

12. Silverthorn House

(c. 1844) 7050 Old Mill Lane

Tradition suggests that James Crawford built this house in the early 1840s. It was sold to Francis Silverthorn in 1845. While living in Meadowvale, Francis married his second wife, Mary Hamilton Cheyne, and several of their children were born in this house. The Silverthorn House came into the possession of mill owner Henry Brown in 1894, and Brown was responsible for many renovations to the property, including the move of the house from its original east-facing orientation to its current south-facing position.

13. Old Boat House

(c. 1840) 7070 Old Mill Lane

Mill owner Francis Silverthorn built this structure in the early 1840s to serve as housing for his mill employees. The property was acquired by Henry Brown in 1890s, who thought that the village might flourish as a summer resort for tourists. In the summer of 1908, the mill pond was drained and dredged and new head gates were built, creating an 8-acre artificial lake, known as "Willow Lake". This house, which sat on the bank of this small lake, became the boathouse for nine rowboats and three canoes that Brown purchased between 1909 and 1910. Tragically, Brown drowned in March of 1911 when the ice broke beneath his feet as he worked on his mill dam. Willow Lake was a favourite fishing spot for the young people of the village and, in the winter, a section of the ice was always kept clear to serve as a skating rink and site of winter carnivals. The lake disappeared after the Credit Valley Conservation Authority reconstructed the original path of the Credit River in the late 1950s. The building is a private residence today.

14. Millworkers' Double Houses

(c. 1840) 7067 & 7079 Pond St.

These one-and-a-half storey structures contained two units each, and served as workers' housing for employees of the mills that operated in the village. Built by Francis Silverthorn during the 1840s, the millworkers' cottages are a rare surviving example of the mid 19th century utilitarian style of construction which dominated many manufacturing communities. These double houses are recognized today as important reminders of Mississauga's industrial heritage.



Hill-Moir House

15. Apple Tree Inn

(c. 1858) 7053 Pond St.

Luther Cheyne, who served as the village's first postmaster in 1854, built this residence in 1858. Throughout most of its existence, the structure has served as a private home. In 1920, Miss Yates and Miss Beardmore acquired the house and opened a tea room, which remained in business until 1944. The proprietors had the distinction of offering the only place in the village where a visitor could find a room and refreshment after the prohibition movement had forced the closure of the other public houses in Meadowvale. During the summers of 1920 and 1921, the tea room catered to the students of the Ontario College of Art who travelled to the area to sketch and paint the local scenery. The Apple Tree Inn is now a private family dwelling.

16. Hill-Moir House

(c. 1840) 7015 Pond St.

The Hill House is one of the village's earliest homes. It was home to early Primitive Methodist faith meetings. In 1896 the house was purchased by Grace and Richard Hill. The home remained in the Hill family for much of the 20th century. Purchased by the Moir family in 1987, the Hill House has been a private residence throughout its history.

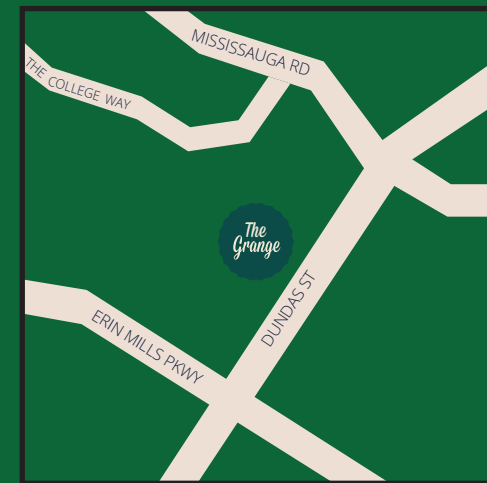
17. Gooderham Estate

(c. 1870) 929 Old Derry Rd. W.

Charles Horace "Holly" Gooderham was only 18 years old when he was sent from Toronto to learn the milling business of his family at the Alpha Knitting Mills, north of Streetsville. He was then sent to Meadowvale to run the newly acquired mill. In addition to the mill complex, the firm of Gooderham and Worts operated an extensive general store in the village that was said to rival that of Timothy Eaton in Toronto. Gooderham had this brick home built for his family in 1870. After the departure of Gooderham and Worts in the 1880s, the building served several capacities. Under the ownership of the Graham and Watt families, the house garnered a reputation as a fine summer resort operating under the name of "Rose Villa". Today the building is home to a private school.

Artists and Meadowvale Village

Meadowvale Village has a long association with notable artists, including several who lived in the village. Carl Ahrens, Georges Chavignaud, Fred Haines, Goran Skalin and Harry Spiers all called Meadowvale Village home. Other well-known artists known to frequent the village include: John William Beatty, A.J. Casson, Tom Roberts, Owen Staples and Tom Stone.



Heritage Mississauga
1921 Dundas Street W.
Mississauga, Ontario
L5K 1R2

(905) 828-8411

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Meadowvale History

The story of Meadowvale Village begins in 1819 when twenty-nine families emigrated from New York State and settled in this area. These settlers were led by “Squire” John Beatty. On May 1st, 1819 Beatty led a caravan of 29 wagons from New York. The newcomers found their chosen land densely covered by extensive pine forests. Each family was given 200 acres. These early settlers dubbed the area “Meadowvale”. When Beatty left the area in 1831 to pursue a career in the Methodist ministry, James Crawford purchased Beatty's holdings and quickly established the village's first sawmill. John Simpson who, in 1836, established a sawmill and a carding mill to which farmers brought their wool to be spun into yarn, closely followed Crawford's endeavours. Simpson quickly became an affluent member of the community and is considered by many as the founding father of the village. Milling continued as the lifeblood of the community for many years, and the burgeoning village's prosperity was directly linked to the success of the mills. Francis Silverthorn moved to Meadowvale in 1844 and with his expansions to Crawford's mill complex, the community also acquired a grist mill. By the 1850s, there were two hotels, a wagon shop, foundry and a school to support the growing population. In 1980 Meadowvale Village earned the distinction of becoming Ontario's first Heritage Conservation District.

A walk through Meadowvale Village today offers glimpses of the truly unique vestiges of our pioneer past, and streetscapes almost frozen in time. It also presents a sense of “rootedness” for the modern city which has grown up around it. In 1980, the distinctiveness of historic Meadowvale Village was designated as Ontario's first Heritage Conservation District.

1. Meadowvale Community Hall

(c. 1871) 6970 Second Line W.

Built on land donated by the Simpson family in 1871, the present Community Hall served as Meadowvale Village's second school house, School Section #15. Unlike larger communities in the region, Meadowvale did not have a grammar school. Students wishing to receive higher education had to travel to Streetsville or Brampton. In 1959, a larger, more modern public school was built to service the community. Since 1968, this building has been used as a community hall. Extensive restoration work was undertaken in 1980-81 and in 1993.

2. Meadowvale United Church

(c. 1863) 1010 Old Derry Rd. W.

In religious matters, Methodism held sway in Meadowvale and was the only denomination to establish a permanent church in the village. Those of Presbyterian faith travelled to Streetsville, the Anglicans to Derry West or Churchville, while Catholics would attend mass at Elmbank. Methodists began holding camp meetings in the Meadowvale area in 1821. A new, permanent home for the Wesleyan Methodists was established in 1863. Reverend Charles Fish held the first revival services. Church meetings became the focal point of social life in Meadowvale, including social teas, church concerts, Sunday school picnics, harvest home services and camp meetings. Today the church is home to the Meadowvale Korean United Church.



Commercial Hotel

3. Graham-Pearson House

(c. 1870) 1020 Old Derry Rd. W.

This attractive, Victorian-era residence features the red brick and buff trim combination that is popular throughout Peel County. The house was built by James Graham for his son Thomas Graham and his wife, Elizabeth Simpson. Elizabeth's father, John Simpson, donated the land on which the house was built. After the Grahams moved into the Gooderham Mansion, Charles Switzer, store owner and village postmaster during the 1880s, purchased this residence from the family. The Pearson name became associated with the property after Samuel Pearson sold his 200-acre farm south of Meadowvale and retired to the village. The house remains in use as a well-preserved private residence.

4. Lambe-Holmes House

(c. 1893) 1045 Old Derry Rd. W.

This house was built around 1893 by Albert Lambe. Albert was born in 1854 and was adopted by John Simpson. In 1884, the industrious Albert bought a sawmill and converted the nearby Bell Hotel into a rooming house for his employees. In 1893, Albert bought this property from James Ward, whose store had burned earlier in the year. Albert, together with his son William, also operated a store, bakery, and post office in the village. Albert retired in 1913, and died in 1925. The house was later purchased by the Holmes family and remains a private family home today.

5. Commercial Hotel

(c. 1852) 1051 Old Derry Rd. W.

This brick hotel was built by Matthew Laidlaw in 1852 and, for a short time, Laidlaw operated a public house that became known as the “Commercial Hotel”. Laidlaw left the hotel business to run the general store that James Ward had built in 1848. After Laidlaw's departure, the hotel passed through the ownership of several people, including Moses Strong, Joseph Kearney and Christopher Rutledge. John Callaghan was the last person to operate a hotel in the building around the turn of the century. Prohibition swept through the county shortly afterwards, and public houses, which relied on the liquor trade to stay in business, were soon forced to close. William Lambe, general store owner and postmaster, converted the renamed “Brick Hotel” into a private residence. Around 1950 the original two-storey veranda was removed. Robert Robson rebuilt it in 2006.

6. Streetscapes

Strolling through Meadowvale Village offers a remarkable chance to glimpse streetscapes frozen in time and a landscape of the past. Much of the village remains the same as it was in the mid-19th Century.

7. Bell Hotel

(c. 1844) 1090 Old Derry Rd. W.

This building was named for George Bell who was a blacksmith by trade. He purchased land from mill owner John Simpson in the 1840s and built the first hotel in the village in 1844. The frame structure operated under the name of the “Temperance Hotel”. The location, beside the bustling activity of Silverthorn's Meadowvale Mills, was ideal for an inn that could accommodate farmers and teamsters who were shipping grain to and from the mill. Albert Lambe was responsible for converting the Bell Hotel into a private residence and remains a private family home today.

8. Meadowvale Mill Ruins

(Est. 1845) Old Mill Lane

The lazy course of the Credit River belies its importance to the establishment of Meadowvale Village. The founding of mills along the course of the river provided the single greatest impetus for growth in the area. Francis Silverthorn, son of one of the Township's first pioneers, arrived in Meadowvale, purchased a portion of John Crawford's mill allowance, and entered into competition with John Simpson. He built a dam and millrace and erected a large sawmill. Silverthorn expanded his complex in 1845, constructing a large grist mill. Tragically the mill and its 10,000 bushels of wheat burned. With new financial backing from the Bank of Upper Canada, Silverthorn quickly rebuilt. Following the Crimean war the wheat market collapsed in 1860. The firm of Gooderham and Worts took over the mill operation. After Gooderham and Worts departure in 1880, the grist mill stayed in use until the 1950s and was demolished by 1954.

9. Willow Lane

An extended walk down Willow Lane (formerly known as Water Street) will take you along the mill race and continue walking past the former Johnson's carriage factory and foundry. Residential houses are among the earliest in the village, each with their own histories, and finished at the bridge foundations of the Radial Railway Line.

10. Orr-Mead House

(Est. c. 1870) 1101 Willow Lane

This property exhibits an interesting history, and past owners include several prominent families in the history of Meadowvale Village, including the Gooderham, Orr, Southern and Mead families. The large main house is the newest addition to the property, having been built in 1999 by the Mead family. They incorporated parts of an 1890s inn that was originally in South Carolina. Also on the property are the buildings that served as Johnson's wagon shop and blacksmith shop, built circa 1870. An earlier residence, built circa 1860, also remains.

11. Beatty-Skalin House

(c. 1825) 1125 Willow Lane

Although somewhat altered from its original appearance, this structure is likely the oldest remaining house in Meadowvale Village. Believed to have been built c1825 by John Beatty, it later belonged to James Crawford before Crawford sold his mill and holdings to Francis Silverthorn in the 1840s. The flats behind the homes along Willow Lane were once the site of many of the village's biggest industries. By the 1850s, the Johnson brothers were operating their Mammoth Iron Works and Foundry here, and an extensive cooperage. There was also row housing for the coopers which was known as “Quality Row”. There was a carriage maker, a blacksmith and J.H. Stillman who operated a successful cheese factory on the Willow Lane flats around the turn of the century.