

edifice

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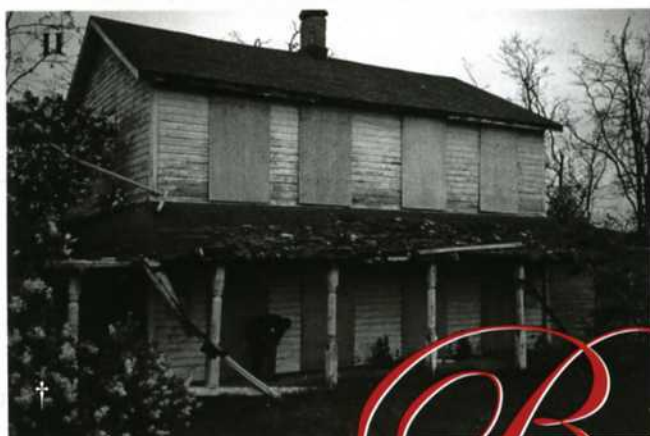
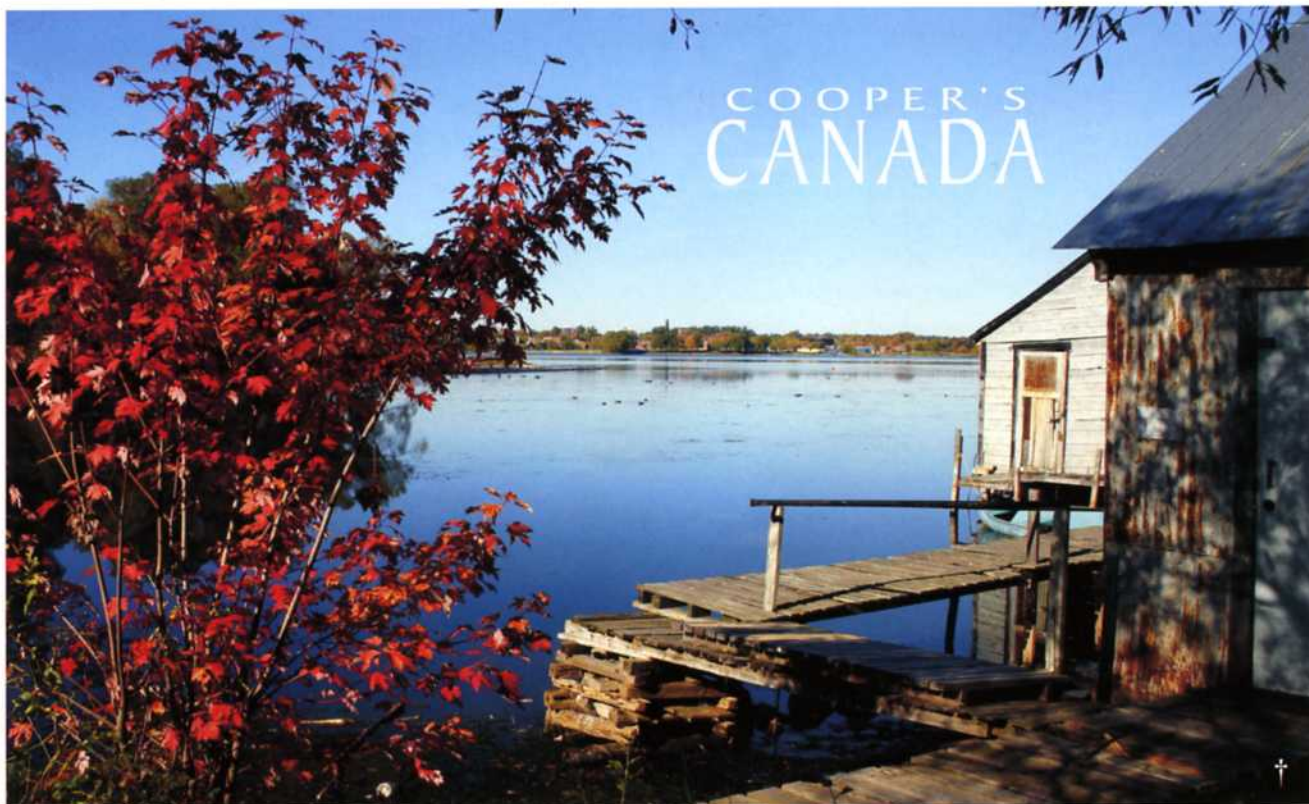
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A Road Trip To
Barriefield, Ontario

Number Fourteen

"Close to Kingston is the pretty village of Barriefield, ..."It lies on an elevated ground, and from it the visitor obtains a very favourable and pleasing view of Kingston, with its harbour, forts and towers."

C.W. Cooper 1856

Editorial By: Cooper Photography By Cooper & † Robert Cardwell



Barriefield



In 1814 Barrifield village was created on the eastern hillside of the Cataraqui River, by Richard Cartwright on one of his Loyalist grants which was adjacent to the Military Reserve at Kingston. Barrifield's chief industry was boat-building. For over a century, at least eight family workshops turned out skiffs, sailboats, and later, motor launches.

The twentieth century was economically unkind to Barriefield, not unlike most small well-preserved villages and towns in Ontario. I grew up in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area and during the 1960's the village of Niagara was quite run down, much different from the thriving tourist Mecca it is today. The saying of "poverty makes for good heritage" is a very true statement, especially with respects to this village! ➤

Barriefield



Built as a tenant operated tavern c. 1838 and named the "Pittsburgh Inn" (see image IV). The property was subsequently sold to John Hutton in 1867, and renamed the "Dominion House". After some renovations for the worst in the 1960's (see image III) the building remained a small "convenience" store into the 1970's. Recently the house has undergone an extensive restoration (see image IV).





I walked the streets of Barriefield in September of this year and was amazed at the quality and quantity of well-preserved houses which can only be described as quite remarkable. From early log to finely crafted stone, with a good helping of timber framed houses with all of their original windows and early characteristics intact, or replicated with much care and attention toward the original. It is a testament to the proud residents and proves, once and for all, that the concept of

heritage conservation districts works well (Barriefield being one of the first of its kind in Ontario in 1980) and are drastically needed in our Country.

During my walk-about, I found a lovely framed house at the end of Main Street, I thought it may be a new-old building (see image I on page 36). On closer examination I realized it was a restored building. The house was in a miserable state of disrepair

(see image II on page 36), and it is amazing at how well the building has been brought back to life!

I would definitely recommend to our entire readership to visit this picturesque hamlet and soak in the energy of doing things right! In my mind, one of the finest little communities in Ontario! **e**

