



Built: c. 1911
 Built By: The Title and Trust Company
 Structure: Gate posts

Current Owner: Edmund Jones
 Present Use: Vacant land
 Original Use: Planned subdivision

Exterior Wall: Fieldstone

Address: 5020 Talbot St.

Architectural:

Two stone pillars (Figs 1 & 2) are all that remain of what was meant to be the “Chicago of the North”. The planned subdivision of Victoria Heights, marked by this stone gate, was approximately 100 acres, and had sidewalks and piping laid down to accommodate a mass housing project. The intended houses were advertised as two-story homes with fieldstone exteriors (Fig 3). The houses, however, were never built, and the village of Port McNicoll developed closer to the water. Most of the sidewalks were removed in the 1930s as a make-work project during the Depression. The land intended for the subdivision is currently vacant.



Fig1: One of the remaining stone pillars



Fig 2: These pillars mark the intended entrance

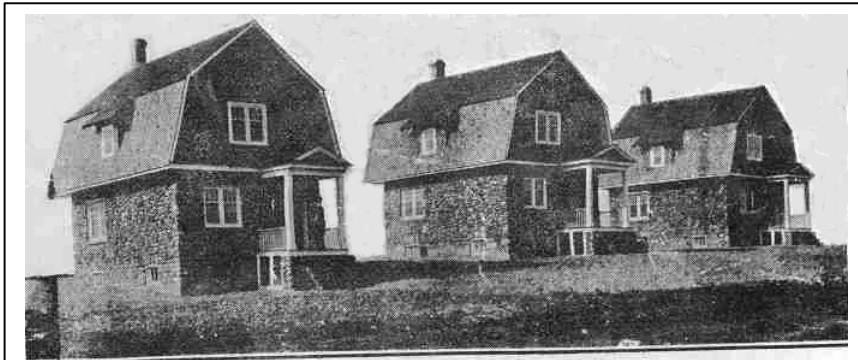


Fig 3: From an advertisement for Victoria Heights: proposed houses

Historical:

In 1907, the CPR decided to move its main port on Georgian Bay to what is today called Port McNicoll. At the time, the area was largely undeveloped. Victoria Heights was the proposed site for the new town that land speculators thought would grow up around the CPR and the industry it would bring to the area. The idea was that once the town developed, the speculators could sell the lots to potential homebuilders. Advertisements were put out across the country hailing Port McNicoll as the “Chicago of the North” and boasting cheap land in a great location. However, by 1914 and with the advent of the First World War, it became apparent that any profit would be a long time in coming, and most of the lots were sold.

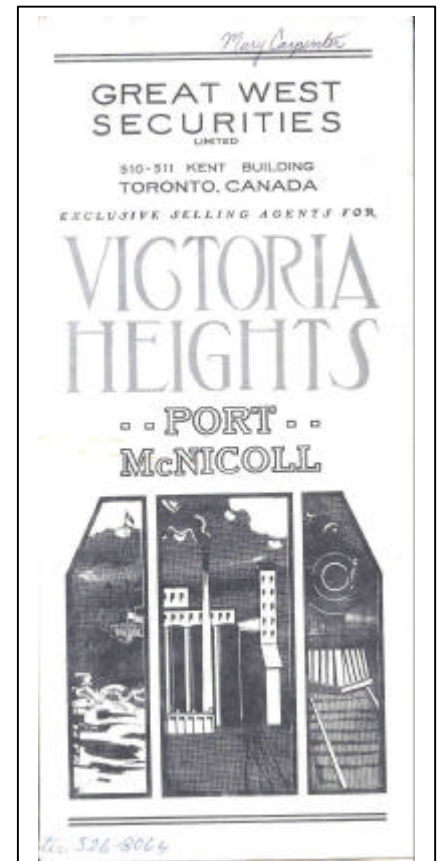


Fig 4: Advertisement c. 1911