

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 Duffin's 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 Illustrations by
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Other completed tours:

1. Village Centre North
2. Village Centre South

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

3

Brimstone Point North

including Stouffer, North, Boyer, South,
Main, Montreal & Spring Streets



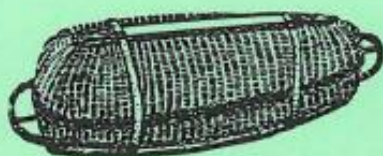
Memorial Christian Church
1874

Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
1993

The tour covers the earliest residential section of Stouffville, on land originally owned by the Stouffer family. The first plan of lots and streets was registered in 1858. The houses are generally smaller and architecturally simpler than later houses in other parts of the village.

The tour begins at the corner of **MAIN** and **STOUFFER STREETS**, where the **Memorial Christian Church** (pictured on the cover) stands on the northwest corner. Completed c1874, this was both a new building and a new location for the Congregational Church. It was purchased in 1904 by Jacob Burkholder, who donated it to the Christian congregation that was developing in Stouffville as farmers retired into town.

North of the church on the west side of Stouffer was the location of the Willow Works of Wm. McNabb. Here, in the 1870s, willow furniture and baskets were manufactured from the raw materials available on the site.



Representative of the products of the works is a wicker body basket, no longer in use, at the O'Neill Funeral Home.

Across Stouffer, on a spacious lot, stands **#6548 Main Street**. The style of this 2½-storey house is similar to many on the central residential streets of the village. The house was built in 1898 for John Bray Jr., a tailor with a shop in the Bray Block at Main and Church Streets. Originally,



the house featured a unique roof-mounted solarium. In the 1930s, the solarium was removed and the windows used in constructing the sunporch at the back of the house.

Just north of this house was the site of a Cheese Factory which, in 1871, was operating as a joint stock company producing 30,000 pounds of cheese in 5 months. Thomas Eckhardt managed the factory for 13 years.

STOUFFER STREET, once called New Street, originally served as a short cut for farmers from the Tenth Line to Stouffer's mill on Main Street at the creek.

#238 Stouffer was built c1868 by carpenter and furniture maker George Flint Sr. It is a simple, 1½-storey frame house. Similar frame houses on the tour include numbers 328, 334, 341, 353 and 392 Stouffer Street, **#359 Boyer** and numbers 337, 357 and 377 South Street. Most of these retain some vestige of their original appearance.

Street names "Vanzant", "Stouffer" and "Boyer" bring to mind former property owners in the area.

At the corner of **MONTREAL STREET**, **#94** is on the site of the home and shop of William Withers, Stouffville's first weaver. After the deaths of Mrs. Withers in September, 1870 and of William in the spring of 1871, rumours circulated that they had been poisoned by their teenage son, James. After the death of the parents, Christopher Armstrong, another talented weaver, lived with the children for several years. The original house (built c1865) was replaced by a Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall in 1963.

A detour up Montreal to **NORTH STREET** allows us to visit **#293** and **#303** North, once owned by James Vanzant. **#293** is a frame house, built c1889 on a one acre lot. **#303**, built about the same time, was used as a rental property. These are charming examples

of nineteenth-century frame construction (well worth the extra walk).

To the east on North Street, **#355** is an earlier frame house of similar design. Built c1859 by James Bugg, it was later owned by Abram Stouffer and tenanted by Samuel Stouffer.

Return down Montreal to Stouffer Street and turn left. **#333**, c1858, is a 1½-storey traditional gothic house, which has been restored and brick-clad. First owned by Thomas Turner, a shoemaker, the house was purchased in 1874 by the weaver Christopher Armstrong, where he produced his renowned coverlets. Some of 'Christie's' patterns were used as the basis for Kleenex box designs in 1967.

#361 is built in the gothic style, c1874.



The original gothic charm and detail have been maintained. In 1900, the assessed value of this property was \$200.

Look north across the **TENTH LINE** to the Stouffville Sales Barn, which was used for livestock auctions before housing the "Flea Market". Walter Atkinson had this built in 1952 on farm property originally owned by the Brown family. The farmhouse was moved to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, where it has been restored to reflect the 1870s period and is known as the "Brown House". The treed area to the north was known as "Brown's Bush" and was noted for religious tent meetings.

Turn south on **Tenth Line** to Boyer. The southwest corner was the 1855 site of James Daley's first boot and shoe shop. The 1895 Illustrated Free Press states that J.T. Daley has "stuck to his last" and has been giving "fits" to the people of Stouffville and vicinity.

Turn right onto **BOYER STREET**. **#396** had its beginnings as the Globe Hotel on Main

Street, built c1855 for John Yake II. His grandneice, Effie (Williams) Kester lived in the hotel until her death in 1953. The following year the building was moved to its present location.

#359 Boyer was built, c1872, for Jacob and Sarah Lehman. The charm of the simple, frame structure is readily apparent in this house. Jacob Lehman was a millwright at the Wheeler Mill, where his son, John, was later a bookkeeper.

Turn left on **MONTREAL STREET**, formerly called East Street. #57 is the site of a two-storey brick home that has since been demolished. It was built in the late 1870s for John & Lucinda McKinnon. John was a village council member and also served as caretaker to the cemetery. Very proud and protective of their fine orchard and garden, Cindy is said to have warned away would-be thieves with a blast of salt from her shotgun.

Turn left onto **SOUTH STREET**. #377 is in the gothic style. Built in the 1840s, this early home of John Yake Jr. was first located on Main Street. Originally frame, it was later plaster, and is now brick-clad.

Turning south on **TENTH LINE**, the tour comes to #12298, a two-storey frame house, with a shop at the rear of the property. It was built c1858 for Hector Urquhart, a wheelwright. By 1871 his son, John, had expanded the business to include wagon-making.

#12276 stands on the former site of the Disciples Church. Legend has it that a small congregation met in the upper storey of Yake's Hotel, until a place was provided by John Yake for a church building. In 1904 the building was



moved to the northeast corner of William and Second Streets, where it was known as the Church of Christ.

The main thoroughfare from Lake Ontario to Uxbridge was the Tenth Line. The junction with Main Street became known as "Brimstone Point", reflecting the activities which took place on Saturday nights: horse racing, gambling, cockfighting and fist fighting. Differences were settled by the Justice of the Peace on Monday mornings. The Yake family owned the four corners, specializing in businesses which catered to the carriage trade.

Three acres on the northeast corner at Tenth Line and Main Street was purchased by Hiram Yake in 1845. Here Silas Beebe had his blacksmith shop, c1850 and in the late 1860s, Edward Williams' home and pump shop were located on this lot.

The northwest corner of Tenth Line and Main Street was the site of John Yake II's wayside inn, c1850, providing rest and provisions for weary travellers. The building was demolished in 1929.

The next property to the west on Main Street is the original site of John Yake II's house, now situated at 377 South Street. #6728 & #6718 Main Street are located where Mr. Yake's **Globe Hotel** stood from 1855 until 1954 when it was moved to



#396 Boyer Street. The second floor of the hotel included a dance hall operated by Abraham Yake (John's son). On the east side was an addition housing Samuel Keffer's Photography Shop.

#6710 Main Street is a 1½-storey frame building, built in c1860 for Jacob Fockler, and

used as a general store (c1883) by Nicholas Armstrong. It was long known as the East End Store. In 1900 it was owned by Cunningham Mitchell. It remained the general store for the east end community into the 1980s.



The gothic house at #6702 was built c1875 for Levi Law, who owned the East End store in the 1870s. It is one of the earliest brick residences in the east end.

In the 1860s there was a carriage shop, owned by Willie Brown at #6690.

#6686 is located on the site of a blacksmith shop which, built in the 1850s, was owned and operated by blacksmiths William Reynolds and John Brownlee and later by Daniel Morrison. Morrison's two-storey frame home remains.

The house at #6676 was built for Ross Brown, c1917. It replaced the original building, part of which now stands at #23 Montreal Street, at the back of the Main Street lot. The latter, built in the 1860s, had been the dwelling and general store of Sinclair Holden.

At the corner, on the west side of Montreal, the modern bungalow built in 1957 (#6668) marks the original site of a dwelling which was also Chauncy Steven's Tailor Shop, then Robert Sculley's Pump Shop. Still later, there was a general store in the south half and Hunter's Bake Shop in the north half. At the turn of the century a two-wheel, manually-drawn fire-hose reel was kept on the property.

#6660 was built c1873 for Dr. Sylvester Freel who purchased the property from David Law. Around 1884 Dr. Freel had one of the first

telephones in Stouffville installed in his office. It was one of the nine phones in the village on the new line linking Uxbridge, Markham and Toronto.

The two-storey brick house at #6638 was built, c1870, as the Congregational Church Manse on land which was donated by church member, James Nichols. Reverend Day was its first occupant.

Built in 1863, the two-storey frame house at #6630 Main Street also served as a manse to the Primitive Methodist Church from 1872 until 1892. It was then the home of J.S. (John) Dougherty. J.S. served a term as village reeve (1924), as had his uncle James, the village's first reeve.

Edward White, a merchant, built a large home c1875 on a 1¼ acre property at the corner of Spring and Main. It became the **Brierbush Hospital** established by E.R. Good as a maternity home in the 1930s. In the 1940s, 50s and 60s local doctors used the "hospital" facilities for minor surgery. In later years Brierbush also served as a long-term care facility and was demolished in 1978 to make way for the Spring Street subdivision.



The 2-storey frame house at #26 **SPRING STREET** was built c1870 for pedlar Henry Highfield, who was still living there 30 years later. The house was moved and remodelled when the subdivision was built. This charming century home is unique in the neighbourhood.

Back on Main Street, west of Spring, is #6600, built c1870 by George Flint, Sr. who was a furniture maker and a builder. A later occupant was James Hand, principal of the

"New School" from 1880 until the school burned in 1917.

The house at #6594 Main Street has retained its period look after remodelling. It was built, c1870, by George Flint, Jr. and was sold to John Fockler in 1871.

Edward White, who owned the Brierbush Hospital property, also owned the double house at #6586/#6578 which was built c1864. Among the tenants were G.H. Noble, a tailor, George Hopkins, a labourer, and Nelson Toaze, a bricklayer. Alfred Toaze owned the



property from 1895 until his death in 1908. His widow, Fanny, was well known about town for her eccentricities until her death in 1932.

The tour has brought us back for a different view of #6548 at the corner of Main and Stouffer and the starting point of the tour.

