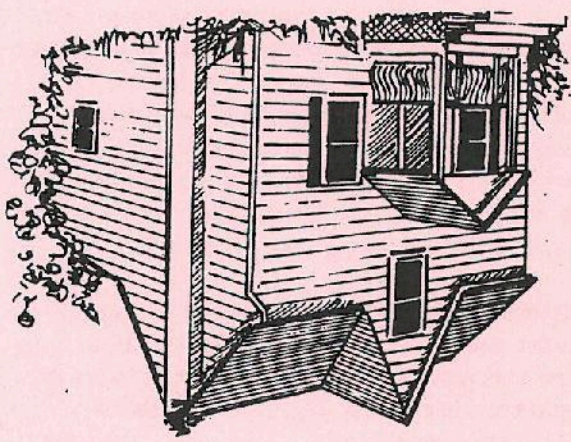


44 Albert Street



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

Stouffville Junction
North

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE
WALKING TOUR

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 chancelier (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,

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

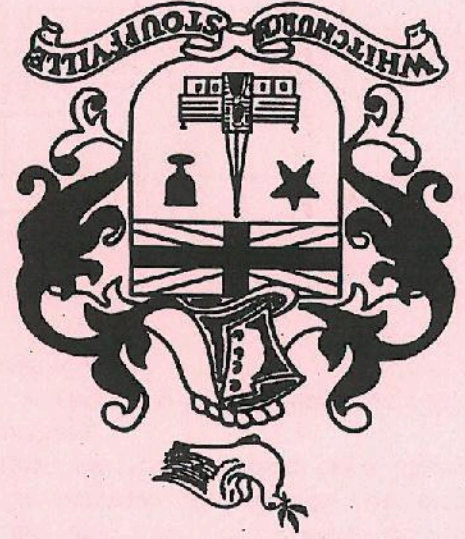
Other Brochures:

- 1 Stouffville Centre North
- 2 Stouffville Centre South
- 3 Brimstone Point North
- 4 The Slough of Despond
- 5a Heart of Stouffville - W
- 5b Heart of Stouffville - E
- 6 Brimstone Point South
- 7 Stouffville Junction South

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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.

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