



c.1982 Built Heritage Inventory

558 LaHave Street

This picturesque home, set in amongst luscious trees (including a weeping willow at left), with an expansive back lawn, was replaced by the Superstore building and its parking lot. Though a Four Square home – an abundant house style in Bridgewater from the early 1900s – its unique features and larger size once surely made it one of the best examples of the first style of mass-produced houses. This was, for up to 58 years, the home of Bridgewater's notable Telfer family. Patriarch Robie F. Telfer was the founder and general manager of Telfer's Woodworking Company Limited, once a prosperous lumber and manufacturing company for many years. The Telfer woodworking factory was once a notable part of Bridgewater's economy. Later, it became Telfer-Crowe Woodworking, and eventually Brady's Building Supplies and Lumber Company. The home itself passed from Robie Telfer to his wife, Deliet A. Telfer, and then to Carol and Joan Tutty, likely her heirs.

Though a stereotypical Four Square style of home, it was not quite square, as its sides once extended an extra *bay* backwards, allowing for three windows on each floor in the side. Conventional houses usually only has two. Included amongst these, at the centre of the first floor, was a large bay window. Additionally, the ground floor windows seem to have been oversized, with a three-over-three arrangement of glass

panes instead of the usual two-over-two. The upstairs front windows also seem to have been quite large. Another lavish addition to the home are the dormers. Instead of hipped dormers, the same style of roof as the house, or less common gable dormers, Telfer installed pedimented dormers. The gable roofs on these have returning eaves that, though slightly recessed in the middle, continue along the top of the window, closing the peak into a pediment. This element, characteristic of the more opulent Queen Anne Revival style that was still common, was added, likely to further the beautification of the house from the layman's home. Though not original, the entryway was also likely changed to its present configuration by Telfer. Four Square homes generally had some variety of porch or veranda for an entrance, whereas the sun porch really only came into style in the 1910s and 1920s. The vestiges of a balustrade or columns supporting the roof are not present, and the large windows are lined up perfectly so that four of the smaller, rectangular panes (characteristic of the Arts and Crafts movement) are above each. This suggests that the original veranda or porch was removed and this one was added on to (partially) replace it.

Nevertheless, this verdant, picturesque, riverside home, with its added embellishments, was surely an impressive sight to the many guests it received before falling victim to the wrecking ball in 1995.