



# THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF PUSLINCH

**Welcome to the Township of Puslinch on-line record of built heritage. All photographs are from the pictorial heritage inventory of Puslinch initiated in 2000, unless otherwise noted.**

**As you click through the postings, you will learn about the 3 stages of architecture in the Township, as well as individual architectural features of note.**



**STAGE-1 ARCHITECTURE  
in PUSLINCH**

**Log**

*Cabins were hewn out  
of the stands of cedars  
and pine.*

[In Puslinch in 1830 there were] splendid stands of maple, beech and pine on the uplands, while along the creek and in the valleys some of the finest cedar in Ontario still awaited the axe of the woodsman. Annals of Puslinch, 1850-1950, page Thirty-Two

2000 PHOTO



1829 Winer Family's Cedar Log Dwelling  
Ship's-lap siding was added over a century ago to protect the logs and cut down drafts.

2012 PHOTO



Winer descendants have recently begun restoring their family's cabin, making the cedar logs visible once again.

.... The pine stumps remained in the ground for thirty or forty years, a provocation to settlers and a hindrance to cultivation, until ... stumping machines were introduced and the stumps were pulled and arranged in rows forming fences of truly formidable proportions, which still exist.

Annals of Puslinch, 1850-1950, pages Eleven and Twelve

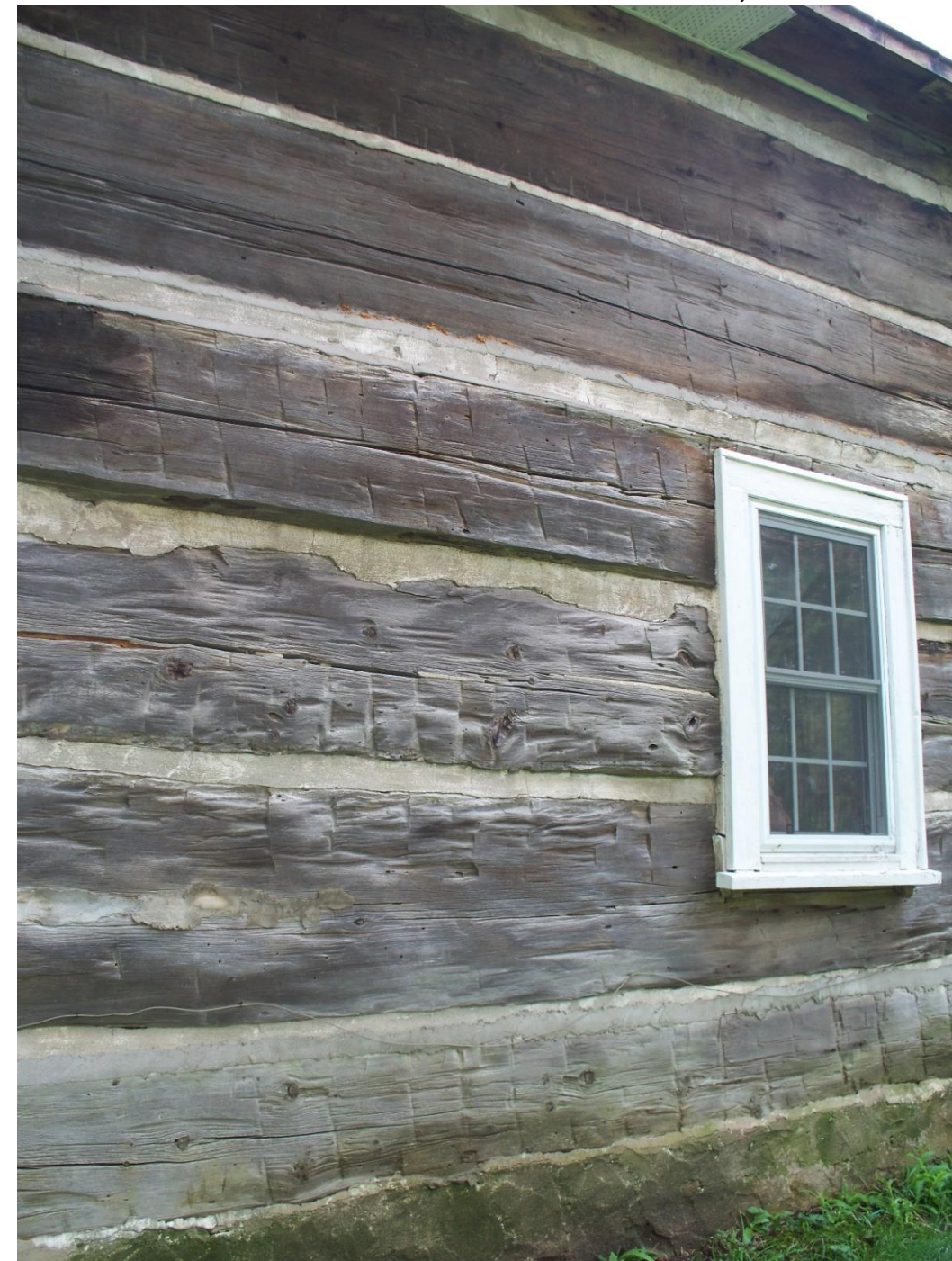
... an exceptionally heavy growth of pine covered many of the lots especially on the rear or north side [of the Gore with Beverly Township]. Hardwood logs would burn and the stumps decay in 10 years, but pine logs would not burn and the stumps would not decay; therefore settlers were not always anxious to locate on pine land. **Ibid**, page **Forty-Six**

**John Thompson Pine Log Cabin** (right)  
attests to the durability of pine logs.

**LOT 13, R. GORE**



**Stump fences** have all but disappeared, but this one on the Gore reminds passers-by of earlier days.



## STAGE-2 ARCHITECTURE in PUSLINCH

# Frame

By the 1850s there were sawmills in every corner of the Township. Original log structures of the pioneer years following the 1828 and 1831 surveys of Puslinch were being replaced by frame structures.

SOURCE: website of Methodists in Wellington Co.



St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, Farnham Plains, Arkell, built c. 1840.



The 2nd. Badenoch School  
Courtesy of Lois McLean, Badenoch.

A frame school was built in Badenoch in the 1850s to replace the log school after outgrowing it. Lot 31, F. 10

Courtesy of Puslinch Historical Society.



Board-and-batten Blake farmhouse, built in 1860s.

Lot 19, F. Gore

Compare the three styles of carpentry used in the different decades.

N. B. These buildings have been replaced by stage-3 structures.

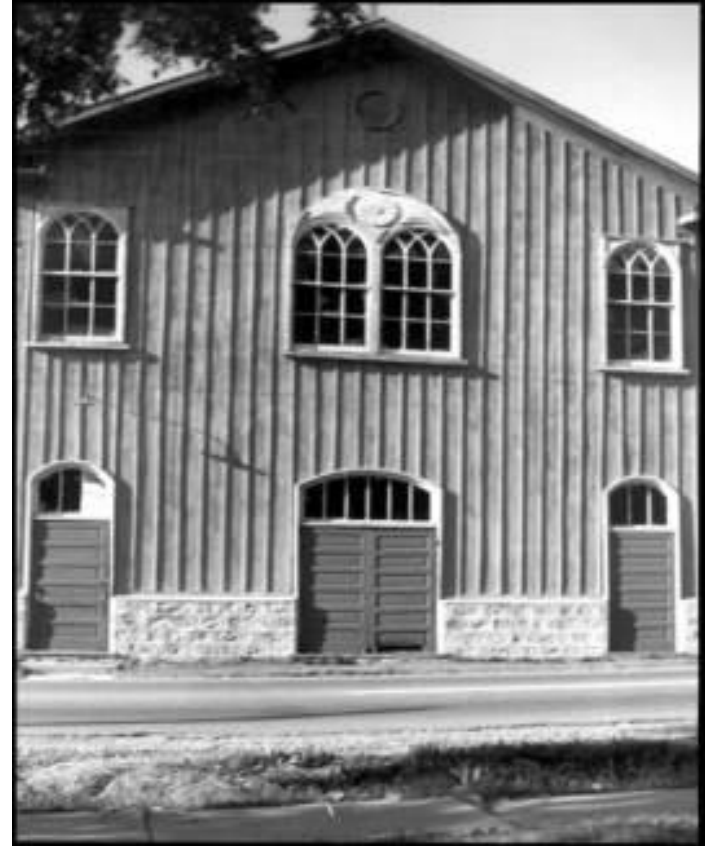
Moved to agricultural museum in Milton.



The 1867 Puslinch Township Hall was the center of township affairs, with a municipal council chamber at the rear of the building. Note the cabriole decorative brackets under the eaves.

## Board-and-batten Community Halls

No longer standing.



The Town Hall in Morriston was erected in 1858. Jail cells were later added in the basement – the only ones ever located in Puslinch. The hall was remodelled in the opening decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Left: A **Master carpenter's eye for beauty** in the **overshot** built over the drive-floor's barn doors of the Hector McCaig barn.



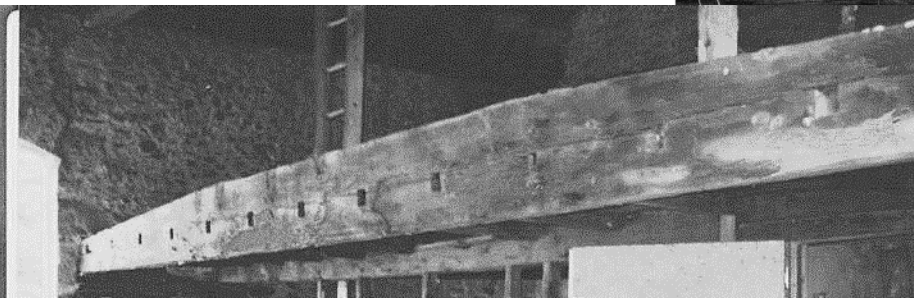
Lot17, R 2

Right: The **adze marks** indicate how the beams were shaped and then pegged in the Hector McCaig barn in 1859 by the Baer family (carpenters from Preston).

Part Lots 7 to 9, R 10



Hewn **swing beam** in 1860s Orme **stone barn**, Arkell.



Stage 2 includes **Agricultural Heritage Sites** built once sawmills came into being.

The John Isles bank barn has the date A. D. 1878 etched in a foundation stone in the stabling to remind viewers of when this barn was built.



Part Lots 3 to 6, R 9



**All of the photos were taken since plaquing began in the Township in 2000.**

On the 1851 Census of Canada, there were only 15 stone structures recorded in Puslinch. Below are 4 of them.

## STAGE-3 ARCHITECTURE in PUSLINCH Stone, Brick and Stucco



John Clark Senior farmhouse, Lots 29 & 30, R. 8

On left: Stone masonry without pointing, the absence of door sidelights, a Loyalist-style door transom (upper left) and roof-lines unbroken by gables all indicate the early construction of these fieldstone houses.



Johnston house, E. side Brock Rd., Lot 18 F. 8



Cassin farmhouse, W. side Brock Rd., Lot 18, R. 7

At right: Twentieth-century home renovations raised the rooflines and added gables to some of the stone houses listed on the 1851 census. Stone slab lintels over apertures of the Johnston house and the doors without sidelights reflect their age though.



Andrew McRobbie farmhouse, Lot 23, R.10





This watercolour by W. H. E. Napier, commissioned by Thomas Saunders in 1855, illustrates the Saunders' farmstead – *Woodlands* – with its three stages of architecture. The three-storey Georgian ashlar farmhouse, center, was flanked by two frame barns on the left and the original log house and barn on the right. A unique second-storey balcony on posts at the rear of the stone house overlooks the pastoral grounds.

## VIMY RIDGE FARM

When the government purchased the farm, as a rehabilitation centre for returning soldiers following W.W.I and an agricultural training centre for young boys brought out from England, the large stones used to construct the farmhouse were stuccoed over.



A *Greek-revival* portico was added to the front entrance of Vimy Ridge Farm at the time that the stone structure was covered with stucco.

Right: This recent photograph, taken inside the lower entrance to Vimy Ridge farmhouse on a heritage tour, provides a view of the large blocks of stone used in the 1840 construction now under stucco on the exterior of the house.



COURTESY of PAUL MAZZETTI, owner.

## 1860 – a Watershed in Architectural Styles

When replacing their original log homes, those who had arrived with means in the Township pre-1860 had substantial Georgian-style houses constructed that reflected the architecture of their home countries.

Above left: *The Laird of Puslinch*, James Anderson, had a 5-bay Georgian built of yellow brick.

Lower left: Thomas Arkell, from Swindon England, had a 5-bay ashlar-cut limestone farmhouse built with chimneys in the English style in 1852.

Right: John Thompson, one of the first Scottish settlers to take up land on the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession in SW Puslinch, built a 3-bay fieldstone Georgian house.



In 1864, the *Canadian Farmer* magazine included house plans for a unique style unlike the British Georgian structures previously favoured. While some continued to build in the Georgian style, others favoured the new design and...

... the **Ontario-vernacular style** was born.

Front view of Cameron farmhouse, Lot 21, F 3



Front, Cockburn farmhouse, Audrey Meadows



Front, Arkell teacherage, Part Lot 7, R 9

Side view of Hector McCaig farmhouse showing kitchen wing.



Lot 17, R 2

This style was typically a storey-and-a-half with four rooms up and four rooms down, and a central hall plan. The main entrance was graced with a transom and sidelights, and the roof line was broken with a gable to feature an upper hall window in either the arched or gothic style. A kitchen wing extended to the rear – sometimes with a second storey and gable that matched the front. Carpenters added porches, bargeboards and finials as trim. Each fieldstone example in Puslinch exhibits the features of the *Ontario-vernacular farmhouse* in varied ways.

Not all of the Ontario-vernacular houses  
in Puslinch were built of fieldstone.

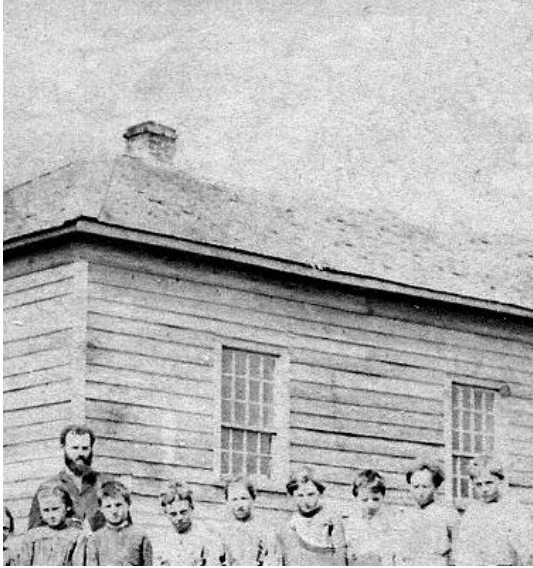


Kistenmacher house on Victoria Street in Morriston was built  
of **yellow brick** from the Morriston brickyard.



Barrett farmhouse, lot 5 R. Conc. 2, has **stucco facing**.

Early frame Crieff school  
**12-over-12 paned windows**



# WINDOWS

When glass panes were packed in sawdust and transported by wagon, the panes were of necessity small. As transportation methods improved, so did the size of the panes.

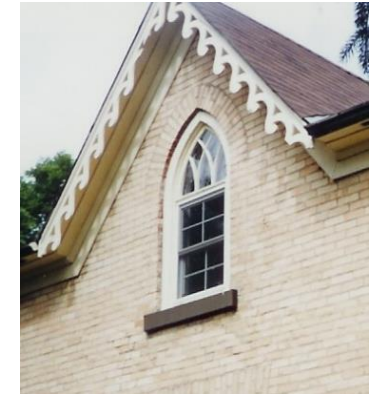
Lot 20, F 8



1860s Richard Ellis farmhouse  
**6-over-6 paned windows**

1870 Alexander McLean  
farmhouse  
**chapel/gothic gable window**

Lot 30, R9



1860 former Becker store, Crieff  
**arched gable window**

Killean fieldstone schoolhouse  
**9-over-9 paned windows**



When dating a heritage house today look for original wood muntins that divide panes, as modern window replacements have muntins built in between the glass that look authentic from a distance.

# WINDOWS

## Post 1870

As roads and methods of transport improved, the size of window panes increased. By 1870, 14" x 28" rectangles became the norm, with 4 panes per window.

Part of dating a house is in the style of its windows.

Lot 17, R 2



William Black brick farmhouse (above) with 4-paned windows;

1870s Hector McCaig stone farmhouse (left)

Part Lot 23, F 8

1910 Clark/Wes Winer house

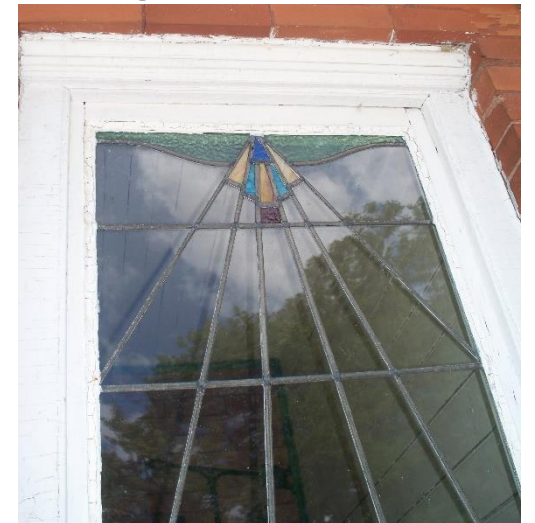
**1/3, 2/3 proportions**



Lot 35, F8

**stained glass**

John Angus Macdonald, 1928



Part Lot 37, R7

**14" x 28" paned windows introduced in 1870**

**arts-and-crafts style windows after 1900**



Hugh Cockburn Sr. farmhouse, Lot 16, R. 8

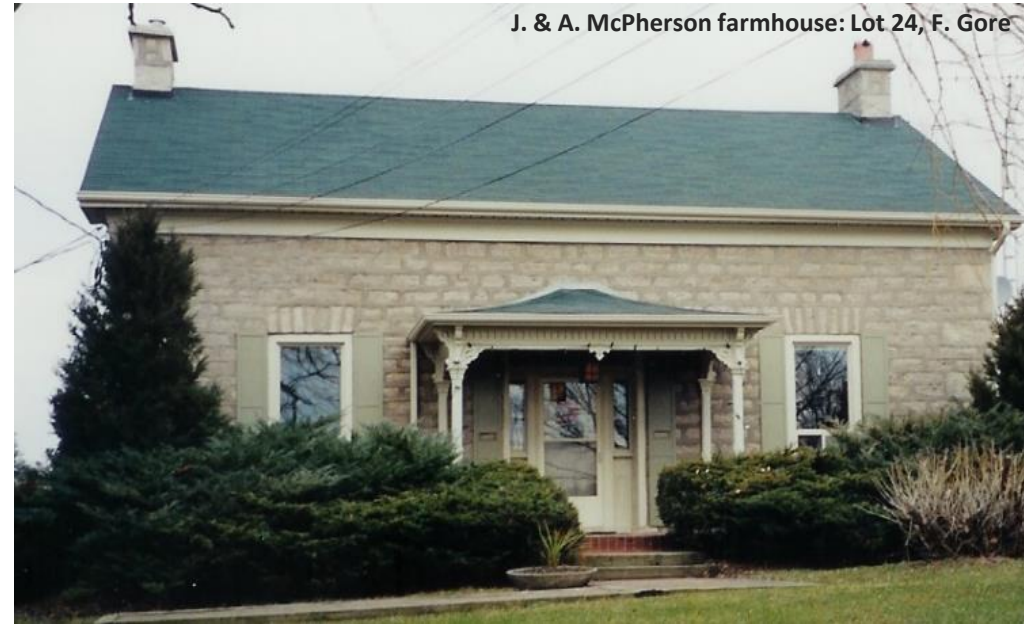
*Rubblestone* (above).

*Straight-coursed granite, with limestone quoins, and voussoirs over gable window* (below).



James McPherson Sr. farmhouse, Lot 23, R. Gore

**Masonry styles**  
progressed in 19<sup>th</sup> -  
century houses in  
Puslinch.



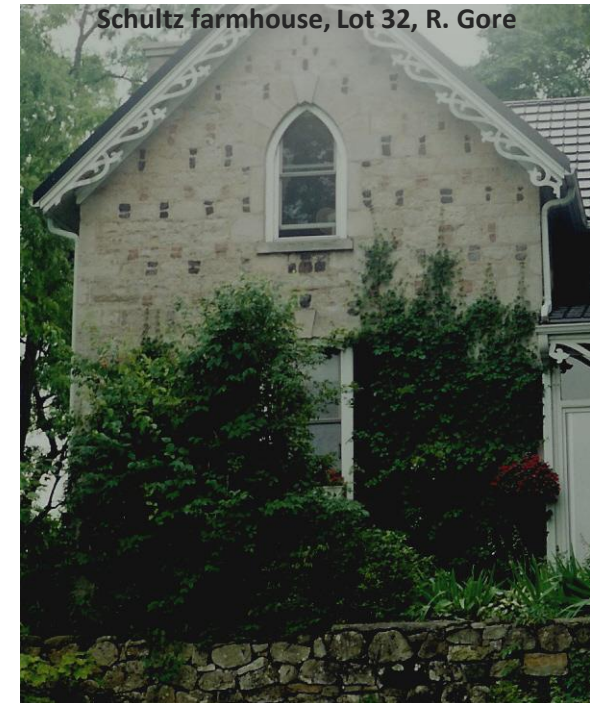
J. & A. McPherson farmhouse: Lot 24, F. Gore

*Straight-coursed limestone* (above).

*Edinburgh-coursing of fieldstones with H-PATTERN CONNECTORS made of limestone* (below) and *granite* (right)



Hammersly farmhouse: Lot 19, R. 7



Schultz farmhouse, Lot 32, R. Gore



Carpenters each left their personal mark in the finials and bargeboard trim they carved.



Morlock farmhouse - Lot 32, R. 7



Hammersly farmhouse - Lot 19, R. 7



McLaren farmhouse - Lots 25 & 26, F 11



James McPherson - Lot 23, R. Gore

German church, Morriston

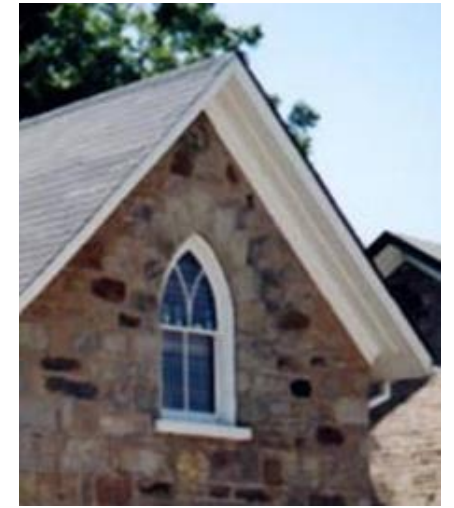


**KEYSTONE and LINTELS**  
over 1880 church window

Masons also showcased their skills in the 19th Century.

**VOUSSOIRS**  
fanned stones  
arranged over  
aperture

Leitch house, Morriston



**ARTICULATED QUOINS**  
outlining entryway



Stewart farmhouse - Lot 19, R. 3

**OCULAR WINDOWS**  
trimmed by a stonemason  
and a bricklayer



McKenzie farmhouse Lot 17, R. 10 Buchanan farmhouse - Pt. Lots 11 & 12, R. 5

Badenoch school - Lot 31, F 10



**DATE STONE**  
features intricate carving in  
soft limestone

# DATE STONES

## - a mason's pride

Lot 33, R 7



Noted on the date stone is that the **William Winer barn** was built in 1860 (B.) and remodelled in 1910 (RB).

Part Lot 7, R 9



The mason who built the Arkell schoolhouse, **SCHOOL SECTION No. 1**, created a unique date stone in 1862.

Mount Carmel-Zion United Church in Morriston was originally a German congregation. In 1880 they expanded their church. The mason created a beautiful date stone, carving the phrase, **Kirche der Evangelinchen Gemeinschaft, A. D. 1880**, which translates as the *Church of the Evangelical Community*.





1853 Pannebacker farmhouse, Lot 3, R.3



Rubblestone masonry, whitewashed under the porch where the farm workers washed up before entering the kitchen, reflects Waterloo County architectural style.

Strome farmhouse, Lot 5, R.4



Above & below: Note the narrow side doors with small peaked roofs – a style not seen in the rest of Puslinch.

Close-up of hex sign and date carving on east side of Hector McCaig Pennsylvania Swiss-style bank barn (below) which was built by the Baer family of the Preston area. Lot 17, R. 2

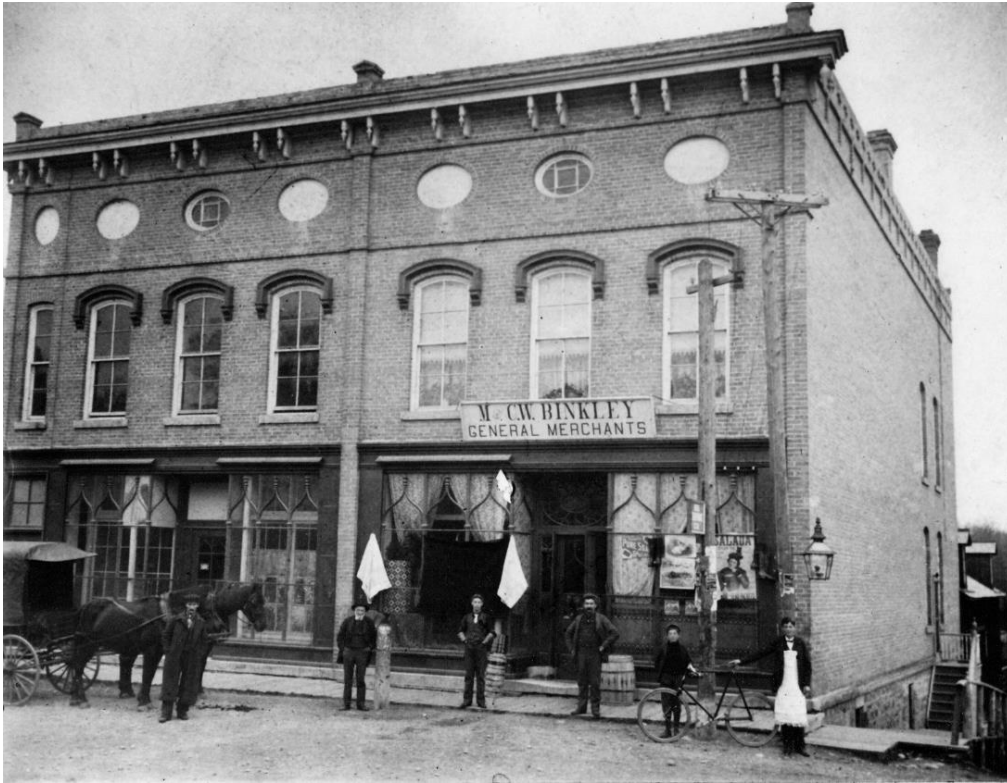


Thirty years before Puslinch was surveyed, Waterloo County was settled. Its tradesmen carried a signature style of **German Architecture** over the Town Line into the west side of Puslinch once the Township opened up.



Bergerow farmhouse, Lot 5, F. 1

R. B. Morrison Store, built 1860 on Queen Street, Morriston



LABELS and STOPS were created to protect the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows. The carpenters created MUNTINS for 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows that formed distinctive OGEE SHAPES.

# COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

in the past ...

1860 Aberfoyle Grist Mill, Village of Aberfoyle



The mill also had LABELS and STOPS fashioned to deflect rain and protect doors and windows from moisture.



Carriage Works & Blacksmith Shop N of Aberfoyle

... these same commercial buildings repurposed into *restaurants and shops* today.

2000 PHC inventory photos

Envers Restaurant, Morriston



Aberfoyle Mill Restaurant

A modern addition has been added to the left of the old carriage-works building, with its roof in line with the original roofline.

Accents for Living, Aberfoyle



*The craftsmanship* of these 19<sup>th</sup>-century homes has stood the test of time.



*Gabled house on Victoria St., Morriston, built by Prussian mason Herbert Leich, was chosen for the design of the Township's heritage logo and plaque.*



# A Panoply of Heritage Architectural Features

Lot 19, R 3 – now part of the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada

**From top to bottom, the 1860s  
*Peter Stewart farmhouse*  
exudes country charm:**

*Cedar shakes* were locally sourced for every roof in the mid-1800s.

An upper gable breaking the roofline was the newly-introduced design of the quintessential *Ontario-style farmhouse* of that era.

The twin arched windows in the upper hall were separated by limestone *mullions* with *keystones*.

The *articulated quoins* around the door and at the corners dressed up the fieldstone masonry.

Fanned *transom* and *double sidelights* complemented the panels of the center-hall entrance.

Limestone *labels* outlining the windows were incorporated to keep rain off the wooden window sashes.





# Restoration



Puslinch has an active plaquing program to recognize heritage sites still in good repair. The work of the carpenters and masons of the 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries cannot be replaced, and both deserve protection.

This Georgian farmhouse was built for Duncan McFarlane Sr. in the 1870s. (The McFarlanes appear on the property on the 1861 Leslie map of Puslinch and lived in a log dwelling on the property even earlier.)

In restoring the house, the colour for the windows and doors was carefully chosen to complement the shades in the fieldstone. Repointing included the H-pattern connectors used in Edinburgh-style coursing .

Sympathetic renovations in the extension, at back, complete the restoration of a worthy heritage property.

Post-2000 restoration by owners Jane and Barry Lee.

Lot 16, F & R 10

Heritage plaque designed by Gail Kerr and cast by Fred Mahnke of Puslinch.



There are over 125 sites in the Puslinch pictorial heritage inventory that have been plaqued to date.

On-line presentation created in 2016 for the  
**TOWNSHIP of PUSLINCH**  
by Marilyn Crow, 1986 founding member  
of Puslinch LACAC (Local Architectural  
Conservation Advisory Committee) and retired  
chair of the Puslinch Municipal Heritage  
Committee, December 2014.