On March 3, 1890,* Norman Bethune was born in the Presbyterian manse in Gravenhurst, Ontario. Now that house has been restored to its original condition as the Dr Henry Norman Bethune Memorial House.

It is a modest, two storey, clapboard house, situated in a residential neighbourhood near the centre of town at the corner of John and Hughson Streets. It was built in 1880 in the style sometimes referred to as "carpenter's Gothic", a vernacular version of a style common during the period.

In the restoration, before the installation of furnishings, the house itself had to be restored to its original appearance. In deciding what was original, several sources were searched for information. A number of former occupants were interviewed for recollections of its appearance during their tenure. Some of them had photographs from their childhood which showed random bits of the exterior of the house and grounds. Documentary sources, like the municipal and church records, were consulted.

The most important evidence, however, was the architectural indications on the house itself. Under the direction of the

* This is the date given in his birth records, although Bethune always celebrated March 4th as his birthday.