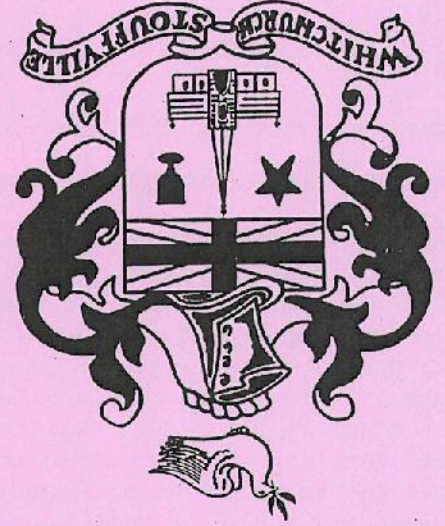


Following the creation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1971, a crest was developed as a symbol of the Town. Its images represent the three entities which contributed land and population to the new Town, Whitchurch and Markham Townships and the Village of Stouffville. A white church represents the former 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 centered 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.

THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE

and store in 1832. After Sheldon, John Smith, then Lewis Moffitt owned the property. Dr. A.C. Lloyd bought the property in 1847, and his son-in-law Alex Sangster developed the business known as Sangster's Hotel.

After a fire destroyed the hotel in 1878, the property was subdivided and put on the market. The Main Street lots were purchased by W.B. Sanders, R.J. Daley (2 lots) and William Leancy, who each built a commercial block. Sanders and Daley collaborated c1882 to produce what appears to be a single, large block. The Sanders building, #6302*, is distinguished by the keystones over the windows. Sanders' son, Harry, had a law office on the second floor. Well-known stores in this block were Rowbotham's general store and Roy Curtis' men's furnishings store.

The west half of R.J. Daley's Block, #6304/6*, was the site of his own shoe store, then was owned by David Stouffer, 1894-1900. In 1919, Amos Lehman relocated his shoe store here from across the street. The second floor has housed a Masonic Hall, the public library (into the 1890s) and W.J. Stark & Walter Miller's private bank. Other businesses in this building have included a saddle/harness shop, "Shine" Davis' tobacco shop (a gathering place for the men), and Ken Laushway's insurance office. The east half, #6308-12*, became known as the Sylvester Block. W.A. Sylvester and L. Dougherty had a hardware store here. They were succeeded by Reg Stouffer and Crest Hardware. Various other businesses have been in the block, including Paul Boadway's Dominion Store and Fong's Chinese Restaurant.

This Brochure has been published with the financial support of the Stouffville Downtown Business Association

- Other Brochures:
- 1 Stouffville Centre North
 - 2 Stouffville Centre South
 - 3 Brimstone Point North
 - 4 The Slough of Despond
 - 5a Heart of Stouffville - W

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

#6280 was built c1863 as a house for Richard Barnes on property owned in the 1830s by Benjamin Boyer, then John Boyer. It was the Shankel home until 1934 when Art Weldon bought it and added the storefront for his menswear and shoe shop. Len Wilkes sold clothing here, until it was bought by the Central Mennonite Committee in 1981.

#6284, originally a frame building, was Godfrey Shankel's harness shop before he turned to barbering. It became Milt Storry's pharmacy in 1933, and has remained a drug store ever since.

#6286/90 (built in 1986) replaces the original Sanders Block (1884) which was developed by W.B. Sanders on this site. E.A. Button moved his hardware

business here in 1912, where he remained for 30 years, followed by Riches', Hendricks' and Card's. Fred Button had a law office with James McCullough in this building.

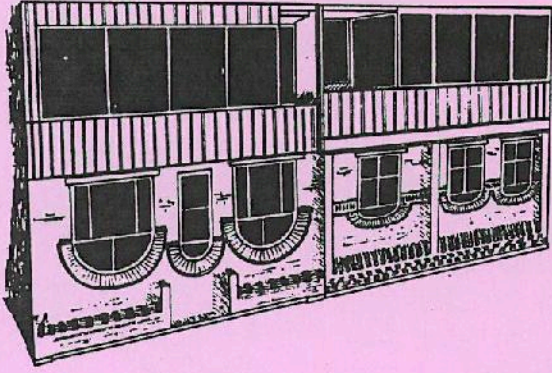
#6294* (* illustrated in streetscape below) was built for Dr. A.C. Lloyd who rented the property to J.J. Rae for a grocery and dry goods store on the main floor; his son Frank Rae did tailoring upstairs. Later the Bank of Nova Scotia leased the store building, followed by the Mayfair Restaurant in the late 1940s.

After the brick house behind the store was moved to 21 Commercial Street (c1930), the next two stores were erected on what had been the front lawn. #6296* (1938) housed Harry Golden's clothing store and #6298* (1939) was a 5¢ to \$1 store operated by Hugh Bannerman.

From the next red-brick block through to the corner and north to the south side of the United Church parking lot is a one-acre lot where Charles Sheldon had his home

Produced by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society 1995

The Spofford & Mertens Blocks (as they are today)



Including Main Street, and Church Street South of Main between Mill Street and Park Drive

The Heart of Stouffville: East 56

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

The tour begins at the corner of Main and Mill Streets and takes the reader east (looking at the north side) to Park Drive, and back (looking at the south side). The reader is advised to walk on the south side to observe buildings on the north and vice versa on the return trip.

Land and Buildings in the Village Centre

Property history in this part of Main Street is obscured by irregularly shaped lots, numerous severances and some peculiar land usage rights.

The main business section, with its row of stores, has some unique terminology. To describe a business location without the benefit of street numbering, "blocks" were named after the current property owner or most prominent business occupant. Thus, over the years, several names may be found referring to one building.

The intersection of Main, Mill & Market Streets has long been the primary crossroads of the business area of Stouffville, and the names indicate why.

An 1888 photograph of the northeast corner of Mill & Main shows four frame houses with businesses on their main floors. The first two have been replaced; the others remain in altered form. Dr. Alex Sangster built (1890), rented, then sold #6272 to Fred Spofford for his "Bargain House". The Mammoth consortium took over the Spofford Block in 1898, before building the Mammoth Building across the street. The block has had many owners and housed many businesses. (#6272 & 6276 illustrated on cover.)

#6276, known as the Mertens Block, was built in the 1890s for William J. Mertens, who had his photography studio on the second floor. When Mertens moved to Toronto in 1905, Bill Sanders took over the photography business. The building was sold to the main floor tenant, George Collard, a chemist, and renamed the Collard Block. Two newspapers, the *Free Press* and the *Seminal* were published here. A central tower and flagpole have been removed and the facade modified.

