

## 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.*

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*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.*

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Map and Illustrations by  
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### Other Brochures:

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| 1 Stouffville Centre North  |
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## STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

### 7 Stouffville Junction South

covering the south side of Main Street,  
west from the railway tracks, and  
Albert, Victoria & Clarke Streets,  
the Ninth Line and Sunset Blvd.



6139 Main Street

Produced by the  
Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Historical Society  
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We are starting this tour at the south west junction of the railway tracks and Main Street. The railway came through Stouffville in 1871. This brought prosperity to the village and an area known as Stouffville Junction started to develop. As with the rest of Stouffville, land in this area was owned by the Stouffer family. The first development occurred south of Main Street in the 1870s, but research has shown that there were three houses on Main Street prior to that time.

The commercial building, #6193, was built about 1934 as a garage for car repairs by Isaac Boadway, on property purchased from the Sanders estate in 1931. Five years later he leased the establishment to the Shell Oil company and this became the first gas station in town. It remained as a station until 1973, when, following a major clean-up and renovation, a medical lab was established in the building.

The adjacent house, #6185, was built about 1876 for W.B. Sanders, the grand-pooohba of Stouffville. He, at various times, was postmaster, lumber, coal and grain merchant, Reeve of Stouffville and Warden of York County. He had a house built that was fitting for his position in town: a 2½-storey home, with ten rooms. There was decorative gingerbread trim in the porticoes, large ornate upper and lower verandahs on the east side facing the railway, and circular windows in the peaks. The entire lot, which included the site of the garage, was enclosed by a looped, iron-rod fence. When purchased by Isaac Boadway, in 1931, it was converted into a two family dwelling. It is now a multi-apartment building.

The square of land from here along Main Street for nine houses and south to Sunset Blvd was all sold by Abraham Stouffer Sr. to Abraham Jr. in 1871 and then subdivided into 37 lots, with Albert and Victoria Streets being created at this time.

On the site of #6179 Main Street was a frame two-storey home built about 1873 for Eliza Cook. In 1918 William Quantz purchased her home and replaced it with this brick house the following year.

#6173: This frame house built on the centre hall plan with the large front verandah was built about 1872 for David Musselman, who lived here for six years. Then Henry Woodgate, first clerk of the Village of Stouffville, following incorporation in 1877, purchased this lot, and the corner lot. He later acquired the first lot south on Albert St. All three lots



9 Albert Street

were sold to Joseph A. Todd in 1895. The Wellington Helmkey family were here from 1914 to 1948 when it was purchased by Magnus Mowat, an early station agent, and it remains in that family to this day.

Walk south on Albert Street. On the corner lot was once a large red-brick, eight-roomed home built around 1895 probably by Nathan Forsyth, for Joseph A. and Florence Todd. Pictures show it to be similar to the house just south on Albert St. Joseph was a grain dealer, postmaster in the early 1900s and the Reeve of Stouffville in 1902. He built the block of stores across the street. Llewellyn, his son, inherited the house and business in 1913. He moved to Toronto in 1935. Delbert Holden lived here until his death in 1946 and his wife Gertrude lived here for another 10 years. Henry and Marie Adams purchased in 1954. A Christian bookstore was established here before the house burnt down in December 1980.

#19 Albert: This house was also built c1896 for the Todd family. Note the decorative soldier-brick trim above the stained glass windows. This was the Joseph Mowder family home from 1919 to 1947. Here son Fred operated the Snow White Dairy whose motto was "You can't beat our milk, but you can whip our cream."

#14 Albert: Built for George Collard, a retired druggist, about 1921, this brick and shingle home replaces the 1890s veterinary clinic of John Storry, who first had his office here, before moving to the north side of Main Street about 1906.

#12 Albert St: This new home, built in 1987, replaces a plastercast home built here c1872 for Benjamin Sullivan.

#11 Albert St: Thomas Wallis built this home about 1877. Notice the low fieldstone foundation, the double arched windows and the enclosed porch which replaces the original wooden verandah with its ornate gingerbread trim. The insulbrick siding is a 1930s upgrade, and is becoming increasingly rare.

#9 Albert: John Park, co-owner of the planing mill, built this charming frame home about 1887. They lived here until 1922 when John and Ida Cleaver purchased it. It was sold again in 1943. Notice the detailed trim over the windows on the upper floor and the five-sided lower bay window with gingerbread detail and shingled canopy. Can you see where the larger side window has been replaced with a modern one?

On the east side of Albert, where Testa Villa apartments now stand, there was a large factory building. In March 1876, a group of local businessmen formed a joint stock company under the title of The Stouffville Flour Manufacturing Company. Jesse G. Reesor was elected president and overseer of the company. In March 1878 a general meeting of shareholders was held to resolve the company's financial problems. The shareholders agreed to sell the building and



"Vinegar Works"

the business to Jesse Reesor, which they did in April. A year later Jacob Raymer purchased the Flour Company and Jesse Reesor moved to St. Joseph's Island, taking most of the milling machinery with him. The company went out of business in 1888 and in 1889 the firm of Sanders, Williamson & Company converted the old mill into a roller mill. New machinery was installed and Ed Wheeler Sr. was the manager. They also were a grist and chop mill for the local farmer.

In 1893 the partnership of William McCormick and George Boulton bought the building and opened the Toronto Fruit and Vinegar Company, manufacturing cider, vinegar and ketchup. In 1901 the Pakenham Pork Packing Company rented a portion of the building to process meat. This venture did not last very long.

In 1908 the Toronto Fruit and Vinegar went into receivership and was sold. The T.A. Lytle Co. purchased the property in 1909. In April 1921 the property was purchased by the The Stouffville Cider & Vinegar Company. In August of the same year the property was sold again to The National Cooperage Co. Equipment to manufacture barrels for apples, flour and nails was installed. The new company opened for business in June, 1922. The 1924 firemap indicates that the company was no longer in business at that time.

George Aston purchased the building and The Goldfish Supply Company, which had a worldwide trade, was opened in November 1930. During WWII part of the basement was used by Campbell Soup Co. for storage of canned goods. This property was sold for development in 1970, and Testa Villa Apartments was opened about 1972.



The seven multi-family dwellings on the south side of Sunset were also built on vinegar works property c1981/2.

#10 Albert: This 1½-storey plastercast Gothic home, now covered in white siding, was built c1873 for William Stennett. Note the low fieldstone foundation and upper arched window. The best known resident of this home was Ross "Shine" Davis who was a village tailor and one of Stouffville's most beloved citizens.

#8 Albert: This 1½-storey frame home was built c1872 for Samuel Lehman. Note the centre entrance, symmetrical ground floor windows, upper arched window and decorative trim. Jesse Reesor, owner of the flour mill across the street, purchased the home shortly after it was built. Jacob Raymer bought this home c1880 for his sons' families who were here for some time.



6 Albert Street

#6 Albert: This very large 2-storey, 14-room red-brick home was built c1875 for Jacob Raymer, a miller. When Raymer's business failed, Walter Miller, a retired banker, purchased the home, and lived here for many years. It was used as a two family house for quite some time, but it is once again a well-kept single family home. Note the variations in the keystones over the windows and doors.

#2 Albert: Built c1895 for James McConnachie, the manager of the Toronto Fruit and Vinegar works across the way. Note the L-shaped verandah, with two entrances. The fieldstone foundation is not as low as the one at #6, as the basement furnace has now replaced heating stoves.

Walk west on Sunset Blvd. to Victoria Street; walk north, looking at the houses on the east side. Many of the smaller frame homes were built for rental income.

#51 Victoria: Built about 1881 for William P. Hartney, the lath and limestone dealer, the appearance of this home has not changed much. This home was purchased by George Washington, a minister, in 1905 and then by Ira Badgerow in 1915. His daughter, Ruth, ran the "Betty Beauty Salon" out of the front room.



51 Victoria Street

#45 and #39 Victoria: These two little bungalows were built by Wes Schell - #45 in the summer of 1925 and #39 in

the summer of 1939; note the date on the front sidewalk.

#33 Victoria: Built in 1887 for Richard Brimson, a retired farmer, this clapboard home was originally a roughcast building with ornate Victorian porches. It became the home of John and Melinda Lewis, whose descendants still live in Stouffville.

#27 Victoria: Built c1886 for Darius Clendenan. Changes to this 2-storey, 7-room frame home include replacing the wrap-around front verandah. The present owner has plans to remodel it once again.

#19 Victoria: Built c1879 for Hiram Johnson who sold it immediately to Ransom Clendenan, it was purchased in 1915 by Charles Hainer, a minister of the Christian Church at the east end of town. His widow sold the property in 1919 to Joseph Grose, who lived here for over 30 years. Note the contrasting brick coins and symmetrical windows. The large verandah replaces the L-shaped one from days gone by.

Now walk south looking at the west side of Victoria.

#20 and #24 Victoria: Built by Henry Woodgate about 1875, purchased by John Pickering and rented out, these small workmen's houses have stood the test of time well.

#28 and #30 Victoria: These rental dwellings, built by Ben Sullivan c1876, were sold shortly after to separate owners. #28 has had major restoration done in the past few years.

#34 Victoria: This home was also built by Henry Woodgate, the town clerk, at the same time as the two houses to the north, for rental income. The vertical board-and-batten siding is a recent addition, covering the old "iron-cladding".

#40 Victoria: This home was built about 1889 for Thomas Clarke, a stone mason. After numerous changes of ownership, it has been in the Fields family since 1920.

#46/48 Victoria: This plastercast double house was built for Thomas Williamson c1875 as a rental property, possibly for accommodation for his flour mill workers. The stone front porch, similar to many others in the west end, was added in the 1920s by the "cobblestone porch-doctor", Jacob Jennings.

#52 Victoria: This small cottage was built by Andrew Pipher c1875. Note the fieldstone foundation and centre front entrance.

Turn right on Sunset Boulevard. Until the early 1970s Sunset Blvd. was a dusty laneway leading to the Brillinger cabbage fields, and Walter

Duke's orchard and strawberry patch. Walter lived in the barn about where #232 Sunset Blvd. is situated.

At Clarke Street, walk north, looking at the west side. James Clarke purchased 3 acres fronting Main Street from Elizabeth Woodburn and put a street down the centre with ten lots on either side. David and Elizabeth Wideman had their family here during the 1850s, in one of the three known early homes west of the tracks.

#42 Clarke: This split-level home was built c1975 to replace a 1-storey home which was built c1889 for George Greenbury. This earlier home was sold to John Pearson, a music teacher in 1893. His son Cleve lived here for over 80 years.

#38 Clarke: Built c1889 for James Young, a stonemason, this home still has its original door. The windows have been replaced, and the back portion is an addition. The original verandah would likely not have had a railing.

Walk west on Main Street.

#6085: The first owner of this large red-brick home, built about 1905 by Colin McKenzie, was William T. Boynton. Owned by the Boynton family for about 40 years, it passed through a number of owners before being purchased in 1979 by Dr. M. McDowell and converted to his offices.

#6077: William Boynton sold the west half of his property to Fred Betz in 1914, who built a house here for James Bruce. Five years later James Bruce sold to the Waddells who occupied this home for 33 years. Other owners have included Edward Neville, an appliance dealer.

The next three 1½-storey homes [#6069, #6063, #6055] were built in the early 1920s. The author of "High Bright Buggy Wheels", Luella Bruce Creighton, lived in #6063.

Orchard Park Blvd. subdivision was created in 1946.

The 2-storey, red-brick house on the west corner (#6043) was built c1934 for John Hodgins, the station agent.

#6031: Evidence indicates that this house may have been a barn built c1854 by pumpmaker J. Lemmon Connor, making this building one of the oldest in this part of Stouffville.

John Degeer, a carpenter, purchased the 2-acre corner lot from the Stouffers in 1837. It appears that there was already a building or business here when J. Lemmon Connor purchased this lot in 1851 for £225.





Walk south on the Ninth Line, past Sunset Blvd, to #12185, which is the oldest home south of Main Street in this end of town. On a 10-acre parcel, purchased by Benjamin Brillinger in 1856 stands a house built in 1860 to replace the original which was burnt that year. Brillingers were always market gardeners, and this property was no exception. It was purchased by Walter Muston in 1920. He erected greenhouses in 1924 and put in a boiler system for steam heat. He grew roses and tomatoes that were shipped all over Ontario.

Walk east on Sunset Blvd. past the newer homes which were built in the 1970s. The property for Orchard Park School was purchased by the Stouffville School Board in 1958. Christ Church, Anglican, was erected first as a parish hall in the 1960s with the sanctuary being built in 1984. The congregation, which formed in 1880, had their first church where the Post Office is at present.

Walk north on Clarke Street looking at the houses on the east side.

#47 Clarke: Built during the 1940s, known as the Merv Watts home, the original part of the house faced south, with a showcase garden and lawn running to the wagon path that became Sunset Blvd. Merv worked for Stiver Feed Mills, and his wife had a dress and milliner shop in the block of stores just west of the tracks.



17 Clarke Street

Illustration shows #17 as it was in the 1890s.

The next four houses [#35, #31, #25, #17] were built shortly after the subdivision was registered in December 1888. #35 and #25 were rental properties for many years. #17 was the home of the "cobblestone porch-doctor", Jacob Jennings. The #6097: This large 2-storey, 10-room red brick Gothic-style home was built about 1892 for Francis Watson of Ringwood. It became the long-term home of Arthur and Nora Stapleton in 1916. In 1967 the house and north half of the lot were sold to Almer and Annie Fockler and the south half of the lot to George Timbers.



6097 Main Street

#6105: The house as you see it is very much in the style of the original, with the only difference being in the front porch. Built for David and Sophia Latchford, it passed to



Latchford Carriage Works

their daughter Florence Urquhart, and was sold in 1972, nearly 80 years later.

The site of the first two houses on the west corner of Main and Victoria was originally the location of David Latchford's carriage works. The frame building was built about 1888 and demolished pre-1910. The corner house was built in 1942 for

Wes Schell. The house next door, #6111 Main Street, was also built on the carriage works property after 1924.

#6131: In 1873 Hiram Johnson purchased this lot from the Stouffers and erected a large, rectangular 2-storey, red-brick, flat-roofed building. From all appearances it was intended to be used as a commercial property. We know that James Dougherty and later Ludwig Wideman conducted their marble business from this site. It eventually became a dwelling, and in 1956 was purchased by Doctors Button and Brodie, who demolished the large building and erected the current medical centre.

#6139: [illustrated on the front cover] A plastercast, frame home was built c1873 for Rev. J.B. Moore, the

Methodist minister. In late 1880 Ludwig and Matilda Wideman purchased this home situated next door to his business. It remained in the Wideman family until 1962. Around 1924 many renovations were made. The porch is a fine example of "cobblestone porch-doctoring" by Jacob Jennings.

#6147: This red-brick home has an interesting history. It was an 11-room, 2-storey home with a large verandah across both the front and back, built about 1873 for David Stouffer, who lived here for about 3 years before selling to James Fairles. Darius Clendenan acquired it in 1903, and sold it four years later to Addie Atkinson, who lived here for 37 years. Charles Neal of Agincourt then owned the house for 20 years. In April 1945 the second storey was removed, leaving the staircase to the ceiling! In 1993 Antonio Zanet replaced the second storey, using the original windows which had been stored in the barn.

#6153 Main Street: This white frame home appears to have been built for Robert Tranmer, a retired farmer, about 1872. It is now a rental dwelling that has recently had a well-done facelift.

This completes this walking tour.

