16 **36-42 West Street** are two mid-19th century Georgian buildings. The tornado removed the roof of 40-42 which originally matched its neighbour with gable parapets and narrow eaves. **(District)**

17 **32-34 West Street**, built c.1875. This intricate Italianate, brickwork cornice extended around the corner and still matches that of 34-36 Courthouse Square. **(District)**

18 **37-41 West Street,** Masonic Lodge built 1913; Italianate with Arts and Crafts interior. The third floor facade and brick parapet, which collapsed into the street during the 2011 tornado, have been faithfully replaced. Two central pilasters with cap stones emphasize the arched-top entrance which is reflected in the arched date stone at the roof line. A limestone band separates the second and third floors.

19 **50 West Street**, 1860s Second Empire, mansard roof with dormers and projecting fire walls. Second storey arched-top windows; central recessed door at ground. Tornado damage to roof and interior. **(District)**

20 **46 West Street**, former Bank of Upper Canada built 1863 as a branch and residence for the banker. From 1866-1905 it was the Bank of Montreal. Georgian in style, with two separate front entrances, it contains original features such as eight fireplaces, a bake oven, interior window shutters, locks, and a vault. The two eastern-most chimneys were replaced after the tornado. **(Designated & District)**

21 **49 West Street**, Culbert's Bakery. An iconic institution and a bakery for more than 130 years. Often the second question people asked after checking on how the tornado affected loved ones was, "What about Culbert's?". A 1950s-style, aluminum and arborite additon extended the original storefront. **(District)**

22 **57 West Street**, Town Hall, was built as a Post office in 1890. The Romanesque building is of Guelph limestone, designed by Thomas Fuller, architect of the Ottawa Parliament Buildings. The Post Office had two doors with entrance

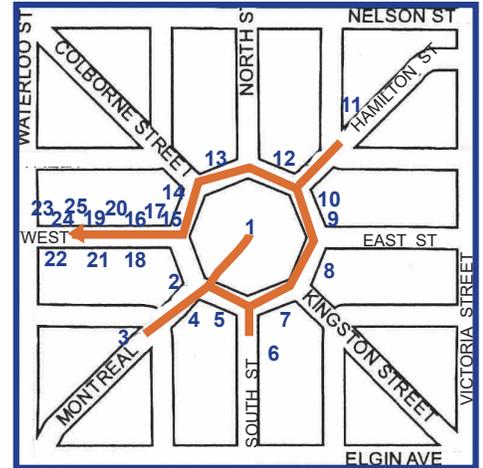

steps on both the left and right.The building became the Town Hall in 1961 when a new post office was built on the former East St. town hall site. Renovations and an addition on the west side were completed in 2009. The addition replaced a corner building which at one time housed a movie theatre, police department and then public works. **(Designated & District)**

23 **68 West Street**   **24** **64 West St**   **25** **56-62 West St.**

All three of these buildings replaced single storey structures after the tornado of 2011.   Built in 2012, 68 used a modified Italianate style as did its neighbour at 64, built in 2015. The building at 56-62, built in 2012, is in a modified Georgian style. **(District)**

Downtown Core
Heritage Conservation Districts

· Huron County Courthouse
· Goderich Town Hall
· Goderich Arboretum
· 19th-century Commercial Architecture

The core's unique layout comprises eight primary streets radiating from an octagon. This octagon, marketplace or civic square, with a park at its centre and eight commercial blocks facing it, is popularly known as "The Square".Four streets, intersecting at right angles (Victoria, Nelson, Waterloo and Elgin) form the outer edges of the core. Three Heritage Conservation Districts, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, include most properties within this core area.

The primary radiating streets, 99 feet in width, converge onto the circular road. Secondary streets are 66 feet wide (one chain length). The alignment of the eight principal roads with the points of the compass adds to the ordered symmetry of the design. The central park covers about three acres and is now an Arboretum.

A refurbished Courthouse Park 2014
Photo by Devin Sturgeon

The original concept for the core has been attributed to John Galt, the Canada Company's first commissioner who may have been inspired by the 1st Century B.C. city planning concepts of Roman architect Vitruvius. These concepts were also translated into town plans by Renaissance architects. The Goderich plan is a rare North American example.

The plan was designed and surveyed in advance of construction to suit the flat ground upon which the core stands. The original town had developed at the harbour following 1827. By the 1840s, businesses were moving up the bluffs to West and St. Patrick Streets and eventually to the Market Square, laid out by Galt and Provincial Surveyor John MacDonald.

1 **1 Courthouse Square**, the Huron County Court House, built in 1954, replaced a 100-year-old building destroyed by fire. A modernist style is reflected in the cube-like massing, window design and subdued ornamentation of the limestone exterior.

Courthouse Park was stripped of most of its trees by the 2011 tornado but has been replanted and landscaped as part of the recovery. *(See separate Arboretum brochure.)* Tales exist of pioneers losing their way in the dense undergrowth while crossing this area.

Market and civic functions are traditional activities which continue on The Square. The roof over the performance stage reflects our nautical heritage, being suggestive of an overturned shipwreck. The cenotaph soldier looks along East St., the route soldiers took to war as they marched to the station, visible at the end of the street. A gazebo and water feature provide serene places to rest as do benches and picnic tables. **(District)**

2019

Contrary to a popular belief, the town plan was NOT switched with one meant for Guelph. This myth arose due to a struggle of wills between John Galt and the Canada Company directors. The latter were determined to name present-day Guelph 'Goderich', in honour of Lord Goderich, while royalist Galt was equally determined that the first established settlement be called 'Guelph'. After a period when both parties stubbornly used their own favoured names for each settlement, Galt's version prevailed but he was dismissed shortly after. The town plans for these two communities, however, were always intended for where they are now found.
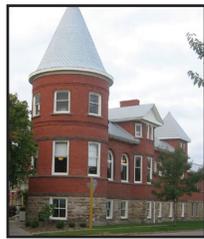
The **tornado of 2011** affected almost every building in the downtown as well as hundreds beyond. In total, 55 buildings were demolished in town including 15 heritage structures. During repairs, many owners and tenants relocated their homes and businesses. Some businesses never reopened but new ones took their places. The last of the core reconstruction projects was completed in 2015.

Especially hard hit streets were St. Patrick, St. David, Park, Picton, Regent, Oxford, Cambridge, Britannia, Cambria, Elgin, Kingston, East, West, Toronto, Wellington and Courthouse Square.

2 **56-58 Courthouse Square**, built in 1882, required demolition following the tornado. It at one time housed the Reuben Sallows photographic studio on the second floor. Rebuilding in the same Second Empire style was completed in 2013. A full third storey is included where only a partial storey existed before allowing four apartments on each upper floor. **(District)**

3 **52 Montreal Street**, Goderich Public Library, was opened in 1903 as a Carnegie library. A sympathetic addition was added in 2003. The large, round tower, round-top windows, and irregular roof are typical of the Romanesque style often used for public buildings of this era. The mezzanine houses the Reuben Sallows Gallery displaying the work of this renowed, local, 19th-century photographer. **(Designated and District)**

4 **33 Montreal Street**, Gibbons Townhouse, was built in 1842 for Robert Gibbons, a local butcher who became Warden, Mayor, Sheriff and an MPP. The two wide chimneys, the parapet gables and the simple elegance and symmetry mark this as a Georgian building. **(Designated & District)**

5 **68-76 Courthouse Square**, McLean Block, 1888. Italianate features can best be seen at #70, restored in 2010. Polychromatic brick, a raised brick band between windows and paired brackets at projecting cornice are typical. Ornamental iron cresting formerly topped the roof line and partial Corinthian columns separated the storefronts. **(District)**

6 **35 South Street**, The Livery, was built in three stages, the rear, of field stone, in the 1840s as a harness and blacksmith shop. Two hotels next door made the location ideal. A.M. Polley added a second section in the 1860s, then in 1878, the front with its ornate boomtown facade. The square, arched windows are unusual for this area. The wide, arched doorway allowed the entry of horses and carriages. The building is now home to Goderich Little Theatre.**(Designated & District)**

7 **92 Courthouse Square**, The Bedford Hotel, built in 1896, replaced two Albion Hotels both destroyed by fire. The building commands its corner location with Romanesque arches along the ground floor and restrained Italianate decorative elements such as the large cupola and projecting balustrade above the entrance. The interior has an open stairwell with a skylight and a musicians' gallery around the dining room. **(District)**

8 **112-128 Courthouse Square**. The building at 122-124, now re-designed, originally included the B of M site.Tornado damage in this block varied from minor (124) to needing total demolition (112-120). Reconstruction followed a modified Georgian style similar to what was lost. **(District)**

9 **138 Courthouse Square.** Built in 2012 in an Italianate style, this building reflects elements of an older structure that housed O'Brien`s Meats for many years at this corner. **(District)**

10 **138-150 Courthouse Square.** The last frame building on The Square was replaced in 1906 by #146 with large, modern, second storey windows in the Chicago style. Italianate details are typical of this block. **(District)**

11 **53 Hamilton Street**, the Bradley Building, occupies one of the eight 'vista' locations with important view lines from The Square. It retains original windows and unusual detailing such as the iron window hoods. It is one of the last examples of largely unaltered Victorian corner commercial design in town.

Hamilton St. was once the major entrance point for travellers from the north. The many hotels, liveries and blacksmith shops are gone but a few boomtown fronts remain. **(District)**

12 **158-170 Courthouse Square**. A mix of Georgian (166-8), Second Empire (162-4) and Italianate (158) styles make up this block. The new building at 170 replaces a Second Empire building lost to fire in 2004. **(District)**

13 **2-18 Courthouse Square**. A rare remaining example of unified design and preservation. Built circa 1865, the taller end units with detailed brick cornices frame the 1870s block between them. New brick work at 12-16 replicates the original. **(District)**

14 **24 Courthouse Square**, was built in 1897 in the Italianate style and originally had a cupola on the roof above the projecting corner entrance. Decorative mouldings in white make a bold statement and give the structure a horizontal emphasis. **(District)**

15 **40 Courthouse Square**, was built after an 1895 fire destroyed this corner which included a second floor Grand Opera House. The Bank of Montreal was located here for many years. Ionic columns support a segmented pediment on the corner entrance. Building scale and window detail balance the bank design at #24. **(District)**