

ACO Stratford-Perth County

More Than Bricks and Mortar

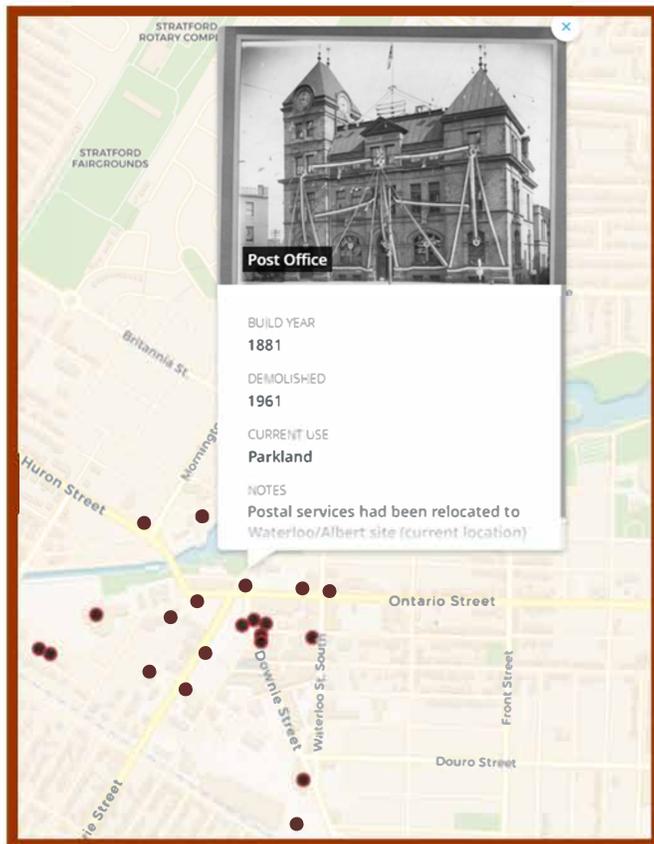
www.stratford-perthcountybranchaco.ca

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Newsletter Team: Carole Huband and Allan Tye

This month the newsletter is different from those in the past few months. It is interactive. We hope you enjoy discovering the buildings from Stratford's past that are no longer part of our landscape but are certainly part of our history.

Hayden Bulbrook created the interactive map found on the ACO Stratford-Perth County website and has created this map for our October newsletter. The digital map of Stratford shows many of the buildings from our past that have been torn down and replaced or a vacant lot left in their place.



Hayden Bulbrook recently finished his Master of Arts degree in history at the University of Waterloo. He currently manages @StratfordHistory on Instagram.

Mapping Demolished Architecture in the City of Stratford

With the explosion of data in the digital ages come new tools, and new ways of using old tools, to analyze changes to the built environment. Maps do a splendid job of illustrating our relationship to the space around us. Digital maps take it a step further. I've come to start using digital maps for historical research. Earlier this year, I mapped out the growth of Water Street in the Falstaff Ward for a digital history course in my master's program. I also mapped out the properties listed on the ACO's [Historical Plaque Program](#).

Mapping cannot tell history. But it can show what is difficult to put into words. It can stimulate our imagination, and it can shock and awe in ways that words simply cannot.

My latest project has been mapping out a number of Stratford's past buildings which have been razed at various points. Often the wrecking ball came in the name of "progress" (even if progress has often meant an awkward looking bank or a place to park your car). I admit that not everything can be saved and perhaps not everything should be saved. The slums of Cabbagetown, in Toronto, were razed after World War II, but "nobody should get eulogistic over a slum."

However, the removal of many of Stratford's architectural landmarks causes many of us heritage-driven individuals to shudder and groan. Anyone with even the slightest interest in heritage and architecture would agree that many of these buildings were irreplaceable gems. Some buildings when regarded on their own appear insignificant; however, the buildings helped to form a broader identity in relation to the landscapes around them.

I now invite you to follow the link below and explore what is by no means an exhaustive illustration, but an illustration nonetheless, of some of Stratford's past beautiful architecture now preserved only in photographs, rare artifacts, maps, and contemplation.

Click the individual points on the map to reveal an image of the demolished building, the function of that building, the build and demolition years, the current use of that property's land, and any notes of significance. Approximations are denoted with "c." (circa).

Links:

[**Demolished Architecture in the City of Stratford**](#)

or

[**Demolished Architecture in the City of Stratford**](#)