

MAPLEHURST

354 MAIN STREET WEST

C. 1880

1.0 HISTORY

Maplehurst is located on lands which were one of the first fruit farms in the area, being originally cleared and opened in 1780 by John Smith. Jonathan Woolverton purchased the lands in 1798, which encompassed Lot 16, Concessions 1 and 2 running from the escarpment to Lake Ontario. At that time a portion of these lands were already devoted to the growing of fruit. Jonathan's son Dennis subsequently inherited the farm and maintained it as an orchard. It is said that Dennis sold peaches on the Hamilton market as early as 1820.

Dennis Woolverton had a son, Charles, who took over the farm from his father and became a leading agriculturalist in Grimsby Township, planting one of the first peach orchards in the area. He also used part of the farm as a nursery and supplied trees to area farmers. Charles built two houses on the property. One was built in approximately 1840, now known municipally as 346 Main Street West. The other is "Echo Hall" built in 1850, known municipally as 366 Main Street West. Echo Hall was designated by LACAC as a heritage building in 1987.

Maplehurst was constructed by Linus Woolverton, the son of Charles, and great-grandson of Jonathan Woolverton. Linus, born on December 12, 1846, became a successful journalist as well as a farmer and fruit raiser with many honorable appointments and achievements accredited to his name. After graduating from university he devoted himself to the growing of fruit and fruit trees on the Woolverton orchard. Linus built Maplehurst in approximately 1880 on the original Woolverton farm, located approximately 2 miles west of downtown Grimsby. As a result of his dedication and reputation for growing fruit, in 1887 Linus was offered the job as editor of the Canadian Horticulturalist along with the position of Secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association. In 1896 when the Government decided to pursue experimental work in fruit growing, Linus was asked to act as Secretary and Inspector of the Experimental Stations. Maplehurst was one of the original stations, as Linus used the orchard to experiment with a variety of fruits. These mainly included cherries, peaches, plums and other tender fruits. Linus also grew many other fruits on the Maplehurst orchard. These were strictly for the purpose of compiling detailed descriptions for the Department of Agriculture. Maplehurst was also used as a station for the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Railway.

Linus Woolverton's other accomplishments included being the Vice-President of the Park and Outdoor Association, Vice-President of the American Pomological Association and he wrote a number of reports and books for the Department of Agriculture including, 'The Fruits of Ontario' and 'The Canadian Apple Growers Guide'.

## 2.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 General Description

Maplehurst contains details of many architectural styles, however, it is most typical of the North American "Queen Anne" style of the 1880 period. The asymmetrical composition consists of a variety of forms, textures, materials and colors. The architectural structures include a tower, a two storey bay, broad gables, porches on the main and second storeys, an encircling verandah, multi-sloped gable and hip roofs and tall decorated chimneys. The chimneys can be described as inside end chimneys with corbelled caps. The roofs are covered with grey slate in a mixed horizontal, rectangular and imbricated pattern. The peak is highlighted by a simple copper crest. The two and a half storey house is constructed mainly of red brick.

It sits on a two foot thick sandstone foundation with its rough cut face originally extending beyond the brick walls. The visible foundation on the south face is the original regular rock-faced stone. The east and north face foundations have been covered with cement, designed in a block pattern. The water table along the south face is stone and the other three faces have a brick water table. The northwest corner on the main floor was originally an open porch, but has since been closed in for other uses.

### 2.2 South Elevation

#### South Elevation



The south face is extremely busy and is dominated by a two and a half storey bay topped by an overhung gable. The three windows on the main floor of the bay have one piece fixed panes. Above the wider center window and the two narrow windows are narrow lights contained in color glass with a floral pattern. Of interest is the large decorative cut stone lentil over the lower windows. The upper bay windows are double hung, one over one, with large cut stone sconces separating each window. Again the center window is wider than the other two.

The eaves of the bay's gable are trimmed with ball and rod turnings. A decorative geometric pattern of rectangular rods and multi ball turnings completes the gables adornment. The gable is partially supported by two large curved brackets and is topped off by a curved pediment extending from the point.

A small one bay entrance porch protects the double door front entrance. The double doors contain very fine leaded bevelled glass windows in a floral pattern. Above the door are lights in colored glass, also with a floral pattern. The porch has been completely rebuilt below the railing of the second storey porch. Although the materials are different it remains in its original form. The porch roof is supported by two turned pillars and includes two small gables containing the same decorative pattern found in the bay gable. The forward facing gable still has the original rod and ball pattern in place but the treillage in the



West face gable of the porch has been replaced by a cross hatched pattern. The grey slate roofing has also been replaced by asphalt shingles. The flooring has all been replaced as well, and concrete steps have been added.

Above the main entrance is a small balcony accessible by the single door on the second floor. The balcony is covered by the long sloping roof and is decorated by the same ball and rod pattern in a half circular treillage. A wooden railing encloses the balcony on both the south and west facings.

Completing the south face is a two storey tower with five narrow windows on each storey. The first storey windows in the tower have one fixed pane with narrow lights over each window contained in colored glass with a floral pattern. The upper windows are double hung one over one. The tower is capped by a tall pointed roof of red slate, topped off with an ornate lightening rod.

### 2.3 East and North Elevation

**East and North Elevation**



The east and north faces are very simple with numerous windows. Both are mainly flat except for a one storey bay on the east face. The single lower window to the left of the bay has a large single pane with a narrow light above it contained in color glass with a floral pattern. All of the other windows, including the gable, are double hung, one over one. The windows flush with the brick all have flat brick arches above them. There seems to be little symmetrical pattern for the windows on these faces.



On the north face there is a ground level door providing access to the cellar. The deck has been added and the concrete steps have been rebuilt. The original open porch, as mentioned before, probably extended to where the aluminum siding has been installed.

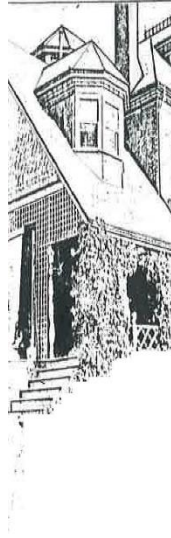
#### 2.4 West Elevation

The west face is dominated by a long sloping roof covering a second storey balcony and continuing on to cover a ground level drive-through. A gable protrudes from the roof over the balcony facing west. It has a plain wooden railing and a simple trim along the face of the gable. Two large curved openings on both the north and south faces allow light to enter the balcony. The sloped roof covering the balcony and drive-through has its eaves trimmed with barge board, using a simple five hole geometric pattern. Treillage on either end of the drive-through is the same as that noted in the gables on the south facade. The treillage on the west facade of the drive through is the same ball and rod pattern set in a half circular shape. A railing extends the length of the drive-through with unique oval shaped balusters installed from the center out in opposing directions, a very pleasing effect.



WEST ELEVATION





From the souvenir Book of Grimsby, June 1901



West Elevation

A number of changes and repairs have been made to this face. First, the north-west corner on the main floor was originally an open porch with screens. The porch could be accessed by stairs from the north side, which are now replaced by a new staircase. It could also be accessed by the verandah running along the west side, under the drive-through. The wood flooring for the verandah has been replaced and squared off, as it used to bulge out around the tower. The two pillars bracing the drive-through roof, near the building, are new and have aluminum siding on them. The steel railings along the verandah and the second storey balcony have also been added to replace the rotted wooden railings, and the wooden railing on the west face of the balcony has also been replaced. The lattice work below the verandah has also been changed.

The windows in the west face are again asymmetrical. The main floor windows have single panes with narrow lights above, contained in colored glass with a floral design. They are topped by flat arches.

The windows on the upper floor are double hung, one over one. Of particular note is a single keyhole window with colored glass in an interesting geometric pattern, with a round arch.





As seen (below) is a close-up sample of the grey slate roofing which is in a mixed horizontal, rectangular and imbricated pattern. The pattern mixture varies with the different roof slopes. This photograph is of the second storey on the north facade.

In order to protect the building, exposed wooden structures have been covered by aluminum siding. These include most of the window frames, most soffits and fascia, the single storey bay on the east facade and the entire surface of the tower. An example of the aluminum siding can be seen on the photograph below. Eaves troughs and downspouts have also been added around the building.



**MAPLEHURST**  
**FRUIT FARM**  
**GRIMSBY: ONT.**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Compiled by Janet Powell.

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Thursday, October 30, 1958 - pg. 1

**Mr. Joseph Ivanski, previous owner of Maplehurst.**

Gave verbal description of changes to the building, June 4, 1992.