

THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE

Stouffville was founded by Abraham and Elizabeth Stouffer who came from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 1804 and purchased land on both sides of the Town Line in Concession 9. Here they built a mill around which this community developed.

Earliest development took place in what is now the east end, around the 10th Line crossroads

A second development focus centred on mills near Stouffville Creek in the vicinity of Mill and Market Streets. The railway line came through in the 1870s and brought prosperity and development further west.



Following the creation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1971, a crest was developed as a symbol of the Town. Its images represent the three entities which contributed land and population to the new Town, Whitchurch and Markham Townships and the Village of Stouffville. A white church represents the former, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew symbolize the earliest founders of Markham, and the star and chalice are from the family crest of Stouffville's founding Stouffer family.

THE WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society was founded in 1987. Its purpose is to make the community more aware of its heritage through entertainment, education and participation. We encourage you to join us at our bi-monthly meetings. Further information is available in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society hopes that you enjoy this walking tour, and asks you to respect the privacy and property of the residents by keeping to the roads and sidewalks.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this brochure. Corrections and additional information will be gratefully received.

Map and Cover Illustration by
Fenella Smith

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STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

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Stouffville Junction North

covering the residential area north of Main Street, west from the railway tracks, including Edward, Albert, William, Charles, Second, Rupert and Harold Streets



44 Albert Street

Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
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The tour begins at the municipal parking lot behind the Main Street businesses at Edward Street. It will cover the predominantly residential area to the north and the west which was developed in the decades following the arrival of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway in 1871. The street names in this area are all royal family names.

The parking lot is the site of William Burkholder's mill for chopping feed and grain. The mill was in operation from 1924 until it burned spectacularly six months after William's death in 1944. Only the "splendid" efforts of the fire brigade saved the neighbouring buildings.

#18 Edward, immediately to the north, is a 1½-storey gothic house, a common design on this walk and throughout town. This one was built c1876 by John McNeil on a fieldstone foundation and has been much renovated. A story related to this house is of Mary Ann Wright who died here in 1932. A member of a local branch of the "Faith and Truth Temple" of Toronto, she was convinced to leave the church all her money. Her will was hotly contested, and lost, by her nephews.

Turning west on Second Street, the first house on the north side, #155, was built c1877 for George and Elizabeth Lloyd, a 2-storey, yellow brick house, distinguished by its front bay window, and brick trim and keystones over the arched windows. These architectural elements will be seen throughout the walk in a variety of combinations.

#161 was built c1880 by and for Joseph Park, co-owner of what is now Schell Lumber. Well constructed, it features some simple wooden ornaments - the gingerbread in the gables and the trim over the windows. From 1907 to 1975 the family of James Ratcliff lived here. James had a grocery store in the Todd Block immediately to the south on Main, and later had the Ratcliff Block at Main and Market Streets. The telephone exchange for the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. may have been operated from the kitchen here after store hours. James was

succeeded in the business and the house by his son Glenn.

Across, #164 was built c1879 for David Baker, a carriage maker on the Main Street lot directly behind the house. In 1880, Wm. B. Brown bought the house and the carriage shop from Mr. Baker. Other owners include James

Following the opening of the Toronto & Nipissing Railway in 1871 businesses such as warehouses, lumber yards, a foundry, and feed mills were developed in the station area. In the subsequent decade, Ed Wheeler, the Village's first reeve, sold the property west from Edward to the Ninth Line to his son-in-law, William Somerville who arranged for its subdivision and sale. The first section, to Victoria (now William) and including the north side of Second Street, was developed as Plan 35 (1876). The remainder was divided to be sold in lots in the early to mid 1880s (Plan 54 - 1882; Plan 59 - 1885). Many of the original owners bought blocks of lots which were not redivided until later, often oriented differently than in the original plan of subdivision resulting in an interesting lot mix. Street names in the earlier plans included Centre, Victoria, Miller, and Baker, but the current names show up on Plan 59.

Ratcliff and chopping mill owner Wm. Burkholder, who bought it, we are told, because the dishes in the house rattled when his mill was in operation. The window over the door is the first of several examples of etched glass to be found on this tour. The original side verandah is now a sunporch while the front verandah is not original to the house.

The converted carriage house on the corner shares a Main Street address. The carriage doors have been bricked in and a window inserted. Note the chanceler (rooster) weathervane on the small cupola.

On the southwest corner, #18 Albert (formerly Centre Street) is a large Victorian home, built c1879 as a manse for William Percy, Christian Church Minister. Rev. Percy's daughter, Elizabeth, is remembered for donating the clock to the renovated tower in 1931 in memory of her parents. The gingerbread and large finials are original. Other features (to be seen with variations elsewhere) are the coins in contrasting brick and the soldier brick over the windows.

On the north side of Second, #30 Albert is a 2-storey red brick house built c1884 by Abraham Pipher, a carpenter. In addition to its bay windows and brick accents, the house is noteworthy for its distinctive, arched double-door with decorative mouldings. As you walk north on Albert Street,

note the creative use of hot-air registers in the board fence.

Following Albert Street (formerly Centre Street) north, the tour route passes several smaller houses, some early, some later in-fill. #44 (cover illustration) & 50 are similar 1½-storey gothic houses built for Tom Williamson (c1886) who owned several rental houses in Stouffville's west end for railway and shop workers. The exterior is a roughcast plaster.

Across on the east side, the "terrace" houses are unique in Stouffville. The fire maps indicate they were iron clad. Built in 1886 as four rental homes for Wm P. Hartney, second owner, Mary Jane Silversides sold them off individually in the 1920s at which time the north two were combined (note the bricked in front door). #53/55 are larger than #49/51 and modifications to the roof and entrances have enhanced the asymmetry. Its mansard roof is one of very few built at the time in the west end.

#54 Albert, on the opposite corner, was built by the Park Bros. for Margaret and Hugh McDonald, a butcher, in 1888 and was yellow brick clad. In 1920, the house was sold to Frank & Mary Sangster. Frank, a lawyer and brother to Doctor Walter Sangster, was a founding member of the Stouffville United Farmers of Ontario, the forerunner of the Co-op. While the recent siding has covered some of the brick details, the gingerbread and octagonal attic vent have been carefully retained.

On the northwest corner is a small house built in 1929. The cobblestone porch and chimney are not the work of porch doctor, Jacob Jennings (d.1926), but are very similar. The cobblestone motif was recently extended to the walkway serving the basement entrance on the east side.

Turning west on Rupert Street, the tour comes to #185, which was owned by David Latchford from 1886 to 1913. Latchford worked in the Brown carriage shop before opening his own at the corner of Victoria and Main Streets. George Pickhardt, tenant here at the turn of the century, was a manufacturer of

veterinary products (ointments, etc.) in the Todd Block. This was the home of John Oxendale from 1913 to 1957.

#191, a 1½-storey red-brick Victorian house, was built for stonemason Samuel Gilbert in 1886. It retains most of its original character, with the roofed verandah on the east side and some leaded glass in the window transom. Tenants here included Andrew, James and William McQuay, all labourers, and George McQuay, a butcher.

Though the central front door suggests otherwise, #195/197, built by Albert Gilbert c1886, has always been a two-family dwelling. The flanking windows on the main floor are located in square bays. The front door transom and circular window over the front porch both have etched glass and the gable gingerbread is original. Mr. Steckley, a later owner, is said to have sold vegetables from his large, backyard garden to pay the taxes.

Turning south on William (formerly Miller Street, then Victoria Street), #51 on the east side is a charming and unusual English cottage design built in 1934 for Muriel Lane, a widow and daughter of Frank and Mary Sangster. The beam and plaster exterior is Tudor revival.

The 2-storey, yellow brick house across at #52 has had some major modifications, but without losing its basic character. Most significantly, a large verandah which wrapped around the front and south side of the house, topped by a second storey verandah across the front only, have been replaced by the porch/balcony at the front door. The original wood ornamentation (note the door and wheat sheaf gingerbread) has been maintained or restored. The house was built in 1892 for Samuel Castor.

#45 was built c1891 for Harriet Spofford. It is a typical 1½-storey farmhouse design which had a full verandah across the south side.

At Second Street walk east to #196. Built in 1889, by Samuel George, it is an unusual poured cement construction, a technique he probably brought back from a sojourn on Manitoulin Island where the method is common. Note again, square window bays flanking the front door and an etched glass transom.

Records show that the small frame house of Isaac Marks had stood on this site.

On the north side, #191 was built in 1886 for Barbara & Joseph Hunter. The presence of unused upper and lower doors on the front of the house raise questions about the original appearance. Did the verandahs on each side wrap around the front, or was there a separate front porch with widow's watch balcony above? Brick marks on an older photo favour the latter.

Returning west to the corner house, #201, the tour comes to a small frame house which shows signs of modification, not surprisingly, since this was once the Disciples Church located on the Tenth Line and was moved here to become the Church of Christ in 1904. It was converted for use as a residence in 1939, five years after it had been vacated, and has been owned by descendants of the Lehman family since. The site had been purchased from the George brothers (Samuel of the cement house and Richard) who had their sash and door factory here from c1890. In 1895, The Free Press reported that they had contracted to build 20 houses in this area. On this site they also operated Stouffville's first electrical plant, supplying the immediate vicinity. The sale of the (empty) lot to the Congregation of the Church of Christ in 1904 suggests that the plant may have fallen victim to fire.

On the southwest corner, #16 William was a carriage house built for Walter Miller c1883 for his Main Street house. On the 1910 fire map, the carriage house is shown as 2 storeys. It was converted in 1978. The large doorway on the north side was converted into a kitchen window, with the sliding wooden door retained for good effect.

On the north corner, #213 Second is a 1½-storey gothic house built in 1883 for Abraham Pipher. Now brick clad, its original construction was board-on-board with a rough-cast finish. It is close to the road allowing plenty of space for a garden behind the wood shed or summer kitchen extension. The ornate woodwork on the east-side porch was probably added at the time of the bricking.

The large, grey brick house, #219, was built in 1885 for Cunningham Mitchell, a carpenter. Mitchell later owned the east end store. The front bay extends two storeys. The brickwork and wooden ornamentation are equal to any on the tour.

The charming cottage at #227 is actually a 1948

conversion of Allen Closson's onion barn. It is set towards the back of the lot in contrast with many of the older houses.

#233 is reminiscent of the smaller, rental houses seen back on Albert Street with the addition of the front verandah with its wheat sheaf gingerbread. It was built in 1887 for David Williams, a hostler.

West of Charles Street (formerly Baker Street), on the south side, #260 is another converted barn, that belonging to Andrew Musselman's Main Street property. The barn was built c1888 and was converted in 1897 with the first tenant a Rev. P.C. Cameron.

To the north, #257 was built c1889 for William Vague who owned the property right across to the Ninth Line. The front porch has two doors, the front one opening directly into the parlour where Mrs. Vague conducted dressmaking classes. The family of Daniel Burnett, who bought the house in 1916, owned the house until 1963.

#251 was built pre-1910 by Jacob Heise for his son Duncan with the back extension added later. In 1918 the house was purchased by Rev. Charles McLeod, minister of Baker Hill Baptist Church. William Burkholder purchased the house after Rev. McLeod's death in 1944 and the house passed to his widow, his daughter and his grandson. Note how the fieldstone foundation has been finished to look like cut stone.

#37 Charles Street is typical of Ontario farm houses of the 1880s, an L-shaped roughcast construction on a fieldstone foundation. It was built c1887 for Eliza and Gilbert Showers, retired farmers. It was also the long-time home of Catherine Johnson, a widow, and has had only 3 owners since it was built.

#242 Rupert was constructed to face Charles Street as a retirement home for James Hamilton, a gentleman from Uxbridge. The Victorian features of this large house include the two-storey bay at the corner bracketed by ornate gingerbread in the gable. The west entrance and verandah have been replaced by the Rupert Street entrance.

Walk east to William. The large Victorian house at #68 William was built in 1892 for Richard George



(of the sash and door factory). It has many additions, but some original features can be identified: the gothic window in the gable, the stained-glass transom over the main window.

Further north on William, #88 is, again, a more typical 1½-storey farm house. Built c1891 by and for Samuel Gilbert, it is very low to the ground and the fieldstone foundation is hard to see. The original verandah is now a sunporch.

Diagonally opposite, #201 Harold was built in 1898 for Robert Chappell, a market gardener. The 1901 census describes the house as a 2-storey/6-room cement house.

Walk east on Harold Street. #100 Albert, on the northwest corner, was built c1914 for William Simmons. The rear section and barn are not original. Other owners have been cheese factory owner, George Eckardt (1916) and Rev. Sam Goudie (1921).

Opposite to the east, #169 Harold has a main floor bay window, an attractive architectural feature on an otherwise simple frame house. It was recently established on a new foundation, giving it a new lease on life.

Turn south on Albert. #88 was built in 1891 for James Adams. Adams may have come to town as a railway labourer, but later worked for Joel Baker at his lumber yard at the north end of Edward Street. The cobblestone porch, built in 1922 by porch doctor Jacob Jennings for owner Isaac Boadway (see the imbedded inscription stone), replaced an ornate, two-storey, wooden verandah.

On the east side, #79, an L-shaped house, is nicely restored and features original gingerbread. It was built in 1893 by labourer, Jabez Johnson. It was the long-time home of Jacob Fockler until Flossie Brillinger bought it in 1938 as a rental house.

At the corner, #169 Rupert was built in 1887 by and for Fredrick George (another of the George brothers), who rented it to Arthur Fleury, co-owner and moulder of the Fleury Bros. Foundry. A 2-storey Victorian house, it features yellow brick, a 2-storey bay window on the front and wheat sheaf gingerbread. In 1948 Glenn Ratcliff sold it to the trustees of the Baptist Church who kept it as a manse until 1962.

Follow Rupert east. #165 and #159 are a matched pair of gothic, brick houses built in 1887 for William Mason. He farmed 29 acres north of Main Street, east of Church Street. These centre entrance houses with friendly wooden porches have a red brick mix, fieldstone foundations and original gingerbread. 1900 records show Mrs. Mason as the owner and A. Campbell, blacksmith and Mrs. S. Bowman, widow as the respective tenants.

#155 was built in 1894 by Nathan Forsyth in his familiar style. Some of the Forsyth details seen here are the brick porch enclosure, the soldier-brick detailing, and the fine windows, some with arches, some with stained-glass transoms or side panels. In 1900, owner Lewis Bartholomew had three tenants here: A.A. Kennedy, Lumber Dealer, Chas Brodie, Gentleman, and W.A. Brodie, student.

Turn north on Edward. #80, built c1895 sits on the lot line of two properties. The sister house may have been moved to Church Street, at which time this one may have

been moved onto a new foundation in the centre of the double lot. Like #88 to the north, it was probably built for lumber merchant Joel Baker as a rental house. It has been considerably remodelled.

#88 was built in 1889 for Joel Baker who willed it to his daughter, Edith (Baker) Bundy. In 1913, she sold it to Robert Brown whose descendants still own it. It is a solid, square house in yellow brick with some soldier-brick detailing. Note the shuttered, gothic window in the gable.

Return south on Edward. #38 was built in 1889 for Peter Fleury, a woodworker who may have worked in the Fleury Bros. Foundry across the street. The house has been maintained to retain many of its original features. A 2-storey bay is located on the south side.

We hope you have enjoyed touring this part of Stouffville.

