



1

ROBERT QUANCE LUMBER MILLS & PETER QUANCE GRIST MILL

230 Talbot Road

Circa 1880's

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 22.82' / W80° 30' 11.6'

The mills, originally owned and operated in the 1830's by Henry Sovereign, grandson of Delhi founder Frederick Sovereign, were purchased by the Quance family in 1874 and operated until 1970. There were two sawmills and one grist mill that served as a welcome enterprise to the citizens of Delhi and the surrounding area. The original sawmill burnt in 1913, but was quickly rebuilt with new equipment. The lumber mills produced furniture and decorative elements for area homes as well as served an important role in the tobacco industry during the 1930's, producing lumber for tobacco kilns, laths and barns. Residents used the grist mill to grind their grains into flour. The mills were amongst the first buildings developed in Delhi and were a draw for early settlement due to the important services rendered.



2

ROBERT QUANCE HOUSE

259 Western Avenue

Circa 1892

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 9.51' / W80° 30' 7.92'

A showcase for the wood trim and other products produced at the Quance lumber mills, this house was considered to be a fresh, modern take on the latest architecture of the day. Reputed to be the first home in Delhi to have electricity and indoor plumbing, the house remains today, due to the care taken by later owner Clem Wolfer to preserve the home, as a testament to the craftsmanship of our forefathers.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

10 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.

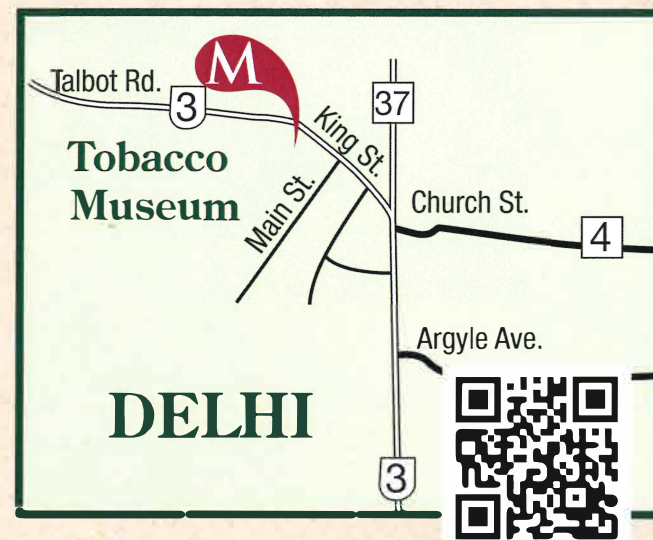
Closed Statuary Holidays

ADMISSION

General admission by donation.

Fees for guided tours and special programmes

Fees for special events & workshops.



Conveniently located on Highway 3 west of Delhi, the Museum is close to major highways. Take Highway 401 to Highway 59 South at Woodstock, and follow the signs.

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51.382' / W80° 18.398'

200 Talbot Road, Delhi, Ontario N4B 2A2

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www.delhimuseum.ca



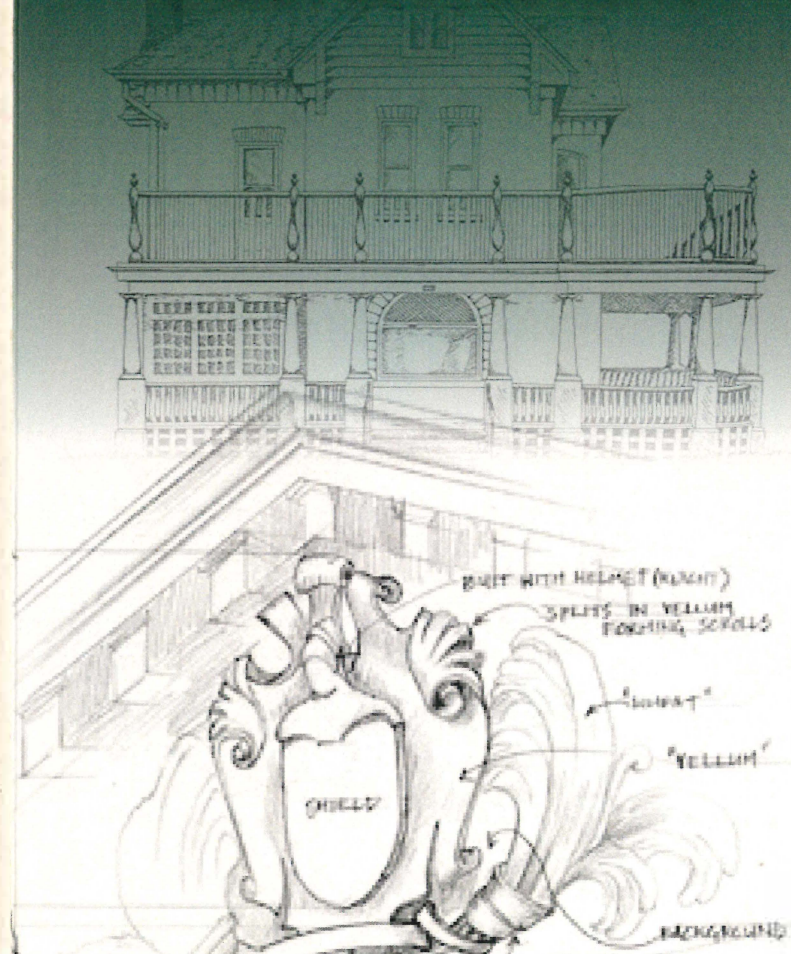
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DISCOVER DELHI

AN HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

EARLY SETTLEMENT



YESTERDAYS IN DELHI

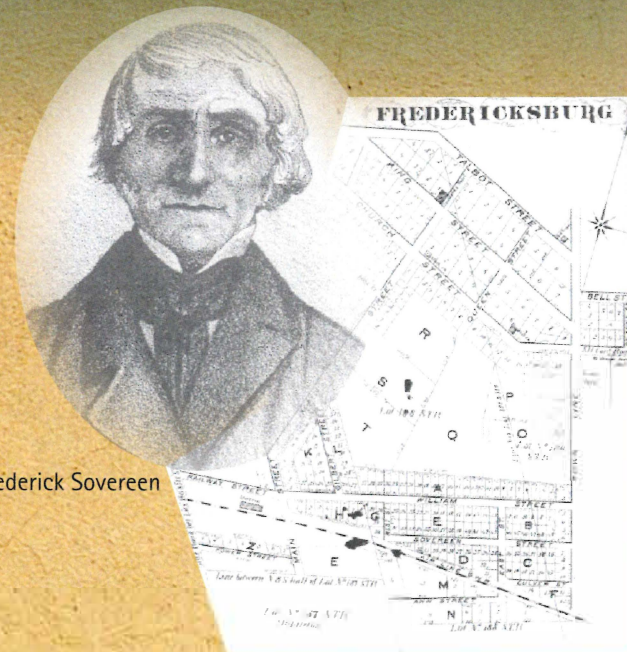
At the beginning of the 19th century, much of what Canada would become was just being established by the rapid growth in population, mostly of United Empire Loyalists and British citizens flocking to the country. Upon arriving in Canada, a person was guaranteed a large tract of land with many possibilities for success. Southern Ontario was often the location of choice due to its variations in climate, close proximity to waterways, such as creeks, rivers, and lakes, and a good balance of forest and open land.

Frederick Sovereign was one of those individuals who saw potential in Canada and, more particularly, in Norfolk County. Though he was not the first to live in what is known as Delhi today, he was the first to establish a home, business and life here. He would go on to found the village that was originally named after him, Fredericksburg. Soon after the arrival of Frederick Sovereign and a foundation set, a blacksmith shop, cooper shop and lumbering and grist mills were established and so too a bustling village.

Delhi, circa 1900, reflected what was happening throughout Canada. An era was coming to an end and a new era just beginning. Soon cars, street lights, and electricity would make their appearance in Delhi. It was a time of change and of optimism as Delhi stepped into the 20th century.

In 1900, Delhi boasted an opera house, two tanneries, a railroad station, an Orange Hall and a Mechanics' Institute, all of which have disappeared from our streets today. The Quance Mills conducted a brisk business providing flour and lumber for local residents. Delhi was known throughout Ontario, not for tobacco, but for the fruit and vegetable products of the Delhi Canning Company. Today, Delhi, though still recognized for its strong roots in the tobacco industry, has begun to diversify, redirecting its attention, once again, towards fruit and vegetable production as a key agricultural contributor to Norfolk County – Ontario's Garden.

Reconstructing a picture of Delhi, at the turn of the 20th century is somewhat like putting together a jigsaw puzzle with many of the pieces missing. Events are forgotten, buildings are torn down and replaced, old newspapers folded and records are gone and lost forever. Providing an accurate re-creation of Delhi at the turn of the century is challenging. And yet, many parts of the puzzle do exist in attics and basements and through stories passed down from generation to generation.



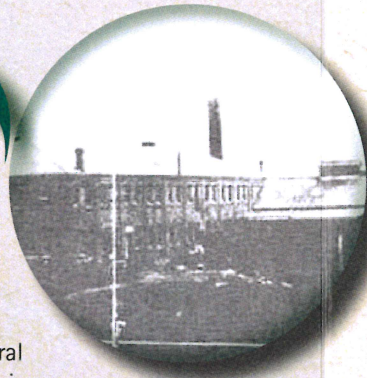
Frederick Sovereign

3 THE DELHI CANNING COMPANY

Main Street, South

Circa 1878

Before the development of a flue-cured tobacco industry, Norfolk County was known mainly as a producer of agricultural crops, fruits and vegetables. Established circa 1878, the Delhi Canning Company served as one of the largest canning companies in the British Empire, employing over 130 workers. Local farmers would come to the factory to have their produce processed and these goods were shipped all across Canada. Later renamed Canadian Cannery, a fire destroyed the original building in 1903, which was later rebuilt and operated until 1945. With the advent of tobacco and a decrease in the production of food crops, the canning factory gradually decreased with the building being used as a storage facility until it was torn down in the 1960's.



4 GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY STATION

Main Street, South

The building of a railroad meant an economic boost to any community along its path. Though Delhi, or Fredericksburg, was already established by the 1870's when the first railway arrived in the southern outskirts of the village, it meant for a further push in the development of the area with hotels, shops and other businesses that serviced the railroad. The Grand Trunk Railway Station was the first in the area but was destroyed by fire in 1916.



5 REGENCY COTTAGE

277 Main Street

Circa 1850's

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 51' 8.1' / W80° 29' 59.7'

Though the original builder or owner of this house is unknown, the characteristics provide a clue as to the original time period. It is believed to have been built during the early 1800s, or Regency Period, due to the symmetrical features and simpler style. Norfolk County during this period saw quite a number of United Empire Loyalists and officers of the British Army, along with their families, settle in the area. It is possible that the Regency Cottage is one of the original homes to be built in Delhi and therefore serves as the oldest remaining brick house.



6 ADAM GERHARDT HOUSE

257 Main Street

Circa 1880's

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 51' 9.95' / W 80° 29' 58.54

Working out of his workshop located behind his residence on Wellington Street, Adam Gerhardt designed several houses in Delhi including his own. A fine example of an old Ontario T-shaped house, this house has all the distinguishing characteristics inside and out of decorative trim work, elaborate verandah and woodwork as fine as Belgian lace, reminiscent of the elaborate and detailed houses of the later Victorian period.



7 BAPTIST CHURCH MANSE

121 Wellington Street | 1884

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 6.49' / W 80° 29' 50.66

8 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MANSE

118 Wellington Street | 1891

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 6.47' / W 80° 29' 50.94

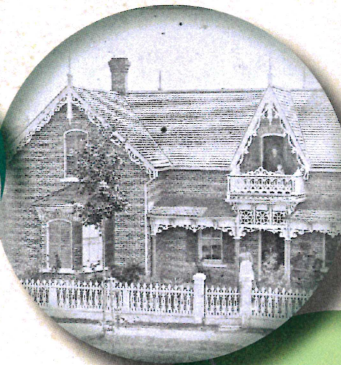
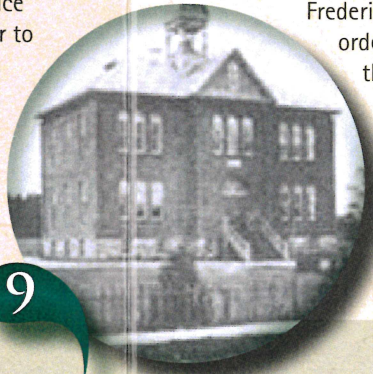
A manse served as a home for the clergy who served the church it was built beside, but also functioned as an administrative office for the church. The Baptist Church manse remains very similar to how it appeared when originally built, with the exception of an addition. Built similar to the style of the Adam Gerhardt House, the Baptist manse is in the T-shaped style very popular in Ontario at the time. The Presbyterian Church manse built at the same time as the church, remains today though the original church does not. The manse was sold to Robert and Annie Hanselman in 1929, after the church was demolished and serves as a private residence today.



9 DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

227 Queen Street | Circa 1897 | GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 10.27 / W 80° 29' 48.97'

Originally, a small one-room log house served as a school for the community. By the 1890's, the village's population and prosperity had grown brought about, in part, by the introduction of the railway, and the need for a larger school was quite evident. The original four-room school, first erected in 1891, burned down only five years later and was rebuilt within a year. The top floor of the school served as a continuation school and by 1942, as the public school could no longer house all of its students, Delhi High School was built on James Street. In 1955, the present-day school was built directly in front of the original and both were used for classes until 1968 when an addition was added to the new school and the old school was torn down.



10 GORDON BYERS HOUSE

38 Church Street, West

Circa 1900

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 50' 14.12' / W80° 29' 46.63'

Built in the Edwardian style that was considered to be quite modern at the time, this home represents a departure from the earlier Victorian style that most were accustomed to seeing. There is less gingerbread or fretwork than earlier homes built along Church Street, though a bandbox verandah was constructed that wraps around the front and was meant for social gatherings with family and friends. The Byers family owned and operated the drugstore that was located on the corner of Church and Main streets. The original store was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt and continued to operate well into the 20th century.



11 DELHI BAPTIST CHURCH

41 Church Street West

1843

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 51' 14.39' / W80° 29' 47.48

The Baptist congregation was the first organized religious congregation in the Village of Fredericksburg (Delhi) in 1835. The congregation originally worshipped in homes or at the schoolhouse. In 1843, it was decided that a place of worship was necessary and Deacon Frederick Sovereign gifted a parcel of land in order to build the church. A bell was placed in the church in 1870 and in 1891 the structure was remodeled, lifted, turned and placed on a new foundation and basement. The original cemetery for the village was located to the west of the church in what is now known as Memorial Park, though it was moved in 1886 to its present location.



12 JOSEPH CHARLTON HOUSE

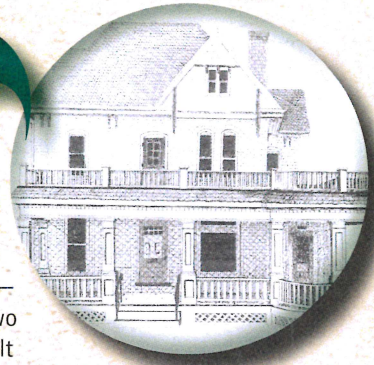
93 Church Street, West

Circa 1891

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 51' 16.4' / W80° 29' 53.44

This impressive and imposing two and a half storey house was built for Joseph Charlton and his family. Born in England, Charlton was engaged in the lumbering industry for 45 years in Delhi and Lynedoch. He located his house in the heart of the commercial district of the village across from the post office and near downtown businesses and banks. The Charlton Lumber yards were located east of the house on the southwest corner of Church and James Streets. The house originally showcased a beautiful two level verandah on the lower half of the home. Lofty walnut and maple trees, along with flower gardens once surrounded the residence completing the storybook appearance of the property.



13 WILLIAM KENT HOUSE

159 Church Street, West | 1896

GPS Coordinates:

N42° 51' 16.86' / W80° 29' 54.78

14 GEORGE KENT HOUSE

181 Church Street, West | 1891

GPS Coordinates: N42° 50' 58.07' / W80° 29' 27.77

By 1838, the Kent Family had firmly established themselves in the Village of Fredericksburg and were an important and affluent family in the businesses of lumbering and fruit and vegetable processing. George Kent built his home in 1891 and his son, William, a home very similar in style to his father's down the street just five years later. Both houses reflect a comfortable lifestyle with picturesque front verandahs and were built of brick supplied by Rogers Brick Yard at Lynedoch. Four successive generations of Kent families contributed to the economic, social and political growth of Delhi throughout the 1800's and into the 20th century.



15 THE WHITSIDE-HEATH HOUSE - 'THE CEDARS'

180 Church Street, West | Circa 1875

GPS Coordinates: N42° 51' 19.07' / W80° 30' 0.97'

Built by James and Hannah Whitside in the Queen Anne style, known for its exuberance, asymmetrical shapes and decorative details, this house has a steep roof and two verandahs. The focal point is in the front doorway with a stained glass element that says, 'The Cedars'. Born in Scotland, James Whitside came to Canada as a small child and in 1843 opened a general store in Fredericksburg, later Delhi, that would serve the community from the same location until almost the end of the 20th century. James would pass on the business to his son-in-law Eugene Heath who subsequently passed it on to his son Harold.

