



The Tudhope house at 62 Queen Street West (formerly #78) was built in 1897 for Alexander R. Tudhope, Wheelwright and Carriage Builder. A verandah built by local contractor John Houden was added in 1904.

A. R. Tudhope was born in Orillia in 1861, and died in 1943 in California. He was a grandson of James Tudhope of Lairsbrigend, Lesmahayow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, thereby a member of the largest family of carriage builders in the county.

The principal Tudhope factory was in Orillia and was managed by

James Brockett Tudhope, industrialist and politician (this enterprise was an ancestor of Otaco).

A. R. Tudhope settled in Elmvale as a carriage builder about 1889, and operated his business in conjunction with the Orillia factory. His Elmvale shop (located just east of the house) was built about 1889 but burned in 1894 in a fire which almost destroyed the Mason house just east of it (this house still stands). The shop was rebuilt, enlarged in 1901 and again in 1905 (for a showroom for pianos and organs) but subsequently burned again.

The existence of the shops and residences of the Tudhopes and Masons, wheelwrights and blacksmiths, on adjoining properties reflects the typical industrial arrangement of small Ontario villages.

When the Orillia Tudhopes began to manufacture automobiles the Elmvale family seemed to have become sales agents, and as a result the first Elmvale automobile was Dr. J. B. H. McClinton's Orillia-built Tudhope.

A. R. Tudhope's residence reflects his success and affluence. Unfortunately, the architect is not known but it was obviously a well-designed and well-built house, typical of the finest brick houses in the village, but in almost every feature better than all but a few houses of that era in Elmvale.

Designated Features

The important characteristics and features worthy of designation and protection are:

- Original room layout and building perimeter plan;
- Location, size and designs of the doors and windows;
- Exterior unpainted brick finish and the accompanying wood trim;
- Roofline and chimneys;
- Location and elevation of the building with the ground floor just about ground level;
- Interior painted wood trim, mouldings, doors, fireplace, painted wooden floors and dados;
- Door latches, hinges, and builder's hardware throughout;
- Lathe and plaster interior finish;
- Wooden window sash; and
- Unobscured view of the south face of the house.