
Orangeville Walking Tour



Stroll along the streets and lanes where Orangeville was born and see the simple homes and structures from our earliest period, and discover the businesses which caused Broadway to boom.

This guide will point out significant buildings and tell you about the people connected with them. Properties are described using the name of the original owner or builder, followed by the construction date and street address. The abbreviation "c." indicates a probable date. Architectural terms will help you learn about Orangeville's built heritage.

Unless otherwise noted, properties listed on this tour are privately owned. Please do not trespass on private property. Use caution when crossing the road and travelling on side streets.

This self-guided tour will take you approximately an hour and will return you to the Town Hall.

*"Tradition is the alphabet
Form is the language
Architecture is the poem"*

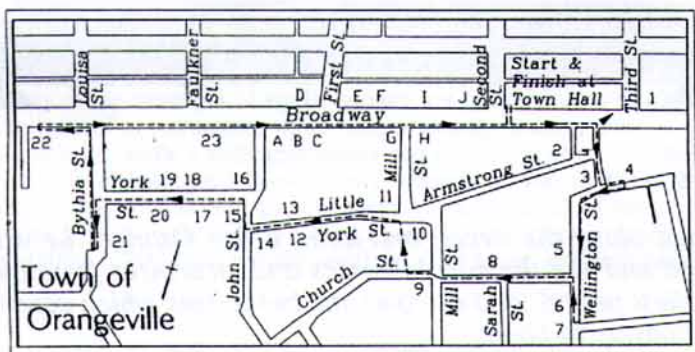
Richard England

Founders Walk

Most towns try to point to a single person as the "founder" but it is generally acknowledged that Orangeville has five founders:

John Corbit, who arrived in the Brown's farm area (west Broadway) about 1829; **Abiathar Wilcox** and family, who arrived in 1840 and settled on land north of Broadway, west of First St.; **James Griggs** and family, who arrived shortly thereafter and settled on the Mill Creek; **William Newton**, who arrived at the same time and built a log home on land which is now the Town Hall and **Orange Lawrence**, the last of the group to arrive, who came around 1844. He had the honour of imparting his name to the settlement. The story goes that John Corbit climbed to the top of Lawrence's about-to-be completed mill and christened it "Orangeville Mill," some say at the suggestion of William Newton's wife Mary.

Founders Walk and Booming Broadway route



Starting at the Town hall, cross Broadway at the lights and walk east one block. From the corner of Broadway and Wellington, look to the north-east to see:

1. **Graham's Tavern, c. 1850** (63 Broadway)

This stone building was constructed about 1850, replacing an earlier log structure. Orangeville is midway between Owen Sound and Toronto, and as lands to the north opened for settlement, it became a natural spot for hotel and tavern business. The large stones on the corners of the buildings are called "quoins." The building continues to offer hospitality to residents and travellers alike!

Walk south down Wellington to Armstrong St. and look west. From this vantage point you can see:

2. **Canadian Pacific Railway Station, 1909** (35 Armstrong St.)

The Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway built a line into Orangeville in 1871. This station was originally built in 1909 at the rail yard on Town Line. It was moved here in 1989 and converted to commercial use. The distinctive conical roof



C.P.R. Station, c. 1910

resembling a "witches hat" covers the former waiting room which once had separate sections for men and women!

Continue south on Wellington, pausing at the bridge over the Mill Creek.



Armstrong Foundry, c. 1900

3. Grigg's Mill Site, c. 1840; Armstrong Foundry, c. 1896 (2 Wellington St.)

Orangeville's first mill was built by James Griggs and sat on this site in the current parking lot area. His mill ground wheat into flour. This was also the site of William Fead's wagon shop, from 1850 to 1882. The brick structure still standing was built c. 1896 as the Armstrong Foundry which produced a variety of

metal items including steam engines and manhole covers. The building has been altered but you can still see many original elements.

Cross Wellington to the east side and view Mill Creek.

4. Mill Creek (behind 62 Broadway)

Barely visible in the embankment behind the car dealership are stones and mill debris from the early mills in this area. Now just a trickle, the Mill Creek once ran with sufficient velocity to power several mills before joining the Credit River at the flats to the east. Around the creek were built several small homes, and the settlement was known as Grigg's Mills. If Orange Lawrence hadn't come to town, this might still be our town's name!

Cross Wellington St. to the west side. Proceed south on Wellington St.

5. Andrew Mara House, c. 1852 (10 Wellington St.)

Mara was an early village shoemaker. His modest cottage was built of rubble stone over a timber frame.

6. Methodist Episcopal Church, c. 1850 (14 Wellington St.)

The congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church built a small place of worship here in 1850. When they built a larger church north of Broadway in 1866, this structure was converted into a residence.

7. King House, c. 1888 (16/18 Wellington St.)

This impressive residence was built after the founding of the village. The lot would have been well known to early residents as it was beside the Methodist Episcopal Church. This large brick house is built in a style known as Second-Empire, marked by the mansard roof. Built as a single residence by Thomas and Charles King, it was divided into two homes in 1923. Despite alterations to the doors and windows, you can see many of the original features, including ornamental ironwork.

Return north on Wellington to Church Street, turn west on Church.

8. McKitrick House, c. 1872 (14 Church St.)

Pioneer industrialists Samuel and Robert McKitrick opened a foundry at the north east corner of Mill and Church Streets in 1860. Called the Union Foundry, it produced ploughs, cooking and heating stoves, sugar kettles and various other products. Samuel McKitrick was one of the forces behind the move to incorporate Orangeville as an independent village. This home features a recessed doorway and upper porch, both embellished with brick arches. This style, an adaption of Romanesque Revival, was usually reserved for public buildings.

9. Dods Knitting Mill, 1913 (17 Church St.)

Although near Mill Creek, the knitting and carding operations here were powered by electricity. The factory was built by J. M. Dods, who owned a similar operation in Alton. The building was converted to apartments in the early 1980s. In 1985, the project won an Ontario government award for successful rehabilitation of an older building.

Walk into the mill park.

10. Jull Mill Site, 1857
(38 Mill St.)

The mill on this site was built in 1857 by Thomas Jull and John Walker Reid, both sons-in-law of Orange Lawrence. This mill was built of rubble stone and was a three-story structure with a walk out basement. It was electrified in 1913 when it was producing 75 barrels a day of



Jull Mill, c. 1875

"Gold Anchor" and "Pride of Dufferin" flour. Gradually the production of livestock feed replaced flour milling, but this activity dwindled and in 1972 the mill closed. Despite efforts of the heritage movement and interested citizens, the building was demolished in 1993. **What effect does the loss of historic sites have on a community?**

11. Orange Jull House, 1870 (34 Mill St.)

This house was built by miller Thomas Jull in 1870 as a wedding present for his son, Orange. Orange Jull's claim to fame was the invention of the rotary snowplough to break up and move drifts on railroads. Jull's device was patented in 1884 and used throughout North America. The house is of Italianate design, marked by the large paired cornice brackets and hip roof.

Head west along Little York St.

In the 1850s, this road was the boundary between the uncleared bush and the fledgling village. We are heading toward Thomas Jull's "Homestead," once the only residence between John St. and the mill. Looking north, can you see any evidence of the original path of Mill Creek or the mill races? On the south side of Little York was the Orangeville Tannery, a large three-storey frame building, operated first by William and George Campbell and later by the Aiken family.

12. Lawrence Lane

From the settlement days, residents of the southern part of town used this path to reach the commercial district. It never achieved the status of a road and remains as a public property. If you look to the south, you can see a footbridge over Mill Creek.

13. Lawrence Cottage, c. 1860 (8 Little York St.)

This small, red brick house was built for Sarah, daughter of Orange Lawrence. The simple lines, central door, hip roof and single storey are marks of the Cottage style. There are several good examples of this style throughout town.

14. Thomas Jull House, c. 1857 (1 Little York St.)

Born in England, Thomas Jull, settled in Trafalgar Township in the early 1840s. There he married Mary Lawrence, another daughter of Orange Lawrence and his wife Sarah. The Lawrences moved here around 1844. Thomas and Mary Jull followed in 1857. This original lot stretched to Church St., and the house was constructed with the main entrance (now hidden) facing the south. The hip roof, large windows and bay windows are hallmarks of the Regency style, popular in England at the time. Jull was a member of Orangeville's first council.

Across John St. from the Jull house is:

15. Lawrence House, c. 1850 (8 John St.)

Built by Orange and Sarah Lawrence, this home is probably the oldest continually inhabited residence in Orangeville. The structure was typical of the period, making economical use of space and material. Buildings of this era are usually one and a half storeys, which were cheaper to build, easier to heat, and taxed at a lower rate than full two-storey homes. Perhaps his choice of housing style reveals something of Lawrence's frugal nature! Underneath the siding is a roughcast (stucco) exterior over log. Note the large window openings and return eaves in the gable ends of the roof. The dormer is a later addition.

Walk north on John to York St., head west.

16. McBride House, c. 1902 (2 York St.)

On land originally owned by Sarah Lawrence, this home features an unusual key hole shaped window -- only one other residence in Orangeville has a similar window. Keep your eyes open for it!

17. Primitive Methodist Chapel, c. 1854 (3 York St.)

Orange Lawrence sold the lot beside his home to the trustees of the Primitive Methodist Church in 1854, and they constructed a chapel shortly thereafter. The original structure exists here under a variety of Queen Anne style additions, such as the turret which was built around 1911. The Primitive Methodists built another house of worship on the north-west corner of Zina and First St. in 1867 which still stands.

As you walk west along York Street you will see a variety of residences. For the most part these were built as the second homes of pioneer merchants who, after establishing their businesses could afford to build fine residences.

18. Rowan House, c. 1885 (12 York St.)

This home was built by John Rowan who constructed many area homes. This structure is Italianate in style; note the dichromatic effect of the brickwork, and the paired cornice brackets. A barn formerly behind the house held the horse and buggy, a cow and chickens.

19. McKeown House, c. 1877 (16 York St.)

Robert McKeown arrived in 1863 and built this Gothic Revival home around 1877. The Gothic style is characterized by pointed window openings and use of gables. McKeown was a Justice of the Peace and member of the High School Board.

20. Campbell House, c. 1880 (17 York St.)

This home was built by tanner George Campbell, who operated the tannery on Little York St., and owned several commercial buildings along Broadway. His son, Dr. G. H. Campbell, was an Olympic athlete, a member of the gold medal winning 1908 Canadian Lacrosse Team.

At Bythia, walk south to #23

21. Waite House, c. 1855 (23 Bythia St.)

This home was built by William Waite, who operated a mill just to the south of the house. Waite's mill cleaned and carded raw wool in preparation for spinning. To power the operation, subsequent owner John Stephenson created a mill pond upstream, now the site of the Westdale Mall. Fire destroyed the mill in 1920. Although the siding, windows and shutters on the house are not original, it is easy to see the classical lines of the original house underneath. An interesting portico and pillars, built in 1927, adorn the side entrance, which at the time of construction was the main entrance. Further south, in the park, are stones which formed the foundation of the carding mill and part of the spillway.

Bythia, (pronounced Bith-eye-ah) Street is named after the wife of Dr. Joseph Carbert, coroner for Wellington and Simcoe counties who no doubt grew tired of telling his patients he lived "on the road to the carding mill." Carbert printed business cards using his wife's name as his new address. The Carbert home was demolished nearly a century ago. It stood on the west side of Bythia just south of Broadway.

Walking north on Bythia to Broadway, we pass a cluster of modest, single family homes built c. 1870. Note the differences between those homes and those you have just viewed on York Street. Although not as large, they are as much a part of our heritage as grander structures. Can you pick out the recently constructed home?

At Broadway, turn left and head west.

22. "Castle Leslie," 1858 (260 Broadway)

This house was constructed in 1858 by Guy Leslie, an Irish immigrant who first settled in Reading, Garafraxa township, in 1843. Leslie bought this land in 1858 and soon became involved in the public life of Orangeville. In 1863, he supported Orangeville's incorporation, and was appointed first treasurer of the village in 1864. Although it is now a duplex, it was built as a single family house. In many ways, the Leslie house resembles that of Thomas Jull, with a hip roof, and a balanced arrangement of windows and doors. Note the pair of round top windows grouped together on the second floor.

Turn around and walk east on Broadway. You will now pass many large homes built well after the founding period. Notice the imposing structure of Westminster United Church, built in 1879 as St. Andrew's Presbyterian. The name changed after the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in 1925.

23. Lewis House, c. 1855 (230 Broadway)

Similar in style to the Orange Lawrence house, this simple residence was built by pioneer minister Alexander Lewis who first arrived in Mono c. 1837. Lewis oversaw the construction of the Zion (in Alexandria Park) and Bethel (present site of the Post Office) Presbyterian Churches. Note the embellishments to the main doorway and the return eaves. This home resembles Lawrence's and Waite's but features a neoclassical doorway with pilasters and a thin, projecting cornice over the door. Although Lewis had the house built, he never lived in it, preferring instead to reside in the village of Mono Mills.

The incorporation of the village in 1863 marked the close of the founding period. Orangeville began to grow and the focus of activity moved from milling to the supply of goods and services in the downtown area.

Booming Broadway

As the founding period of Orangeville ended, it was followed by an increase in business and commercial development, centered on both sides of Broadway. Fire was a constant threat, and a by-law passed in 1875 authorized brick as the only acceptable cladding for commercial buildings downtown.

Many of the structures along Broadway are referred to as blocks. At the time of construction, these blocks usually housed two or three commercial outlets with apartments and/or offices above. Although most storefronts have been greatly altered, if you look up to the second and third floors, you can usually see remnants of the original style. Broadway is indeed a broad way. The distance between the buildings is 100 feet, not the usual 66. The street was first paved in 1921.

A. Fire Hall, 1891 (224 Broadway)

After the first fire hall burned in 1891, plans were quickly drawn up for a structure with access onto Broadway and John St. In the late 1960s a new fire hall was constructed and this structure was modified for commercial use. Note the decorative brickwork and grouping of windows. Can you see where the original side door was?

B. Post Office, 1886 demolished 1962 (216 Broadway)

The post office, which stood on this site until the mid 1960s, was a large, two-storey structure, built of limestone quarried in the Hockley Valley. It featured a steeply pitched roof and was built in the Chateau style, popular at the time for federal buildings. Many post offices in Canada were built from similar plans. The loss of this building helped many Orangeville residents to appreciate their architectural heritage. At one point a proposal to demolish the Town Hall was put forward but it was quickly stopped.



Post Office, c. 1900

C. Monument Works, 1894 (214 Broadway)

This is one of the oldest commercial enterprises on Broadway. Established in 1894, it continues to supply headstones and memorials.

D. Business College, c. 1875 (205 Broadway)

This small commercial building was first used as a private bank, operated by James S. Fead, founder of the Orangeville Building and Loan Society. Later, the building was home to the firm of Hahn and Lewis. After Hahn, also the treasurer for the County of Dufferin was investigated for "cooking the books," the building became home to the Orangeville Business College where instruction was given in commercial and stenographic skills. In 1925, a group of Presbyterians, who voted against union with the Methodists, decided to maintain an independent congregation and bought the building to use as a church. With the eventual construction of Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church, this structure reverted to commercial use. Note the decorative brick work and second-storey door.

E. Ketchum Block, c. 1875 (193 Broadway)

This block once stretched to the corner of First St. It was constructed for Mary Ketchum by the same contractors who built the Town Hall. Part of the block was demolished years ago but most of it remains. The storefront at #193 is one of the most unaltered facades on Broadway.

F. 171 Broadway, c. 1875

Two businesses operated out of this building: Marshall's drug store (1920 - 1970s) and Wild's shoe store (1880s - 1960s). The existing storefront is a modern interpretation of an English pub.

G. Jackson Block (148 Broadway)

Built during 1874-5, a period of great growth and construction on Broadway, this is one of the finest surviving examples of commercial architecture. Note the grouping of the windows on the second and third floors, the ornate cornice moulding and lintels over the windows. Thomas Jackson was a saddler who moved to Orangeville in 1853



Road paving, Jackson Block, c.1921

and acquired properties in this area. After fires in 1872 and 1873 destroyed many buildings in the area, a new block was constructed bearing his name.



Bank of Commerce, c. 1906

H. Bank of Commerce, 1903, Orangeville Public Library, 1907 (1 Mill St.)

Orangeville's library was originally constructed in a L-shape to accommodate the Bank of Commerce which had been built in 1903. The original library facade faces Broadway but is recessed from the old bank facade. In 1989, the library and bank building were renovated and joined. The decorative stonework on the Broadway and Mill Street facades is a hallmark of the style known as Beaux-Arts Classicism.

I. Wilkins Block, c. 1883 (139 Broadway)

Built c. 1883, this Second Empire style block features a mansard roof finished with coloured slate and decorative woodwork.

J. Sun Building, c. 1869 (113 Broadway)

For many years, this was the home of the Orangeville Sun, the first newspaper in Dufferin County. Built c. 1869 for publisher John Foley, it was restored in 1989.

K. Orangeville Town Hall, 1876 (87 Broadway)

The Town Hall was built to serve several purposes: town hall, municipal offices and market area. Designed by F. G. Dunbar, construction began in 1875, after the demolition of the Newton log house.

Although no longer in use as a farmers' market, you can see evidence of this function in the large stone steer heads which decorate the window lintels in the old market wing. In fact, during the period 1875 - 1890, the market was the only legal place to sell meat in town.



Orangeville Town Hall and market, c. 1900

The architecture of civic buildings usually reflects community values. In the placement of doors and windows and use of decorative elements, the architect created an impression of order and conservatism. At the time it was completed, however, there was local concern that the building was too low and not imposing enough!

Note the projecting roof eaves and paired cornice brackets, the pedimented roof line and the use of contrasting colour -- all elements of the Italianate style, popular between 1850 and 1900.

In 1993-1994, the building was renovated. A major addition was constructed which reflects and interprets design elements of the original. The Town Hall has been designated for architectural and historic merit under the Ontario Heritage Act. It is home to Orangeville's Council, municipal staff, Theatre Orangeville and the Raynes Crystal Collection.

We hope you have enjoyed the "Founders" and "Booming Broadway" walks. For more information on Orangeville's heritage, contact: Orangeville L.A.C.A.C., 87 Broadway, Orangeville ON L9W 1K1 and the Dufferin County Museum and Archives at Box 120, Rosemont ON L0N 1R0.

Photograph of the C.P.R. station is from the Region of Peel Archives, Brampton. All other images are from the Dufferin County Museum and Archives.

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Orangeville

L.A.C.A.C.

Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

