CLONMEL

In 1926, William Henry Barrett was surprised to find his name in a Star classified ad. Solicitors from Great Britain were looking for him and he soon learned he had inherited a large estate in Ireland.

And with that, he and wife Hattie bought a 40 acre site for $12,000 and began work, with talented artisans and tradespeople, on his new home in Port Dover, Norfolk County. The house was designed by contractor C.C. Stewart: a 12,000-square-foot brick and cement structure, built to reflect Barrett's Irish heritage.

The site itself predates the house. This area was originally known as Dover Mills, one of the region's earliest mill communities, and a significant location during the War of 1812. Clonmel sits a top Prospect Hill, above the Lynn River and a small waterfall. The property is surrounded by old stone walls and mature trees, including native tulip trees. The name comes from the Irish "Cluain Meala," meaning Honey Meadow, after the fertile land around Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland.

In February 1930 the Barrett’s hosted a party for 1,400 local people at their newly build home.