



The Settler's Dream

A Pictorial History of the Older Buildings of Prince Edward County

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PI-56

Youmans/Paul-Duddy House c.1875

34 King Street

The work of Letitia Youmans, founder of the Canadian branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, has been recognized through the dedication of an historical plaque at the entrance to Glenwood Cemetery. Many may not be aware, however, that the house she shared with her husband, Arthur, still stands in fine condition today at the corner of Bowery and King. It was built about the same time she organized a group of local women whose aim was to lobby for the prohibition of alcohol.

The house, of course, owes more to the success of Arthur Youman's lumber business than to Letitia's temperance crusade. Like the houses of many other businessmen in the County, the dominant feature of the hip-roofed brick house is a brick vestibule, two storeys in height, which protrudes from the façade. Comparable houses dating from the early 1860s into the eighties were built in Wellington, Bloomfield, Picton and the rural areas between. Most have special details on the vestibule to differentiate them, such as the segmentally-arched transom and the paired lights to windows on the upper storey on the Youmans House. The panelled cornice above the door is found on many other houses of this kind (e.g., Skinner/Jones/Rand House, (HA-41), just east of Picton). Surprisingly, there is no evidence of front verandahs, although there is a gallery on the rear elevation. The house is built into a gentle downhill slope, so that the basement opens to the back yard.

Arthur died in November of 1882, leaving the house to Letitia and directing his executors to sell his lumber mill and divide the proceeds among his seven children. His devout religious beliefs are clearly demonstrated in his will:



Oblique view: Youmans/Paul-Duddy House at King and Bowery. Here again is the characteristic 'Country' vestibule in the two-storey version.

Picton (PI)

- 56. Youmans/Paul-Duddy House
- 57. Chapman/Clapp House
- 58. Irwin/Misener House
- 59. Bigg/Strong House
- 60. Fralick/Blakeley House
- 61. Fralick Bros. Carriage Factory
- 62. Barker House – "Benson Hall"
- 63. Town Hall – Fire Hall
- 64. Gillespie House
- 65. Lear/Brown House
- 66. Vancleaf/Brown House – Hicks's Funeral Home
- 67. Wright/Sharpe House
- 68. Bedell/Ward House
- 69. Vance/Sheehy House

"In making the foregoing distribution of my property, I have tried to do my duty in the fear of God, keeping in mind . . . the need of my dear children, all of whom, with their precious families I earnestly entreat to meet me in heaven."¹

The same dedication prompted Letitia to travel throughout Canada promoting the temperance cause. She sold the house in 1883 and in the same year became president of the national branch of the W.C.T.U. She died in 1896 and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery.²

