

Heritage New Tecumseth

Moments in History: The Gables



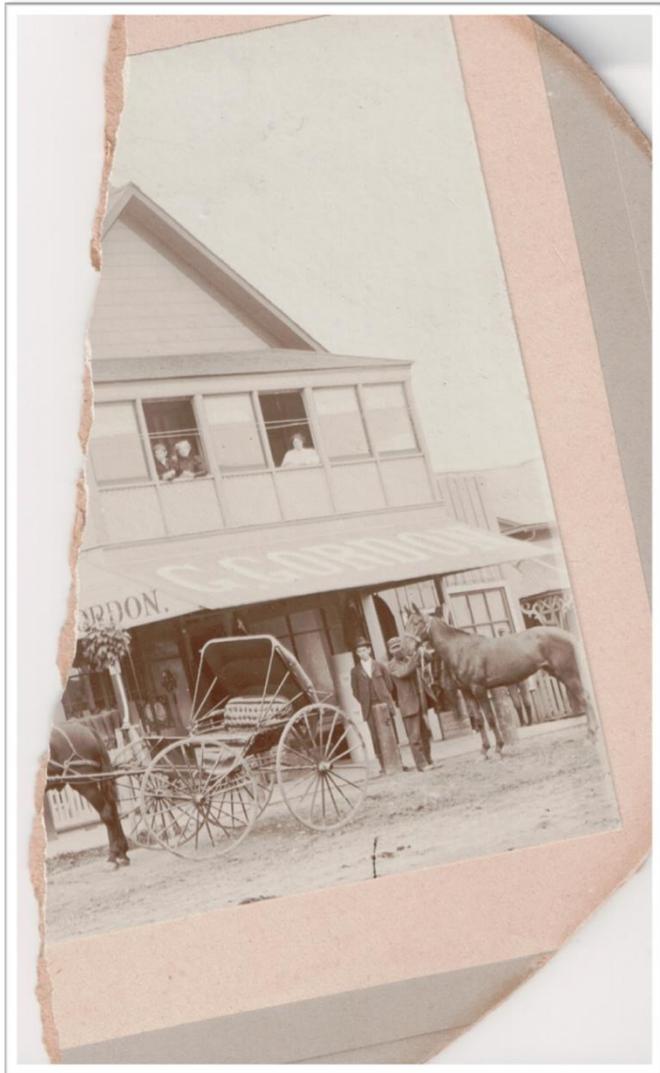
Located at the south east corner of Wilson and John Streets in Tottenham, Ontario, stands a beautiful house known as *The Gables*.

The original owner of *The Gables* was George Gordon, who also ran and owned the mercantile store around the corner (now Benjamin Moore) where he lived with his wife Sarah and their children.

Starting out small and humble, over time additions were added to the house by local citizens who owed debts to Mr. Gordon, and this was how they paid him back. Sid Walker was Gordon's right-hand man and architect and is the main reason the house looks the way it does.

Building of the house began in 1880 and when the Gordon family officially moved into it in 1906, the house had fourteen rooms, three bathrooms and a tower with four stories. At the very top of the tower, there was a balcony which allowed you to look over the entire countryside!

Jean Gordon Gilchrist (daughter of George and Sarah) was the last Gordon to live in and own the Gables. Today the house still stands and is loved by its new owner.



The Gordon Store

George Gordon's store was once a residence belonging to James Hackett. When Gordon purchased it in July of 1880, he converted it into a General Store. Farmers and residents would pay for items from the store using the barter system with items like eggs and butter. Essentially anything manufactured on the farm would be brought in to purchase other goods.

The Gordon Store had a special Millinery section where Sarah Gordon (George's wife) specialized in dressing all the brides of the area. Two or three times a year, she would travel to Toronto to learn the new fashion styles and stock up on material back to Tottenham.



A photograph of the Gables from the 90's.