

ORONO'S TERQUASQUICENTENNIAL 175 YEARS

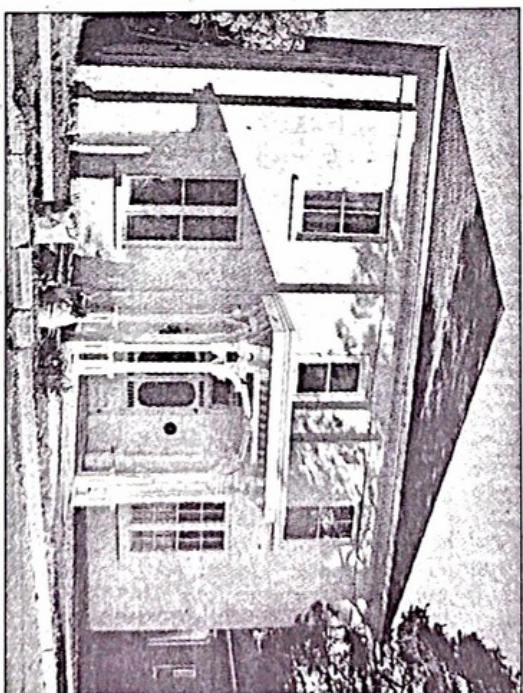
Interesting Orono Building

Anyone who has taken the time to stroll through Orono's streets will notice the many picturesque houses and buildings. Clarington Museums has done walking tours that highlight the interesting stories behind these structures.

The large house located at 25 Park Street has an appearance, at least to me, that tells you it has an interesting story to tell. Many remember this building as the Barlow Funeral Home, but it was built in 1857 as a church! It was Orono's Wesleyan Methodist Church. Do not confuse this with Orono's Episcopal Methodist Church which is the direct ancestor of the current Orono United Church. There were many different churches in the 1800's. Clarke

Township boasted five different Methodist churches. Besides the two already mentioned there were also the Primitive Methodists, Bible Christians, and the New Connexion Methodists. Many of these amalgamated into the present day United Church of Canada.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church cost \$2,500 to build and was 50 by 30 feet in size. Like the Anglicans at a later date, they had been worshipping in the Sons of Temperance Hall before their church was built. An opening tea for the church was given at this hall by the ladies of Orono. A rivalry of sorts had developed between the Wesleyan, Episcopal and Bible Christian Churches. Each group tried to outdo each other by



The quiet grandeur of this residence at 25 Park Street only hints at this building's original purpose.

holding more and more elaborate lunches. Helen Schmid and Sid Rutherford wrote in their book "Out of the Mists", "The Wesleyans being a third group to dedicate a church, 'did not stop at geese and turkeys but roasted a whole hog...". Prof. Squair in his earlier history books nicely skirts the competitive issue by simply stating, "The tea on Monday was given in the Sons' Hall by the ladies of Orono, noted for their skill and taste."

In 1863 there were nine Wesleyan Methodist churches scattered throughout Clarke Township. Total membership of all the congregations

was 417 people. With the Methodist union in 1884 many of these churches combined with others. In Orono they agreed to meet at the Episcopal Methodist Church. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was sold to local businessman G.M. Long. He paid \$800.00 for the building and converted it into a house. Dr. William G. McCulloch later lived there. The Bible Christians Church became St. Saviour's Anglican Church.

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