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\*denotes a property listed on the Heritage Registry    \*\* denotes a property as designated on the Heritage Registry

**Please respect private property and view all properties from the sidewalk.** Further information about heritage properties in Thunder Bay as well as the Heritage Advisory Committee can be found at [www.thunderbay.ca/heritage](http://www.thunderbay.ca/heritage)  
Tour prepared by the Office of the City Clerk on behalf of the Heritage Advisory Committee, 2020

The properties featured within this tour cover the city's built heritage dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries; however, Thunder Bay's rich cultural history reaches back to the Paleo period and the early days following the great glaciers, nearly 11,000 years ago. At the point of European contact in the 17th century, the Ojibwa people inhabited this western shore of Lake Superior. The City of Thunder Bay is built on the traditional territory of the Ojibwa people of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. This area is also recognized as a historic Métis settlement.

1. Marks/Whalen Residence (HMCS Griffon property, view from Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1895  
**Contractor:** Alf Saunders  
Now part of the Canadian Navy's land base, this two and a half storey building was once home to two of Thunder Bay's most influential men: Thomas Marks and James Whalen. Marks, who had this home built, was the first mayor of Port Arthur and a key figure in early mining and railway endeavors. Whalen established the Great Lakes Dredging Company thus beginning the shipping industry in Port Arthur. The home's mass and plain shingled surface are characteristic of its Shingle style architecture. The façade faces the lake and features a three-storey octagonal tower with a conical roof. Ionic columns support the front porch roof resting on Vert Island stone, which forms the porch and its low wall. From 1930 until 1936 this was home to St. Joseph's Academy. It is now part of HMCS Griffon.

2. McKibbin House (131 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1905    **Architect:** Haliburtan (Hattie) Barbara King McKibbin (possibly)  
Married in 1902, Herbert and Hattie McKibbin built this two-and-a-half storey Edwardian style house as their family home and remained as such for over fifty years. Built of clay brick the house is accented with Simpson Island stone windowsills, with the same stone used on the font porch base and foundation facing. Six turned wood columns support the porch's flat roof. In 1992 this property was designated and placed on Thunder Bay's Municipal Heritage Register while also undergoing a careful restoration and renovation project by Walter Kuch and John Stephenson. The property, home to FORM Architecture Engineering, retains original stained-glass windows, woodwork, and two terra cotta fireplaces. The cross gable roof once again features cedar shingles and the corbelled brick chimney has been reconstructed.

3. McVicar Creek & Kings Garden (McVicar Creek Walkway)



Named after the McVicar family that arrived at the Lakehead in 1859. Robert McVicar, a retired chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, purchased six hundred acres initially establishing a homestead along the creek. McVicar Creek is the smallest of five major watercourses that flow through the City of Thunder Bay draining into Lake Superior. Along the Court Street area of the creek local alderman and businessman Joseph Goodwin King created what became known as King's Garden. King, dedicated to the beautification of Port Arthur, planted gardens and built ornamental bridges, artificial dams, and waterfalls along the creek by the fine home and large property he had purchased in 1899. The garden, established and maintained over a ten-year period, was one of the most attractive gardens at the Lakehead. It was featured on local postcards, becoming somewhat of a tourist destination. Unfortunately little if anything remains of King's Garden today.

4. HMCS Griffon (125 Algoma St. N.)



**Located at this property:** 1944  
Beginning her days as the Royal Canadian Navel Volunteer Reserve Division Port Arthur in 1937, quarters were shared with the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment at the Port Arthur Armoury (Park Ave.) Renamed HMCS Griffon in1941 after Le Griffon, the first full sized ship to sail the Great Lakes (1679), this unit facilitated the recruitment and initial training for over 2,500 members of the Canadian Navy during the Second World War. Moving to its current location during the war in 1944, the property's main structure consisted of the former Marks/Whalen Residence. Additional facilities were added to the property including barracks, a drill deck, parade square and rifle range. Today HMCS Griffon remains an active Canadian Forces Naval Reserve as well as housing HMCS Vindictive sea cadets.

5. Harrington Court (170 Algoma St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1914    **Architect:** W. T. Crouch  
Originally part of a much larger plot, this is where Conrad Gehl constructed the areas first brewery along McVicar Creek in 1876. The brewery became the Port Arthur Beverage Company, and later, Northern Breweries. In 1914, businessman Daniel Campbell purchased and subdivided the lot building this two-and-a-half-storey Shingle style home, which remained in the family for over 40 years. In the mid 1980's, the residence's main floor was converted into the Harrington Court Restaurant. The structure's veranda with its large square columns was enclosed to accommodate additional seating for diners. Today, still a restaurant, it is home to Masala Grille.

6. John Andrew Residence (294 Harrington Avenue)



**Constructed:** 1907    **Architect:** Unknown  
The one-and-a-half-storey brick home was built in 1907 for John Andrew. By 1913 it had been sold to Irving Fenn, Secretary Treasurer of Western Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company. A hexagon shaped, two-storey semidetached tower features prominently on the home's south-west corner. The small front veranda has square columns which support the sloped roof with decorative crown dentil moulding just below the soffit and fascia. The home's main cross-gabled roof is interrupted by a gabled dormer above the façade, and a shed dormer on the north side. The sloped portion of the roof, flaring over the veranda, is mimicked on the back of the home as well.

7. Thomas Andrew Residence (288 Harrington Avenue)



**Constructed:** 1907    **Architect:** Unknown  
Thomas Andrew and his wife Margaret Crawford built this brick two-and-a-half-storey home in 1907 living here until 1934. Thomas Andrew, a Port Arthur Councilor in the early 1900's was also the owner of Andrew Insurance Agency operating out the business block he had built in 1904, the Andrew Block (204 Red River Road). Margaret, a well-known community member, was active in various charities and groups including the General Hospital Auxiliary. Their home was designed for its corner lot with a truncated south-east corner which, originally had a wraparound porch. Decorative recessed and corbelled brickwork is found along the upper portions of the east and south walls. The pyramidal roof, with two gabled hips and gabled dormers, features intricately designed chimneys with corbelled tops.

8. Wink Residence (30 Emmerson Ave.)



**Constructed:** 1906    **Architect:** Unknown  
A number of Wink family members resided here in the early days of this home. Edith Wink, widow of James Wink was a teacher at the North Ward Public School. Jane (Jeanie) Wink, widow of Alexander Stronach Wink was the librarian for the Port Arthur Library from 1913 until her retirement in 1921. John Wink, also residing here, was an excise officer for Inland Revenue. This two-storey Dutch Colonial Revival home is defined by its use of horizontal lap siding, the steeply pitched gambrel roof and shed dormers. The roof of the south-facing sunroom, added in 1924, is used as the floors of the second floor balcony. A unique, square diamond window can be seen near the top of the gable facing Emmerson Avenue.

9. Pratt Residence (32 Emmerson Ave.)



**Constructed:** 1909    **Architect:** Unknown  
This two-and-a-half-storey Edwardian style brick veneer home features a stone based front porch. The porch's flat roof, supported by paired Romanesque columns, serves as a second floor balcony. The cross-hipped roof features gabled dormers on three sides of the home with a corbel chimney on the fourth. The home's varying window designs include some arched windows, trimmed with arched brickwork. A three-sided bay on the façade extends two full storeys while a single bay exists on the first storey of the home's southern wall. Building permits indicate the home's garage was added for Dr. Pratt in 1914.

10. Hunter Residence (18 Emmerson Ave.)



**Constructed:** 1906    **Architect:** Unknown  
Built on a stone foundation this two-and-a-half-storey brick veneer home was originally owned by James Campbell Hunter, an accountant for George Mooring (a one-time partner of J.J. Carrick). A brick string course separates the home's first and second storeys. Arched brickwork highlights the two arched windows found on the front façade. The hipped roof covering the main potion of the home features two gabled ends, each are decorated with cut and coloured cedar shingles. The addition on the rear of the home features a pyramidal roof. At the time of construction this home would have been built with a front porch. Building permits indicate the porch was removed in 1966.

11. John Whalen Residence (10 Emmerson Ave.)



**Constructed:** 1906    **Architect:** Unknown  
Similar to the rest of the homes along this stretch of Emmerson Avenue this house was built on the higher back half of the property. First owned by John A. Whalen, a general contractor, this two-and-a-half-storey Shingle style home features a distinct lip in its exterior wall separating the first level's use of brick veneer from second level's use of wall shingles. A round, semi-detached tower on the south-east corner of the home stands two-storeys tall. Its conical roof is decorated with an ornamental extension rising several feet above the tower roof's apex. The main roof of the building, hipped at the front and pyramidal at the back, has two hipped dormers. The enclosed front porch features single hung windows with a cross hatch pattern in the upper pane. The flat roof of the porch serves as the floor for the second level's balcony.



**12. J. J. Carrick Residence** (6 Emmerson Ave.)



**Constructed:** 1906 **Architect:** Unknown  
Original homeowner John James Carrick had the reputation for being Port Arthur's most flamboyant promoter. Teaming up with George Mooring, together they were heavily involved with large real-estate deals from 1903 until 1905. One of J.J. Carrick's most famous projects was the development of Mariday Park, named after his wife "Mary Day". Carrick also founded the Port Arthur Daily News in 1906. He was as successful in politics as he was in business, serving both as an Alderman and Mayor of Port Arthur. He was elected as MP for Thunder Bay and Rainy River from 1911-1917. The home, made entirely from ashlar-patterned Simpson Island stone, stands-two-and-a-half-storeys tall. The curved wrap-around veranda features Romanesque columns which support the second floor balcony. Both oval windows on the façade are framed by keystones of Vert Island sandstone as are the lintels above the first and second storey openings. The soffit of the cross-hipped roof has decorated brackets under its eaves. A gabled dormer, three hipped dormers and corbelled stone chimney decorate the rest of the roof.

**13. The Doctor's Cottage** (281 Ray Court)



**Constructed:** 1906 **Architect:** Unknown  
Built facing McVicar Creek this home's original address was 286 River Street. Its original owner, talented artist Mrs. Cymanthe Ann Bready, resided here until 1929. Her portrait remains in the home today being passed down from owner to owner. More widely remembered as the Doctor's Cottage, Dr. Harold resided here from 1931-1959 followed by Dr. Powell from 1959-2000. The one-and-a-half-storey Shingle style house is finished in stone and cedar shakes with contrasting red painted trimwork. The cross-gable roof features several gabled dormers and two stone chimneys. A two storey gabled tower made completely of mosaic patterned Vert Island sandstone decorates the façade standing semi-detached from the structure.

**14. The Hunt Residence** (272 Ray Court)



**Constructed:** 1911 **Architect:** Unknown  
Building lots in this area were all once part of the McVicar Addition. Once subdivided, the area became known as the "McVicar Homestead" subdivision. Real estate broker Edward S. Hunt purchased this lot building his family home here in 1911. This two-storey Shingle style home's pyramidal roof features a large central gable end on the façade with a swooping soffit and fascia board supported by decorative brackets. A small oval window with a diamond pattern surrounded by a thick moulding and four keystones is located just below the peak of the gable. Wide mouldings are repeated on all of the front windows. The main entry of the home is accessed through an offset enclosed porch. A one-storey bow window with a conical roof on the main level compliments the Single style design of the home.

**15. The Hodder Residence** (269 Ray Court)



**Constructed:** 1909 **Contractor:** Menalletti  
This home, like the Doctor's Cottage, was built to face McVicar Creek. It was constructed for John. F. Hodder a resident of the Lakehead since 1883. Arriving here with his brother George they jointly operated a wholesale spirit store, after which John went on to become a government agent. The one-and-a-half storey home is finished on the main level with random ashlar patterned stone from

Michipicoten Island with vertical siding above. Two-storey gabled tower like projections are found on both the north and east sides of the home. A verandah, with its roof supported by Romanesque columns, wraps around the south-east corner and overlooks the creek. The hipped roof is supported by uniquely designed brackets spaced every few feet while the roof itself features two chimneys, each with corbelled tops.

**16. McVicar Manor** (146 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1905 **Architect:** Thomas C. Hanley  
A wonderful example of Queen Anne architecture, this two and a half storey home was built for coal magnet and businessman Louis Walsh, remaining in the family until 1935. Promoted as a "typical Port Arthur home", at 6,000 sq ft it was one of the largest private residences built at the time. Constructed of Vert Island sandstone in an ashlar pattern there are three towers decorating the home: the north wall has a v-shaped tower with a gable roof; the south-east corner has a polygonal tower crowned with a spire; and the façade has a square tower which houses the home's main entrance. A veranda wraps around the façade and southern wall with its roof supported by Ionic columns. Unique trim work of the eaves and soffits decorate the cross-gabled roofline of the home, dormers, veranda, and towers.

**17. Maudslay Court** (151 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1914 **Architect:** Marsh-Hutton Powers Company  
Maudslay Court was the first apartment building constructed in Port Arthur. The \$100,000 project for Port Arthur Ontario Developments Limited opened in 1914, renting units for \$35 per month. The Art Nouveau style sign declares this building to be Maudslay Court, named after one of the English gentlemen who first owned the property, Algernon Maudslay. Built with a raised basement, the lower level of the structure features a stone foundation and arched brickwork on the exposed southern wall. The southern side facing McVicar Creek also features protruding enclosed balconies. Four blocks make up the building, connected by a recessed central block. Rusticated brick is used on the street level with a cut stone stringcourse separating it from the one above. A uniquely designed frieze with dentils separates the building top two levels while a corbelled stone crown moulding wraps the top of the building highlighting its battlement style parapet.

**18. McComber Residence** (186 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1910 **Architect:** J.R. McRay  
Some of Port Arthur's grandest homes were built here along the Court Street Ridge. The ridgeline offered an ideal location and unrestricted views of the harbour. Many of Port Arthur's earliest businessmen and prominent residents built their houses here. This Neoclassical mansion was built in 1910 for longtime resident and local lawyer, Alexander Jarvis McComber (of Langworthy & McComber, Barristers). Now part of the Port Arthur Clinic facilities, the structure has undergone significant alterations including the removal of both monumental Corinthian porticos with two storey high columns supporting elaborate pediments once located on the façade and south wall.

**19. St. James Public School** (243 Court St. N.)

**Constructed:** 1907 **Architect:** Henry Simpson  
Opening in 1907, North Ward School served as Port Arthur's second public school; Central School being the first. With a history spanning over 113



year, the school still remains in use today as St. James Public School. Designed in the Queen Ann style the school features curving Flemish gables, columns and pediments. Simpson Island stone was used for its foundation while the brickwork is trimmed with white Bedford stone. Enlarged in 1914, by local architects Hood and Scott, the addition was built to match the original. The school's gymnasium was added in the 1970's.

**20. Servais Residence** (250 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1911 **Architect:** Unknown  
A wonderful example of the Craftsman style this home features a low pitched pyramidal roof and dormer with wide overhanging eaves. With its focus on craftsmanship versus decoration, decorative elements though evident are not emphasized. Turned wood columns and brackets both support the overhung portions of the home's second level. Joseph Servais, a civil engineer, was the original owner of the home.

**21. Trenks Residence** (260 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1910 **Architect:** Unknown  
Built for William Trenks, this home is grand in size and appearance. It features two-and-a-half storey's of red brick crowned by a pyramidal roof. Large lintels and white mouldings decorate the home's windows. The hexagonal, semi-detached tower has a gable roof, and bay windows with a sash pattern. Beneath the tower's gable roof is a circular window with a unique federation design and encircled by arched brickwork. A gable end topped by a chimney dominates the southern portion of the roof.

**22. Lornehurst** (294 Court St. N.)

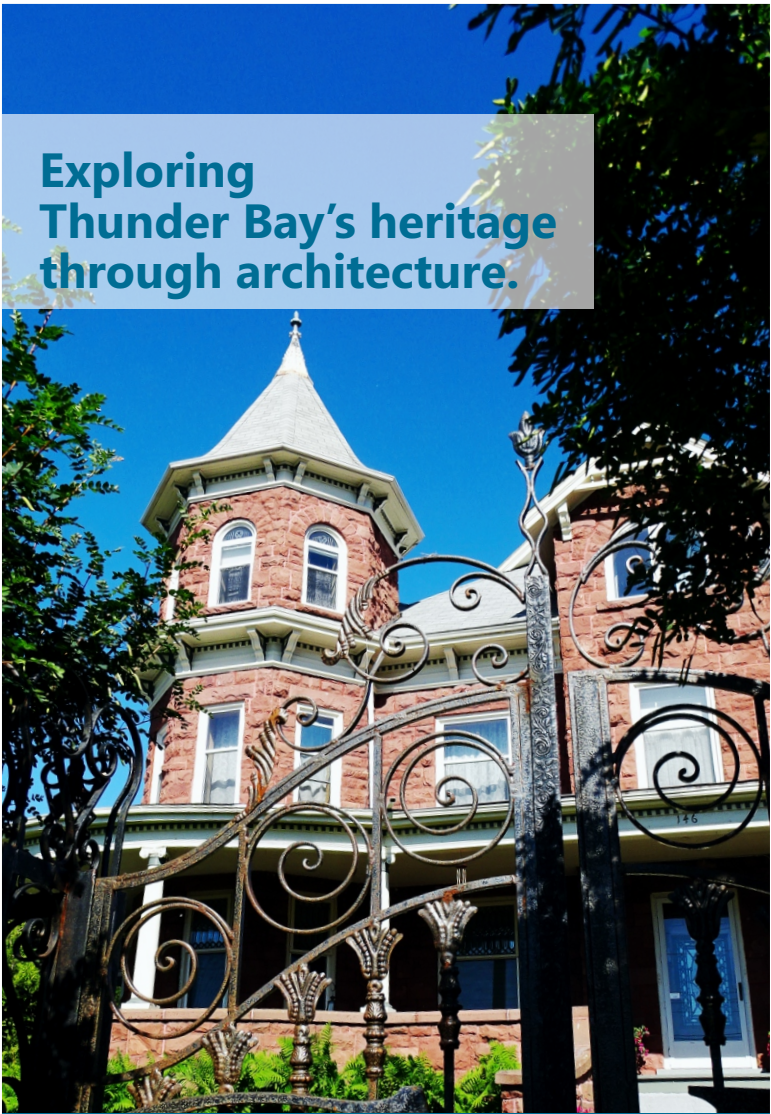


**Constructed:** 1906 **Contractors:** William E. White and J. Sheppard  
Lornehurst, built for William and Rebecca White through William's contracting partnership with James Sheppard, achieved the picturesque, uneven silhouette desired in Second Empire architecture through its mansard roofed square tower on one side and its round Queen-Anne-inspired turret on the other. The home's locally made sand-lime brick is accented by a stringcourse between levels and the home's window sills and lintels. An original front verandah, since removed, also provided a second floor balcony. Shortly after the home was completed a dispute between partners saw Sheppard take over the home. Andrew C. Waltz, a heating, plumbing and electrical contractor, purchased the home for \$7,000 using it as a revenue property.

**23. Thompson Residence** (298 Court St. N.)



**Constructed:** 1910 **Architect:** Unknown  
This two-and-a-half storey brick home belonged to Port Arthur Sheriff A. W. Thompson. An irregular roofline is created by a mix of a cross gable and hipped roofs in addition to the southern gable dormer and the semi-detached square tower with its pyramidal roof. Brickwork creates the home's decorative elements including the towers stringcourses above the windows and corbelling near its top third. Corbelled brick also forms the brackets under the façade's gable end. The circular window within the gable end also uses brickwork as its decorative trim along with four large keystones.



**Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour:**  
**McVICAR CREEK HARRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD**

