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→ Myrna



TOWN OF

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

York

"25 YEARS"

19 CIVIC AVENUE, P.O. BOX 419
STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO L4A 7Z6

(905) 640-1900
(905) 895-2423
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RECREATION DEPT. (905) 640-6527
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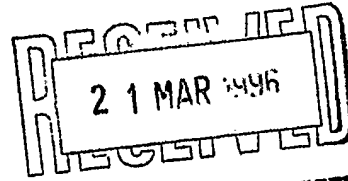
March 14, 1996

RECEIVED
IN THE OFFICE

APR 3 1996

CULTURAL PROGRAMS
HERITAGE UNIT

Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ontario Heritage Centre
10 Adelaide Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3



Dear Sir/Madame:

RE: WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HISTORIC BUILDINGS - HERITAGE
DESIGNATION (C10-HE & R01)

Please be advised that the above-noted matter was placed before Council in Committee at its meeting held on March 12, 1996.

It was the decision of the Committee, at that time, to recommend the following resolution, which was approved by Council at its meeting held on March 12, 1996:

"THAT By-law 96-40, a by-law to designate the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's buildings as being of architectural and/or historical value or interest pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, Part IV, be presented to Council for consideration."

A copy of By-law 96-40 is enclosed.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Michele Kennedy, A.M.C./T.,
Clerk

MK:lb

Encl.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 96-40-DS

A by-law to designate a certain property
as being of Historic and/or Architectural
value or interest.
(Museum Historic Buildings)

WHEREAS Section 29, Subsection 6 of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 0.18, R.S.O. 1990, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is the owner of the lands and premises as outlined hereunder:

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Historic Buildings
(Vandorf Public School Bogarttown Schoolhouse, Log Cabin, Barn, Brown House, Outhouse)
14732 Woodbine Avenue,
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 7X2

and has served upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Historic Buildings, Part Lot 17, Concession 3, former Township of Whitchurch, more particularly described as Plan M41, Part Lot 2 RS65R5720, Part 1, municipally known as 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Stouffville, and has caused notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

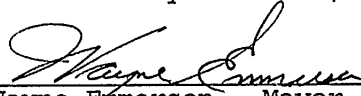
AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, being the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Historic Buildings, municipally known as 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Stouffville, being in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in the Regional Municipality of York, being Part Lot 17, Concession 3, former Township of Whitchurch, more particularly described as Plan M41, Part Lot 2, RS65R5720, Part 1, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Regional Municipality of York, be designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.
2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described herein in the Land Registry Office.

READ a first and second time this 12th day of March, 1996.

READ a third time and passed this 12th day of March, 1996.


Wayne Emmerson - Mayor


Michele Kennedy - Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL

THE WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE MUSEUM HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Vandorf Public School

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse

The Log Cabin

The Barn

The Brown House

The Outhouse

14732 Woodbine Avenue
Lot, 17, Concession 3, Former Township of Whitchurch
Plan M41 Part Lot 2, RS65R5720 Part 1

Prepared By: Heritage Whitchurch-
Stouffville with the
assistance of Museum
staff
November, 1995

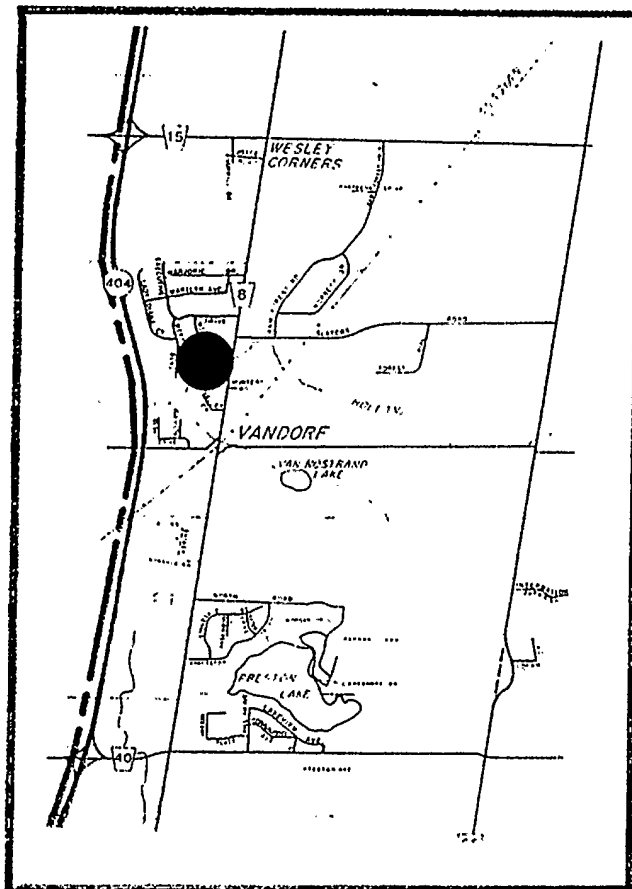
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's historic buildings which include the Vandorf Public School, the Bogarttown Schoolhouse, the Log Cabin, the Barn, the Brown House and the Outhouse are recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of their architectural, historical and contextual significance to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the July 6th, 1994 meeting of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Board, the Board passed a resolution to request Heritage Whitchurch-Stouffville to consider the Museum's historic buildings for designation pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. A letter was subsequently forwarded to Heritage Whitchurch-Stouffville and research initiated on the structures.

SITE LOCATION



IDENTIFICATION

Property:	The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum 14732 Woodbine Avenue Concession 3, Part Lot 17 Plan M41 Part Lot 2 RS65R5720 Part 1 Frontage: 264 feet Site Area: 1.82 acres
Owner:	The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville P.O. Box 419 19 Civic Avenue Stouffville, Ontario L4A 7Z6
Assessment Roll Number:	090-59000

HISTORICAL/CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Vandorf Public School

As in most communities in Upper Canada, education in Vandorf began through home teaching. According to a 1949 newspaper clipping which refers to a document dated 1883, there was a formal school in Vandorf as early as 1833. The document listed William Ashton as the school's first teacher in August of 1833. The Archives of Ontario has records of a Common School in Vandorf in 1848. The exact whereabouts of the 1833 and/or 1848 schools are unknown. Oral history sources report that there was a school on Lot 21, Concession 3, located at the present day site of the Wesley Church parking lot. It is possible that either or both the 1833 and 1848 schools could have been held in or near the Wesley Church. The 1860 Tremaine map does not illustrate a school in Vandorf, further supporting the idea that the school was first held within the Wesley Church. The map of Whitchurch Township included in the Miles & Company Historical Atlas published in 1878, does however show the school located at its present site on the east half of Lot 17, Concession 3, directly across the road from the Van Nostrand Sawmill.

The first school in Vandorf for which definite records exist was a school located just north of the present building, on the east half of Lot 17, Concession 3. The school was described as a small frame building and Leander Taylor was the teacher. It was used until the present structure was built in 1870.

The present school was erected on a parcel of land just south of the old school, fronting on Woodbine Avenue. In April 1870, one acre was purchased from George Powell for \$20.00. Another half acre on the north side was purchased from John Williamson for \$30.00. The south end of the property adjacent to the Holland River, was swampy and reportedly filled in with sawdust from the Van Nostrand Sawmill across the road.

In 1884, a small bell tower was added and a bell purchased for \$11.45 was installed. Neither the tower nor the bell remain today. At that time (1884) the estimated value of the schoolhouse and site was \$800.00. Desks, furniture, books and maps were valued at \$230.00.

One of the most notable teachers for the Vandorf School was William Brown, who taught at the school from 1873 until his death from diabetes in November, 1880. In addition to his talents as a teacher he contributed greatly to the grounds of the school. With the help of the older boys in the class, Mr. Brown planted rows of trees on the east, west and north sides of the school property, some of which still stand. In October of 1880 the ratepayers held a special meeting to select a teacher for 1881 in view of Mr. Brown's failing health. It was decided that Mr. Brown should again be contracted demonstrating the community's tremendous respect for Mr. Brown as it was well known that he would most likely not recover. A permanent successor was not appointed until after his death.

In 1905, the School was remodelled. It was raised, a new basement was constructed, and the exterior was bricked with a cement brick. The original two front entrances were converted to centre-pointed (Gothic) windows and a central entrance, segmental in shape, was installed. An exterior staircase to the new entrance was constructed. Cloak rooms, a furnace room and play rooms were built inside the new basement. Basement entrances at the north and south side were created. A coal burning furnace was installed for \$43.55. The interior furnishings were also upgraded at this time. New double desks were purchased from Office Specialty in Newmarket for \$117.00. The wooden blackboards were replaced with slate ones. To finance these renovations, taxes were increased slightly and \$1200.00 was borrowed from William Ough of Aurora which was repaid at \$300.00 a year.

In 1911, a small piece of land behind the school was purchased from G.H. Powell for \$35.00 and a woodshed, which had been located north of the school, was moved to this new plot of land.

In 1913, a new well was bored for \$219.00. Previously, in 1872, a well had been dug, bricked and equipped with a pump, but it had proven unsatisfactory.

School fairs were started in 1915 under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. Spring vegetable and flower seeds were given to the children, and they were encouraged to grow their own gardens at home. Their produce would be brought to the School Fair in September. These fairs continued for twenty-four years.

In 1923, hot drinks were provided for each student at lunch. This program was funded by a government grant and the Vandorf Women's Institute. It continued for over thirty years.

In 1936, the school was wired for electricity at the cost of \$120.00. Musical instruction, though always included in the curriculum, varied according to the talents of the teacher. In 1939, a music teacher was employed to come once a week. Also in 1939, Manual Training and Home Economics were incorporated into the curriculum. A used carpenter bench and some tools were purchased from Mr. Edmund A. Cale. Once a week, a male teacher taught Manual Training and a female teacher came to provide Home Economics lessons which consisted mainly of sewing. This continued for two and a half years after which time, the students were taken to Aurora High School once a week for these subjects. By 1953, the high school could no longer accommodate the Vandorf students and the project was dropped.

Sanitary toilets were installed in the northwest and southwest corners of the basement in 1942. They were an improvement over the outhouses, although a pail of water a day was required to facilitate flushing. They were used until 1956 when the new two-room schoolhouse was built on the east side of Woodbine.

In 1944, Rev. E.C. Moddle of Wesley Church and later Rev. V.A. Wood and Rev. I.E. Kennedy came once a week to teach religion. Religious instruction at the School lasted for

almost fifteen years. In 1945, there was an attempt to organize a dental clinic for the children at the Vandorf School. The expense was to be covered by a government grant and by the ratepayers. Due to the difficulties of getting the children to Aurora and having them attended by a dentist once they arrived, the idea was abandoned after a few years.

Starting in 1947, Mr. DeWitt, from the National Film Board, came periodically to show educational movies. This lasted for at least eight years. In 1950, text books were supplied by the Board of Education and an oil furnace was installed to replace the coal one. From 1952, the Department of Education sent out travelling libraries to stay for two to three months, after which time they would be returned and replaced by a different group of books.

The Vandorf Public School, as other schools, was subject to inspection. The first school inspections were done inconsistently by members of the staff of the County Council. One such inspector was John T. Stokes, the County Engineer for York. The School Act of 1871 required all school inspectors to have a First Class Teacher's Certificate from a Normal School. David Fotheringham was appointed Inspector for North York at that time and held the position for several years. He was followed by A. B. Davidson. In 1906 C. W. Mulloy became Inspector and remained so for nearly twenty five years. It is said that he did his rounds in a horse and buggy, visiting one school in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Due to the large enrollment at the school, a new site was recommended where in 1956 a school was built. In 1957, the 1870 school building was sold to the Township of Whitchurch and was occupied by the Ontario Provincial Police. The school was remodelled and the front entrance was enclosed by the existing flat-roofed addition. Police lockers and a dark room were built in the basement. It is also possible that the two existing bathrooms were installed on the main floor at this time. It was used as a police station until December 1, 1971, when the Vandorf Community Centre Board took on the management of the school. From 1971 until 1979 the building was used as dead storage space for police files.

In 1979, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum relocated to this site and took over management of the Vandorf Public School as part of the Museum Complex. There is little remaining of the interior to reflect the 1870 structure, with the exception of the ceiling. The Museum's collection does have original artifacts from the school, including a globe, photographs, books, a math cube and a modulator. The basement still houses the police officer lockers and dark room.

Also in 1979, the main floor was opened up to utilize the main floor as a multi-use space. Two rooms at the rear of the main floor were kept for a kitchen and office space and the two upstairs washrooms were also renovated.

The Vandorf Public School has been a landmark building in the community for 125 years. It was improved during the 20th century to a substantial solid brick building, reflecting the community's interest and pride in their educational institution. Since the school's closure, the building has continued to serve the local area as a public institution, now serving as an

activity centre and storage area for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

Sources:

Vandorf Tweedsmuir Book, Vandorf Women's Institute. School Section No. 2 Whitchurch, Vandorf.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Minutes of Board Meetings and Vouchers.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum binder, Rural Schools of Whitchurch.

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse was originally constructed in 1857 on Lot 31, Concession 3 on the north side of Vivian Road between Leslie Street and Woodbine Avenue. In 1979, the structure was relocated to its present location (Lot 17, Concession 3) within the hamlet of Vandorf in order to accommodate the construction of Highway 404. Reputedly, it is the oldest remaining brick school in southern Ontario.

The first school that served the former hamlet of Bogarttown was reported to be on Lot 28, Concession 3, fronting on what is now known as Woodbine Avenue. This school also served another neighbouring community known as Pine Orchard. In 1856, the original school building was moved to Pine Orchard and attached to an existing residence.

In 1857, new schools were built so that each community, Pine Orchard and Bogarttown, had its own school. The new site for the Bogarttown school was in the centre of Lot 31, Concession 3, fronting on Mulock/Vivian Side Road. Records show that the land for the site came from two different owners. The west half of Lot 31 was owned by John Bogart who donated the western portion of school property. Joseph Taylor owned the other section of property which he sold to the school for \$20.00.

The new schoolhouse was constructed of brick. Originally it had two entrances, one for girls and one for boys. Francis Starr was the first teacher of the school and in 1859 was paid \$344.68. The Bogarttown School Centennial Scrapbooks note that in 1877 the school was worth \$1,352.00, the teacher was paid \$500.00 and enrollment was 13-16 students.

The building was also used as a Sunday School, called Bogarttown Union Sabbath School. The Union Sabbath School remained in existence for approximately 75 years, closing in 1921. Many names found in school records are also found in the records for the Sunday school. The school also served as a social meeting place for Bogarttown residents, as well as a concert hall. Several clubs also meet at the school, including the Bogarttown Community Club.

In his history of the Bogarttown, Elmer Starr recorded the careers of many of the former students. Joseph Henry Widdifield became a doctor while his younger brother, J.E. Widdifield, became postmaster of Newmarket. Another brother, Arthur Widdifield, studied in England and Scotland and acquired several degrees. He returned to Newmarket and practised medicine. Arthur also represented North York in the Provincial Parliament from 1875 to 1888 and was later named Sheriff for York County. He remained Sheriff until his death in 1906. William C. Widdifield, a fourth brother, became a lawyer and practised in Newmarket.

Milton Haight, who attended the Bogarttown School with the Widdifields, travelled to Japan after graduation to teach in a mission school. He returned due to poor health which prevented him from ever returning to Japan and caused his death at a young age.

Another student who went into missionary work was Arthur Hawtin. After taking special classes, Arthur travelled to India. There he and his wife, Frances Good of Brantford, were missionaries for more than 20 years. Reuben Hawtin, Arthur's brother became a Methodist minister in Alberta. John A. Hawtin, another brother, was a lumber driver and dealer, as well as Reeve for Beaverton.

Harvey Reginald McMillan also attended the Bogarttown Schoolhouse. McMillan moved to British Columbia and became one of the founders of McMillan Blodel. He was also appointed lumber controller for Canada during World War II.

Earl Toole became the local representative on the Whitchurch Township Council. He served as the local representative for 11 years. He was also Warden of York County in 1942.

P. W. Pearson became a teacher for several years and later entered into the coal and lumber industry in Newmarket. He was also a County Councillor and Warden and represented the riding of North York in the Legislative Assembly.

Fred Lundy moved to Newmarket and became Warden of York County in 1945.

Francis Starr, a descendant of the first school teacher of the Bogarttown School, served during World War II as a Commanding Officer in Northern Ontario and British Columbia. After the war, Francis travelled with the Friends Ambulance Unit to China. He remained there for 2 years helping with reconstruction and relief work. He returned briefly in 1947, then left for Poland for five months to help with relief efforts there. He then went to England and joined the Friends Service Council which sent him to India as a relief worker.

The Bogarttown School remained open until 1969. After 114 years as a school the building was sold to the Township of Whitchurch and continued as an educational institution by housing the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum which opened in 1971. The building was relocated to its present site in December of 1979 due to the construction of Highway 404.

The interior of the building has been altered several times. The building presently

houses museum galleries, staff offices, a library, archives and the Friends of the Museum gift shop. Part of the main floor reflects a classroom from the turn of the century. The Museum does have artifacts in its collection original to the schoolhouse including many books and desks. The desk of Francis Starr, the school's first teacher, is on loan to the Museum from the Starr family. The names of students dating back to the 19th century can still be seen, carved into the exterior brick on the front of the school.

Sources:

Bogarttown School Centennial Scrapbooks, 1957.

Starr, Elmer, The History of Bogarttown, 1948.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Minutes of Board Meetings; Local Community, Family and Renovation Files and Vouchers.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum binder, Rural Schools of Whitchurch.

The Log Cabin

The Log Cabin was discovered on the property of John and Sue Miles, Lot 20, Concession 7 on the Aurora Sideroad, between McCowan and Highway 48. Covered by insulbrick and substantially altered over time, its log construction was revealed while preparing the building for demolition. Once the square log construction and 19th century origin were realized, the home was donated to the Museum by the Miles.

According to local history, the Log Cabin was not originally constructed on Lot 20, Concession 7 but was relocated to this property approximately 60 years ago (c. 1935). The original location of the Cabin was on the east side of McCowan Road north of Aurora Sideroad. In 1981, the Log Cabin was relocated to the Museum in one piece. The structure however, does exhibit signs of being dismantled and re-assembled at some point in time. Most notably, there is evidence of a former window opening on the west facade north of the entrance: one log is cut out for a window sill, matching exactly the logs elsewhere in the cabin which have been shaped to accommodate windows. There are also two shorter logs which formerly fit between the entrance and the window and longer logs have subsequently been inserted to fill in the void left by the removal of the window. The logs where this window used to be, are not presently found in the correct order: the window sill cut out is too high thus suggesting that the structure was re-assembled.

The Cabin was first built on either Lot 22 or 23, Concession 7. John Stegman's 1802 survey map illustrates John Bassell as the landowner for Lot 22 and Joseph Direk for Lot 23. According to a commercial directory published in 1850-51, Robert Gray and James Phillips were located on Lot 22; no occupants were listed at the west half of Lot 23. The 1878

Historical Atlas lists Philip Macklem on the east half of Lot 22 and George Pipher and Robert McCormick on Lot 23.

Nora (Gray) Cechetto remembers her grandparents, Sarah and James Gray, living in the Cabin. Sarah (Simpson) died at 73 years on December 12, 1915 and James died four years later.

Later in the 1900s, the Cabin was used as a barn prior to its move to Ballantrae. Morley R. Davis remembers the Cabin being used as a cow barn about 60 years ago (c. 1934) on Fred Gray's Farm on the 7th Concession, (formerly the property of Robert Gray). The property was later sold to Jerry Sibley. Lynne Rubben's remembers an elderly couple living in the Log Cabin, after its first relocation to the Aurora Sideroad, up until 1978.

The Cabin has been restored and furnished with artifacts from the Museum's collection to reflect a home in the 1850s. The Log Cabin typifies an early settler home and provides the opportunity to interpret life in Whitchurch Township during the mid-19th century in contrast to the High Victorian era portrayed by the Brown House.

Sources:

Burkholder, Ruth. Index to Whitchurch Township Residents as shown in Directories and Census. Stouffville: RMB Services, 1988.

The Whitchurch History Book Committee. Whitchurch Township. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Co. Limited, 1993.

The Barn

The Barn at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum was re-constructed on site during an old fashioned barn raising bee in 1983. The reassembly of the Barn, following the traditional methods, was documented on video. Taking advantage of the expertise of local elders and the muscle power of young and old alike, the event was truly a community effort. Morley Symes, a renowned local barn-builder who had assisted previously to reconstruct the same barn, oversaw the entire project. Local dignitaries such as Eldred King, then Mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville and now the York Regional Chairman, provided assistance during the barn raising day. Local women provided a delicious and hearty supper for the hungry crowd and at the end of the day, the participants celebrated at an old fashioned square dance featuring a local band.

The Barn was originally built in the 19th century in Wexford, Scarborough. It was located at Kennedy Road and Ellesmere. In 1953 it was dismantled and moved to the Gilroy farm on Lot 14, Concession 7, Whitchurch. At this point in time, some of the exterior boards were replaced by wood sawn on the Gilroy property. It was reconstructed on the Gilroy

property by Morley Symes, who is known to have constructed 302 barns in the local area. In 1972 the property was purchased by Michael and Shirley Wade, who donated the Barn to the Museum. On May 21, 1990, the Barn was officially opened to the public with agricultural and barn-building tools on display.

Sources:

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Minutes of Board Meetings, Renovation Files and Vouchers.

The Brown House

The Brown House was originally constructed on the east half of Lot 2, Concession 10 and has considerable historical significance in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. A Bargain and Sale document dated 1852, and registered in 1855, details the sale of 14 acres of the north part of Lot 2 from William Brown (1780-1862) to his son James Brown. James paid 10 pounds for this piece of land. The house was built on this property for James Brown, likely in 1857 given that records indicate that the assessed value of this property for taxation, jumped by \$2,000.00 between 1857 and 1858.

The Brown family had resided in Whitchurch-Stouffville since 1819. James was born in Markham on May 8, 1813 and moved to Whitchurch-Stouffville with his parents six years later. In 1843, James married Barbara Johnson (1825-1899), who was the daughter of Cornelius Johnson of Markham. They had three children: John Johnson (1846-1926), Mary Jane (1849-1899) and Elizabeth Anne (1851-1935).

James Johnson Brown was a farmer. Politically, he was a staunch Reformer and supported the Patriots during the Rebellion of 1837. He was present under Mackenzie during the skirmish at Montgomery's farm. He then went to the United States, but soon returned. He was described as having "...lived a quiet life, was a good and esteemed citizen, and an earnest supporter of the British connection" (History of Toronto & County of York, Volume II, [1885] page 451).

The Brown farm was a local landmark in the community given that many social functions took place at "Brown's Bush" as it was known. The Old Boys and Girls Club of York, Women's Institutes and religious groups held meetings and social activities at the farm. Native people would camp at the property during their visits to town to sell native goods and materials.

On June 24, 1867, the Grand Temperance Celebration was held on the Brown property. It was a patriotic picnic in honour of confederation with the Sharon Band giving a concert and a parade through Stouffville that started and finished at the Brown property. There was a party at the Brown's after the parade.

The papers of incorporation to establish Stouffville as a separate village with its own

municipal government in 1877, were signed in the dining room of the Brown House.

Upon the death of James Johnson Brown on August 7, 1882, the farm was passed to John Johnson Brown, James' only son. John Brown married Anne Hunter and together they had three children: Mary, Ross and Cora. Cora (Brown) Johnson apparently lived on the Brown farm until her death in 1952 when the property was sold to Walter Atkinson. Later, the property was purchased by James F. Dempsey who donated the Brown House to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

In 1984, the Brown House was relocated to the Museum grounds. In order to facilitate its transport, the roof was removed and the second floor walls on the gable ends dismantled. Restoration of the structure ensued with the official opening to the public of the restored Brown House taking place in 1991. The Brown House presently is restored to reflect the life of a successful farm family in the 1880s.

Sources:

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum family and restoration files on the Brown House

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Minutes of Board Meetings and Vouchers

The Outhouse

The outhouse was donated to the Museum by Jack Taylor. It was moved here in September, 1990 from just east of Warden Avenue, on the Vivian Sideroad. Apparently this was not the original site of the outhouse, but had been moved to this site years ago by Bub Preston.

Sources:

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Minutes of Board Meetings, Renovation Files and Vouchers.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Vandorf Public School

While significantly altered from its original 1870 construction, the Vandorf Public School still presents the overall massing and symmetry of a typical rural, one-room schoolhouse and is the only structure original to the Museum site. The alterations visible

from the exterior reflect a pattern of development and expansion typical to many rural schools.

Set on a semi-dressed, fieldstone foundation, the school is rectangular in plan and one storey in height. Originally clad in board and batten, the Vandorf Public School was reclad in brick veneer in 1905, using a buff-coloured concrete brick (possibly manufactured at Lake St. George) laid in stretcher bond. The school was also raised at this time to accommodate a full basement and the two front entrances were converted to centre-pointed windows. A central, segmental entrance was installed on the front facade with a simple stoop and stairway to the ground level. Basement access was provided by a stairway and door sheltered by a gabled dogshed addition at the west end of both the north and south facades. The dogshed additions have subsequently been removed and the north basement entrance closed up.

The original 6/6, rectangular double hung windows have been replaced with shorter, segmental fixed windows and the central front entrance has been enclosed by a one-storey-flat-roofed addition. The original basement windows are segmental, fixed sashes divided into 6 panes. Two smaller segmental windows have been recently added on the west facade with the installation of washrooms. All openings on the structure have radiating voussoirs above.

The original cedar shingles on the medium-pitched gable roof have been replaced by asphalt shingles. A narrow moulded frieze trims the roof. The original bellcast bell tower and roof vents have disappeared but the interior chimney at the west end of the roof ridge remains. The original carpenter's board, no longer in place, was located under the front gable and inscribed as follows:

SCHOOL SECTION

No. 2

AD 1870

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse

The Bogarttown Schoolhouse provides a very good example of an early one-room schoolhouse of brick construction. The structure sits on a concrete block foundation which has been faced in fieldstone veneer on the south and part of the west facade. The building is rectangular in plan and one storey with a low pitch gable roof covered by asphalt shingles. Constructed of red brick laid in common bond, all openings are accented by radiating voussoirs also of red brick. The roof is trimmed by returned eaves with a square, limestone datestone located under the front gable bearing the following inscription:

SCHOOL

Sect. No. 3

ERECTED 1857

The side windows are segmental, double hung with 2/2 pane division and likely replaced windows with greater pane division at some point during the 19th century. The west window on the north facade was recently bricked over to accommodate the installation of a double-leaf entrance on that facade. A gabled, board and batten dogshed entrance to the basement on the south facade replaces a previous covered, basement entrance. The two front entrances have been replaced by 1/1 segmental double hung windows, being re-bricked below, while the central front window was converted to the main entrance. The central entranceway is segmental with a 3-pane flat transom and a six-panel door.

While the interior plan has been modified to provide office space, basement access and washroom facilities, the original pressed tin panelling and decorative cornice moulding as well as the beaded wainscoting remains on most of the interior walls. The heavy wooden moulding also still remains around original openings.

The Log Cabin

The Log Cabin provides an excellent example of square log construction, exhibiting the balanced symmetry so common in early 19th century architecture. The marks of the adze and broad axe used to square the timbers is clearly visible, attesting to the physical effort required for the construction of the residence. Set on a poured concrete slab, the Log Cabin is rectangular in plan with a medium gabled roof. The Cabin is one storey in height and constructed of squared timbers, with dove-tail joints at the corner. Horizontal joints between the logs have been chinked with concrete. The windows are rectangular double hung with 6/6 pane division. The central entrances on front and back are rectangular in shape with simple wood trim. The doors are of a simple four-panel design.

Clad in cedar shingles, the roof design is unique in that the ridge does not join at the centre but one side rises and extends over the lower roof-face creating a sheltered opening along the ridgeline. The upper projection at the ridge prevents most rain and snow from entering while the opening provides ventilation and an escape for smoke from the wood stove. Wooden gutters trim the eaves. Under each gable, the home is clad in wooden clapboard above the eaves line. The existing exterior brick chimney was constructed after the cabin's relocation to the Museum.

The Barn

Providing a fine example of post-and-beam construction, the barn is a rectangular, one-storey structure set on concrete piers. The barn is covered by a cedar shingled, low-pitched gable roof. The exterior cladding is vertical plank. Cracks between the planks provide the necessary ventilation for the safe, dry storage of hay. Ventilation is further provided by the overlapping joints of upper and lower planks to create a decorative, horizontal line midway up the exterior walls on the sides and rear.

The entrance is centrally located on the east facade and consists of a rectangular, double-leaf plank door. The doors can be secured from the outside by overlapping cross rail wooden latches which rest on decorative wrought iron L brackets installed on wooden marquise-shaped blocks. Large wrought iron hinges further ornament the exterior of the entrance.

The Brown House

The 1857 Brown House provides an excellent example of a 1 1/2-storey, T-plan brick home constructed in the Neoclassical style of architecture. The house has been set on a poured concrete foundation, faced with a split fieldstone veneer. Of common bond brick construction, decorative brick details include contrasting quoins, radiating voussoirs on all openings and a 3-course, cross-bond decorative belt on the front facade, all of which have been painted. To accommodate the relocation of the Brown House, the roof was removed and the second floor brick walls dismantled on the gable ends. During the reassembly, the bricks were not all replaced in the appropriate direction resulting in a mottled appearance under the gables. The kitchen tail was also removed for transport and then rejoined on site at the Museum.

A bellcast verandah with turned wooden posts and carved brackets has been restored to span the front facade. Verandahs are also located on the north and south sides of the kitchen tail, being sheltered by shed roofs formed by an extension of the kitchen roof on either side. These verandahs also have turned wooden posts but no decorative brackets.

The roof is a medium pitch gable and was returned to its original cedar shingle appearance during the restoration at the Museum. The original, interior chimneys located centrally at the north and south ends of the main portion of the house and at the west end of the kitchen tail were rebuilt during the restoration process. The roof is trimmed by return eaves, a moulded frieze and paired dentils. Of particular note are the pressed tin rainwater heads which adorn the front downspouts.

The windows are rectangular, double hung windows with 6/6 pane division. The louvred wooden shutters for all windows remain to be restored and re-installed. Four-panel, rectangular wooden doors are located centrally on the front facade, offset right on the south facade of the main portion of the house and at the west ends of the north and south facades of the kitchen tail. The main entrance is recessed and trimmed by a very ornate door surround which comprises a flat transom and partial sidelights with fine geometric tracery and moulded wood panelling. Louvred shutters for all windows remain to be restored and re-installed.

Interior details of the Brown House include a centre-hall plan; highly crafted and paint-grained decorative mouldings; built-in closets on the second floor; and a pantry and small storage cupboard built in under the back stairway.

The Outhouse

The Museum's two-seater outhouse provides an outstanding and increasingly rare example of this once essential accessory building. Clad in clapboard siding with corner boards, this frame outbuilding was relocated onto a concrete slab to the north west of the Brown House to recreate the typical spatial relationship between the residence and privy. A small, square, single-pane fixed window is located on each of the north and south sides of the structure with a simple shelf entablature over the openings. A single-leaf, plank door with a simple latch closure is centrally located on the front facade to provide access. The interior is not divided by any partitions but includes a simple wooden bench seat with removable hole covers. The roof is a low pitch gable with cedar shingles.