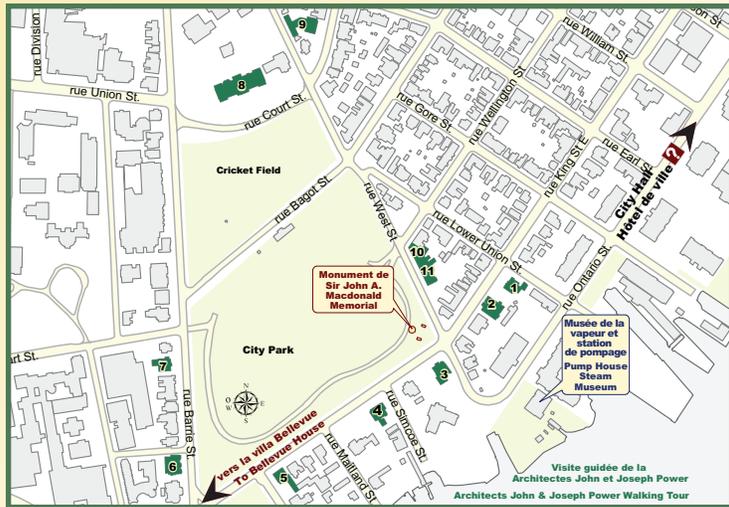


# Free A Walking Tour: KINGSTON

## Architects John and Joseph Power

...highlighting some of the fine architectural contributions of these two prominent Kingston architects to Old Sydenham Ward.  
Estimated walking time 45 minutes.



Architects naturally designed houses for the well-to-do. Other than the courthouse, it is not surprising that all the remaining buildings on this tour are what might be called “mansions”.

Start your tour at the corner of King St. E. and Lower Union St.

**1 157 King St. E.** – Joseph Power, built in 1882

This large brick Victorian mansion, built for Dr. Edward Horsey (second son of the architect Edward Horsey), is an excellent example of the work of Joseph Power. The house was sold to the government in 1887, when the doctor moved to Montréal. It served for many years as a residence for army commanding officers. This is a slightly larger and more elaborate version of 49 King St. E., built three years earlier.



**2 141 King St. E.** (Hotel Belvedere)

– Joseph Power, built in 1880  
This elaborate house had a very stylish plan, scale and decoration. It was built for John Hinds and, after he went bankrupt, it was owned by Dr. Kenneth Neander Fenwick. Note the use of both brick and stone, and the slate mansard roof with dormers.



**3 95 King St. E.** (Hendry House)  
– Joseph Power, built in 1886

This high Victorian brick corner house, built for James A. Hendry, was described in the *British Whig* in 1886 as “probably the handsomest residence in the City this



Enjoy this historical City of Kingston Walking Tour.  
Look for more Walking Tours in this series.

Please respect private property.

“John Power of Devonshire came to Kingston in 1846 and died here in 1882, aged 66. He was City architect and associate architect for the Psychiatric Hospital. He designed every kind of structure from a swing bridge over the Cataraqi River to hotels, churches and many fine dwellings.” (Volume V, *Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance, Kingston, Ontario*, page 1)

year”. An excellent example of the height of asymmetrical design, variety of roof heights and design details, it sits on an important corner facing City Park and Sir John A. Macdonald’s monument. The *terra cotta* panels are noteworthy.

**4 85 King St. E.** – Power & Son, built in 1877

This Victorian mansion was built by Richard Tossell for Rybert Kent, who was, for 20 years, proprietor of the British American Hotel (at King and Clarence Streets), and a partner in the Canadian Express Company. The three-storey stone house has some of the finest ironwork and carpenter trim work in Kingston. The design details show the best work of Joseph Power and the siting of the building is excellent.



**5 31 King St. E.** (Parkview House) – John Power, built in 1853

This two-storey stone dwelling is important to the streetscapes of both Emily St. and King St. With its neighbours, it is an interesting study of the *cottage orné* style popular in the 1850s. The site is part of the Murney



property subdivided in the 1840s. This house was built for Robert Gaskin, a ship owner and ship builder. It was sold in 1855 but Gaskin’s granddaughter, Isabella Gaskin Waldron, and her husband bought it in 1909. Gaskin was a British patriot. For instance, two of his vessels were named *St. George* and *British Lion*. A cast-iron British lion may have stood on the lawn of this house. It now stands in the park just to the south. The residences at 7-9 Emily St. are part of the original rear wing, coach house and servants’ quarters of the house.

**6 20-24 Barrie St.** – Joseph Power, built in 1889

The main architectural feature of this red brick *terrace* is three large projecting angled *bays*, which rise two storeys to balconies protected by truncated *gable roofs*.

Stone and brick string courses and carved tiles, plus the rectangular *transoms* in all windows and doors, moderate the vertical thrust of the *bays*. This three-dwelling block was built for Robert Crawford, owner of fuel yards which had been established in 1875. He occupied No. 24 and rented the two other dwellings.



**7 72-74 Barrie St.** – Power & Son, built in 1879

This large brick dwelling has a central entrance flanked by large

The property descriptions are largely taken from the Statement of Significance from each property's *Ontario Heritage Act* designation by-law, with additional information drawn from the volumes of the *Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance, Kingston, Ontario* and *Heritage Kingston* (Kingston Historical Society).

"Joseph Power, eldest son of John, entered partnership with his father in 1873. He was an Associate of the Royal Canadian Academy, a President of the Ontario Association of Architects and a Fellow of the Architectural Institute of Canada as well as a superintending architect for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Defence." (Volume V, *Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance, Kingston, Ontario*, page 1)

projections, edged with *quoins*, which rise three storeys to sharply peaked *gables* with decorative *bargeboards*. Windows on each storey are set under decorative *cornices*. The house was built for Richard Thomas Muir Walkem, a barrister, and his wife, Emily Henderson, who had bought the lot in 1875. The building was occupied for a few years around 1903 by the Kingston Ladies College. It was divided into apartments in 1938. The property was sold to Kingston General Hospital in 1974 and is now the site of Hospice Kingston.



**8 5-21 Court St.** (Frontenac County Court House) – built in 1855, architect: Edward Horsey. Rebuilt under supervision of Power & Son

Early in his career, John Power worked under Edward Horsey. After a fire, the Powers used Horsey's original plans for the court house's reconstruction. The Powers' major addition was an enhancement of its dome. Their work on the court house appears to have gained them a reputation for successful large buildings. He went on, in 1888, to rebuild St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church after it was destroyed by a fire. He also expanded St. George's Cathedral in 1891 including a large dome, and again after an 1899 fire. The Courthouse fountain was built in 1903 as a memorial to Sir George Kirkpatrick, MP for Frontenac, Speaker of the House of Commons and Lt. Governor of the Province of Ontario.



**9 24 Sydenham St.** (Hochelaga Inn) – Power & Son, built in 1879

This is everyone's idea of a Victorian mansion! Built of red brick, this house has a tower, many gables and a mansard roof. At one time it was owned by the Bank of Montreal as a place for visiting executives to stay. The name "Hochelaga" comes from an Iroquoian village located where the city of Montréal is now. It was later converted to apartments, and became an inn in 1985. Its design includes extensive decorative touches in wood and brick. There are heavy mouldings, many brackets under the eaves, some leaded glass windows, a prominent double chimney on the north side, Corinthian columns and delicate ironwork on the very top of the octagonal tower.



## DEFINITIONS:

**Bargeboards:** Boards – often decorative – that run along the roof line of a gable as a way to finish or hide the raw ends of the roof timbers.

**Bays:** A division of a building between vertical lines or planes – such as the space between supports, or columns – often occupied by a window or doorway.

**Cornices:** Any projecting ornamental moulding along the top of a building, wall, arch, etc., finishing or crowning it.

**Courses:** A continuous layer of stones, bricks, etc., in a wall.

**Cottage Orn :** An artfully rustic building emulating the Old English Cottage. Usually asymmetrical in plan, often with thatched roof, much use of fancy weatherboarding and very rough-hewn wooden columns to support verandas, porches, etc.

**Dormer:** A window projecting from a sloping roof.

**Gable Roof:** A pitched roof

**Mansard Roof:** Sometimes called a 'Second Empire' roof, it was fashionable in France during the 1800s. It has steeply sloped sides, frequently with dormers.

**Peaked Gables:** The triangular upper portion of a wall at the end of a pitched roof.

**Quoins:** The dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so that their faces are alternately large and small.

**Terrace:** A row of attached houses designed as a unit, flat-faced and flush with those on either side, a feature of Victorian England.

**Terra Cotta:** Literally 'baked earth': clay moulded and kiln-fired to make a hard compact material used for bricks, roof-tiling, cladding and ornament.

**Transoms:** A horizontal bar of stone or wood across the opening of a window or across a panel; or a rectangular window above a door.

**Umbrage:** Something that provides shade.

**10 65 West St.** – Power & Son, built in 1879

This brick corner house, part of a whole block of brick dwellings, was built after Westbourne Terrace (57-63 West St.) was completed. The round corner tower, bay window and central two-storey *umbrage* are notable aspects of architecture for the period.



**11 57-63 West St.** (Westbourne Terrace) – Power & Son, built in 1874

This red brick, four-dwelling *terrace* was built for George M. Wilkinson and three of his eight children. The row of three similar two-storey dwellings with single-storey bay windows is dominated by the fourth end *dormer*. Westbourne Terrace constitutes the major section of this important streetscape facing City Park.



At the intersection of West and King streets, turn left and follow King St. back to downtown.

