

THEATRES, JAIL CELLS, POOL HALL HAVE CALLED SQUARE HOME

History of Civic Square in down- town Stouffville:

1889 - Nathan Forsyth built a fire hall at the current site of the clock tower. The building has subsequently been used as a library, jail and for council meetings.

1896 - the old Town Hall was built behind the fire hall. There was a marketplace on the main floor and concert hall above.

1923 - concert hall was converted into a movie theatre by Sydney Schmidt. The market was replaced by a garage, then a bowling alley and a billiard parlour.

1930 - theatre was remodeled, taking over the entire building and renamed the Stanley Theatre.

1931 - clock tower was built to replace the fire hall's wooden hose tower.

1956 - Ted Topping and Harold Spofford bought the theatre, renovated it and called it the Park Theatre.

1959 - the theatre was sold to the Village of Stouffville. The building housed the municipal offices until 1970, while the amalgamated Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville used it from 1971 to 1998.

1967 - the fire hall was demolished, except for the clock tower. Civic square was designed by Peggy Topping. A time capsule to be opened in 2067 was placed in the bottom of the clock tower.

2009 - The former municipal building was transformed into an arts, culture and entertainment centre - Nineteen on the Park.

2009 - Civic Square, a unique, pedestrian-friendly public precinct within downtown Stouffville officially opened. A time capsule celebrating the opening of Nineteen on the Park was installed inside the square's cairn to be opened in 2109.

Source: Dorie Billich,
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



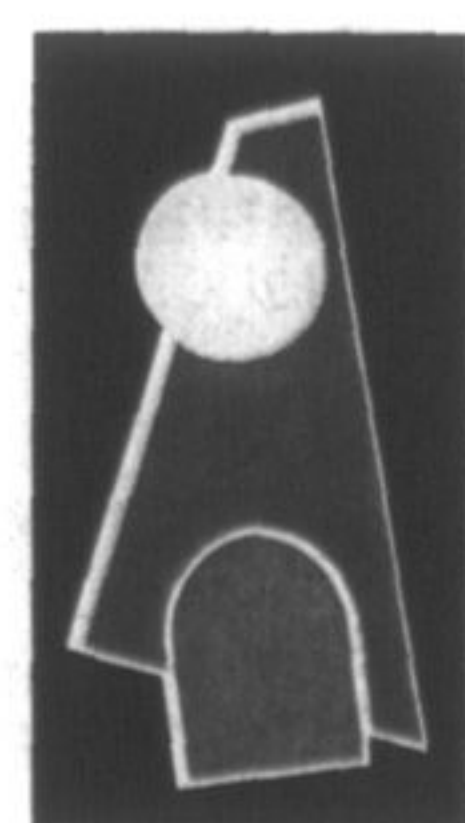
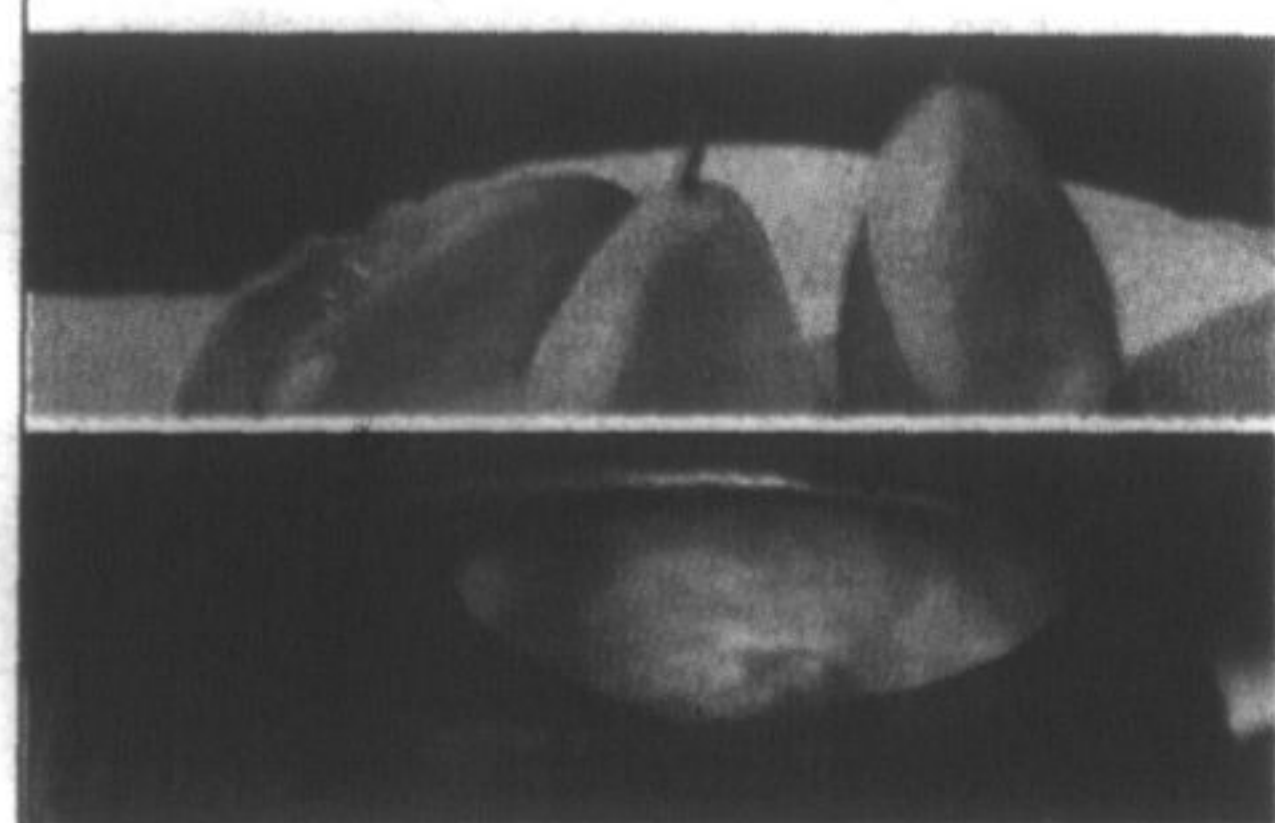
STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Kent and Sharon Taylor watch the Civic Square opening as they enjoy breakfast at the Fickle Pickle Restaurant & Deli on Friday morning.



Councillors Clyde Smith and Susanne Hilton, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Councillor Richard Bartley unveil a plaque at the opening.



9th ANNUAL WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Studio TOUR & SALE

Oct. 17 & 18

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

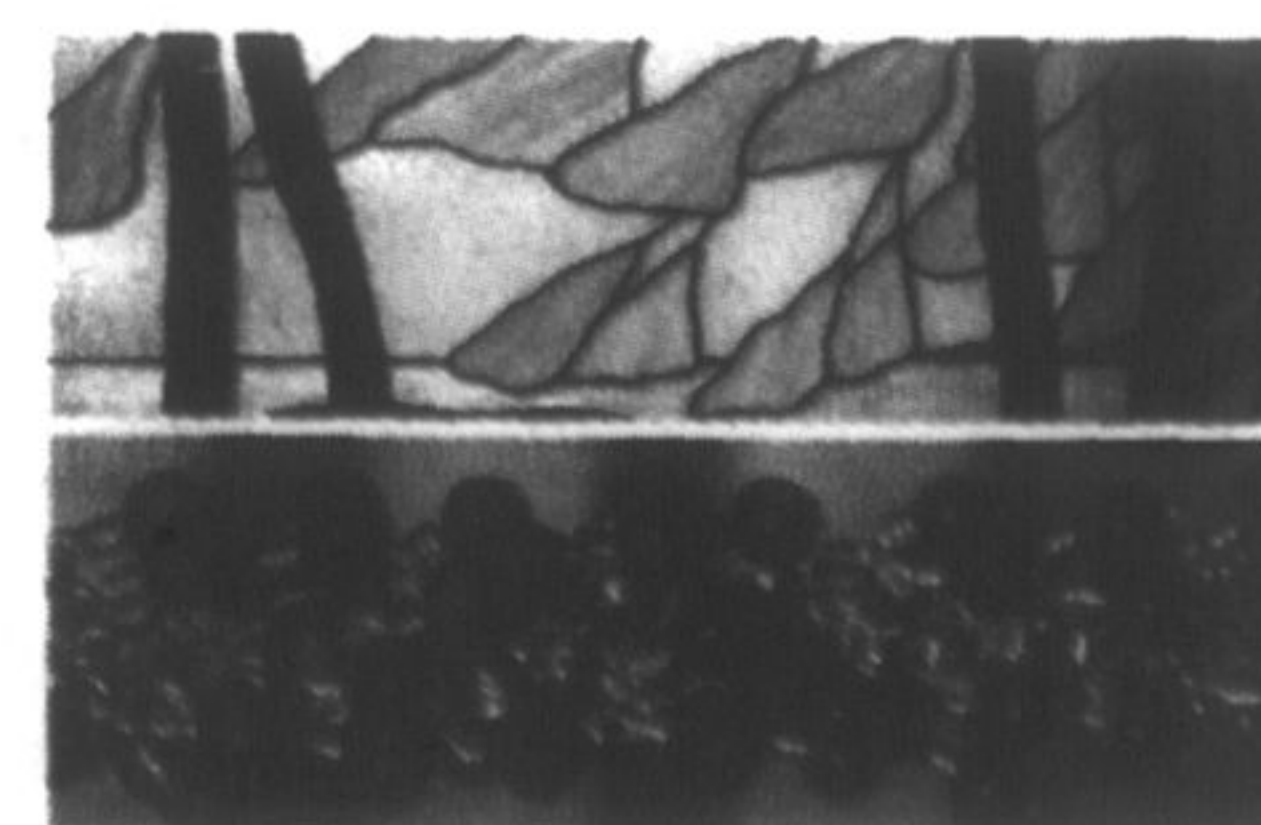
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