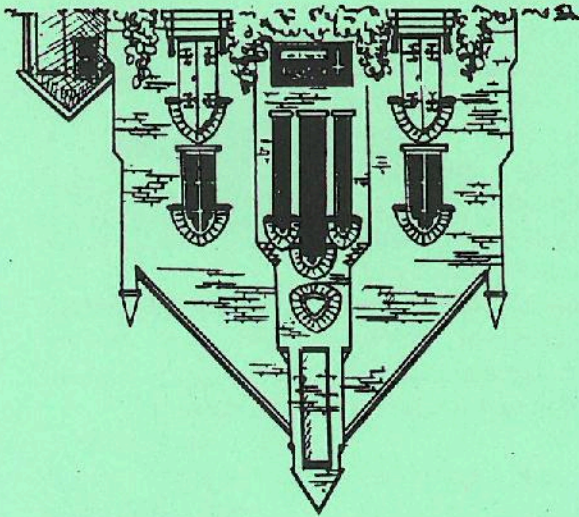


Memorial Christian Church  
1874



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

*Brimstone Point North*

3

**STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE  
WALKING TOUR**

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,



1. Village Centre North
  2. Village Centre South
- Other completed tours:

Map and Illustrations by  
Fenella Smith

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.

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**

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.

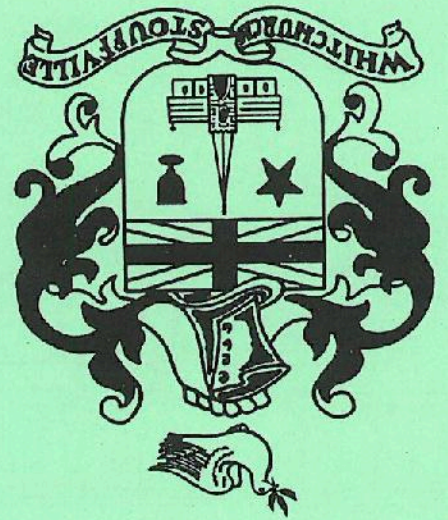
#238 Stouffer was built c1868 by carpenter and furniture maker George Flint Sr. It is a simple, 1½-storey frame house. Similar frame houses on the tour include numbers 328, 334, 341, 353 and 392 Stouffer Street, #359 Boyer and numbers 337, 357 and 377 South Street. Most of these retain some vestige of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

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.



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.

**THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE**

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