Character Area 32
Vicinity of Blenheim Place

The 1889 opening of the first Westmount train station at the corner of Abbott Avenue led to the development of Victoria rowhouses on the short streets south of Ste-Catherine Street leading to the C.P. railway line. Blenheim Place is unique; it is made up of sixteen identical facades in virtually intact condition, their individuality expressed with gaily painted woodwork. The varied buildings on Ste-Catherine Street, where the tramway line ran, include apartment houses and row houses converted to office use.

List of Building Addresses with Categories

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Westmount Character Areas Information Sheet
Defining characteristics of Character Area 32
Vicinity of Blenheim Place

The following are some of the key defining characteristics applying to the whole area.

**Use and typology:** Almost all buildings are single-family houses which are part of attached ensembles of three or more rowhouses. However, Ste-Catherine Street has triplexes and apartment buildings as well as attached houses converted for office use.

**Siting and orientation:** Buildings are almost always parallel to the street with their facades aligned, on or slightly (up to 1.0 m) in advance of the building line and are almost always 2.2 - 5.2 m behind the streetline.

**Heights and frontages:** Almost all buildings are two stories high with frontages which are almost always 5.5 - 8.0 m wide.

**Roofs:** Virtually all roofs are flat. These generally have decorative sloping roofs, almost always false mansards, with pointed dormers, and eaves with delicate frieze designs or brackets. Slate, generally patterned, is present in more than three-quarters of these roofs. The remainder of the flat roofs have straight parapets almost always outlined by cornices.

**Facade materials:** The street facade material is almost always brick with exposed stone foundations.

**Entrances conditions:** Virtually all entrances are at the front, with steps perpendicular to the street and generally 0.9 - 1.25 m from sidewalk level.

**Facade treatments:** The street facades are generally articulated by one or two-storey bay windows or bay projections with either gabled projections, turrets of shallow metal roofs, as well as wooden balconies and porches. Stone is almost always used for lintels and sills.

**Windows:** Windows are almost always very vertical in individual openings. These were, originally, all double-hung, generally with casement style storm windows (some of which can still be found). About a quarter of the windows have been replaced by either casement or other styles.

**Parking:** Almost all properties are served by back lanes which provide access for car parking.

The following are defining characteristics of specific streetscapes in addition to those of the whole character area unless otherwise noted.

**Blenheim Place and Lewis (east side):** All facades have: bay windows with shallow roofs, on the ground floor; wooden double entrance doors with toplights; wooden balconies projecting over the entrance; rusticated stone bases and smooth cut stone sills; false mansard roofs with "Turkish" looking dormers, bracketed eaves and patterned slate. On the east side of Blenheim Place, parking is generally provided by parking pads in advance of the building line.

**Irvine:** All houses on the east side have false mansard roofs. Bay windows or similar projections are almost never present on the west side.

**Lewis (west side):** Almost all have false mansard roofs and balconies supported by curved wooden brackets.

**Ste-Catherine:** Slightly more than half of the buildings are two stories in height (the remainder are almost all 3 storey). There are an almost equal number of brick (56%) and stone (44%) facades, as well as, decorative sloped (44%) and parapeted (56%) flat roofs. Almost all apartment buildings and triplexes have parapeted flat roofs along with balconies and or bay projections.