



DHD

Chronology of the Distillery Historic District

1831

- James Worts and son emigrate from England and settle in York (later Toronto)
- Windmill site selected and construction started

1832

- Windmill completed
- Cholera strikes York
- William Gooderham and 54 others join Worts
- Worts & Gooderham partnership created
- Mill starts operation

1833

- Steam engine purchased to supplement unpredictable wind power

1834

- James Worts commits suicide after wife dies in childbirth
- Firm renamed Wm Gooderham Company
- “York” becomes “Toronto”

1837

- William Gooderham establishes distillery
- First whisky sold
- Victoria becomes Queen
- William Lyon Mackenzie leads failed Rebellion in Toronto

1841

- Gas illumination added
- Entire plant converted to steam power

1843

- Purchase of 22 cows establishes cattle-feeding business

1845

- James Gooderham Worts (nephew of William Gooderham) becomes partner
- Firm renamed "Gooderham & Worts"
- G&W builds wharf and expands distillery around old windmill tower

1856

- George Gooderham (son of William Gooderham) becomes partner in Gooderham & Worts
- Grand Trunk Railway tracks run south of distillery

1859-1860

- Stone Distillery, designed by David Roberts Sr., built
- Production capacity vastly increased to 2 million gallons per year

1863-'64

- Maltings, Offices, Cooperage, and Rectifying House, designed by David Roberts Sr., built
- Windmill tower demolished

1866

- Cattle feeding operation moves from Trinity Street to east of Don River

1867

- July 1, Confederation

1869

- October 26 fire destroys interior of Stone Distillery

1870

- Reconstructed Stone Distillery opens

1873

- Pure Spirits and Cannery buildings open

1877

- Gooderham & Worts described as “largest distillery in the world”

1881

- August 21, William Gooderham dies

1882

- June 20, James Gooderham Worts dies
- George Gooderham becomes sole surviving partner
- August 1, firm incorporated as Gooderham & Worts Limited

1885

- Federal government requires whisky to be aged at least 2 years
- Major expansion of storage space, with a dozen tank and rack houses, designed by David Roberts, Jr., built in about 5 years

1886

- George Gooderham buys out Worts heirs

1895

- Last Victorian structure built: Fire Pump House

1901

- Queen Victoria dies
- Edward VII ascends throne

1902

- General Distilling Company established by Gooderham & Worts, Joseph Seagram, Hiram Walker's, Wiser's, Corby's and Hamilton Distilling Company to produce industrial alcohol

1905

- May 1, George Gooderham dies

1914

- August outbreak of First World War

1916

- Prohibition in Canada: all provinces except Quebec pass legislation prohibiting sale of liquor
- Prohibition in Ontario: Ontario Temperance Act forbids *selling* liquor for beverage purposes and *possessing* liquor outside a private dwelling, but does *not* prohibit manufacturing liquor
- Gooderhams offer G&W Distillery to Government for duration of the War
- British Acetones established at distillery to produce essential ingredient of smokeless gunpowder

1918

- November 11th, Great War ends

1920

- National prohibition of manufacturing, selling, transporting, and drinking of alcoholic beverages starts in United States

1923

- Gooderham heirs sell Gooderham & Worts to Harry C. Hatch and associates

1926

- Harry C. Hatch and associates acquire Hiram Walker's

1927

- Prohibition ends in Ontario
- Ontario government liquor stores open
- Merger of Hatch companies creates Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts Ltd.
- Case Goods Warehouse and Rackhouse M built

1933

- National prohibition ends in United States

1934

- Ontario bars, taverns, hotels allowed to sell alcohol by the glass

1939-1945

- Second World War

1957

- Last grain alcohol (whisky) produced at Gooderham & Worts plant
- Industrial alcohols and rum continue as major products

- Consolidated Alcohol formed with Corby's to manufacture and market industrial alcohols

1987

- Hiram Walker-Gooderham & Worts sold to Allied Vintners

1988

- Gooderham & Worts site designated a national historic site

1990

- Gooderham & Worts Distillery closes down

2001

- Cityscape Holdings purchases site to promote arts, culture, and entertainment in a renewed historic district

2003

- The Distillery Historic District opens to the public with nearly 200,000 square feet of space refurbished

2005

- Dundee Realty purchases a 50% interest in the Distillery Historic District