

229 ROSLYN ROAD – LADY NANTON’S GATEHOUSE
Architect unknown, ca.1905



This charming gatehouse, a large stable converted to a dwelling, and a set of limestone gates, are all that remain of the massive Kilmorie estate of Sir Augustus and Lady Nanton. Kilmorie centered around a large mansion, erected in 1900 in a forest setting by one of Western Canada’s biggest financiers and developers.

Augustus Nanton, a junior partner in the firm of Osler and Hammond, came west in 1883 to open a Winnipeg branch. Symbolically located on the corner of Portage and main, Osler, Hammond and Nanton’s dealings in land, stocks, grain and oil rights had a major impact on virtually every district of the prairie west.

Nanton himself was powerful in business, but earned a knighthood in 1917 for his gallant war efforts. Aside from raising millions for the Patriotic Fund, the Nantons organized workshops in their own home and turn over both their basement and their cottage at the Lake of the Woods for recreation to hundreds of soldiers.

When Sir Augustus died in 1925, Lady Nanton found the great house too difficult to maintain. The building was razed in 1935, but some of its elegant oak paneling, stone fireplace, fixtures and hardwar were refitted into the gatehouse. This house, built circa 1905 as a residence for the Nanton’s groom and groundskeeper, was added onto and renovated to a suitable home for Lady

Nanton. Here she lived in a scaled-down version of the Kilmorie mansion until her death in the mid-1940's, when the gatehouse was rented out.

The alterations of 1935 created a pleasing frame structure of brick veneer with an overlay of half-timbering in the gable. Behind this English cottage exterior are the sumptuous remains of Kilmorie and the legacy of the powerful Nanton family.