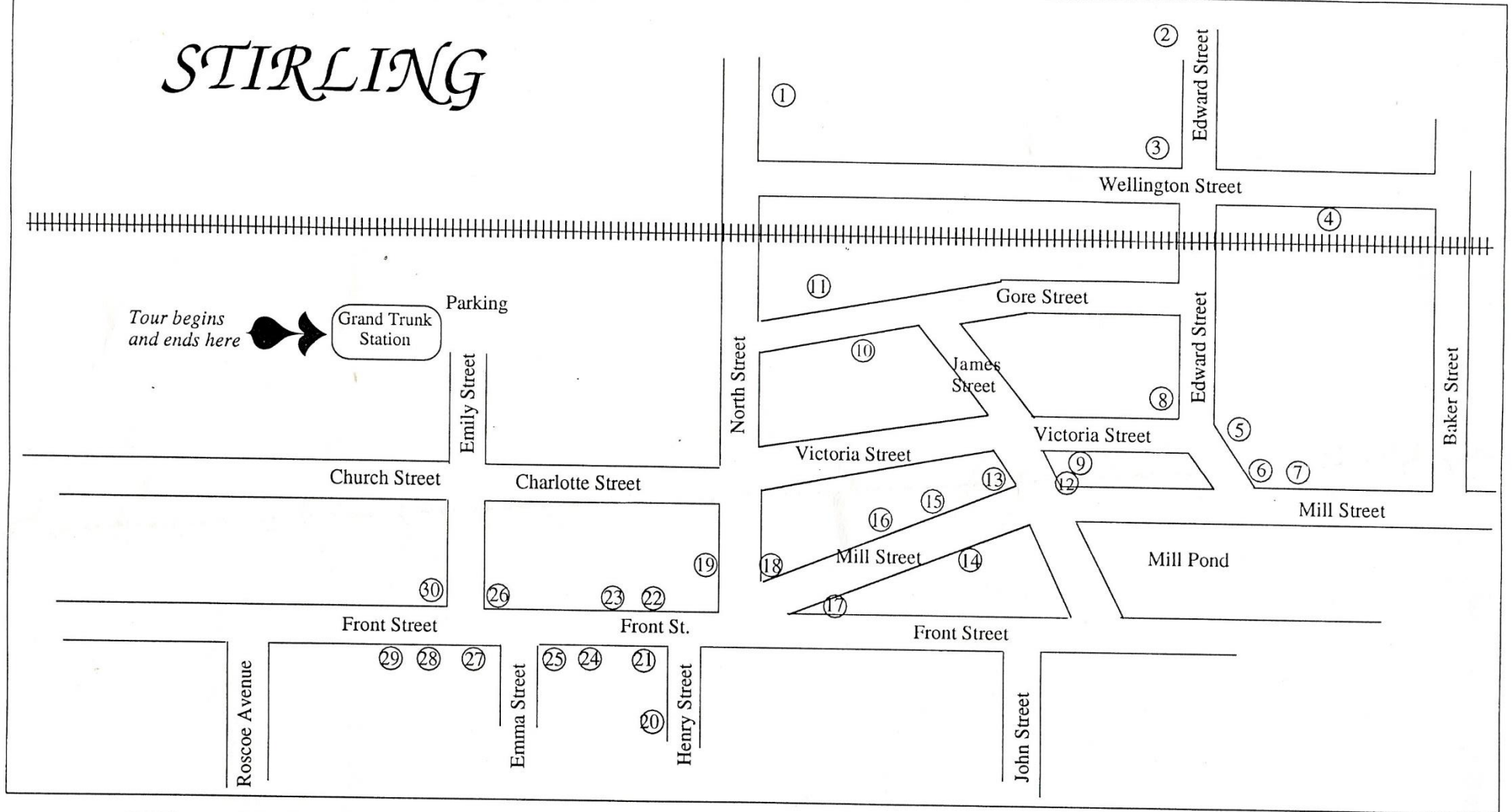


STIRLING



The Stirling Historical Society's 1993 Walking Tour

Stirling is nestled in the hills of Sidney and Rawdon townships; as a matter of fact, Stirling's Front Street straddles the border between the two.

Our village is rich in history; it's been a settled community for almost 200 years and its residents are proud of the many historic storefronts and homes lining the streets, some virtually unchanged from the way they looked a century ago. Because of several disastrous fires little of the original shopping district remains. Although there are several exceptions, most buildings in the downtown area are 75 to 100 years old.

The first landowners were Captain John Walden Meyers (also the founder of Belleville) and John Richard (Squire) Bleecker.

By 1806 Joseph Rosebush owned Lots 19 and 21 south along what is now Front Street West and Samuel P. Cummings owned land surrounding the mill pond.

By 1807 Samuel Rosebush had built a mill on the north side of Rawdon Creek near the present James Street bridge. The rushing waters of the creek provided power for the many mills which followed.

Edward Fidlar was a prosperous mill owner and for a time the hamlet which sprang up around the mills was known as Fidlars Mills. Other names by which the village has been known are Seldon Mills, Rawdon Mills and Rawdon Village. Eventually it was decided to call the village Stirling because, as the story goes,

the area reminded the first Scots settlers of their former home in Scotland—Stirlingshire. Stirling was incorporated as a village in 1858 and this year celebrates its 135th birthday.

Since 1858 we have gone from pioneer settlement to modern flourishing town; but we are lucky that several homes and buildings from almost any era in Stirling's history remain to remind us of our rich heritage. Enjoy your walking tour of Stirling's historic landmarks and visit us again.

This brochure was prepared at *The Community Press*, the area's leading weekly newspaper, which reaches over 50,000 homes each week.

Lewis Zandbergen for the Stirling Historical Society