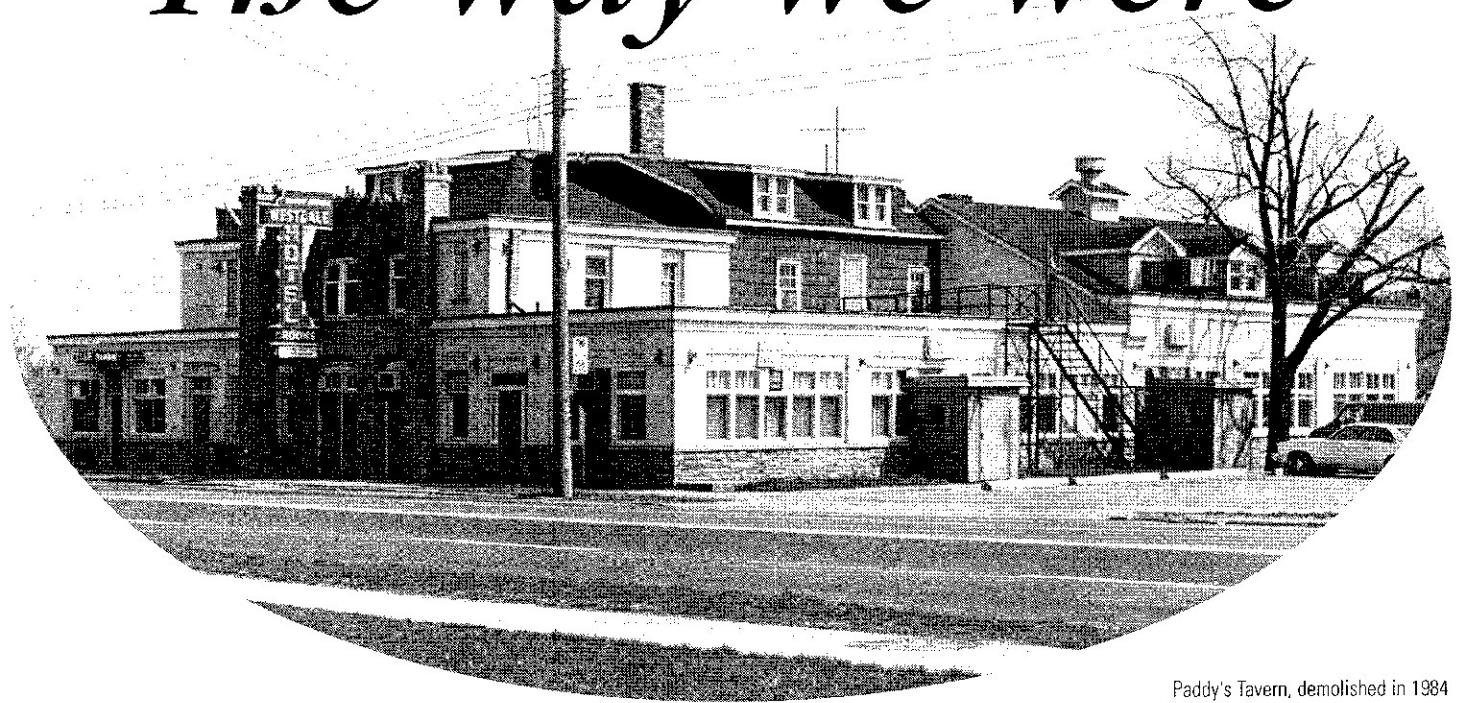


The Way We Were



Paddy's Tavern, demolished in 1984

Photo: Tom Bryner

Paddy's Tavern

LOREEN JEROME

Paddy's Tavern, originally the Globe Cottage Inn and later the Globe Inn, was a stopover for travelers and local Hamiltonians during the 19th century. The name was later changed to Paddy Greene's Westdale Hotel. It was one of Hamilton's original landmarks.

It was located adjacent to a tollgate on the road to Ancaster, Brantford, and Dundas. When the area became part of Hamilton, Paddy Greene's address became 875 Main Street West, across from Westdale High School. In 1984 it was demolished by Kpic Wrecking to make way for the Radio Centre, which is there today.

John Joseph "Paddy" Greene Sr., an Irish farmer, arrived in Canada during the potato famine of 1850. He and his wife had 10 children. Paddy bought farmland in Barton Township, and the years 1850-56 were prosperous for him. He owned taverns in Ancaster, Millgrove, Dundas, and Clappison's Cut. Around 1906, he bought the Globe Inn, land, and several other buildings in the area. He took the Globe sign down and replaced it with an emerald-green sign hung above the door: "Paddy's Tavern."

In 1912 he passed the business to his son, John Greene Jr., as Paddy Sr. was getting on in years. When John Jr. took over the tavern, he also became known as "Paddy," just like his father. John Jr. was described as "a true Irish man." He remodeled the hotel using his carpentry skills but left the original "Paddy's Tavern" sign in place.

In 1916 prohibition began, and most of Hamilton's taverns closed. Paddy's sales were slow. To increase business, gasoline pumps were installed, and Paddy's became the first service station in west Hamilton. Later Paddy started a takeout food service, which was Hamilton's first drive-in restaurant, specializing in hot dogs and 10-cent hamburgers. The restaurant was a welcome distraction for the people of the "dirty 30s." Paddy's 500-seat hotel had its fanciest

room at the back. It was graced with fine wood floors, pale green walls, and a 20-foot-high fireplace reputed to be made with stone left over from building the Cathedral of Christ the King on the hill on King Street West.

Three of the Greene children became nuns, and two of the boys were members of the Christian Brothers Teaching Order. One of the sons, Joe, was born at the hotel and didn't leave until the demolition equipment arrived in 1984. Another son, Dick, said the years of the First World War were some of the best for the tavern. During the war, the government-run antisubmarine-detection course for servicemen was held at Westdale High School. Paddy's was just too convenient for the servicemen to pass up, especially with the jitterbug blaring from the jukebox.

John Jr. bought a farm in Ancaster in 1939 after a fire. He rebuilt the house and barn, which remain in the Greene family today. Paddy Green Road in Ancaster is named after this well-known tavern owner. Originally a farm lane, it progressed into a shortcut for farmers to get to the store and feed mill in Copetown.

John "Paddy" Greene Jr. died in August 1971. Over the years, six of the Greene boys were in the business, as well as other family members; it was definitely a family affair.

Sources for this article were *The Hamilton Spectator* (Special Collections, Hamilton Public Library); *West Hamilton Journal*; *A Mountain and a City: The Story of Hamilton*, by Marjorie Freeman Campbell; and *Hamilton Street Names*, edited by Margaret Houghton.