

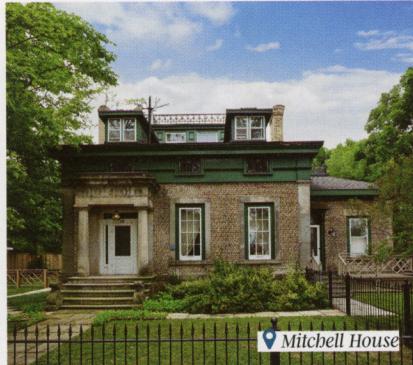
# 12

## Cobblestone Capital of Canada

**Paris** is known as the Cobblestone Capital of Canada. Stones were pulled from the riverbed, smoothed by years of tumbling, and found in farmers' fields. Once cleaned and dried, they were layered like a birthday cake, with cement icing holding it all together. To ensure uniformity, labourers measured stones for shape and size by passing them through a ring. If you look closely when visiting some of the buildings, you will notice that the stones are at different angles. Every 2-3 rows reveal a new farmer and the rocks they laid, thus the difference in angle. Except for just three, all cobblestone buildings known to exist in Canada are in the County of Brant.

Built in the mid-1800s, today there are 12 homes and 2 cobblestone churches left. The structures were constructed by Levi Boughton, born on May 26, 1805, in New York State. He eventually became a mason and married Lydia Mann on September 2, 1827. They first settled in Brantford and then moved to Paris, where they settled with their 16 children. At the time, the area was booming and there was a lot of work for a skilled mason like Boughton.

Mr. Boughton's cobblestone style was not new; it had been introduced to Britain nearly 2,000 years ago by Roman builders. Cobblestone construction survived in England, and it is believed



Mitchell House

*These beautiful cobblestone structures stand as a testament to fine craftsmanship and the rich cultural heritage of Paris, Ontario.*

that masons brought it from there to New York State, where several hundred cobblestone houses still stand and are highly celebrated.

The design of these buildings is intricate and costly to build because of the time needed for construction. It took around 14,000 stones to build one traditional home. St James Anglican Church was the first cobblestone building in Paris and is the oldest standing church in the town. The Paris Plains Church, north of the town, was built by a group of settlers from stones gathered from their own farms.

Some notable cobblestone structures are Hamilton Place on Grand River North, the Mitchell House on Broadway, and Levi Boughton's own original home on the corner of Queen and Ball Streets, which have been well-preserved and are in excellent condition.

These beautiful structures still stand firm, as a memorial to fine craftsmanship and a reminder of the early cultural development of the community.



Levi Boughton House



Hamilton Court



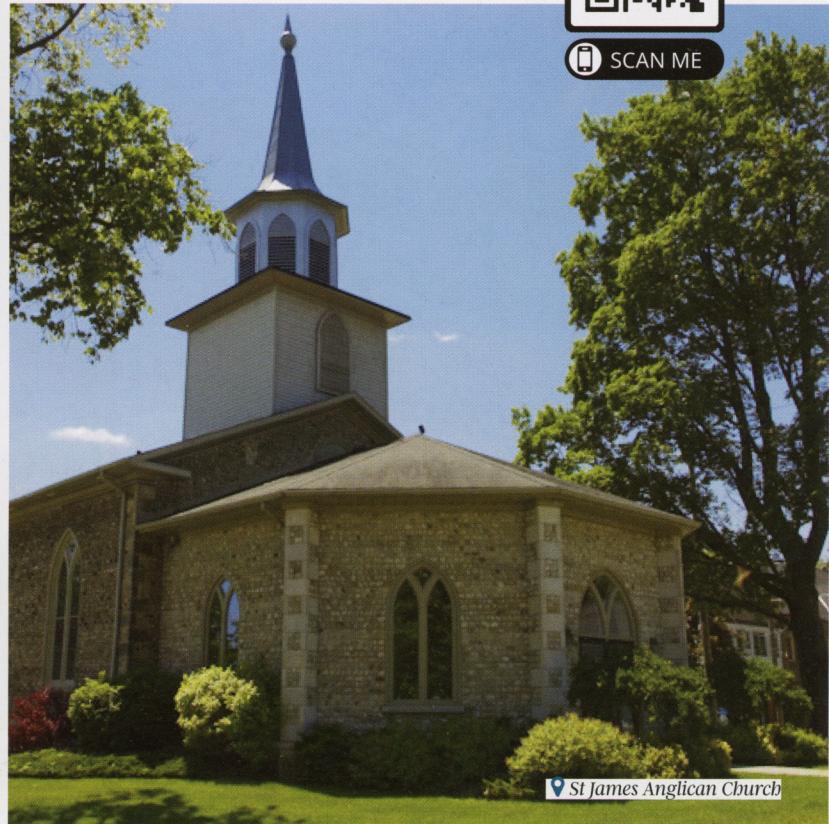
Levi Boughton  
1834-1883



Enjoy a self-guided walking tour of six Cobblestone homes in Downtown Paris



SCAN ME



## Touring the Cobblestone Houses

1	Barker House	24 Barker St, Paris
2	Bosworth House	22 Church St, Paris
3	Deans Farm	963 Keg Lane, Paris
4	Garden Wall	52 Grand River St, Paris
5	Hamilton Court	165 Grand River St N, Paris
6	Kilton Cottage	33 Oak Ave, Paris
7	Levi Boughton House	19 Queen St, Paris
8	Mitchell House	16 Broadway W, Paris
9	Ouse Lodge	3 Arnold St, Paris
10	O'Neail Farm	899 Keg Lane, Paris
11	Paris Plains Church	598-760 Paris Plains Church Rd, Brant
12	Sowden House	7 Burwell St, Paris
13	St James Anglican Church	8 Burwell St, Paris
14	Brown House	207 West River Rd, Paris

↑ Of particular interest is St James Anglican Church, which was the first cobblestone building in Paris built by a group of pioneers from stones gathered from the fields of their local farms.

