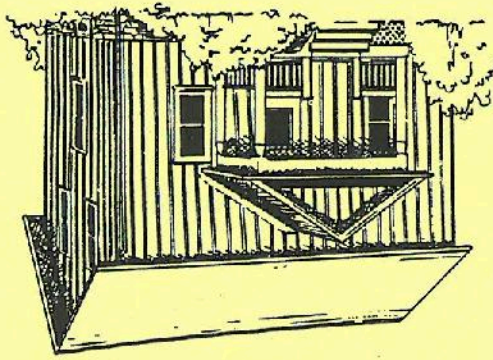


Produced by the  
Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Historical Society  
1994

The Holden House  
c1870



Including Main Street,  
between Park Drive and Stouffer Street

Slough of Despond

4

## STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

The tour begins on Peter Street, now known as **Park Drive**, south of Main Street at the edge of Memorial Park, which was once farmland. Early Stouffville was a strip of widely-spaced buildings along both sides of the Town Line dividing Markham and Whitchurch townships. There were occasional streets cutting through to the farms behind.

Latham Hall, on the west side of Park Drive, was built in 1972 and is named in honour of Arthur Latham (1895-1979), whose generous donations to area communities have included a variety of public facilities.

Walk north on Park Drive to **Main Street**, past the town-owned lot which provides parking for users of Main Street and the park. A 1½-storey frame house owned by Thomas Shaw in 1900 and the garage Arthur Swift operated from the 1920s to the 1960s formerly occupied this site.

Walking east along the south side of Main Street, the first building is a sturdy, 2½-storey brick house, #6411, built c1914 for William H. Todd. A similar house will be seen at #6521. In 1914 this house and property were valued at \$1200. The verandah is Greek-revival with its simple columns and pediment over the stairs.

#6421 is a frame, 2-storey house of a design similar to many of the early east-end homes. The house was built in 1855 for Thomas Shaw, who co-published the first village paper, *The Pay Advocate*. The house features a full, front verandah and a summer kitchen extending out the back. In the 1860s, it was owned by cooper Thomas Brownlee, who worked his trade at Wheeler's gristmill.



In the 1890s, Thomas Brownlee built the double house to the east, #6429/#6431, as a rental property. His daughter, Annie, continued

the tradition, and, at the turn of the century was renting to Mrs. Beater, a widow, and Chas. Pipher, a labourer.

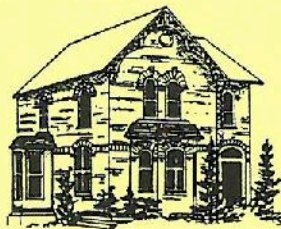
The creek drains an area north of Main Street which was once swamp, earning the road from this

point to Baker Street the name "Slough of Despond". Wheeler's sawmill provided planks to build a plank road, but it sank into the swamp, as did the tons of gravel and dirt added later. Cedar logs were laid to make a corduroy road in the early 1900s, and the road was Macadamised in 1923. As late as 1935, there were still problems with this section of Main Street, contributing to a continuing division between the east and west parts of the village.

#6435 is the first house on what is known as the "Tannery Lot". This 1 acre lot gets its name from the tanning business, one of the necessities in a pioneer community, that had been conducted here since early in Stouffville's history. In 1855, the Tannery Lot was owned by Augustus Von Buseck, a saddler and harness-maker, who came from Markham. The lot was subsequently sold to Donald McMurchy, then William Button, who began the subdivision of the property. Land records show the next six houses located on this lot.

#6445 is a 2-storey frame house sitting very low on its foundation, which indicates its age. It may have been moved here in the 1920s, as it does not appear on the 1910 fire map.

Still on the Tannery Lot, #6461 is an old building which we can safely say was on the site prior to 1910. Could this have been a tannery building?



The last of the Tannery Lot buildings, #6465, is a brick, Victorian house built in 1875 for John B. Flint, who manufactured hay rakes. Note the bay windows on the east and front. This house stands out in the area for its size and Victorian features, such as the arched windows, gable woodwork and brick detailing.

#6481/6483 is another frame, double house, built in the late 1870s. The lot is lower than the street, perhaps indicative of the continued efforts to get the road out of the swamp. At one time the Church of England congregation met here. The owner in 1900 was R.P. Coulson. Coulson was a druggist, and also published the *Sentinel* newspaper in the 1890s. He was Village Reeve from 1907 to 1912.

#6491, built in 1890, was bought by William Malloy

Previous Brochures include:  
1 Stouffville Centre North  
2 Stouffville Centre South  
3 Brimstone Point North

photo credit:  
Stouffville Illustrated Free Press  
Supplement: November 1895

Map and Illustrations by  
Fenella Smith

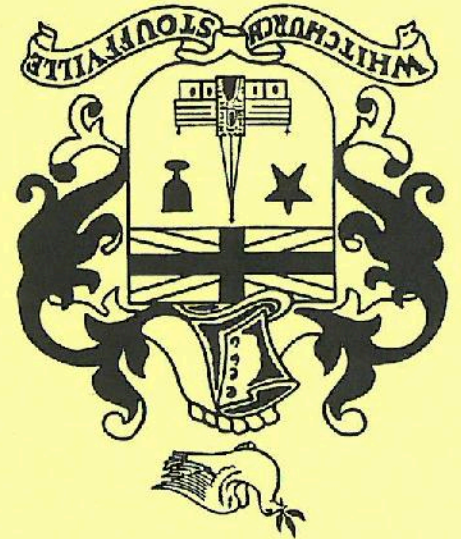
Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this brochure. Corrections and additional information will be gratefully received.

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.

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

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 constituted 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 Duffins 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

in 1892 for \$500. While Mr. Malloy was the owner and editor of the *Stouffville Tribune* from 1890 until 1915, he gave much time to community works, including serving as librarian at the Mechanics Institute. His son, Howard "Pat" Malloy worked on the paper for many years; however, he did not take over the ownership or editorship from his father. Instead, A.V. Nolan bought the paper in 1922.

The two houses immediately west of **Pine Street** stand on land donated by Abraham Stouffer for the Baptist church and its drive sheds, built c1874. Prior to this, the congregation had met in the Temperance Hall on College Street (see below). The church building at Pine Street was demolished in 1926 and the bricks were used in the construction of the new church at Main Street and O'Brien Avenue.

Take a brief jaunt down Pine Street to see #16 on the back half of the church lot. It is a frame, farm-style house, which was built c1891 for Daniel Miller, a labourer.

#6525 Main Street (see cover illustration) is a 1½-storey, board and batten house with a rough stone foundation. It was built c1870 for Sinclair Holden, who was a general merchant in the east end.



To the east, #6531, is a unique blend of Victorian features in a frame house. This particular house design was more common in brick, as seen on

George Street in the centre of town. The wings are bayed offering an opportunity for distinctive woodwork in the gables. The house is thought to date from 1895, but has a rough stone foundation, unusual at this late date. The house was built for the Milton Kesters, who had retired from farming. Milton's widow, Ann, owned the house until her death in 1926.

**Summitview Public School** received its current name as the result of a student competition in 1959. The first school in the village (c1855) was located in a frame building on the site of the United Church on Church Street (see Walking Tour #1). The school