Heritage Register
Phase 1 Properties - By-law 3-2014

Port Elgin

- 521 Bricker Street
- Baptist Church - 553 Bricker Street
- Port Elgin United Church - 840 Bruce Street
- 649 Elgin Street
- 684 Elgin Street
- Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Church - 699 Goderich Street
- The Wismer House - 705 Goderich Street
- 824 Goderich Street
- Shoreline Baptist Church - 910 Goderich Street
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness - 1248 Highway 21
- 467 Green Street
- 492 Green Street
- 500 Green Street
- 559 Green Street
- 569 Green Street
- 570 Green Street
- 709 Green Street
- United Missionary Church - 659 Gustavus Street
- 660 Hilker Street
- Faith Lutheran Church - 525 Ivings Drive
- 573 Izzard Road
- 570 Johnston Avenue
- 473 Market Street
- 518 Market Street
- 523 Market Street
- Community of Christ Church - 641 Market Street
- 649 Market Street
- 697 Market Street
- 273 Mill Street
- Windspire Inn - 276 Mill Street
- 464 Mill Street
- 490 Mill Street
- St. John's Anglican Church - 516 Mill Street
- 543 Mill Street
- 570 Mill Street
- 657 Mill Street
- 709 Mill Street
- Former High School - 742 Mill Street
- 749 Mill Street
- 763 Mill Street
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church - 920 Wellington Street
Year Built: 1879

Original Owner: Samuel Bricker

Legal Description: Plan 159 Blk 145 Lot 1 to 3

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Samuel Bricker built this house in 1879. In 1854, Bricker was one of the men that took up 220 acres of land and laid out Port Elgin. Bricker owned most of the properties on this street and some in the Saugeen Township as well. He built this home in the middle of lots 1, 2 and 3 and it was built in a cross shape.

Some of the features of this home are the 11 ½ foot ceilings on the main floor, the circular solid cherry staircase and carvings in the center of the ceiling. The small green house was added in 1971 at the back of the house. The property also included a carriage house that was 2 storey’s high, however it has become smaller now.
Year Built: 1878

Legal Description: Plan 159 Blk 15 Lots 1 and 2

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

The church received many upgrades as the years progressed including electric lights in 1915, a new furnace in 1920 and a brick Sunday school added in 1923.

In 1954, church services were discontinued until 1958 when new Baptist families moved into the area. Since then, the church has continued to be used for weekly services and many more upgrades have been made.
Year Built: 1999

Original Owner: The Trustees of the Port Elgin United Church Congregation of the United Church of Canada

Legal Description: Plan 111 PCL 15 RP 3R6640 Part 1 RP 3R7393 Part 1

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

The Port Elgin United Church plans were first made in 1994 by members of the church and members of the community. Building proceeded and finally on June 2, 1999 the church was finished. The church features a large sanctuary, steeple, a community activity room, offices, and many other spaces to accommodate all of the church’s needs.
Year Built: 1880

Original Owner: Peter W. Anderson

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 87 Lot 41

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

The property was owned by a merchant by the name of Peter W. Anderson. Anderson shared ownership of the Anderson & Gordon Grocery store where they sold dry goods, groceries, etc.

This two story yellow brick is a good example of the Italianate Style home. Some hallmarks of this style include: paired arched windows with decorative “eyebrow” lintels; shallow pitch hip roof brick quoining; and two-storey balcony.
Year Built: 1877

Original Owner: John C. Kennedy

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 71 W Pt Lot 23; Pt Lot 24

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Kennedy was a local grain dealer.

This home also had a stable that was later converted into a detached garage. In 1991, the back porch and old wood storage area were replaced with a large kitchen. The ground floor also has the original trim. An addition was added to the home sometime later.
Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Church

699 Goderich St

Year Built: 1926

Original Owner: Presbyterian Church

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 69 Lot 33

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

In 1925 members of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, located at 643 Mill Street, joined together to become the United Church of Canada. Presbyterian members not in favour left and built the Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Church on Goderich Street in 1926.
Year Built: 1870s

Original Owner: Henry Hilker

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 69 Lot 34

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This house, which is now the Wismer House, was built in the 1870s. It was built by Henry Hilker, who at the time was a merchant in Port Elgin, co-owning Ruby & Hilker with Mr. W. H. Ruby. Ruby & Hilker was located on the corner of Goderich and Mill Streets and was described in the Gazetteer and Directory of Bruce County 1880-81 as being “General Dealers in Dry Goods, Millinery, Ready-Made Clothing, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, & o.,” (216). According to the Bruce County Historical Society, Mr. Hilker was the Village of Port Elgin’s first Reeve when the Municipality was separated from Saugeen Twp. and was incorporated in 1874.

The style of this building is Georgian. It has a front gable, brick quoining, decorative columns, decorative sills and lintels, a double storey verandah in the front and the original rod iron fence.
Year Built: 1901

Original Owner: Charles Upshall

Legal Description: Plan 111 Park Pt Lot 14 RP; 3R3738 Part 1

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This Victorian style, L-shaped home features eleven foot ceilings, three marble fireplaces, a winding staircase, a two-storey porch, and a huge parlour. The property also has many tall spruce trees surrounding the house that adds natural element to the property’s beauty.

In 1925, it was opened to tourists as Pinehurst Lodge. Among many world travellers, it was rumoured Henry Ford II celebrated his birthday here. For over 20 years this home has been operating as a bed and breakfast.
Shoreline Baptist Church
910 Goderich Street

Year Built: 1976

Legal Description: Plan 111 Park Pt Lot 16 RP; 3R1266 Part 1

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

In August of 1976, the Port of Fellowship Baptist Church opened its doors and has continued services since then. In March of 2013, Port of Fellowship Baptist Church changed names and now goes by Shoreline Baptist Church.
Kingdom Hall
1248 Goderich Street

Year Built: 1983
Original Owner: Jehovah’s Witnesses Port Elgin Congregation
Legal Description: Range Lake Pt Lot 50
Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014
Designated Property: No

The structure was built from start to finish by volunteers over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of August, 1983. The hall is still being used on the corner of highway 21 and concession 10 and includes an auditorium, one classroom, a library, and a literature area.
467 Green Street

Year Built: 1880

Original Owner: Duncan Lavrock

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 50 Lot 84 E Pt Lot 83

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by Duncan Lavrock, a merchant in Port Elgin in 1880.

It is has since been converted into several apartment buildings and is located just up the hill from the Port Elgin beach.
Year Built: 1910

Original Owner: Ernest Vaupel

Legal Description: Plan 166 Pt Lot A RP 3R3140; Parts 1 and 3

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by Ernest Vaupel, a local builder in 1910; he built many houses in Port Elgin during his career as well as Sunset Lodge and various offices.

This home is 2 full storeys with a balcony. The style of this building is “Edwardian, this style was popular after the turn of the 1900’s due to its simpler, classic design. The identifiable features include: decorative brackets, a 2 storey front balcony supported by decorative columns; and a pediment gable in the front dormer with decorative shingles.

The property also consisted of a detached garage and a woodshed built the same year as the house.
Year Built: 1907

Original Owner: A. O. Sheirholtz

Legal Description: Plan 166 Pt Lot A RP 3R3140; Part 2 and Part 4 UNREG

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built in 1907 by Ernest Vaupel, a builder of many homes and different offices located in Port Elgin. He sold the property to A. O. Sheirholtz in 1908.

This home is two storeys and originally did not have a carport until it was added in 1999. An addition was built on to the home in 2003 and deck added to the home in 2006. An Edwardian 1900-1920 style, it is similar to Queen Anne style but simpler, there is a wrap-around verandah, a pediment with decorative shingling, and voussoirs above the windows.
In 1921, John Robinson sold this property to Henry Ebert, one of the several grocery store proprietors at the turn of the century. Ebert built the house that still sits at 559 Green Street.

This is a perfect example of an “Edwardian” style of building. It has a large wrap around verandah with an upper storey balcony, a central dormer in the hipped roof; and a large picture window.
Year Built: 1890

Original Owner: Archibald C. Sinclair

Year Built: Plan 164 Lot F

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This building constructed in 1890 was owned by Archibald C. Sinclair, a medical doctor in Port Elgin. The garage is an original piece of the building which is now used as apartments.
Year Built: 1876

Original Owner: Dilman S. Kinsey

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 37 Lot 105

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Kinsey had a sash, door and cabinet factory in Port Elgin, and this home was later built towards the end of his lifetime (he died in 1882 at the age of 53).

When his wife Elizabeth died in 1891, Samuel Kinsey, the son of Dilman and Elizabeth, received the home in Elizabeth’s will. Samuel was an architect in Port Elgin for many years and resided in this home until 1901 when he sold it and moved to Chatham.
Year Built: 1911

Original Owner: John Miller

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 3 Lot 20

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This property changed ownership quite often before John Miller, a local manufacturer, bought the property in May of 1907. Miller then had the home that still stands there today built in 1911. It is a 12 storey home that was built along with a wood shed in the backyard.

The style of this building is “Edwardian”. The identifiable features include a 2 storey front balcony supported by columns and decorative shingling in the pediment gable in the front dormer. This building also has unique diamond shaped windows.
Year Built: 1875

Current Owner: United Missionary Church

Legal Description: Plan 11 Pt Blk 7

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Originally a United Mennonite Church, the architecture of the building is simple. The stained glass windows were installed later as well as an education building in 1972 that was later added as an extension to the rear of the building in 1979.
Year Built: 1870

Original Owner: Samuel Roether

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 2 Lot 10

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by Samuel Roether, a store clerk.

The style of this building appears to be a simple form of the “Georgian” style. The Georgian style allowed settlers to build a style that was familiar to them, on any budget. Features reflective of this style are the symmetry of the building and a plain doorway with a single window transom above.
Faith Lutheran Church
525 Ivings Drive

Year Built: 1982

Current Owner: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Legal Description: Range Lake Pt Lots 33 & 34; RP 3R2848 PART 1 RP 3R7778

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

The Church broke ground Sunday, August 15 with about 100 people gathered to watch the ceremony. The land the church sits on was donated by James Stickel three years prior to the ground breaking ceremony.

Lutheran services were not conducted in Port Elgin until the 1920’s when vacationing Lutherans came to the area for the summer. The services were held at the Saint John’s Anglican Church which they shared during the summer months. These services continued every summer until 1964 when they were disbanded.

It wasn’t until 1969 that the services were organized again, now on a year-round basis, continuing to share the Anglican building until 1982.
In 2012, a 3464 square foot addition was added to the church. The addition allowed for activity rooms to be added to the existing building as well as an enhanced nursery space. The church also features a beautiful large stained glass window in the chapel and a detached garage built on the property in 1998.
Year Built: 1872

Original Owner: Unknown

Legal Description: Plan 323 W Pt Lot 12 N Pt; Lot 13

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by Henry Zinkan and Philip Cress in 1872. Zinkan and Cress were two of the three proprietors of the tannery at this time. The tannery went by the name of Zinkan, Cress & Co. and manufactured Spanish sole leather. The tannery became the second largest in the province soon after opening and employed as many as 50 hands at times. This charming home has five bedrooms and two full baths.
570 Johnston Avenue

Year Built: 1904-1908

Original Owner: John W. Strong

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 17 Lot 5 W Pt; Lot 4

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

John W. Strong was a mariner in his early 40’s when he built this Victorian-style, 2-storey home on 570 Johnston Ave.

Since being built, the home has changed hands only four times. In 2006 the house was purchased by Priscilla Potvin and Ken Browne, the couple converted the home into a lovely bed and breakfast, named Silken Retreat, which opened in 2011.

The house went through a series of renovations before opening its doors. Some of these included converting the four second floor bedrooms into 3 bedrooms; each with their own en suite, an updated kitchen fit to serve breakfast to any guests the B&B may have, and a detached garage was added to the property in 2010.

Silken Retreat continues to house guests from near and far to share in the beauty of the restored century home.
Year Built: 1877

Original Owner: John George

Legal Description: Plan 296 Pt Lot 11

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

John George was a merchant in the area. The style of this home is reflective of the “Italianate” building. Common features that identify this home are the: paired, arched windows in the front; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; quoining on the corners; lintels with keystones above the windows; bay window; entrance off to the side with pediment above; and decorative transom above the door.
Year Built: 1890

Original Owner: Ernest Vaupel

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 83 E Pt Lot 202; E Pt Lot 203

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home is three storeys, has 4 bedrooms and two full baths. This is a simple “Queen Anne” style of building. Identifiable features are as follows: irregular surfaces; multi rooflines; decorative brackets and trim; a large front gable; voussoirs above windows and the door; and a front portico. In 1998, a 24 foot x 24 foot dwelling was added to the rear of the home to increase living space.
Year Built: 1890

Original Owner: John Forrester

Legal Description: Plan 296 Lot 13 Pt Pt Lot 8

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

In 1890, John Forrester, Gentleman, built this 2 storey home.

The style of this home is reflective of the “Italianate” architecture. Identifiable features are the: upper storey balcony with verandah across the front, decorative lintels with keystone above the windows, brick pilasters on corners, a hipped roof with the appearance that there was once a belvedere on the top.

In 1988, a 576 square foot detached garage was added to the property and the home had an 840 square foot addition to the rear in 2002. This home has had many renovations since then to keep it in excellent condition.
Community of Christ Church
641 Market Street

Year Built: 1926

Original Owner: Lutheran Church

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 107 Lot 73

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

In 1926, a former Lutheran Church on the corner of Bricker and Market Street was purchased by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, it opened later that year. In 2000, the deck was built onto the church as well as a wheelchair ramp.
Year Built: 1877

Original Owner: George Rush

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 107 Lot 74

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built and owned by a carpenter named George Rush.

This is an Arts and Crafts Style, low building with a steeply pitched roof and multiple dormers. It has a cottage style porch made with natural stone materials and is dominated by front porch there are sidelights and a transom on the front door, with a lancet window in the front dormer.

A 14 foot by 15 foot addition was constructed at the rear of the house in 1987. An addition was also added to the existing barn on the property in 1994.
Year Built: 1910

Original Owner: John Hepner

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 108 E Pt Lot 80; W Pt Lot 81

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built in 1910 and was owned by John Hepner, a local manufacturer. The home features four bedrooms, one full bath and one part bath.

It is an Edwardian style building some features include: the simple, square & balanced design, a hipped room with multiple dormers, decorative brick lintels above the windows, a verandah across the front of the house with decorative columns and a second storey balcony, quoining on corners, and large picture windows.

The detached garage was added just after the house was finished and in 2006 a large addition was constructed at the rear of the house.
Year Built: 1874

Original Owner: J. R. Detwiller

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 60 Lot 41 to 43; Pt Lot 64 & Public Lane

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by an innkeeper named J. R. Detwiller in 1874. There are 3 full storeys in this home and 14 bedrooms along with 4 full and 4 part baths, in 1941 a cabin was built towards the right hand side of the property and it was extended in 1984 to facilitate washrooms and a storage area. In 2005 a detached garage was built behind the main home.

This home was known as the Elgin Lodge for more than forty years. This is how a stay at Elgin Lodge was described on the back of the post cards pictured below, “Situated one block from the sandy beach of Lake Huron on 2 acres of spacious lawns with trees and flowers. Swimming pool, shuffleboard and lawn games. The comfortable atmosphere along with home cooked meals will delight even the most discriminating guest. ‘OUR HOME IS YOUR HOME’”
As of 1996, the home became known as the Franklin House, and has operated as a bed and breakfast since then. The Franklin House is an ideal place to stay not only because of the beauty and character this century home possesses; it also is a short walk to the Port Elgin beach.
Year Built: 1874

Original Owner: Sebastian Busch

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 55 Lot 41 to 42; Pt Lot 59 Pt Lane RP 3R1318; Part 2 Part 3

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Sebastian Busch was a carpenter who first owned this home. The home was converted into Windspire Inn and has gone through a series of renovations to convert the home into a more guest friendly space. Cottages have been built on the property (for those who prefer to be separated from the main house) while keeping the same uniform appearance throughout the entire property.

A 22 foot by 24 foot detached shed was built on the property in 2010.
Year Built: 1900

Original Owner: Ezra Swartz

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 50 Lot 18 W Pt Lot 17

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

In 1900, a merchant named Ezra Swartz built this home.

This home is typical of a Gothic Revival style home. This style was popular with farmhouses around the turn of the century. Features reflective of this style are the: front dormers with gingerbread trim; a lancet window in the small front gable; portico pediment over front door forms part of the verandah; and quoining in brick on corners.

The home had the back end demolished and a new addition constructed in its place in 1988. The addition made room for a spacious kitchen and family room on the main floor as well as an updated second floor.
Year Built: 1883

Original Owner: Hugh McLaren

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 49 Lot 15

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

Hugh McLaren, a merchant in Port Elgin built this house in 1883. At that time, Mr. McLaren was a merchant and business partners with his brothers, James and John George. They operated McLaren George & Co. on Goderich Street.

This is an Italianate style home. The attributes of this style include: a hipped roof, 2 sets of paired tall, arched windows in the front, a front door with a portico, a second floor balcony, overhanging eaves, remnants of a belvedere on the roof, decorative lintels with keystones above windows, and quoining in bricks on the corners.
Year Built: Unknown

Original Owner: St. John’s Anglican Church

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 49 Lot 11

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

According to the abstract for this land, St. John’s Anglican Church purchased the land on the corner of Mill and Stafford Street in May of 1886. This contradicts some old news clippings that state that the church was built in the 1870’s.

In 1986, an addition was added to the back of the church that included a basement with a lounge, a nursery, storage, and washrooms. The main floor of the addition has a large hall with a kitchen, a minister’s room, washrooms, and access to the existing church.
Year Built: 1889

Original Owner: William H. Ruby

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 67 Lot 7 to 8

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This two-storey home was built in 1889 by the township treasurer, William H. Ruby. Ruby and Henry Hilker purchased this property in 1878; they also owned and operated a general store by the name of Ruby & Hilker located on the corner of Mill and Goderich. The house has five bedrooms and one and a half baths. A wood shed and carport were added to the property following the construction of the house. An addition was constructed on the rear of this home in 1974.
Year Built: 1858

Original Owner: John Stafford

Legal Description: Plan 164 Blk 47 W Pt Lot C

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home was built by John Stafford, an early settler in 1858. In the 1880’s this home was converted to be used as a Bank of Hamilton. The building has since been turned back into a living space with a sunroom addition constructed in 2002 and a new entrance to the building in 2004. A small storage shed was also built behind the home in 1999.
Year Built: 1865

Original Owner: James George

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 70 Lot 8 Pt Lot 9

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

James George was a shoemaker; he had one of the first brick homes that was built in Port Elgin.

This is Italianate style home, it features decorative lintels above windows, quoining in brickwork on the corners, a front verandah with second story balcony, rounded windows, and overhanging eaves.
Year Built: 1877

Original Owner: John C. Kennedy

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 71 E Pt Lot 14; Lot 15

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

John C. Kennedy, a wheat buyer, built this home and sold it to Cyrus Carroll, a druggist and land surveyor in 1877. Carroll ran a drug store, practiced as a land surveyor, was village treasurer, and division court clerk.

In 1888, Carroll sold this gothic revival-style home and it was purchased by Trustees Port Elgin Methodist Church and for many years it housed the ministers who worked at the church.

In 2011, the existing dormer at the rear of the house was extended and upgraded on the exterior with new shingles and siding.
The Old High School
742 Mill Street

Year Built: 1854
Original Use: Port Elgin High School
Legal Description: Plan 801 Lot 1
Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014
Designated Property: No

In 1875 the population of Port Elgin had grown to 1,500. This prompted the construction of a new brick public school, replacing a frame building built in 1854.
In 1890 a new public school was built for $4,200.00. An addition was made to this building costing $4,000, and it was converted to the first high school in Port Elgin.
It has since been converted into apartments.
Year Built: Unknown

Original Owner: Unknown

Legal Description: Plan 11 Blk 72 E Pt Lot 2 E; Pt Lot 3

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

This home often changed owners and it is unclear when exactly the home was built or whom it was built by. It was likely built sometime in the early to mid 1800’s.
Year Built: 1885

Original Owner: William Burgess

Legal Description: Plan 180 PUB SQ Lot 11

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Property Description: No

William Burgess was a carpenter in Port Elgin. This home features a unique shingle pattern on the front gables as well as a wraparound veranda and rounded upper storey windows.
St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
920 Wellington Street

Year Built: 1962

Original Owner: Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation Hamilton Diocese

Legal Description: Town Plan Pt Pk Lt 21

Heritage Register By-law No: 3-2014

Designated Property: No

For many years the catholic residents of Port Elgin were without a church of their own, they had to go to Saint Patrick’s Church in Southampton. But as time passed, Port Elgin and Southampton became popular tourist attractions during the summer months and the opening of Bruce Nuclear Plant brought many new families into the area. It was then decided that Port Elgin need a Catholic Church of its own. St. Joseph’s Catholic Church was officially opened June 30, 1962.

The church features a $6000 stained glass window that includes St. Joseph, the worker, the church’s patron saint, the star of Jacob, and at the bottom of the window the setting sun, Lake Huron and Bruce Nuclear Station can be seen.

In 1995, a 5000 square foot parish hall addition was constructed to the existing building. In 2003, a 208 square foot addition was constructed on the front of the church and there have been several more renovations to keep the church in excellent condition.