

Part D

Design Guidelines

9.0 Guidelines for Buildings and Surroundings

General

In its history and character, Buttonville is a distinct place in the larger municipality of Markham.

The purpose of these Design Guidelines is to help maintain the historic qualities that make up that sense of distinctness. They are intended to clarify and illustrate, in a useful way, the recognizable heritage characteristics found in the hamlet. They will serve as a reference for anyone contemplating alterations or new development within the Heritage Conservation District.

The Guidelines examine the past in order to plan for the future. They recognize that change must and will come to Buttonville. The objective of the Guidelines is not to prevent change, but to ensure that change is complementary to the heritage character that already exists, and enhances rather than negatively impacting it.

The design Guidelines are divided into the following sections:

Architectural Styles

Streetscapes

Alterations and Additions to Heritage Buildings

Alterations and Additions to Other Buildings

New Development

- Woodbine Avenue
- Residential Streets

Commercial Features and Streetscape Elements

Landscape Features.

9.1 Architectural Styles of Buttonville's Heritage Buildings

Architectural style means the identifying characteristics of construction as it has evolved under the forces of changing technology and fashion. Before the industrial age, even minor details were custom-made for each building and it would be hard to find even two identical front door designs from the early 19th century.

Nonetheless, each period produced buildings that shared a design vocabulary, including elements of massing, composition, proportions, window and door details, and decorative elements. This section shows the principal historic styles that have appeared in Buttonville. This section is necessarily brief and does not replace the more detailed research needed for authentic work.

Guidelines

1. Additions and alterations to an existing heritage building should be consistent with the style of the original building.
2. New developments should be designed in a style that is consistent with the dominant vernacular heritage of the community, with a particular emphasis on the Georgian Tradition and Classic Revival.
3. All construction should be of a particular style, rather than a hybrid one. Recent developments have tended to use hybrid designs, with inauthentic details and proportions; for larger homes.