

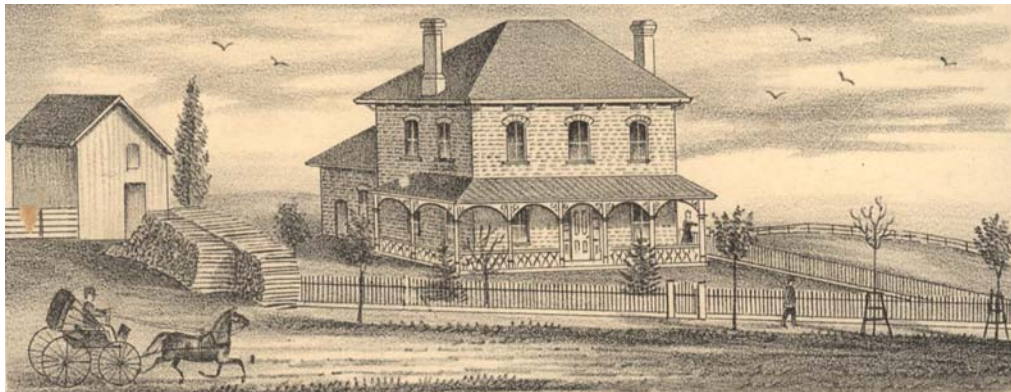
# Kerr Apartments/Ross House

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Location: 700 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1861

THE OLD BRICK HOUSE that forms the centre of the Kerr Apartments has a long and varied history. In its early days, it was an impressive private home worthy of inclusion in Belden's *1879 Historical Atlas for the County of Huron*. It was known locally as "Ross House." In the late 1950s, it was turned into a convalescent home, and soon after in 1961, a nursing home operated by Callander Nursing Homes. In 1993, it was transformed into apartments.



The original David Ross house as pictured in Belden's *1879 Atlas*.

The house is very similar in style to the Duncan McIntosh house. It has the same Italianate details: the symmetrical façade with three bays and central entrance, the hip roof with two inset end chimneys, and the round-headed windows. The Ross House is distinguished by its verandah along two sides of the house.

The exact year when the house was built is not known. Ownership of the property has been traced back to Thomas Halliday who owned it in 1861. Thomas Halliday was one of the first, along with William Ainley, to

settle in 1853 in what was to become Ainleyville.

David Ross is named by Belden's *Atlas* as the resident of the house in 1879. There is a David Ross listed in the Patrons' Directory as a Merchant Tailor born in Scotland who arrived in Huron County in 1857.

The house was converted into a nursing home in 1961. Wings on the north and south sides were added. The Callander Nursing Home served the community for many years until Huronlea was opened in 1993.

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