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Historical Timeline



Belvedere added in
the 1850s



South Elevation
- c. 1875



Photo of the house
- c. 1977

- **ca. AD 1280 – AD 1350** An Early to Middle Iroquois village was likely located on what is now known as the Chedoke Estate.
- **1600s** The Neutral Nation, a confederacy of Iroquian-speaking nations, live in the region that includes this land.
- **1835** Scottish immigrant William Scott Burn, a grain merchant and accountant, purchases Chedoke for £100.
- **1836-1838** Burn builds Chedoke as a two-storey limestone structure.
- **1842** Due to economic downturn, Burn sells Chedoke and its 13 acres of grounds.
- **1853** Chedoke is purchased by Charles J Brydges, the General Manager of the Great Western Railway.
- **1850s** Brydges expands the house to include a two-storey west wing, belvedere, and a second and third storey addition to the east wing.
- **1870-1878** The property becomes the residence of the family of Plummer Dewar, the owner of a trading company.
- **1909** William Southam purchases Chedoke from real estate developer W.D.Flatt and gives it to his daughter Ethel May Southam and her husband St. Clair Balfour as a wedding present. They modernize the house, adding washrooms and hot-water radiators.
- **1920** The sunroom, designed by William Lyon Somerville, is added.
- **1979** Wilson (Elizabeth) Balfour Baxter, the daughter of St. Clair and Ethel Balfour, donates Chedoke to the Ontario Heritage Trust under a lifetime tenancy agreement.
- **1980-1988** The development of the Chedoke Park Ravine Estates replaces part of the property that housed horse stables, tennis courts, and two 20th century houses.
- **2013** Wilson Balfour Baxter passes away. The City of Hamilton assumes management of the property in collaboration with the Ontario Heritage Trust.
- **2023** Cardus successfully negotiates an adaptive reuse proposal for Chedoke with the City of Hamilton and Ontario Heritage Trust and begins restoration work.

Our thanks to the Ontario Heritage Trust's 2014 Statement of Significance, and a 2020 study by Aly Bousfield, for the information contained here.