

# Four Corners



Self-guided Walking Tour

**WHITBY**

ONTARIO • CANADA

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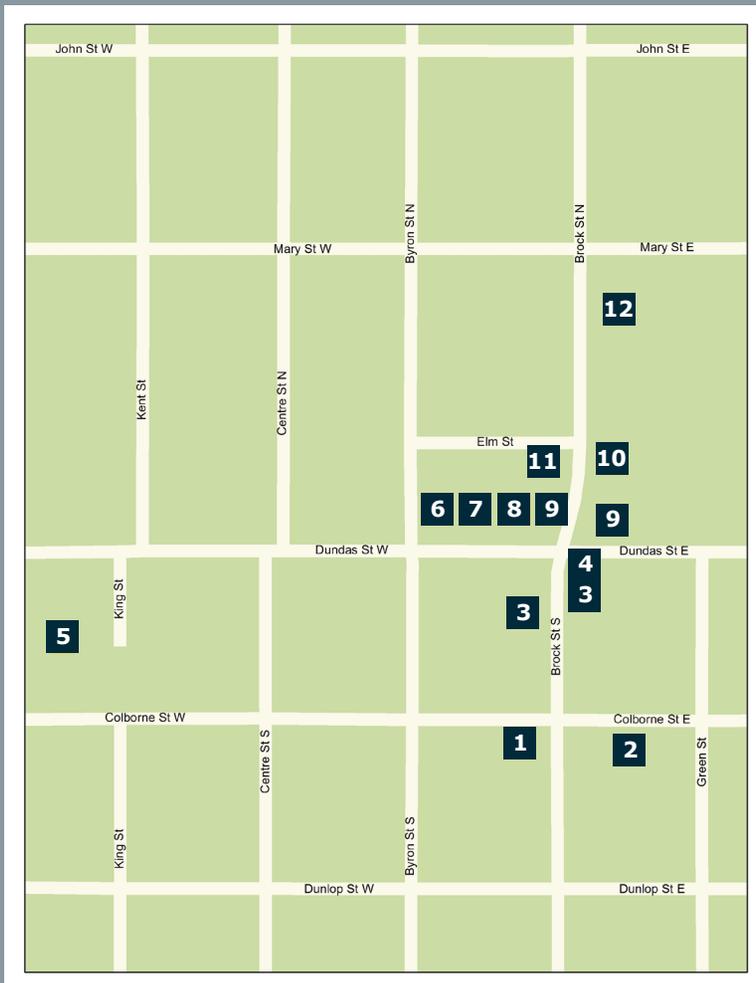
The intersection of Dundas and Brock Streets in Whitby is also known as the Four Corners. The area represents the 19th century commercial nucleus of the Town. In 1836, a wealthy merchant, landowner, and politician called Peter Perry launched a wholesale and retail grain trading centre located on the northeast corner of Brock and Dundas. Due to Perry's influence, a large settlement grew up around his business and the area became known as Perry's Corners. As the settlement developed and fire destroyed many of the original frame structures, earlier commercial buildings were replaced by the mid-century with three-storey brick blocks modelled on the urban palaces of the Italian Renaissance. The rows of commercial blocks bestow the district with a character that is polished and culturally significant to the Town of Whitby. Perry's Corners was one of three communities that formed the original Town of Whitby in 1855 along with Port Whitby and Hamer's Corners.



**1**

**200 Brock Street South c. 1842**

This building was originally built as the Commercial Hotel, which remained until its name was changed to the Queen's Hotel in 1875. Originally of frame construction, the building was bricked over in 1905 and served as barracks for the 182nd Battalion during the First World War. Although this is the oldest building still standing in downtown Whitby, it shows little of its age due to the façade being re-bricked in 2005 after being heavily damaged by fire.



**2**

**201 Brock Street South c. 1964-65**

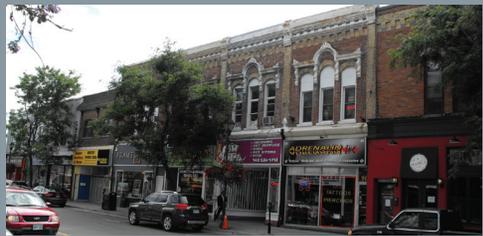
This building, built in the brutalism style common in the 1960s, was Whitby's former main firehall, built on the site of the Old Town Hall, which was located here from 1879-1960. Old Town Hall had originally been built as Hopkin's Music Hall in 1877. Prior to this, this site was occupied by the Canada Clock Company.



**3**

**104-116 Brock Street South c. 1878**

This building was constructed in 1878 and was named Deverell's Block after its builder, Thomas Deverell, an important Whitby contractor. From 1900 to 1917, it was the Windsor Hotel, after which it reverted to stores.

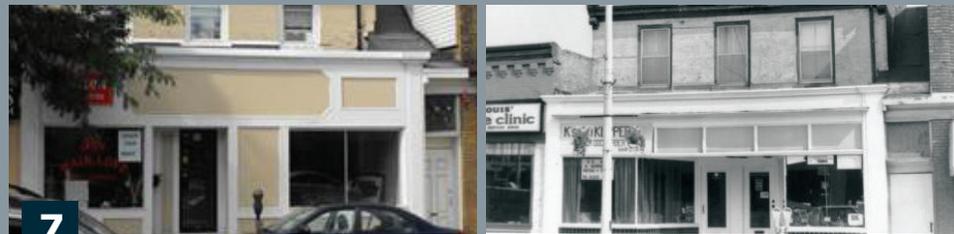




4

### 101 Brock Street South c. 1874

This building was built as the Dominion Bank and was a bank until 1970. This was the first branch of the Dominion Bank outside of the head office in Toronto. This was the only building in this block to survive the great fire of Oct. 16, 1877.



7

### 122-124 Dundas Street West c. 1850

The oldest brick building in downtown Whitby, this was a general store built in the Montreal style of architecture, with brick fire walls up the sides, saving it from destruction during multiple fires. The original owner was Carleton Lynde, the son of Whitby pioneer Jabez Lynde, whose house was recently moved to the corner of Brock and Burns Streets.



5

### 405 Dundas Street West

#### Whitby Public Library & Celebration Square

In August 2003, construction began on a new modern library at the site of the old Whitby Municipal Building. Designed by Shore Tilbe Irwin and Partners of Toronto, it opened in May 2005, and was the recipient of several architectural awards. It is built in the International Modern style, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and clean modern lines.



8

### 106 Dundas Street West c. 1860

This building, originally built as a general store, is known as Joel Bigelow's Block. It is recognized by Heritage Canada as the most significant architectural landmark in downtown Whitby, built in the Renaissance Revival style.



6

### 132 Dundas Street West c. 1913

This building served as the Whitby Public Library from 1913-1973. It is one of many public libraries across North America which were built with funds from The Carnegie Foundation, started by American steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. It was designed by William A. Mahoney of Guelph, Ontario.



9

### 100-108 Brock Street North c. 1873

The James H. Gerrie Block was originally built as a drugstore, and served that purpose for some 96 years. It replaced an earlier store destroyed by fire in 1873. Notice the date stone over the 3rd floor window at the corner: "Gerrie, 1873." Originally built of red brick, it was stuccoed over in 1939.

All homes can be viewed from the street

Do not enter private property



10

**121 Brock Street North c. 1864**

Known as the McMillan Block, it replaced Perry's Block which burned down in June of 1864. The centre of the three stores was occupied by the offices of the Royal Canadian Bank, the Dominion Bank, and the Western Bank of Canada. The north store served as Whitby's Post Office from 1880-1910.



11

**122 Brock Street North c. 1867-68**

This building formerly housed a branch of the Ontario Bank, operating until 1890. It was built by Whitby contractor George Cormack. In the early 1900s, it served as a telegraph office operated by Edmund Stephenson.



12

**173 Brock Street North c. 1862**

Known as the Whitby Chronicle Building, it was originally built as the office of W.H. Higgins, publisher of the 'Whitby Chronicle', and 'The Ontario Country Atlas.' In 1910, the building was purchased by J.H. Perrin, of the Royal Hotel who converted it into a movie theatre. It served as the Royal Theatre under various ownerships from 1910 to 1938.

A joint project of the Town of Whitby Planning and Development Department, LACAC Heritage Whitby & Whitby Public Library

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Old Fire Hall - 201 Brock St. S  
Downtown Whitby  
(Brock St. S & Colborne St. E)

New vendors always welcome:  
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