



## Three Storeys Three Stories

### Self-Guided Virtual Tour & Student Worksheet

Welcome to Dalnavert Museum!

#### How to use this worksheet:

This worksheet is meant to be used as a guide and activity companion to the Dalnavert Museum Virtual Tour, available at [dalnavertmuseum.ca/virtual-tour](http://dalnavertmuseum.ca/virtual-tour)

The numbers on this worksheet correspond to files in the **Online Learning Package**. Listen to these files when the worksheet prompts you to.

#### Dalnavert Museum Quick Facts

- Dalnavert House was built in 1895 on Treaty 1 land for Sir Hugh John Macdonald along with his wife Gertie, daughter Daisy, and son Jack.
- Sir Hugh John Macdonald was the police magistrate in Winnipeg and was briefly Premier of Manitoba. He was also the son of Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald.
- In the 1970s, the building was in a state of disrepair and was slated to be demolished. Instead, a group saved the building, restored it to its original state, and turned it into a museum!

#### Brainstorm: Let's think about Victorian literature.

What are some words that you associate with Victorian literature or history?

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## Virtual Reality (VR) Tour – Let's Begin!

([dalnavertmuseum.ca/virtual-tour](http://dalnavertmuseum.ca/virtual-tour))

During this self-guided tour, we will provide maps to help you find your way around, like the one here →

Red dots will help guide you to the correct area of the house. Here, a red dot shows the spot where the Virtual Reality tour begins.

*Look for directions throughout this worksheet, written in italics.*

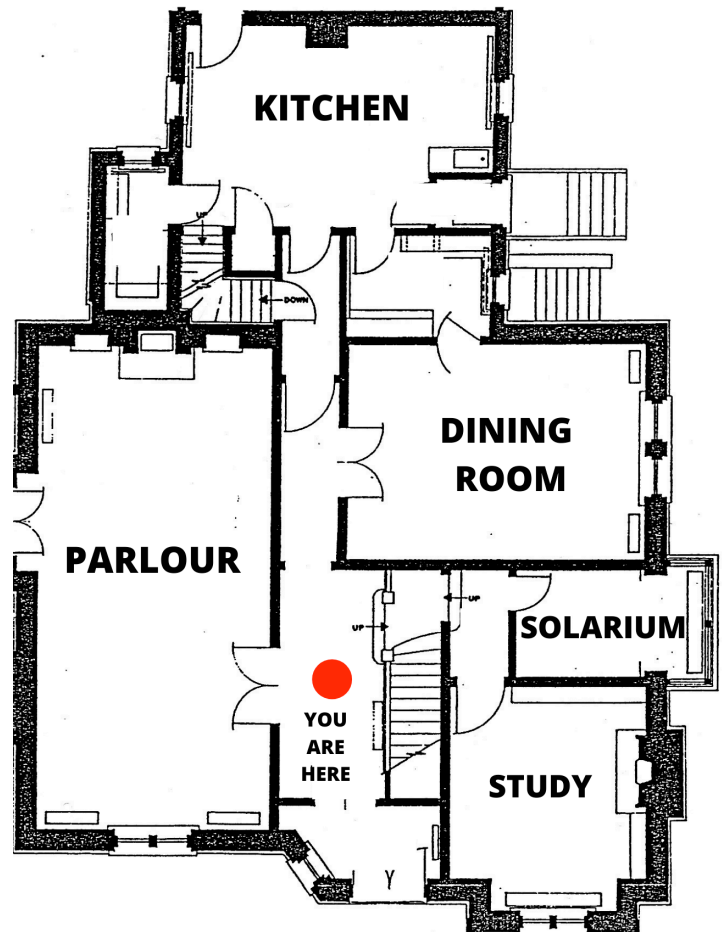
### Press play to start the tour

We begin in the front vestibule and hallway of Dalnavert House. To your left is the parlour, and to your right is a staircase.

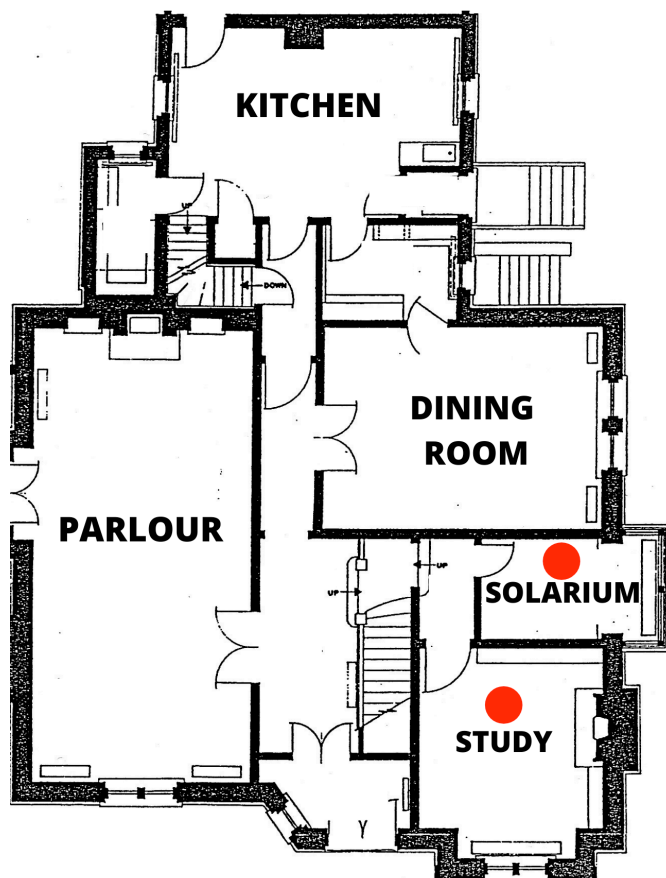
### Vestibule and Parlour

Take a look around the parlour (to your left). This is where the MacDonald's would have entertained their guests, and spent some of their leisure time. Notice the objects for different activities people would have done in

*When you're done checking out the parlour, we're going to go across the hall to the solarium and study*



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### Solarium and Study

The solarium and study were to your right when you begin the virtual tour, just across the hall from the parlour and past the staircase. Start by taking a look around these rooms. While you're looking around, think about what were they used for, and who in the family may have used them.

**LISTEN: Audio #1**

In this audio clip, we hear an excerpt from the story *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. This clip describes a room not unlike Dalnavert's solarium. The story connects these surroundings specifically to the character of Margaret, using adjectives like "graceful" and "dainty".

Today, we understand that gender categories like *masculine* and *feminine* are not rigid. However, in the Victorian era, society was strictly divided by gender, a divide that we can see in the separate spaces built in Dalnavert for separate types of leisure activities.

The solarium and the study are spaces that show this division of genders, and the leisure activities that were considered acceptable for upper-class Victorians like the Macdonalds.



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## QUESTIONS

What are some of the activities that would have taken place in these two rooms?

*Solarium:*

*Study:*

What are some features or characteristics in the solarium that we might associate with being traditionally feminine?

What are some features or characteristics in the study that we might associate with being traditionally masculine?

In which room would you like to spend more time, and why?

*Once you're done looking at the solarium and study, go back out into the main hall where you entered and start walking down it – we'll be looking at the kitchen and dining room next!*

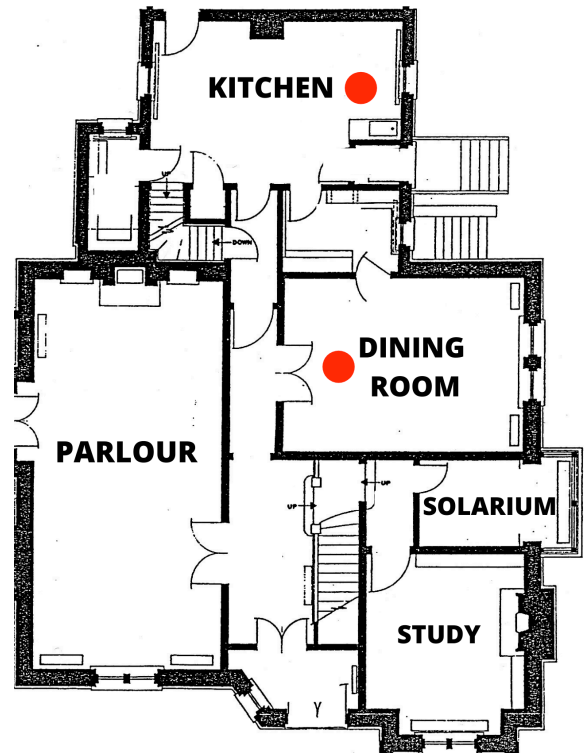


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## Kitchen and Dining Room

Welcome to the kitchen and dining room area! We think of kitchens in contemporary homes as the heart of the house, a place where families gather, but this space was a place where servants worked and where servants, not the family who owned the house, ate and socialized. The family ate in the dining room, and these two rooms are distinctly different spaces from each other. While you're looking around, notice some of the differences between the finery of the dining room and the simplicity of the kitchen.

**LISTEN: Audio #2**



The passage we just listened to from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* describes the life of a working-class family in the early Victorian period—a family that prepared its own food and did not have servants. However, some things, like traditional foods cross class lines – like the Christmas pudding!

### QUESTIONS

Can you find the Christmas pudding in the dining room? Where is it?

In the kitchen, can you spot three things you have in your own kitchen at home?

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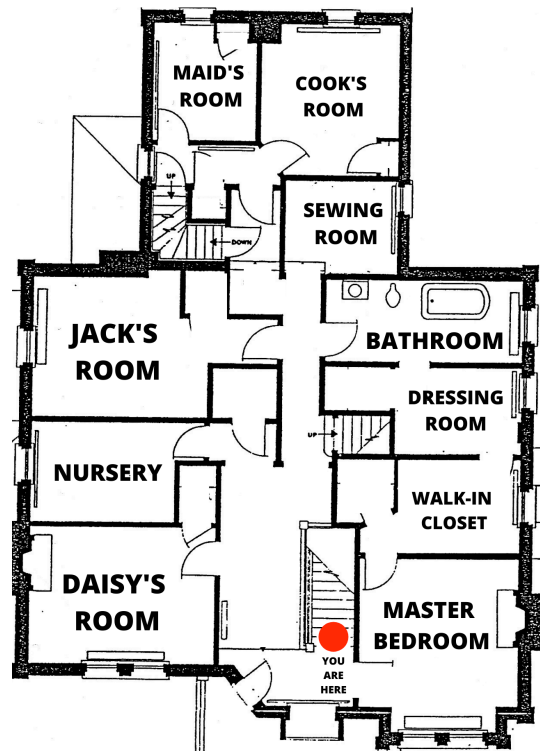
What are some things that show the class difference between the servant's space (kitchen) and family space (dining room)?



*Time to head upstairs! Go up the staircase by the entrance, where you started the VR tour.*

## Second Storey

The second storey is where the family lived their private lives. They would not have received guests or visitors up here. **Take time to explore the rooms of the second story of the house in the virtual reality tour. Notice how the themes of both gender and class show up in some of the rooms.**



On the first storey, we looked at traditionally 'masculine' and 'feminine' elements of two rooms, the study and the solarium. On the second floor, the gender divisions in the family's private space may be less obvious. However, that doesn't mean that gender norms don't exist in these rooms!

On the first storey, we also looked at class divisions. In Dalnavert, servants both lived and worked in the house. However, similarly to the division of workers and family members in the dining room and kitchen, their living spaces were also separated.

*Explore the whole second storey.*



## QUESTIONS

Can you find a room that you think is more feminine?

Why?

Can you find a room that you think is more masculine?

Why?

Can you find a room that would have been occupied by a family member?

Can you find a room that would have been occupied by a servant?

What are some of the differences between these two rooms? What are some things that show class differences?

*Once you're done exploring the second storey, take the staircase up to the attic.*



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## The Attic

In many middle-class homes of the Victorian period, this space would have been used as a space where young children and their nanny or nurse spend both days and nights– a place where children would have slept, eaten most of their meals, played and studied. In the case of the Macdonald family, it was used as a storage space.

### LISTEN: Audio #3

Attics are often used in literature to symbolize certain moods – loneliness, isolation, or things that are meant to be hidden away.

In *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, we learn about a child who is living in an attic, following her father's death.

#### QUESTIONS

What moods, memories, or associations do you have with attics, either from stories or from real life?

How does the setting of an attic reflect the main character's mood in this clip?

What is a way the theme of gender or class shows itself in this clip from *A Little Princess*?





## Wrapping Up

Middle- and upper-class nineteenth-century homes divided their inhabitants along class lines and gender. In this tour, and with these stories, you've been able to see some of the ways that Dalnavert House divided these categories of people.

### REFLECTION

In what ways are the spaces in this home different from how we organize our homes now?  
In what ways might they be similar?

**Congratulations, you're reached the end of the Virtual Tour!**



For fun and free activities, visit us virtually at [dalnavertmuseum.ca](http://dalnavertmuseum.ca).

Follow us @dalnavertmuseum.

Dalnavert Museum is located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg.

Come visit in-person at 61 Carleton Street.



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