

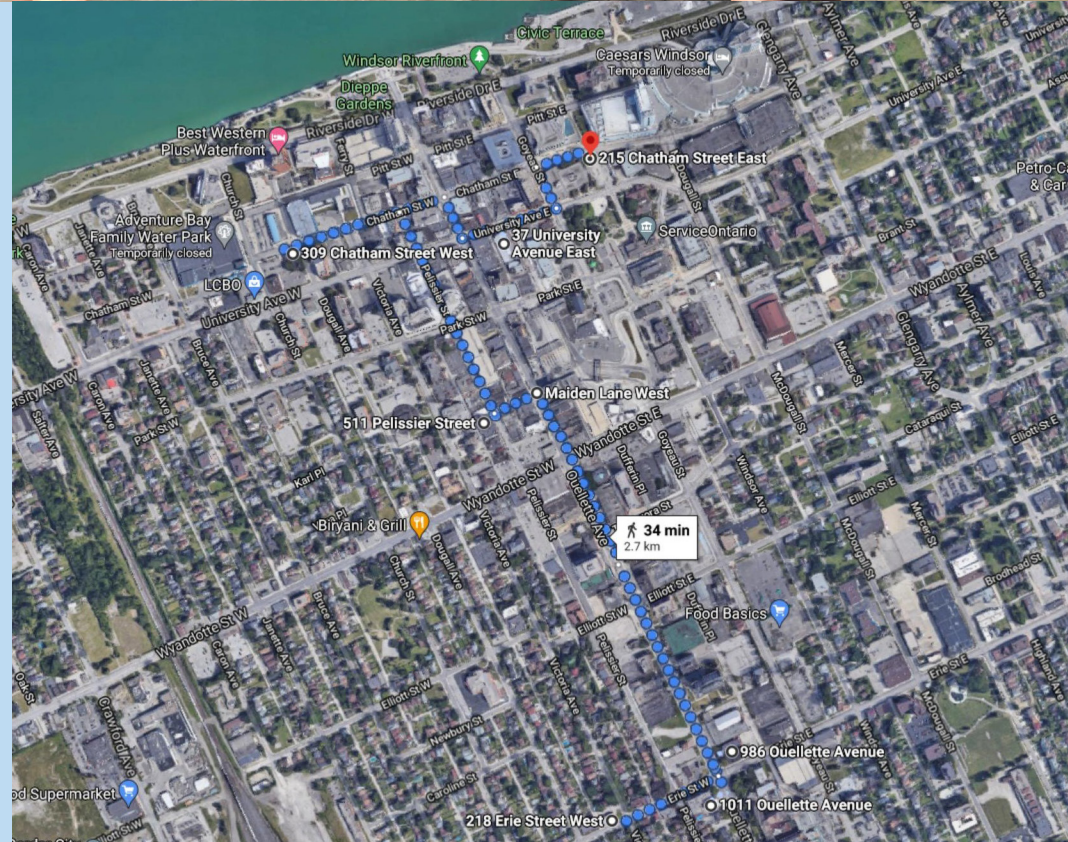


# Windsor Jane's Walk 2021

## Downtown Windsor Architecture Walk

- 1) Medical Arts Building - 1011 Ouellette Avenue
- 2) Masonic Temple - 986 Ouellette Avenue
- 3) Mixed-Use - 218 Erie Street West
- 4) Maiden Lane - Maiden Lane West
- 5) Former YMCA - 511 Pelissier Street
- 6) LaBelle Terrace - 309 Chatham Street West
- 7) Windsor Armouries - 37 University Avenue East
- 8) Charles Clark Square - 215 Chatham Street East

2.7 km - 34 minutes





[www.windsorjaneswalk.ca/2021-festival](http://www.windsorjaneswalk.ca/2021-festival)

Jane's Walks are free citizen-led walks of neighbourhoods.

Jane's Walk celebrates the legacy and ideas of urban activist and writer Jane Jacobs by getting people out exploring neighbourhoods and meeting their neighbours.

Friday, May 7th to Sunday, May 9th - Windsor celebrates Jane's Walk 2021 with digital, interactive walking tours and art celebrating neighbourhoods.



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Hello!

So glad you could join us and I hope you have a good walk! The intention of this walk is to instill some architectural knowledge into those looking to learn. When we know more about the buildings around us, we tend to care more about them. When we know more about our urban spaces, our neighbours, our communities, our cities, we tend to care more about them. This is what this Downtown Windsor Architecture Walk is all about. Getting to know the spaces around us, seeing what works and what doesn't, understanding our past that informs our present, and looking forward to a vibrant and dynamic future.

This is my first year creating a walk and I look forward to expanding upon this walk and adding more to it in the future. I would like to thank the Jane's Walk Windsor/Essex organizers for putting this event on and the WRSa: Windsor Region Society of Architects for helping me focus my attention towards some of Windsor's architectural gems.

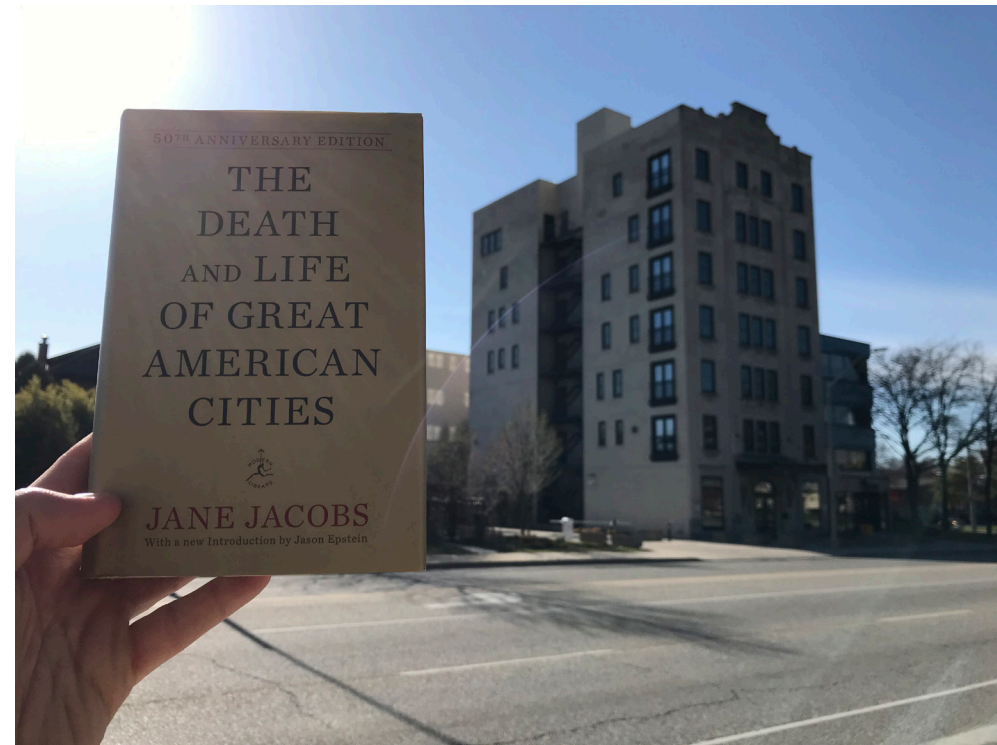
I would love to hear from any of you to add to next years walk so please feel free to email me at the email on the left. My goal is to create several architecture walks all throughout the city. Feel free to walk this walk in any order and try out a path or street you've never walked down.

Despite the current state of the world, it is now, more than ever, a time in which we need to build strong communities. Get out for a walk and learn something new!

# MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

1011 Ouellette Avenue,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

“The Medical Arts Building is a seven-storey Art Deco style commercial building of limestone and brick built in 1930. It is prominently located on Ouellette Avenue, Windsor's main street.”



## “CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- classical symmetry and graceful lines
- finely detailed limestone facade, with brick side and rear walls
- three vertical bays on the street facade with the central bay (floors two through five) composed of tri-partite fenestration up to the sixth floor where stone trim culminates in a low arch with the symbol of the caduceus
- angular parapet crowning the facade
- arched stone entrance, flanked by carved symbols of the caduceus and sheltered by a bronze and glass canopy
- two round-headed windows in the seventh floor bay, which repeat the entrance shape.
- the incised name, “Medical Arts,” above the second floor windows
- three large prominent carvings of the caduceus on the facade
- its prominent location on Ouellette Avenue in central Windsor”  
(Canada’s Historic Places, n.d.)

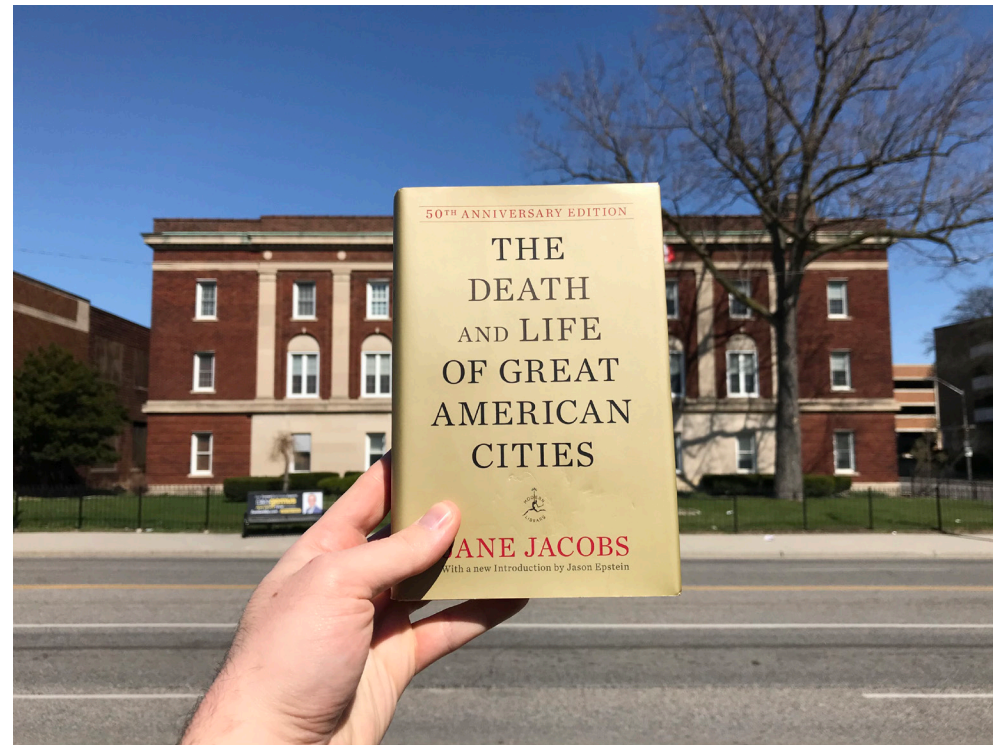
# MASONIC TEMPLE

986 Ouellette Avenue,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

“The Masonic Temple is a large, three-storey, red brick Neo-Classical Revival style building with contrasting limestone trim. Completed in 1922 and located on Windsor’s main street (Ouellette Avenue) in the city core.

The Masonic Temple was designed by James Carlisle Pennington, a highly regarded local architect. Constructed in 1921-22, it was the first permanent facility for the Masonic Fraternity of the Border Cities. It still functions as a meeting place for Freemasons, as well as hosting banquets, weddings and concerts.”

Canada’s Historic Places. (n.d.). Masonic Temple. Retrieved from Canada’s Historic Places: <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=8521>



## “CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

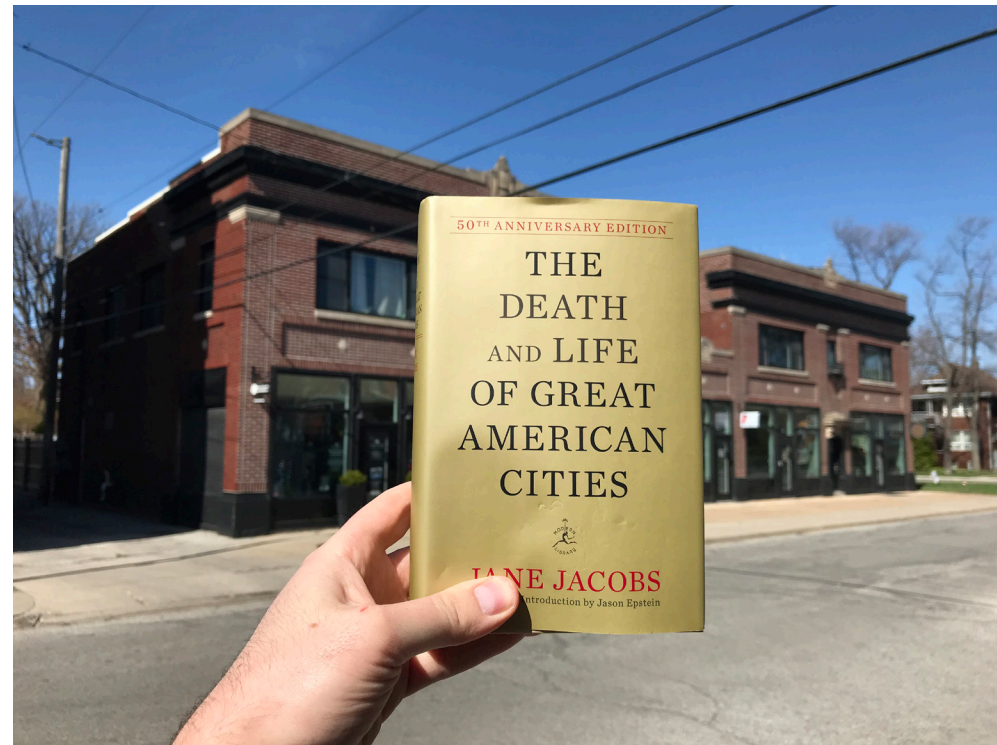
- three storey symmetrical design in contrasting dark red brick (set in ornamental pattern) and stone materials
- eight fluted two-storey stone pilasters on the main façades with simple capitals
- decorative stone roundels above the pilasters
- three central wooden front doors surmounted by triangular stone pediments with classical egg-and-dart moulding
- seven second-floor round-headed windows on the front façade, with keystones and radiating brick voussoirs around ornamental semi-circular panels
- stone belt courses between the first and second floors, the third floor and attic, and the attic and parapet
- incised key pattern on the first belt course
- solid, symmetrical design and large size
- contrasting dark red brick and stone materials
- prominent siting in the city core with a landscaped setback on Ouellette Avenue” (Canada’s Historic Places, n.d.)

# 212 ERIE STREET WEST

212-248 Erie Street West,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

212-248 Erie Street West is a mixed-use, recently renovated, commercial building that was built circa 1920s. The Windsor Municipal Heritage Register lists the building style as “Vernacular Commercial” (City of Windsor, 2021). This is a prime example of renovating what exists rather than demolition, and shows what a vacant building can be transformed into. Currently offering five commercial spaces on the street level and four apartments above (City of Windsor, 2019).

City of Windsor. (2019, November 18). University Avenue and Wyandotte Street West: Community Improvement Plan Background Report. Retrieved from Public Info Board UW CIP Windsor: [https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/planning/development-incentives/Documents/Public%20Info%20Board\\_UW\\_CIP\\_Windsor.pdf](https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/planning/development-incentives/Documents/Public%20Info%20Board_UW_CIP_Windsor.pdf)  
City of Windsor. (2021, January 20). Windsor Municipal Heritage Register. Retrieved from Municipal Register 2021-01-20: <https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/planning/Plans-and-Community-Information/Know-Your-Community/Heritage-Planning/Documents/Municipal%20Register%202021-01-20.pdf>  
Cross, B. (2020). From scourge to neighbourhood gem — Erie Street restoration recognized. Windsor Star .  
Pearson, C. (2018). Ottawa landlord breathing new life into formerly decrepit Erie St. building. Windsor Star.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

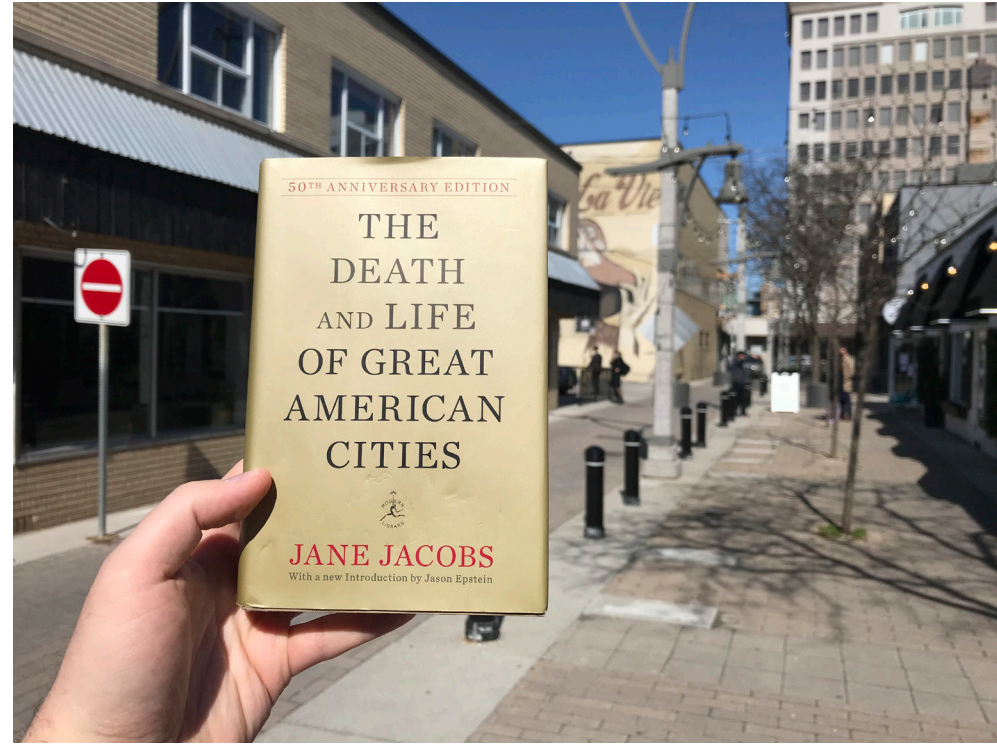
- “originally the J.H. Carson & Co. grocery store, which opened Dec. 15, 1922, in what was then a new block
- stone parapet
- dentils
- decorative brickwork
- entablature
- four apartments
- five commercial spaces” (Pearson, 2018)
- “[The developer] took the building down to its studs, installing all new wiring, windows, doors, and much more. The [developer] took advantage of the city’s downtown Facade Improvement Program, which pays up to \$30,000 in matching grants for improvements to masonry and more. [The developer] had the front brick repointed at 212-248 Erie Street West” (Cross, 2020).

# MAIDEN LANE WEST

Maiden Lane West,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

Maiden Lane West, or simply Maiden Lane, is often considered to be the heart of the urban landscape renewal and development in downtown Windsor. This mostly pedestrian space is sometimes shared with vehicles but is currently for pedestrians only. The cafés and shops spill out into the laneway creating an inviting and cohesive space.

With stringed lights above, ornamental light posts, alley art and murals visible on many of the buildings, and stone pavers instead of asphalt or plain concrete, Maiden Lane has a European and artistic feel to it that simultaneously makes you want to hangout there and explore further. There's hardly a time where you see this wonderful laneway empty and it serves to remind us of how urban pedestrian spaces should and can be.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- streetscape redesigned in 2010
- pedestrian friendly
- good urban form and scale
- high visibility for safety
- connection between Ouellette Avenue and Pelissier Street
- alley art and murals
- combines well with the Downtown Windsor Farmers Market to create an entire area of the downtown core that is only for pedestrians
- quiet and calming protected from the busy downtown noise
- Brings people in to stay or a nice passage through
- Allows for artistic renewal and continual change

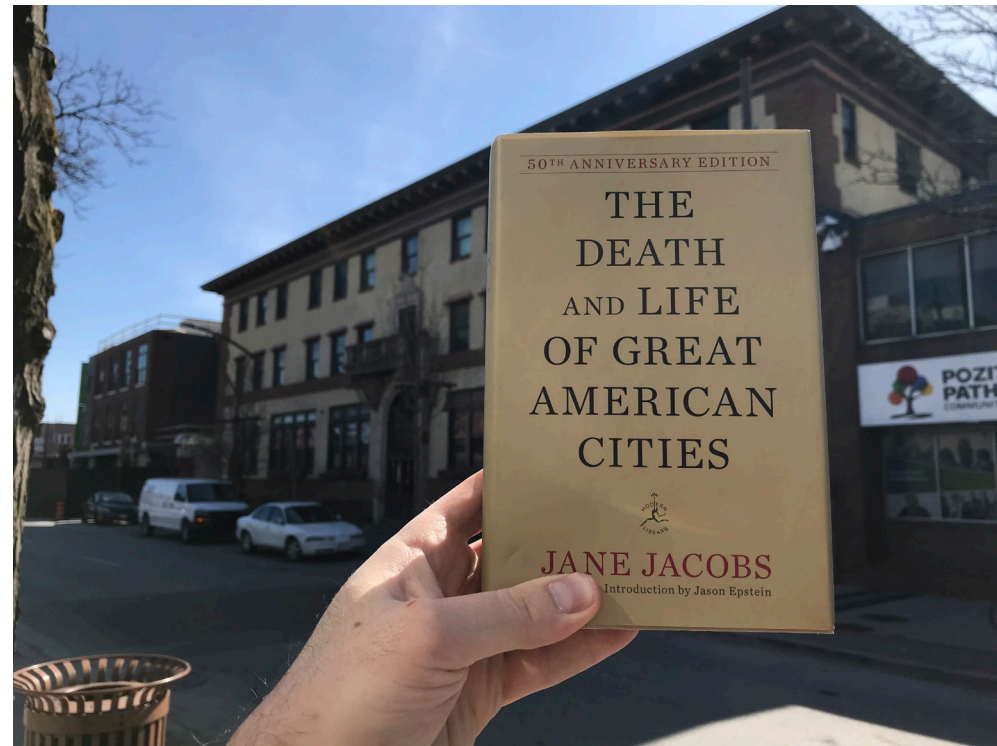
# FORMER YMCA

511 Pelissier Street,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

“The heritage value of this building lies in its historic role as the first combined operation of a YMCA and YWCA in Canada, and its social role as an important community facility for almost 65 years. It is a fine example of the Italianate style, with influences from 12th century Italian Romanesque and Italian Renaissance.

The concept of a joint centre for young men and women, with recreational facilities and residential accommodation, was developed in 1924 by a coalition of prominent, public-spirited persons. In keeping with the organization’s goals to be a centre of the community, it was located in the city’s central core. The then state-of-the-art building was officially opened with much fanfare in 1926 and provided continuous service to the community as a YMCA residence - gym until closing in the early 1990s.”

Canada’s Historic Places . (n.d.). Former Windsor - Essex County Family YMCA. Retrieved from Canada’s Historic Places: <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2250&pid=0>



## “CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

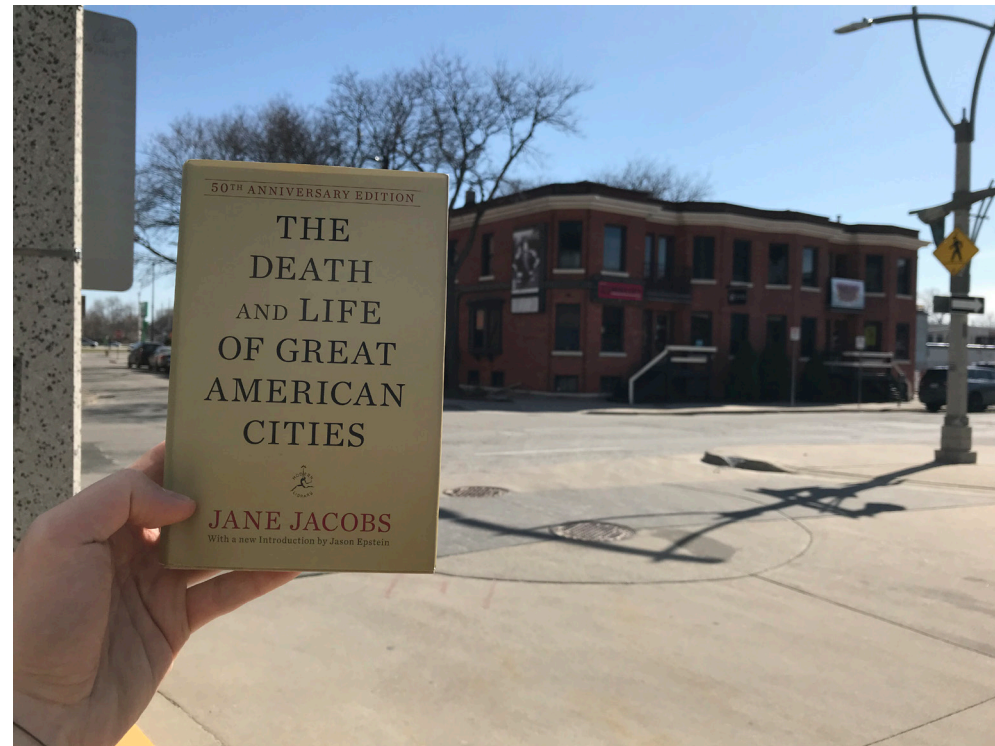
- designed by the prominent Windsor firm of Nichols, Sheppard and Masson Architects.
- central main entrance with arch of ornate carved stone and iron-work;
- cantilevered, ornamental and carved stone porch above the main entrance;
- stucco finish with common brick vertical accent strips at the corners of the building;
- continuous brick sill wall at the main floor with a horizontal belt course defining the second floor;
- main floor double-hung wood windows with fixed transom panels above;
- projecting metal roof cornice;
- original copper hoods over the second-floor windows; and
- decorative stonework on the cantilevered porch and second floor entrance comprising the old Roman scroll of fruit and vines” (Canada’s Historic Places, n.d.)

# LABELLE TERRACE

309 Chatham Street West,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

“LaBelle Terrace is a rare surviving example of an early townhouse complex in downtown Windsor. It was built in 1905 as an income property for physician/coroner Dr. James LaBelle, who had a home/office nearby and saw a demand for quality housing in the vibrant downtown. At that time, the city’s commercial activity was centred in the downtown core and LaBelle’s eight townhouse units housed a succession of upscale Windsor citizens who worked in the area.

Now a commercial and residential building, LaBelle Terrace has social value as an imaginative early application of the 1980’s principle of promoting “new uses for old buildings.” Often referred to today as “adaptive re-use,” this approach involves the modification of a building to accommodate a new use, while retaining its historic features. The building’s conversion in 1979-80 allowed it to remain in continuous use, thereby helping to ensure its preservation. Today, it is the only remaining structure from the early 1900s in the vicinity.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- its prominent siting on a heavily travelled intersection at the edge of Windsor’s downtown core, now largely dominated by modern buildings
- unifying
- two-storey, V-shaped design with clean lines and a flat roof;
- double-brick load-bearing masonry structure
- brick parapet with metal coping
- projecting moulded metal cornice on street elevations providing a unifying visual
- original window and door openings
- cast-stone windowsills” (Canada’s Historic Places, n.d.)

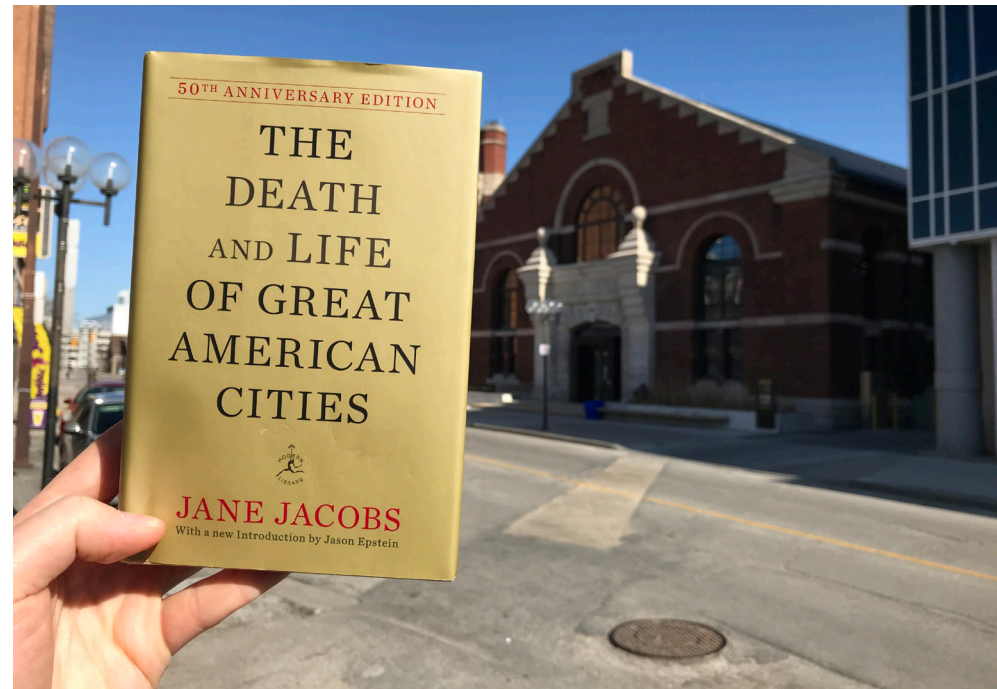


# WINDSOR ARMORIES

37 University Avenue East,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

"A downtown landmark since 1902, the Windsor Armouries is an excellent example of an early 20th-century armoury in the popular Richardson Romanesque style. Of red brick with a cut stone foundation and trim, the original structure was designed by architect David Ewart of the Federal Department of Public Works. In 1935, a complementary two-storey addition, designed by Sheppard, Masson and Trace, was added to the south side. The building's impressive design exudes the power associated with 'military might' as displayed by the well-preserved octagonal castellated turret at the northeast corner, the impressive stone entrances on the west and north sides and the mighty oak doors flanked by arched two-storey windows" (Canada's Historic Places, n.d.).

In 2012 the City agreed to sell the downtown Armouries Building and the former Bus depot to the University of Windsor. It is now home to the School for Arts & Creative Innovation and includes the music and visual arts programs.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- striking two-storey Richardson Romanesque design
- red brick construction with cut stone foundation and trim
- octagonal castellated turret at the northeast corner
- large stone entrances on the west side and north sides
- west oak door flanked by sets of five, two-storey arched windows (this was the original front entrance to the Armouries, opening onto a parade ground on Ouellette)
- north oak door flanked by arched two-storey windows and a large arched window over the door
- bank of four identical arched windows on the second floor of the south side
- arched half-window on the gable end
- roof of galvanized shingles with tar and gravel
- 12 pairs of windows on the second storey and 11 windows and a small arched door on the first floor on the east elevation
- downtown location on a busy street (University Avenue near Ouellette)" (Canada's Historic Places, n.d.)

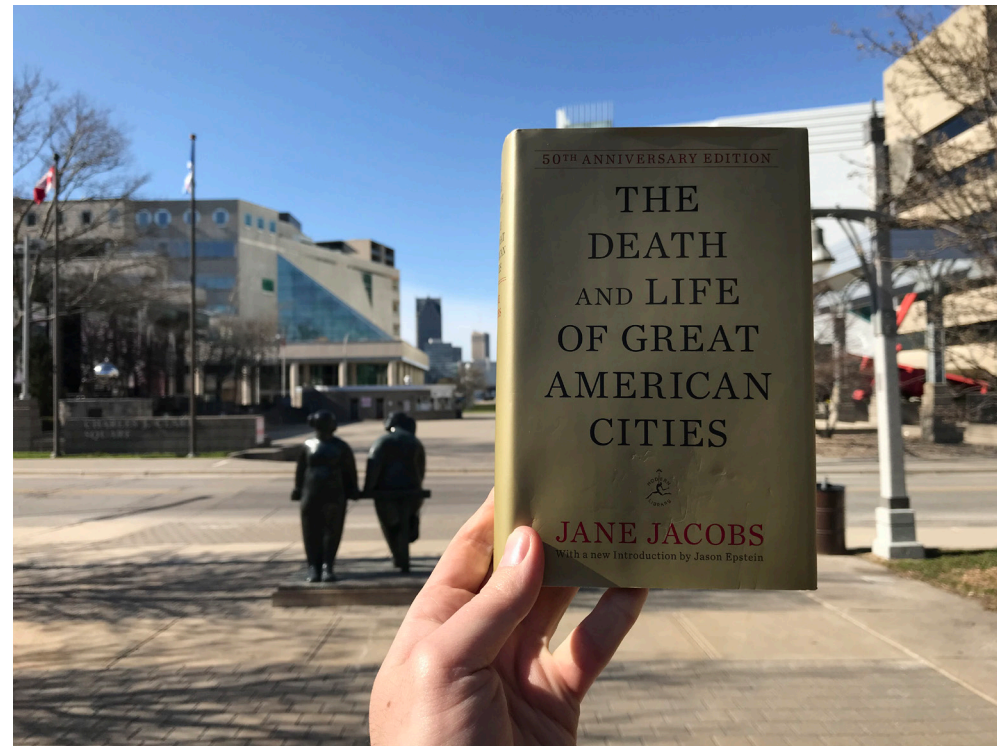
# CHARLES CLARK SQUARE

215 Chatham Street East,  
Windsor, ON, Canada

“Occupying one block of the four-block Civic Esplanade that links City Hall to Riverside Drive, Charles J. Clark Square is named in honour of former lawyer Charles J. Clark, Q.C.

The square features an irregularly shaped skating rink, which transforms into a seasonal plaza with terraced seating. The built-in seating lines the east and west sides of the square. A trellis on the east side carries decorative and safety lighting. Two buildings at the north end of the square act as a gateway entrance. One provides a seasonal café and washrooms, while the other houses maintenance equipment. The rink opened December 2001” (City of Windsor, n.d.).

City of Windsor. (n.d.). Charles Clark Square Park. Retrieved from City of Windsor: <https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/parksandforestry/City-Parks/Pages/Charles-Clark-Square-Park.aspx>



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Often used as a meeting point for civic engagements
- Surrounded by sculptures and monuments
- Connection between the Civic Esplanade and the waterfront
- Multi-seasonal use for a variety of different events and activities
- Terraced seating
- Skating rink

What else would you like to see in the downtown core that would make Jane Jacobs happy? Have a favourite building in Windsor you'd like to see highlighted on a future walk? I would love to hear from you!

Email me at [atelierlamoureux@gmail.com](mailto:atelierlamoureux@gmail.com)