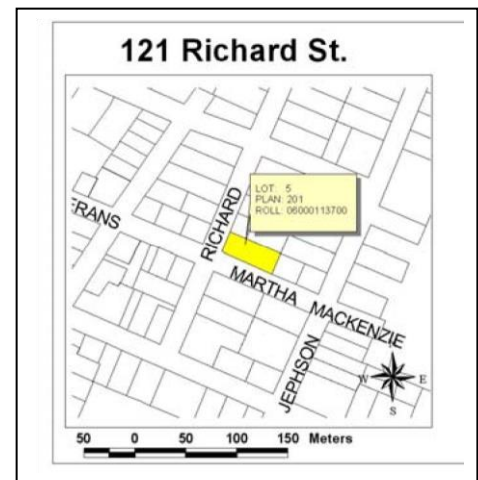




TAY  
HERITAGE

# Victoria Manor

## 121 Richard Street Victoria Harbour



Built: 1915-16  
Built By: Charles Stoddard?  
Structure: Frame House  
Exterior Wall: Brick veneer  
Style: Edwardian

Current Owner: Luba Huzan  
Present Use: Dwelling  
Original Use: Dwelling  
Address: 121 Richard St.

### **Architectural:**

Victoria Manor's free-flowing plan, pillars (Fig. 1), bracketed eaves (Fig. 2), stained glass windows (Fig. 3) and numerous gables make it an excellent example of Edwardian styling. The building is in excellent condition, having been well preserved throughout its history. The only two additions to the home are the verandah and the sunroom above the frontispiece, both of which were added shortly after the home was built. The interior of the home is in good condition with the original oak floors, carved trim and paneling still in place. The split bath and water closet have seen some alteration as the bathroom walls have since been plastered. Throughout the home the original plumbing is still in place, and the original light fixtures still hang in some of the rooms in the home. The original roses painted on the walls in the maid's room, whose name was Rose, are still visible. The original oak staircase has also gone untouched, maintaining its angled shape to allow a coffin to be carried out of the house (Fig. 4). The entryway onto the roof from which Gill could stargaze is also still in place within the home. The windows throughout the home, including the stained glass, are original and have had their storms removed to return them to their initial state. The exterior of the home has also seen minimal changes, including the replacement of the back canopy.

**Figure 1: Pillars**



**Figure 2: Eaves**



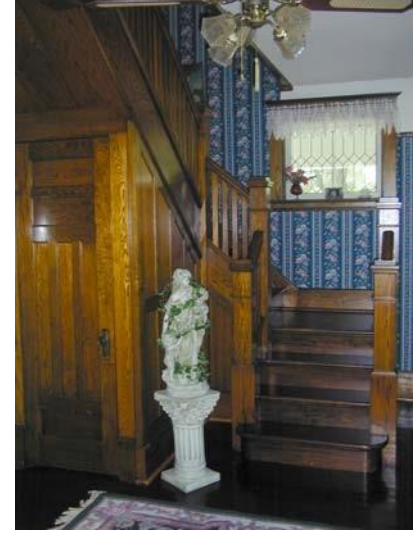
**Figure 3: Stained glass window:**



## Historical:

Jacob Gill was the foreman at the Victoria Harbour Lumber Co. mills, purchasing this property from the lumber company in 1915. Insurance maps from the time show a frame house on the property, which Gill moved to the lot directly behind to build this house. The architect is unknown; however the construction work was likely done by Charles Stoddard. Stoddard had built several similar homes in the area around the time this home was built, and had worked with Gill as an advisor at the lumber mills. Some of the most interesting features of the home are the personal effects Gill left behind. A hat rack remains in the closet of the master bedroom. Gill was apparently an amateur astronomer and would climb up a ladder (also still in the house) and up onto the roof to stargaze. The Gill family owned the home until 1941 when the home passed to Roy Heels. The Heels were a prominent local family known for their years of service in the railroad industry. The home was later used as a retirement home where it was given the name "Victoria Manor". Since the closure of the retirement home, the building has returned to its original purpose as a private residence and has been recognized for its historical and architectural significance.

**Figure 4:** Oak staircase turned so that a coffin could be carried out of the house



### Previous Owners:

William Ardaugh	
Richard Power	1876
The Victoria Harbor Lumber Co.	1886
Jacob Gill	1915
Grace Gill	1939
Roy Heels	1941
Mona Burnie	1966
Ralph & Marvella Gray	1972
Henry & Gail Bartosik	1979
Kenneth & Valerie Robson	1994
Luba Huzan	2006

### Date:

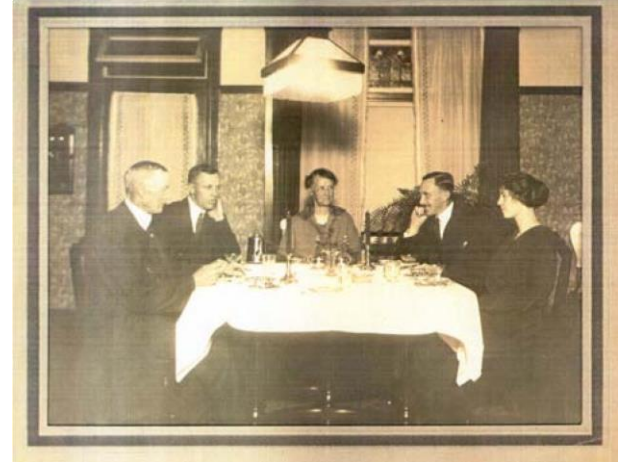
### Sources:

Land Registry Office  
Simcoe County Archives  
Tay Township Office  
Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Robson

### Location:

Barrie  
Midhurst  
Victoria Harbour

**Figure 5:** Dining room c.1920



*Left to Right:* Jacob Gill, Ernest Gill, Sophia Gill, Dr. Daniel Gill, Grace Gill.

**Figure 6:** Living room as it is today



**Figure 7:** The Gills entertaining in the living room, c. 1920

