

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 Illustrations by
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Other Brochures:

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| 1 Stouffville Centre North |
| 2 Stouffville Centre South |
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| 4 The Slough of Despond |
| 5a Heart of Stouffville - W |
| 5b Heart of Stouffville - E |

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

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Brimstone Point South

covering Main Street, south side, from
Stouffer Street to the Town Line, south on
Tenth Line to, and including,
Stouffville Cemetery



Guardian Angel
Stouffville Cemetery

Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
1996

The Tour begins at the southeast corner of Main and Stouffer Streets, now site of Success Square, from where the walk will proceed east to the Tenth Line, then south to the cemetery. This area is the earliest settled part of what became the Village of Stouffville. It was here that the doctors, businessmen and tradesmen lived and worked. After the coming of the railway in 1871, the village business shifted to the centre of Stouffville.

Stouffer Street south of Main, named for the village founder Abraham Stouffer, was realigned in 1991 when traffic lights were installed at the intersection.

Most of the 45 acres between Stouffer Street and Tenth Line, including the new subdivisions on Dorman Drive and Blair Road, were purchased by Ludwig Kribs—25 acres from Abraham Stouffer in 1844 and 20 from James Vanzant in 1846. The first graduate of the Congregational College of British North America in Toronto, Ludwig Kribs had come to Stouffville in the early 1840s as a student and worked to establish a church here.

After several years of meeting, first at the house of Claus Mertens near Ringwood, then at the frame schoolhouse on Church St., Kribs and the congregation built their own frame church on a piece of his property (see #6727). In addition to his missionary zeal, Ludwig Kribs had great energy as a builder and developer. He did not, however, register a plan of subdivision; as a result, it was not until village Plan 1155 was drawn up in 1892 that a map showing these east end properties became available. Our historical interpretation of the land records for this walk relies heavily on this plan and its numbering of the lots.

The lot where the plaza now stands was low and wet, and remained vacant until recently. It was part of a 9 acre parcel sold by Kribs to William Roddick in 1846, from the corner to where #6633 now stands. Roddick is thought to have had his first blacksmith shop here. In 1850, he sold the east half of the property to Ephraim Krieder. Shoemaker John Bickerstaff also had a small shop here.

#6627 was built in 1948 for William Miller who purchased the lot from Walter Dickson.

In 1867 and 1868, David McKinnell bought two ½-acre Main Street pieces of the Krieder property. When he died the next year, his son-in-law, Henry Dickson of

Scarborough, purchased the lots and set up his own blacksmith shop (demolished in 1924). Over the years Henry and his son Walter acquired all of Roddick's original 9 acres and more.



In 1884, Matthew Flint built the 1½-storey, grey brick house (#6633) for Henry Dickson. The house is built low to the ground so that the main door is reached by a covered walk along the west side rather than a porch. Note the windows with their slight arch and original small panes

(9 over 9). Henry's son Walter and daughters, Nellie and Bessie, lived in the house for many years. Bessie, the last of the line, died in 1973 in the former Brierbush Hospital, across Main Street.

The 1½-storey house at #6641 was built c1855 for James Bugg, foreman at Boyer's Sawmill on lot 34, south off Tenth Line. The house was purchased in 1866 by Dr. Ralph C. Lloyd. After Ralph's death in 1871, his widow Sarah Jane rented out the property. One of the tenants was Wesleyan Methodist Minister D.E.F. Gee. Subsequent owners included Dodwell Brooks, Peter Wideman, David Rusnell, and his son Ira (one-time Village constable) who remodelled the house in 1936.

The 1-storey east wing of #6659 was the original house on this lot. It was built in the early 1850s for John Boyer, storekeeper, printer, and postmaster. James Nichols purchased the house and six acres from Boyer's estate in 1855, immediately selling it to Dr. A.C. Lloyd, a prominent physician and father of Ralph. The 1861 census shows Dr. Lloyd living in a brick, 1-storey dwelling. The 2-storey, neo-classical addition was built c1862. Following the doctor's death in 1871, the numerous owners included Alfred and Margaret Collins who kept a large orchard and Douglas Booth who established the Sky-Line Poultry Farm.



The original 1-storey frame cottage at #6681 may have been the home of another prominent doctor, James Freel, in the 1850s. Freel was married to A.C. Lloyd's sister, Elizabeth. The house was remodelled and the second storey added before being purchased by dentist E.S. Barker in 1915.

Tribune publisher A.V. Nolan bought the house in 1924.

An earlier house at #6691 was built c1851 for Hiram Yake, who rented it to family members. It was purchased in



1898 by Philip and Christiana Davis whose descendants retained possession until its demolition in 1994. It was similar to the 1½-storey gothic house next door.

This next house, #6699, was built for the Davises c1870. The front porch is a later addition. The gothic window in the central gable is noteworthy. A workshop and showroom were located at the rear of the house for Philip's work as undertaker and furniture maker. In 1917, the estate sold the house and 1-acre property for \$1700.00. Next owner, Esther Tarr, split the property and sold the south part with access off Cemetery Lane.

#6711 Main Street on the east side of Cemetery Lane, was the home of the Peter Kribs family, built c1851. Clues to the age of the house are the low-set stone foundation and the symmetrical setting of the door and windows. Peter's widow, Margaret, owned the property until 1904, when she sold it to Mereda Forsyth, who sold to son Arthur, who sold to brother Harold ("Red"), a barber.

#6717 has many of the characteristics of 1870s buildings in the area. In 1877 it was the bakeshop and dwelling of Henry Pennock, while the upstairs may have been used for meetings and known as "Freel Hall". The 1881 census shows Sylvester Freel as owner and baker William Green as tenant. Dr. Freel sold the south 3½ acres to the Village of Stouffville for cemetery expansion in 1916.



#6721 was the site of a 1-storey frame manse, built by Ludwig Kribs c1847. Doctors A.C. Lloyd, James Freel, and his son, Dr. Sylvester Freel each owned this house in turn. In 1889, the house was dismantled and moved to #48 Mill.

#6727 is the site of the first Congregational Church built by Ludwig Kribs in 1847, an impressive building with ornate crimson hangings and box pews inside and a bell tower atop the roof. By 1874 the congregation had outgrown the church and a new brick one was built at Main and Stouffer Streets. Under new owner Sylvester Freel, the building was used as a dance hall, roller skating rink, meeting hall and implement warehouse. In 1893, he had it dismantled and rebuilt downtown over the creek as a commercial building. In 1928, "Red" Forsyth bought the lot and had the present 1½-storey house built.

#6731, built about 1878, is a large 8-room Victorian house with some attractive brickwork on the corners and over the windows. An original verandah, be-trayed by headerboard embedded in the walls over the front door, has been removed. It was owned by inn-keeper Hiram Yake who sold it in 1896 to his son



Arthur, a section foreman on the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1903, Arthur Yake sold the property to the Trustees of the Mennonite Church to be used as a parsonage. The Taun brothers, Richard and George, bought the property in 1925. George Taun willed it to his sisters, Tessie and Bessie Taun, in 1941.

The frame house at # 6739 was moved here in 1917 from the front of the Summitview School property. It was built prior to 1870 for Ludwig Fockler. In 1920, Calvin and Susan Yake sold the property to Amy and Alfred Pugh. The home remained in the Pugh family until 1948.

The Yake Hotel, #6745, is situated on the corner of a 1-acre lot, purchased by Edward Wheeler from Abraham Stouffer in 1846. There may have been a commercial enterprise here when Wheeler had this structure erected c1850. In 1854, Wheeler sold it to Hiram Yake who converted the building into a hotel. Hints of headerboard embedded in the walls above first and second floor windows show that there was once a two-storey verandah on the north and east sides of the building.

Hiram Yake purchased liquor in forty gallon barrels from Gooderham and Worts for \$10, and sold it for 25¢ a quart or 2¢ a glass. When business declined in the 1870s, son Calvin converted the hotel into a family dwelling. The building was in the Yake family for 114 years.

The following paragraphs take the tour east along Main Street to the Town Line and back. A shortened tour, down the Tenth Line starts as the:

In 1815, Philip Long purchased 100 acres of Crown land south of Main Street, between the Tenth Line and the County Line to the east. In 1822, the Longs sold the west 50 acres to John Yake Sr., his son-in-law. When John died in 1840 without a will, the land was inherited by his eldest son Jacob, who divided the property at a fair price among his siblings.

On the southeast corner of Main Street and Tenth

Line, John Yake Sr. operated a large frame hotel. His son, Hiram, a tanner by trade, took over the hotel and bought the corner lot from his brother in 1849. Later, he converted the building, renting the main floor to Mr. Ostertag, a tinsmith and tinker, and operating a shoe factory upstairs, using leather from his tannery. The building was demolished in 1938, having also served as a dry goods store for Henry Vanzant and Tobias Kester, a general store operated by Levi Law, and implement storage for William and Alice [Yake] Harding, who bought the property from Hiram in 1896.

East of the hotel was a thriving area for tradesmen in the early and mid-1800s. Individuals and the trades they plied included Mr. Wick, harness-maker, Mr. Deforest, whip-maker, John Besaw, carpenter, Hugh Cassler and Daniel O'Brien, blacksmiths, and Peter Boadway and George Besaw, coopers. Precise locations for these businesses are uncertain.

The 1-storey frame house, #6791, was built for Hiram Yake prior to 1850. The Hardings, Hiram's daughter and son-in-law, bought the property in 1896. The street just to the east preserves the Harding name.

#6823 is a larger version of the previous house. Built c1850, it has elements typical of

the period: the windows symmetrically flanking the central door, the low foundation. The canopy over the door may replace an earlier verandah. The house was built for John Yake Jr. on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. Two acres were added to the property in 1930 when Isaac Brillinger bought this lot and then two acres from the property of Ludwig Hoover, to the south.

The eastern limit of the Village of Stouffville was located between #6835 and the Pentecostal Church. The 2-storey frame home, #6871, was built c1883 for Benjamin Sullivan. The 1891 census for Markham township shows Robert and Ann McFarlane living on this 10-acre property. In 1906, it was owned by J. Newton Hill. It is now the Pentecostal manse. Local historical reports state that there may have been a burial ground on this property.

#6939, a small, frame cottage was moved here in 1917 from the school lot by Newton Hill to allow for the building of the new school.



BRIMSTONE POINT

The 1895 Free Press states that, "Yake's corner became known by the somewhat suggestive, yet euphonious name of Brimstone Point. Cock-fighting and horse-racing were familiar village sports. It was not unusual to close the week with a 'sport', and settle the accounts at the taverns. The Justice of the Peace generally gave a final settlement of these accounts by disposing of several cases in his 'court' on Monday morning."

Indeed, the inns were often the civic and social centres of small communities, serving as the sites of meetings, trials and church services.

In the heyday of Stouffville's East End, "The Mast Road" (Tenth Line) had "long lines of teams hauling logs from north of here...to Frenchman's Bay for shipment to England, where they went into ships masts."

On the east 50 acres, Philip Long's first house was probably of logs. This was replaced by a 1½-storey frame house; then, in the early 1850s, the brick house, #7019, was built. It is very similar to the Brown House which is now part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

Frederick George purchased the property in 1875 and immediately sold the house and ten acres on the northeast corner to Dr. William Pagan. Both a medical doctor and veterinarian, Dr. Pagan was known for a miraculous cure that attracted patients from great distances. In 1886, this property was purchased by Joseph and Jane [McFarlane] Monkhouse. *[Return to the Tenth Line.]*

■ South along the Tenth Line, seven early houses are still standing, four on the west side and three on the east. Gone are the sheds and stables of the old hotel; the small frame house of Alfred Toaze, where his father Richard lived (Richard was a butcher and pedlar); the old frame homes of H. Brooks, a millwright, William Haigh, a labourer, Robert Sculley, a pumpmaker, and Samuel Fenton, early postmaster. These have been replaced by modern bungalows.

On the east side, #12225 was built in 1830s for John Yake Sr. It was in this house in 1840 that he was said to have been struck dead by lightning while holding his youngest child, Ann. The small girl was apparently unhurt.

In 1849, George and Magdalena [Yake] Cameron purchased the house and an acre of land along the road. They subsequently built the next house south, #12221, and sold #12225 to their son, Henry, in the 1870s. The older house remained in the Yake family until sold in 1896 to Joseph and Margaret McMullen, who owned it for about 50 years. The Camerons sold #12221 to the McMullen's son, Theophilus, in 1904.

On the south ½-acre, George Cameron built a small house in the 1850s, #12215. Some of the long-time owners were Isabella Maxwell (1861-71), William Swales (1871-92), Elizabeth [Swales] Greenbury (1892-1907) and William Greenbury (1907-22).

Across the street, a similar frame house, #12206, was built c1875 for William and Mary [Fines] Haigh. After William's death in 1889, Mary lived in the house until her death in 1914.

The three new bungalows, on the east side north of Watson Drive, are located in the area of Hiram Yake's tannery. Watson Drive is named for Cedric Watson, long-time principal of Stouffville Public School, now Summitview.

#12164 was built in 1871 for George Boadway. George was a water diviner, well digger and maker of wooden pumps. His barn (now behind the house) and pump shop were originally located further south.



#12140 is another typical, east end, frame house, possibly built as

early as 1848 by Leonard Kester. The house has been in the Vanzant family since James Vanzant bought it in 1913.

At #12130, the 1½-storey house was built c1855 for William Nixon. The current owner, who has lived here since the late 1930s, had the house moved onto a new foundation and had additions made to the front and side.

The Cemetery

As you enter the cemetery through the arched gateway, the area where the vault stands [A on the map] was the site of a log cabin built c1848 for shoemaker John Bickerstaff. Other owners were Samuel Gilbert, a gardener, William Stevens and Chauncy Connor. In 1887, Peter Rusnell owned the property. It is not known when the Village of Stouffville acquired this ¼-acre addition to the cemetery. The vault was built in 1952 with funds left by community benefactor, Tom Williamson.

The area to the right of the drive [B] is The Memorial Plot, honouring veterans of the area who are buried elsewhere.

The grove of old maples to the left [C] is the original 1-acre lot donated by Rev. Ludwig Kribs, c1847, for a Congregational burial ground. The earliest legible stone is that of Charles von Buseck who died in 1849.



In 1916, the Village acquired the back 3½ acres of Freel's Main Street property [D]. An additional 2½ acres on the west side [E] were purchased from Walter Dickson in 1944.

Follow the drive to the north gate. The columbarium on the left was built in 1987.

The houses and lots along Cemetery Lane were developed after World War II, except #32 on the west side. In 1854, Eli Sheffield bought the lot from Ludwig Kribs for £62/10s. After building a house, he sold it to Hiram Yake for £225. Both Hiram, and later his son, Arthur, used the 2-storey frame house as a rental property.

From here return to Main Street, then west to the tour's starting point.

