

Heritage Perth



10 Market Square

This house was built in 1857 by Robert Gemmell and it remained in the Gemmell family until 1932.

After that it was the residence of the Ven. Archdeacon D'Arcy Clayton, rector of St. James' Anglican Church.

Deed to the property was registered to Fred Burchell in 1942 and in later years it was the residence of Scott Burchell and family.

In 1982 the law firm of O'Donnell, Dulmage, Bond, March and Anderson purchased

the building and, in consultation with John Stewart of Commonwealth Historic Resource Management, converted it to offices and had the building designated as a Perth heritage site.

A side addition was constructed at that time. The building is now the home of the separate law practices of James Bond and Greg Anderson.

When he built this "Gothic Revival" house, Robert Gemmell constructed it to last. He used the method of "plank on plank" that gave walls 20 centimetres of thickness. The interior walls were just as thick, which made it difficult to add electrical outlets later.

Originally, the outside walls were stucco, but most have subsequently been aluminum sided. The original wall construction can be seen at the front of the building.

Some of the Victorian, Gothic-style windows contained the original glass into the 1980s.

A beautiful Regency-styled verandah was a feature of the house in much earlier years, but has undergone alteration to its present simplicity.

Unlike so many homes of the era, this house had no fireplaces, but was heated by the innovatively new "Quebec" heaters and wood-burning stoves.

Gemmell installed the very first doorbell in Perth on this house and claims to have had the first oil lamp in town. The original doorbell is still in use on the front door.

One of the attractive features of this home is, of course, its setting. Overlooking the sweeping curve of Market Square, it has the beautiful scenery of Stewart Park practically at its doorstep.

What better way to enhance another of Perth's lovely old homes?



Address: 10 Market Square, on Cockburn Island in the Tay River.