

The Dentist's House

83 Carss Street, Almonte (formerly 245 Union Street)

Compiled by Sarah More for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills' Heritage Committee,
March 2024

Location: Part of Lots 27 & 28 of the Malloch Section of Plan 6262 of Lanark County, Ramsay Township as in RN44851; Town of Mississippi Mills, corner of Carss and Union Streets.(1)

Present Owner since 2022: Alexandra Johnston(2)

Present Use: Private residence with no heritage designation

Statement of Significance:

This handsome, two-story, brick house was the home of Almonte Mayor George McRea Dunfield and, later, Dentist, Dr. Louis Ramon Sharpe.(3)

Part 1: Historical Information

A Physical History

1. Original and Subsequent Owners:

In 1918, James Kirk purchased the property for \$2100.00.(1)

In 1941, Kirk granted it to George M. Dunfield for \$1.00 + a mortgage.(1)

The same day, Dunfield mortgaged it to Grace Dunfield for \$700.00.(1)

[Grace Dunfield was George's mother & a daughter of James Kirk.]

James Kirk died "at his home on Union Street" in 1942.(4)

It was sold for the first time in 1971 & for the last/most recent time in 2022.(2)

Its first roll number was created in 1982.(2)

2. Date of Erection:

Built in the 1900's; presumably before 1942.(2,4)

3. Architect: Unknown

4. Alterations and Additions: There is an interesting weathered looking plaque on one side wall of the house depicting "Dr. L. Sharpe, Dentist".(3)

5. Historical Events and Persons connected with the Structure:

George McRea Dunfield (1911-1994) likely resided here while Mayor of Almonte (1953-1954). His wife, the former Marion Ada Hennigar, as well as his widowed mother, the former Mary Agnes "Grace" Kirk, may have lived here before their untimely deaths in 1965 and 1966, respectively.(5)

Dr. Louis Ramon Sharpe (1926-2017) owned and practiced dentistry here until his death. He was born in the island nation of Trinidad & Tobago; received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from McGill University in 1963; met and married Gisela Molk (1931-2022) of Hungary in New York City. They brought their little family to Almonte in 1977.(6)

Part II: Architectural Information:

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character

This family home exudes a unique charm. Possibly built during a time of austerity in the reign of King George V, Edward VII, or George VI. In 2024, it lacks many of the classic details of Edwardian design, with the notable exception of the wrought iron walk at the top.(7) In 1959, Historian Fran Cooper wrote:

Notice the metal work on the top roof. This ornate trim no longer exists on the upper roof; however, the metal trim still exists below the second story front window.

The porch has been removed so this facade of the house looks quite different.(9)

2. Condition: Good

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: Unknown
2. Foundations: Possibly stone
3. Wall Construction, Finish and Colour: Brick
4. Structural System and Framing: Unknown
5. Porches: Facing Union Street is a stacked vestibule, on the ground and second floors.
6. Chimney: One chimney on Union Street; another on Carss Street.
7. Openings:
 - One white main door on Union Street.
 - Possibly a side entrance in the back on Union Street.
 - Possibly a side entrance on Carss Street.
 - There are many windows.
8. Roof: A mixture of green (possibly) slate and tin.

C. Site

General Setting and Orientation:

Sometime before 2009, a wire fence was built to support a leafy perimeter. Between 2012 and 2021, this leafy perimeter was pruned. In 2023, there were several large trees supporting it.

There are several areas comprised of small gardens, an outdoor sitting area, and possibly a wooded area in the back.(8)

Images

c2024, 245 Union St. N, Almonte, courtesy of Sandra Franks



c2024, 245 Union St. N, Almonte, courtesy of Sandra Franks



1959, 245 Union St. N, Almonte, courtesy of Fran Cooper (2024)

Former Dunfield House, 1959.jpg



3 May 1957, *The Ottawa Citizen*, page 32: Hennigar & Dunfield wedding picture

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/456890996/?terms=%22george%20dunfield%22&match=1>



9 Dec 1953, *The Ottawa Citizen*, page 38: Mayor George M. Dunfield picture

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/456145229/?terms=%22Mayor%20Dunfield%22&match=1>



Sources:

1. OnLand: <https://www.onland.ca/ui/>
2. 14 Feb 2024 email from Megan Cullen: Mississippi Mills Planning and By- Law Clerk
3. 14 Feb 2024 email from Sandra Franks dated 29 Mar 2023: (2 pictures)
4. *The Ottawa Journal*, 10 Oct 1942, Sat ·Page 27
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/48323885/?terms=%22james%20kirk%22&match=1>
5. James Kirk, 1854-1942, at his home on Union Street
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206083516/james_kirk
 Anna Bella (McRae) Kirk, 1845-1895
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206083615/anna_bella_kirk
 I
 Mary Agnes Grace (Kirk) Dunfield, 1884-1966
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225592347/agnes_mary_grace_dunfield
 I
 George McRea Dunfield 1911-1994, at his residence
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225592478/george_mcrea_dunfield
 Marion Ada (Henniger) Dunfield 1912-1965
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225592552/marion_ada_dunfield
6. Dr. Louis Ramon Sharpe 1926, Trinidad & Tobago - 2017
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183864775/louis_ramon_sharpe
 Gisela (Molk) Sharpe 1931, Hungary - 2022
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/236652479/gisela-johanna-sharpe>

7. 17 Feb 2024 email from Janet Carlisle

8. 2009 - 2023 Google Maps

[https://www.google.com/maps/@45.2331093,-](https://www.google.com/maps/@45.2331093,-76.2017378,3a,37.5y,62.58h,83.01t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sjjkA1rZsJJfkTXOXXDV7Lw!2e0!5s20090601T000000!7i13312!8i6656?entry=ttu)

[76.2017378,3a,37.5y,62.58h,83.01t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sjjkA1rZsJJfkTXOXXDV7Lw!2e0!5s20090601T000000!7i13312!8i6656?entry=ttu](https://www.google.com/maps/@45.2331093,-76.2017378,3a,37.5y,62.58h,83.01t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sjjkA1rZsJJfkTXOXXDV7Lw!2e0!5s20090601T000000!7i13312!8i6656?entry=ttu)

9. See 1959 photo courtesy of Historian Fran Cooper (for a project on one's hometown for Teachers' College.)