in 1847 opened up the Credit River to commercial expansion and Port Credit went through a period of tremendous economic growth as a harbour. This prosperous period ended in the mid-1850s as a result of both a great fire, which destroyed the west end of the harbour, and the construction of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways, which diverted commerce away from the village. Towards the end of the century, the stonehooking trade kept the port alive, and Port Credit slowly began to recover. The arrival of the St. Lawrence Starch Company, in 1889, and other large industries, such as the Port Credit Brickyard, revitalized Port Credit's economy. Port Credit soon became a shopping area for tourists and travellers. Port Credit became a Police Village in 1909 and was incorporated as a Village in 1914. Port Credit acquired Town status in 1961 and was amalgamated into the City of Mississauga in 1974. Old Port Credit still retains much of its architectural character and early street names. In 2005, Old Port Credit Village was designated as a Heritage Conservation District.

Street Names

Peter Street is named for Peter Jones (Kahkewaquonaby), who was a Chief of the Mississaugas and a Methodist Minister. Peter helped to shape both the Native and non-Native communities around him. Also Mississauga Road South was originally called Joseph Street after Mississauga Chief Joseph Sawyer. John Street was named after John Jones, brother of Peter Jones.

1. Port Credit Light House

(1991) 105 Lakeshore Road W.

One of the most familiar sights near any harbour is a lighthouse, and Port Credit has had its share of them. The first was constructed in 1863 by Frederick Chase Capreol. The lighthouse, which was built out in the harbour, was taken over by the Ontario government in 1882. A 1908 flood separated the lighthouse from the mainland and in 1918 the lighthouse closed. The old lighthouse burned in 1936. The present lighthouse was constructed in 1991 and, while not an historic structure, is a reminder of Port Credit's marine heritage. It is a Peel Region pumping station and the home of the Port Credit BIA. From its deck one can get a very good view of the Credit River and Port Credit harbour.

2. Port Credit Harbour

Always a natural safe haven from lake storms, the harbour proper began when the Port Credit Harbour Company was founded in 1834. The construction of two wharves and a warehouse allowed for the export of goods by loading them onto larger boats that could go long distances to other parts of Canada and the world. The harbour reached its peak between 1880 and 1900 with the advent of stonehooking; one of the primary building materials for construction in Toronto was shale from the bottom of Lake Ontario. The vessels that raised this stone were called Stonehookers and a great many of them were based at Port Credit. The industry lasted till about 1910 when inland quarries opened up. The peak of the trade was in 1881 when 23 stonehooking vessels operated out of Port Credit. Today the historic harbour is home to recreational activities.

3. Wilcox Inn

(c. 1850) 32 Front Street S.

In 1850, Captain James Wilcox built this Georgian Survival home. He operated it first as an inn, intended as a haven for weary sailors and harbour workers, for three years. Sometime before 1855, he returned to his former employ as a Lake Captain, engaging in all kinds of lake trade, including stonehooking, commercial fishing, lumbering, and transporting all sorts of goods between Hamilton, Port Credit and Toronto. Over the years, the Wilcox Inn served a variety of purposes. By 1888 however, it was used as a community hall for social gatherings. In 1891, the inn was renovated and used for church services. Later, the old inn became the meeting hall for the first Peel Temperance Society, under the direction of Captain John Miller.Today It is a private family residence.

4. Abram Block Jr. House

(c. 1850) 42 Front Street S.

Although altered, this Ontario Cottage was the home of Abram Block Jr. and his wife Susannah. Block was a mariner and stonehooker captain of the ***Mary E. Ferguson***. He also built and repaired boats with John Miller, who was the lighthouse keeper, in a workshop located in the Front Street road allowance near his house. He was also a school trustee for 42 years and was active in the Port Credit Methodist (later, First United) Church. Block acquired this property in 1882, and likely built this house shortly thereafter. The home remains a private family residence today.

5. Thompson House "The Old Fort"

(c. 1852) 48 Lake Street

It is believed that this private residence was constructed on the site of an old trading post due to the number of artifacts uncovered during excavation of the cellar. The house was the residence of Joseph Thompson, a wharfinger and first harbour master for the Port Credit Harbour Company.

6. J.C. Saddington Park

J.C. Saddington Park stretches along the south side of Lake Street in Old Port Credit Village, and offers visitors picnic facilities, barbecues, a comfort station, recreational trails, play facilities, picnic areas and a pond. The park is also part of the Waterfront Trail, which connects westward through the adjacent Texaco Lands. Saddington Park was created out of landfill deposited in Lake Ontario between 1949 and 1970, in part to protect against further erosion of the shoreline that was threatening properties. The park was named for J.C. Saddington, former Reeve and Town Mayor of Port Credit. Located within the park are the remains of the former Port Credit Waterworks. These brick structures date to 1922-23. The opening of the waterworks represented a significant advancement in Port Credit infrastructure. Several houses were once located along the south side of Lake Street, within the bounds of the modern park. Some of these dwellings are noted to have been relocated.

7. Blower House

(c. 1895) 58 Lake Street

This house was likely built in the early 1890s, but it may also be older. According to local histories, the home was built by Mark Blower, a sailor and stonehooker. Blower acquired the property in 1894. He was the eldest son of Thomas and Emily Blower. When Thomas passed away suddenly in 1870, Emily moved her nine children onto the family's schooner, the ***Catherine Hays***, and began transporting cordwood to Toronto and eventually entered into the stonehooking trade. Mark took over the family operation together with his brothers Thomas and Abraham, and soon after purchased this property on Lake Street and built this house for his family.

8. Parkinson House

(c. 1900) 37 Mississauga Road S.

Eliza Jane Peer and Risdon Morville Parkinson built this brick house around 1900. Risdon was an active community member, and had a distinguished career as a local politician. The bricks for the construction of this house were supplied by the Port Credit Brickyard which was located southwest of the house. The Port Credit Brickyard was founded in 1891. The brickyard and the St. Lawrence Starch Company were Port Credit's two primary industries at the turn of the 20th century. The brickyard closed in 1927. The historically designated Parkinson house remains a private residence.

9. Delaney House

(c. 1860) 32 Peter Street S.

A newspaper clipping in the William Perkins Bull Collection explains that this Gothic Revival house served as the first place of worship for Roman Catholics in Port Credit. The house may have originally stood on the site of St. Mary's Church on Lakeshore Road, and was later relocated to the corner of Bay and Peter Streets.

Delaney House

10. Kivell House

(1902) 42 Bay Street

William John Kivell, son of John and Mary Kivell, purchased this property in 1901, and it is believed that he built the house the following year using bricks from the nearby Port Credit brickyard. Like his father, William was a mariner and labourer by trade. The house was in the Kivell family for over a century, and remains a private family home today.

11. McGregor-Thompson House

(c.1850) 41 Bay Street

This house is believed to have been built around 1850 by Alexander M. McGregor. His wife, Elizabeth, taught local children in the house, which served informally as the first school in Port Credit. The house was purchased in 1882 by Joseph and Victoria Thompson, who are noted to have remodeled the home in 1900. Their daughter, Etta Pearson, later inherited the property and wrote an account of its history based on stories from her mother and her great-grandmother, Elizabeth McGregor, which were collected in Ida Lynd Bradley's 1966 scrapbook, "Some Early Families of Port Credit."

14. The Vogue Theatre

(c. 1937) 75 Lakeshore Road

This former Art Deco style theatre was equipped with 500 seats and the street-front was originally cream and white in colour. For 42 years it was one of the most popular theatres between Toronto and Hamilton. The first movies played were "God's Country and the Woman" and "A Doctor's Diary". The theatre closed in 1979, with the opening of Square One's theatre. The former theatre was transformed into a jewelry shop before becoming the Crooked Cue Restaurant and Billiards Lounge in 1997.

15. The General Store

(c. 1850) 71 Lakeshore Road

Originally owned by William Clarkson, Robert Cotton purchased the store around 1855. The store was sold again in 1860 to James Hamilton, who had worked for Cotton. James' sons Fred and Charles helped run the store and eventually a section of the store was turned into a post office. Port Credit's first telephone was installed here in 1894. The exterior of the structure has undergone many changes throughout the years, including being home to the Dutch Kitchen tavern for many years.

16. Hamilton Feed Shop

(c. 1885) 62 Lakeshore Road

This two-storey grain warehouse sold flour and feed. It was also owned by James Hamilton. Hamilton came from Ireland to Port Credit in 1852. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1867 and Reeve of Toronto Township in 1880 and 1881. In 1918, R.J. Davis converted the structure into Port Credit's first automobile "General Garage" and gas pump.

17. Davis Candy Shop and Livery

(c. 1875) 60 Lakeshore Road

R.J. Davis, owner of the automobile garage next door, also operated this candy shop to cater to both tourists and locals. The front of the store was adorned with a large Coca Cola sign. The structure was built with multi-paned wood and a false storefront.

18. Sterling Bank

(c. 1908) 50 Lakeshore Road

This was the first bank between New Toronto, Oakville and Brampton. In 1925 the Sterling Bank merged with the Standard Bank of Canada, only to merge again in 1928 becoming the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The bank was relocated across the street in 1947. The back portion of the two-storey structure was added later and boasts a different address than the original portion of the building.

19. Robert Cotton House

(1856) 1234 Old River Road

*** Additional Heritage Locations**

This house was built by Robert Cotton, a prominent merchant who held many occupations, including postmaster, harbour manager, general store owner, justice of the peace, and positions in local government, such as deputy reeve and reeve. Robert emigrated from Ireland in 1837. Local legend suggests that this two-storey Georgian Survival style house was partially built with logs and materials salvaged from the Credit Mission Village. Alterations were carried out in 1990, including the addition of the garage.

Robert Cotton House

20. Adamson Estate

(c. 1919) 850 Enola Avenue

*** Additional Heritage Locations**

Located nearby to Port Credit, the property of the "Grove Farm" (Adamson Estate) was initially granted by The Crown to Joseph Cawthra circa 1808. The barn was built in 1875 and is the oldest structure on the property. The gatehouse, built in 1905, would have had a driveway leading up to the house running through the archway. As a wedding gift Henry Cawthra gave the estate to his daughter Mabel Cawthra and her husband Lt. Col. Agar Adamson in 1900. Mabel and Agar replaced the original 1866 house in 1919. Their estate house was designed by Sproatt and Rolph and its style was inspired by Flemish architecture that Agar had seen during his service in the First World War. Anthony Adamson, grandson of Mabel and Agar, became the owner in 1943. Anthony designed the second house that stands on the property. Today the property is owned by the City of Mississauga and home to a private school.

Adamson Estate

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Port Credit History

Interest in developing a harbour at the mouth of Credit River began around 1834 under the Credit Harbour Company. Old Port Credit Village, on the west side of the Credit River, was surveyed in 1835 by Robert Lynn, and village lots were sold south of modern Lakeshore Road. The emergence of the port brought commercial expansion to Port Credit and the village experienced tremendous growth. As a result of this early prosperity, the east side of the Credit River was surveyed into village lots by Crown surveyor John Stoughton Dennis in 1846. Prosperity declined in the mid-1850s as a result of a fire, which destroyed the west end of the harbour, and the construction of the Grand Trunk and Great Western railways, which diverted commerce away from the village. Towards the end of the century, the stonehooking trade kept the port alive, and Port Credit slowly began to recover. The arrival of the St. Lawrence Starch Company in 1889, and other large industries, such as the Port Credit Brickyard, and later a refinery, revitalized Port Credit's economy. While the west side of the village has retained much of its early residential character, the east side has undergone tremendous changes to Port Credit's historic commercial core. Port Credit became a police village in 1909 and was formally incorporated as a village in 1914. Port Credit acquired Town status in 1961 and was amalgamated into the City of Mississauga in 1974.

1. Port Credit Public Library

(c. 1962) 20 Lakeshore Road

The original Port Credit library was formed in 1896 and was located in a small room in Riverside Public School. In 1927 the library moved to the former Orange Lodge hall on Stavebank Road, before relocating to its current location in 1962. The library was run by volunteers until 1952. With amalgamation in 1974, the library is now part of the Mississauga Library System. The international-style building reopened in 2011 after undergoing a major renovation.

2. Post Office

(c. 1931) 31 Lakeshore Road

The first post office in Port Credit opened in Robert Cotton's general store in 1842, with William Raines serving as the first Postmaster until 1844. James Cotton, Robert's brother, became Postmaster in 1844. James Hamilton purchased the store and post office in 1860 and the succession of owners and Postmasters followed him. This building opened in 1931 as a combined Post Office, Customs Office and Excise Warehouse. No longer an operating Post Office, the building was sold to private interests in 2011.

3. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

(c. 1827) 24 Stavebank Road

The first service for the Port Credit Presbyterian congregation was held in James Craigie's farmhouse in 1890. Until 1892, church services were held in the Wilcox Inn and Odd Fellows Hall. With the increase of Presbyterian families to the area, especially the Grays and McClellands, came the need for a church. James Hamilton donated land to build a small church at Elizabeth and High Streets. In 1927 this stone, neo-gothic style structure that overlooks the Credit River was constructed as a new home for Port Credit's Presbyterian congregation. In 1956, the Christian Education wing was added.

4. Port Credit War Memorial

(c. 1925) 29 Stavebank Road

This cenotaph, originally known as the Port Credit and Vicinity Soldiers' Memorial, was built in 1925 to commemorate local residents who lost their lives in the First World War. Over time, names of soldiers who fell in the Second World War and the Korean War were also added to the memorial. The cenotaph design is known as the Cross of Sacrifice.

5. Trinity-St. Paul Anglican Church & Cemetery

26 Stavebank Road (est. 1867)

Land for an Anglican church and cemetery in Port Credit was donated by James Hamilton in 1866. The first Trinity Anglican Church opened its doors in 1867. The Victorian-era cemetery adjacent to the church also dates to 1867. The church was expanded and enlarged in 1931, including the addition of the memorial entrance porch and nave. The church was renovated in 1947-49, adding a chancel and new sanctuary, but incorporating elements of the 1867-1931 building, and the entire building was clad in stone. In October 1954 work began on new additions. In 1968 St. Nicholas Anglican Church in Lakeview closed, and the congregation joined with Trinity, and a chapel inside the church was officially renamed St. Nicholas Chapel in 1969. In 2015 St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lorne Park also joined with Trinity, and the parish was renamed Trinity-St. Paul Anglican Church.

Port Credit Memorial Arena

6. Port Credit Memorial Arena

(c. 1959) 40 Stavebank Road

Built by the Town of Port Credit, the opening ceremony welcomed hockey legends Johnny Bower and Larry Regan, along with sports broadcaster Byran McFarlane. It was designed by Rounthwaite and Fairfield, architects of Stratford's Festival Theatre. This is the oldest surviving arena in Mississauga. The barrel-vaulted roof makes the structure unique in the city. The area underwent significant renovations in 2009.

7. Shaw House

(c. 1854) 19 Stavebank Road

This was the second residence of James Robinson Shaw. Shaw was known for being a colourful character with a multitude of occupations, including tavern owner, blacksmith, store owner, church caretaker and "healer". He assisted the ill, pulled teeth, and even created "Fester Oil" to heal minor injuries. Shaw was a devout Methodist and he made candles for his church. This house is stucco over brick and all the finials and drop pendants are original.

8. Joseph Naish House

(c. 1870) 6 Helene Street North

Sailor Joseph Naish purchased this land in 1869. Joseph and his wife Ann emigrated to Port Credit in the mid 1800s from Somerset, England. Joseph and Ann's grandsons, Adrian and Joseph Naish, along with Mac Delaney, opened "Credit View Dairy" in 1920. With the high-rise development surrounding it, the house shows a great contrast between past and present. The house's original wood siding survives.

9. Charles Hamilton House

(c. 1912) 84 High Street East

Postmaster and Port Credit Councillor Charles Hamilton commissioned Chadwick and Beckett to design this bungalow style house. He requested that it compliment the dwelling of his neighbour, W.T. Gray, at 90 High Street. Hamilton lived in the house until 1928 when he was struck and killed by a car on Lakeshore Road.

10. W.T. Gray House

(c. 1909) 90 High Street East

W.T. Gray bought the land from Charles G. Hamilton for $650. W.T. was the son of John Gray, one of the founders of the St. Lawrence Starch Company and ran the company from 1938 to 1965. W.T died in 1975 at the age of ninety-five. This colonial bungalow style house was designed by J. Francis Brown.

11. St. Lawrence Starch Company

(c. 1930) 141 Lakeshore Road East

John Gray and Archibald Hutchinson founded the company that is named after the St. Lawrence River. The factory originally consisted of three buildings, a wharf and had only 25 employees. The company grew quickly and by 1923, five thousand bushels were being produced per week. In 1905, houses for employees were built and they were in use until the 1950s. During the Depression, the company built three new administration buildings, including this one, in order to prevent employee layoffs. The factory closed on March 31, 1990 and most of the other buildings were demolished in 1994. The company was best known for its "Beehive Corn Syrup".

12. Old Port Credit Dairy

(c. 1948) 105 Lakeshore Road East

The first dairy in Port Credit was started by R.W. Lackie. It included the property that is now the site of Roc 'n' Doc's Bar. It was purchased by A.R. Thompson to accompany his dairy routes. Thompson sold the dairy in 1953 to Jimmy Newman, owner of Cooksville Jersey Dairy.

13. Hooper's Pharmacy

(1924) 88 Lakeshore Road East

Established in 1924, Hooper's Pharmacy was founded by local pharmacist Larry J. Hooper. The pharmacy relocated in 1939 to 100 Lakeshore Road. Larry Hooper retired in 1964 and sold the pharmacy to Ronald Burns, who in turn sold it to Richard Dinz in 1984. Dinz moved the pharmacy to its current location at 88 Lakeshore Road East. This building was built in 1948 as a branch of the Dominion Bank of Canada prior to the 1955 merger with the Bank of Toronto. The building was designed by Douglas Kertland, who is noted for building designs at the CNE.