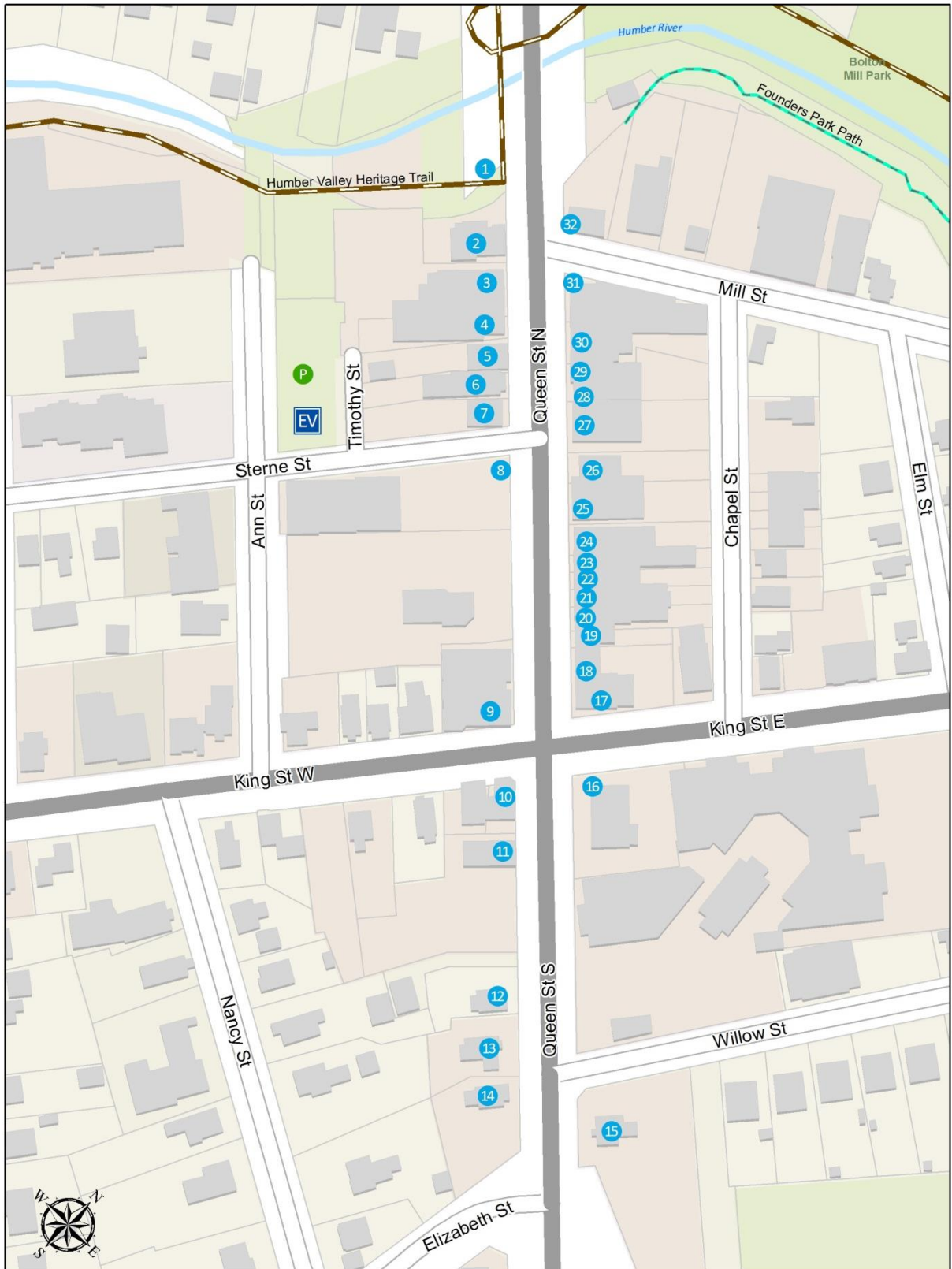


Heritage Caledon Walking Tour Series

Bolton Tour – village core



EV Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Please respect private property

Last Updated: May 13, 2021.

The land which forms the Town of Caledon is part of the Aientance Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. We acknowledge all the indigenous people who have walked this land in the past and who walk it today. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on this land, and by doing so, we give respect to our first nations.

° Indicates that building is shown on 1854 Prosser Map

1



Humber River Heritage Park

Kiosk: Early Bolton Industry

This kiosk is standing on land reclaimed from the river in the early 1960s when the sharp bend in the Humber River was removed. The river was shifted closer to Hickman Street to prevent ice jams from forming under the bridge. The Humber was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1999.

2



62 Queen Street North Foundry Showroom

circa 1880s

Built by William Dick, this building was originally used as a showroom for products from the Dick Agricultural Works, such as plows, wagons, sleighs. From 1888 to 1900, it housed Herbert Bolton's newly purchased newsweekly 'The Enterprise'. Frank Leavens, who was initially hired as editor purchased the newspaper and printing operation in 1893. From 1901, it housed real estate and insurance businesses starting with Jack McDonald. By the 1950s, it had been retrofitted as a restaurant for Art Betts' 'Village Grill', later the 'Riverside Grill' and it has been a pub for a number of years.



52 to 56 Queen Street North These brick commercial buildings were built circa 1881 by Alf Doig and known as the 'Doig Block.' #54 was absorbed into the adjacent Hardware Store in 1907. The two storey northern addition was built by Bert Schaefer in the late 1940s. The block was renovated in 2007 with new brick cladding and the addition of a third storey with residential units.

3



56 Queen Street North Hardware Store

circa 1881

Alf Doig built this store stocking myriad hardware items and keeping a tinsmith busy making everything from buckets to stove pipes. It was a hardware store for 107 years: for 10 years as 'O. M. Hodson' followed by 'Smith & Schaefer' for 61 years until Jim Schaefer sold to 'Davidson's Home Hardware' (1977-87). Back in 1907, Robert Smith stabled horses for delivery wagons and stored river ice in sawdust for ice boxes. Fencing was a mainstay of the business. As needs evolved, Bert Schaefer added toys and china to the product mix.

4



52 Queen Street North Newspaper Office *circa 1881*

This store/residence was originally 'Scott & Son's General Store'. In 1900, George Scott, notable for having defeating plans to install water mains in the village core, sold it to 'Enterprise' owner Frank Leavens, who set up a storefront newsroom with a printing plant in the rear. In 1941, Frank's son Werden Leavens became publisher/editor of 'The Bolton Enterprise', eventually selling to Metrospan in 1976. The building continued as newspaper office until the late 1980s.

5



46 Queen Street North Livery Business *late 1880s*

This was originally the home/office of Kit Noble, who operated a horse-drawn livery with stables out back. It later became George Stokes' farm implement agency, Eaves' shoe repair and then a dressmaking shop. In the early 1940s, it was enlarged by E. G. 'Curly' Stewart who sold boots and shoes, issued fishing and hunting licenses and expanded the business with mens and boys wear. Hugh and Ruby Simpson took over in the 1970s and it later became a bridal shop in the 1990s.

6



44 Queen Street North Farm Implement Showroom *circa 1919*

This commercial building was built by Thomson Dick, who used the storefront as a showroom for implements from the 'Dicks Agricultural Works'. He also started an automobile dealership selling the area's first Chevrolet and later added gasoline pumps in front of the building. After the foundry ceased operations in 1947, Dick ran an equipment and appliance agency until 1960. Garth Holtom then opened 'Golden Horseshoe' catering to horse farmers. Around 1986, the building's storefront was renovated, and it became 'Molisana Bakery'.

7



40 Queen Street North Bolton Telephone Co(BTC) *1911*

In 1908, BTC became Bell Canada's service agent for the long distance line into Snell's drugstore and thirty local lines, of which six were in Bolton. BTC ran hundreds of new lines locally and in the surrounding townships and built this brick telephone exchange. Party lines were manned 24/7 upstairs; the wagon bay was below. Bell purchased BTC in 1956, introducing dial service five years later. The building later housed a jeans shop, 'Colquette Realty', 'Batty Insurance' and 'Bolton Family Chiropractic' upstairs; downstairs was 'Bert Ray Woodworking', 'Aurora's Dressmaking' and 'Mr. Submarine'. Note the 1911 datestone.

8



Corner of Sterne and Queen Bolton Village Clock

This village clock is dedicated to local community activist, the late Ralph Ransom, and was installed by the Downtown Bolton Business Improvement Association (BIA) in 2011.

9



2 Queen Street North 'The Beaver' General Store 1893

This Italianate style brick store was built by William, Edwin and Wyatt A. Jaffary, replacing their father's 1863 frame store. The name 'Jaffary', bricked into the façade, is hidden under the current sign. The store offered groceries, dry goods and tobacco. Until 1914, whisky was also sold, poured from casks into whatever container the customer brought in. Maggie Alexander made hats upstairs until 1920. After 1943, various managers ran the store until Ted Houston assumed sole ownership in 1951, bought the building in 1954 and moved into the residence upstairs.

10



2 Queen Street South Confectionary & Grocery Store circa 1894

This Italianate style brick corner store was first operated by the Buists as a confectionary. They made ice cream in the 'Oddfellow's Hall' behind. The Buists were followed by a long line of grocers: A. Gosleigh, the Fawcetts, Dan Mabey (1920s), Jack Watts, William Stubbs (1940s,) Charles Pegg and Forest (Sam) Hutchison. By the 1980s, it had become the 'Village Shop' selling women's sportswear and has since housed a succession of businesses.

11



6 Queen Street South °James Stork House circa 1854

This Victorian Gothic frame house was James Stork's Drug and Seed store and home, moved from the SW corner of King /Queen in 1894. It housed Bolton's library, run by Stork's daughter Nancy from 1895-1914. Stork later worked as an agent attracting UK immigrants, matching them to housing and jobs. In 1922, the house was purchased by electrician Wilfred Maw, who installed and managed Bolton's initial electrical lines and raised eight children here. It later housed offices and became 'Allegro Fine Foods' restaurant in 1997.

12



26 Queen Street South Tom Baron House circa 1905

This Edwardian Classical style house was built for blacksmith Thomas Wesley Baron and his wife Mary. Tom was part of Bolton's highly successful baseball team which won the three counties championship. The house's subsequent owners were electrician E. R. Boughton then Walter Richards. Note the limestone lintels over the windows. The bricks are likely from the local Norton brickyard. The house has been renovated for commercial use as a spa.

13



34 Queen Street South Italianate Style House circa 1890

The red and yellow brick used in this imposing Italianate style house likely came from Norton's brickyard. The detailing, including the paired bracketed eaves, lends the house an elegant urban character. Its south wing is a later addition. The house has been converted to professional offices.

14

**38 Queen Street South** Bradley House

circa 1908

This 'four-square' house was built for Richard Bradley in Edwardian Classical style, characterized by a verandah with turned woodwork, asymmetrical floor plan and pyramidal hipped roof. It was sold in 1937 to Florence and Albert Kennedy. In 1988, it became 'Let's Decorate' and after 2000, housed various retail businesses. Its frame construction is unusual for Bolton where the majority of houses of this era are brick.

15

**43 Queen Street South** °Samuel Walford House

circa 1849

Samuel A. Walford arrived in Bolton in 1834 at age 16 with his parents and sister. He experienced the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, became Bolton's first teacher under government inspection in 1842 and later apprenticed as a tallow maker in York. He returned to Bolton to work in his father's soap and candle business and built this frame house with its distinctive roof. Walford was a prominent member of the community serving as Clerk of the Village of Bolton from 1873-98, and for years, secretary of both the school board and agricultural society. Walford's house was purchased by grocer Dan Mabee in 1901, and later owned by Mabee's daughter and her husband Cecil McCort, an agricultural implement dealer.

16

**SE corner of King Street East/Queen Street South**

Commemorative Plaque: Masonic Arms Hotel

17

**1 Queen Street North** °Dry Goods Store

circa 1852

Callendar Brothers built this landmark brick store. It lay empty until William Shields purchased it in 1858, hiring William Hughes and Sam Bolton to finish the interior as a general store. Shields prospered as a merchant and his family later made a substantial endowment to Toronto General Hospital. The building was in use as a general store until 1932, notably from 1882-91 as newcomer David Hughes' store, 'The Leading House'. Coronet player Hughes founded the Bolton Band, ran the Mechanic's Institute lending library, organized and played on the three counties championship baseball team and was a school board member. Following Hughes, the store was called 'the Toronto Bargain Shop' operated by H.A. Rutherford and Mr. Wood. After World War 1, the building and business were bought by W. A. Gardner who ran 'The Handy Store' until 1932 when it closed, a casualty of the depression. In 1933, the store became Leggett's Pharmacy, evolving to 'Leggett & Smith' in 1951. The 1940s rear addition housed Ted Wand's 'Master Meat Market', Allengame's 'Bolton Florist', and was later incorporated into the store itself.

18

**5-7 Queen Street North** Commercial Building

1886

Built after the devastating fire on February 19th 1886, this building was used as two separate stores. It housed Harry Austin's barber shop until 1908, then McMurter's barber shop until 1911. From 1932-34, the whole space was used for the McCort-Westlake harness and 'Massey Harris' implement agency. Later businesses included Wiggs' jewellery, Clark Pressick's dress shop, 'Francines', 'Reasons and Seasons' and the 'Towne Shop'. The storefronts were restored in 2018.

**11-23 Queen Street North** Rutherford Block

1886

This block of six buildings was constructed after a devastating fire, in February 1886, engulfed the street, destroying the 1860s frame houses with storefronts and leaving only the corner brick store standing. Built with red and yellow brick from Norton's brickyard, the block shares Italianate design elements. Sloping roofs directed rainwater into basement reservoirs for hand-pumping to the second-floor dwellings. Back privies were the norm until well into the 20th century.

19

**11 Queen Street North** Jewellery Store - Rutherford Block

1886

After the 1886 fire, Robert Russell re-built his jewellery business in this brick store. He reportedly kept a 'splendid stock of watch clocks', and continued until 1911 when barber Percy McMurter, later a Bolton Reeve, bought it. Under McMurter, haircuts were 25¢ and gents had their own shaving mugs. McMurter's daughter Inez married Edgar Bowes who barbered while she offered permanent waves. In the 1980s-90s Ralph Ransom operated a travel business here. The storefront was restored in 2018.

20

**15 Queen Street North** Drugstore - Rutherford Block

1886

After the 1886 fire, Samuel J. Snell re-built his patent medicine shop in this brick store. He sold traditional remedies like 'Wampoles', horehound, seltzer powders, and camphor. Snell was postmaster from 1881-1908, managed the long-distance telephone from 1888-1908 and was Reeve from 1892-3. The building continued in use as a drugstore for another 71 years under druggists Mr. Hammell, Mr. Shoemaker, Charles Chambers, Helen Weaver Bowes and Clarence White (1948-79). It became 'Bolton Milk and Variety' in 1981.

21

**17 Queen Street North** Confectionary - Rutherford Block

1886

After the 1886 fire, James Murch re-built his confectionary in this brick store. By the 1920s, it was Robert Studholme's tailor shop. His son Roy recalled waking up to the sound of shopkeepers sweeping Queen Street's wooden sidewalks. It later became 'Bolton Dairy', owned by Mr. Chamberlain, which was bought in 1948 by Hilliard Allan, Bolton's last Reeve. The dairy moved in 1959 and was succeeded by 'Munro Meats', 'Drennans Clothing', and 'Facin Shoes' which closed in 2013 after 31 years in business. The storefront was restored in 2020. (Photo shown is prior to 2020)

- 22  **19 Queen Street North** Showroom - Rutherford Block 1886
Around 1893, this became James H. Bolton's sewing machine, piano & organ showroom. His residence was upstairs. Bolton, great nephew of village founder George Bolton, wrote '*Bolton – Some History and Events*'. In the 1930s, the store became Orland Downey & John Keyes showroom for 'International Harvester'. Downey, who was Reeve in 1952-3, was a financial services manager until the late 1950s. More recently, the store housed 'The Thought Shop' (1980s) and 'Clementines' (until 2014).
- 23  **23 Queen Street North** Bakery - Rutherford Block 1886
After the 1886 fire, the Rummens re-built the early 1860s bakery of Mr. Yelland, in this brick store. John baked while Henrietta cooked and sold meals. Freman T. Porritt and William Newlove bought the store in 1902, adding groceries. After WWI, William Gordon took over, baking 200 loaves of bread a day for 40 years, selling the building in 1961 to jeweller W. Wigg. Jewellery replaced groceries and Harry Sharpe continued the bakery. It remained a jewellery store through the 1970s, then became 'Kimberley's Gifts' (1984), 'Sullivan's Treasures' (1994).
- 24  **25 Queen Street North** Butcher Shop - Rutherford Block 1886
After the 1886 fire, William Extence re-built his harness business in this brick store. He sold it in 1889 to Ernie and William Beamish who used it as their butcher shop. River ice covered in sawdust between its floors kept meat fresh and their family farm served as slaughter house. Later, it became 'Bolton Plumbing & Heating'. Emmett Grogan altered the storefront in 1974 and built boutiques along Beamish Lane. In 1987, 'Humber Valley Dentistry' occupied the upper floor. The 'Caledon Citizen' occupied the lower floor until 2015.
- 25  **29 Queen Street North** Egan Brothers Store circa 1947
This store was built by Bill and Harold Egan. The main floor housed hardware and appliances, while a furniture department and casket selection room operated upstairs. Egans relocated the business in the late 1970s after which the building housed a billiard parlour upstairs with a dollar store below. It was later renovated with a new front façade and became 'Baffo's Pizza and Pasta' which continued until 2014.
- 26  **33 Queen Street North** Post Office circa 1945
This building was originally a single storey Post Office built by postmaster Byron Leavens. Shortly after, Leavens, a WWI veteran and son of Enterprise owner Frank Leavens, died unexpectedly and his widow Mary carried on as postmistress until Calvert Daines succeeded her as postmaster in 1947. Daines then added a second storey for his residence. The post office moved to its current location on King Street West in 1962.

27



39 Queen Street North Bamboo Garden Dancehall *circa 1928*

This building was built by Norman and Frank Clarke as a dancehall on the empty lot of the Ontario Hotel after it was destroyed by fire in 1916. Locals called the dancehall 'The Casino' and Otto Hardwick owned and operated it for a number of years. Stores stayed open late on Saturday and Bolton's downtown was a lively spot. Later on, the building was used as Eric Armstrong's second-hand furniture store until Egan Brothers Furniture store expanded here in the 1970s. From the late 1970s-2014 it was 'The Main Street Station'.

28



43 Queen Street North *circa 1965*

This store was built between the dancehall to the south and the side entrance to the former Hesp residence above 43B Queen Street North, on what originally was the Hesp family's lawn and garden.

29



43B Queen Street North Store *circa 1874*

This was a Victorian Gothic red and yellow brick store built for John Gardhouse by George Watson. Its opulent detailing, now hidden under white brick cladding, mirrored that of the neighbouring store to the north. It soon became part of the John Gardhouse Estate but was reacquired by his youngest son, James, in 1889 and used by John's widow Hannah for a millinery business. By 1903, it had become a real estate office for Lincoln Hutton, who published the 1911 '*Bolton Beautiful and Bountiful*' to attract real estate investors. Later it housed the Post Office, the McCort-Keyes 'Massey Harris' showroom (1934-45) and 'Jack Gibson Insurance'.

30



49 Queen Street North Gardhouse General Store *circa 1874*

Mill owner John Gardhouse hired George Watson to build this brick store to replace his adjacent 1850 frame store. Victorian Gothic in style, it used local red and yellow brick. Gardhouse died in 1878 leaving his wife Hannah to manage the store until James Clarke, a Bolton Reeve, bought it and the business in 1881. It remained a general store for many years with Miss O'Dea's dressmaking shop upstairs. The building's original ornate facade is hidden under the re-clad exterior.

31



51 Queen Street North Cold Storage Lockers *circa 1941*

This building which replaced the 1880s brick Bonnar Block was built in 1941 by entrepreneur Otto Hardwick. It provided 300 freezer storage lockers for rent at a time before home freezing was readily available. Hardwick had earlier developed the first pasteurization facility in the area. In 1947, Robert Bullock purchased the locker business, added a retail meat business with fast-freezing, and, in 1955, expanded it into an IGA store. In 1961, the building was converted to a Canadian Tire franchise and in the late 1970s it became Egan Brothers' Furniture Store.



65 Queen Street North James Wolfe Inn

pre- 1859

This building was James Wolfe's Inn, shown on Tremaine's 1859 Map of Peel County. It may well be Elijah Harsent's early 1840s tavern, inn and smithy operation which evolved from Thomas Rogers' 1830s smithy/inn. A circa 1875 photo shows a gable end roofline. It later became a hardware store, a grocery store, and in 1880s-90s, was Robert Elliott's shoe making shop and residence. As a child, Elliott was in Bolton's first school class in 1842. By the 1900s, it had become painter-paperhanger John Lake's shop and residence. In the 1920s, Lake and Wes Strong partnered in a butcher shop on the premises. The building was later used as a millinery shop, candy shop and antiques store. By 1943, the roofline was clipped, and the building converted to Jack Bryan's home.



Humber Valley Heritage Trail

The Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association is a group of volunteers who have developed and maintained a pedestrian trail through the Humber River Valley. The trail runs from the Trans Canada Trail on Humber Station Road near Albion Hills Conservation Area in the Town of Caledon, through Bolton, to Binder Twine Park in Kleinburg in the City of Vaughan.

Early Bolton History Timeline

- 1819: Albion Township survey is completed by Chief Surveyor James Chewitt.
- 1819: Chewitt is paid with 2535 acres of land in Albion which includes several mill sites.
- 1819: James Bolton receives land grant for 100 acres in Albion, about 7 km NE of what is now Bolton.
- 1821: George Bolton purchases Chewitt's 200 acre mill site along the Humber River.
- 1822: George Bolton helped by his older brother James Bolton start building a small grist mill and dam.
- 1824: Grist mill starts operating commercially, owned and operated by George Bolton.
- 1830: George Bolton provides land for first log school (at Mill Park entry off Lumber Lea).
- 1836: George Bolton opens a log store at King Street East and Mill Street.
- 1836: Post office is established, housed in George Bolton's store and he is named postmaster.
- 1837: James Bolton supports Mackenzie Rebellion, flees to USA in the aftermath and dies there.
- 1840: Mr. Pexham builds a tannery and house along the Humber River on the north side.
- 1840: Bolton has 14 log buildings, two blacksmiths, two shoemakers, a tailor and a hotel.
- 1842: A mudbrick school is built on King Street East near David Street. Samuel Walford is the teacher.
- 1842: Primitive Methodist Chapel is built along King Street East. It still stands.
- 1843: Mudbrick Congregational Church is built on the NE side of the river, beside the tannery.
- 1843: Mill Cottage, Bolton's earliest residence, is built. It still stands today.
- 1845: James Cupper Bolton buys the grist mill from his uncle George, enlarging it downstream and builds a sawmill on the original mill site.
- 1846: Charles Bolton starts selling building lots along south edge of village, now King Street East.
- 1847: George Evans, a shoemaker, builds a large brick hotel called 'The Exchange.'
- 1848: Mudbrick Anglican Church is built with consecrated burying ground.
- 1850: Downstream grist mill is enlarged again as demand for flour continues to grow.
- 1850: James Cupper Bolton builds a general store on Queen Street near Mill Street.
- 1852: Large brick commercial building is started at NE corner of Queen/King Streets. It still stands.
- 1854: Surveyor T. C. Prosser lays out lots and streets, creating Bolton's first map
- 1854: Matthew Gray starts up his brickyard.
- 1855: The grist mill and store are sold to Edward Lawson. In 1860 they are sold to John Gardhouse.
- 1869: William Dick starts his foundry business.
- 1870: Toronto and Grey Bruce Railway line is built between Weston and Bolton in 14 months.
- 1872: Bolton is incorporated as a Village. Lambert Bolton is the first Reeve.
- 1874: Large brick school is built by George Watson and named James Bolton Public School.
- 1880: Doig Block is built using brick on the west side of Queen Street, north of Sterne Street.
- 1881: The grist mill is sold to Andrew McFall. He later builds a grain elevator near the train station.
- 1885: Bolton's men's baseball team wins the three counties championship.
- 1886: Rutherford Block, east side Queen St. N., is built in brick after fire destroys the frame stores.
- 1888: J.N. Bolton buys a newsweekly and calls it 'The Enterprise.'
- 1888: First long-distance telephone line is installed in Samuel Snell's drugstore.
- 1894: Laurel Cemetery Company is formed.
- 1908: Bolton Telephone Company is formed.

A 40th Anniversary Project of Heritage Caledon in 2016

Information courtesy of the Albion Bolton Historical Society.

Technical, mapping and heritage support from the Town of Caledon.

