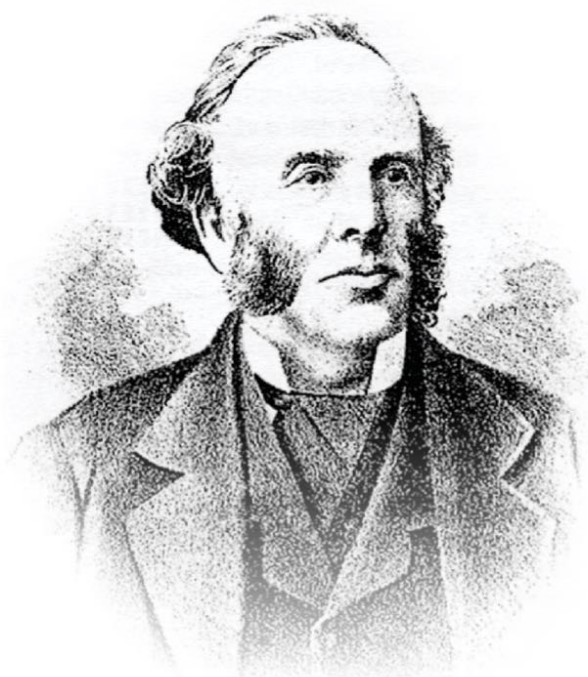


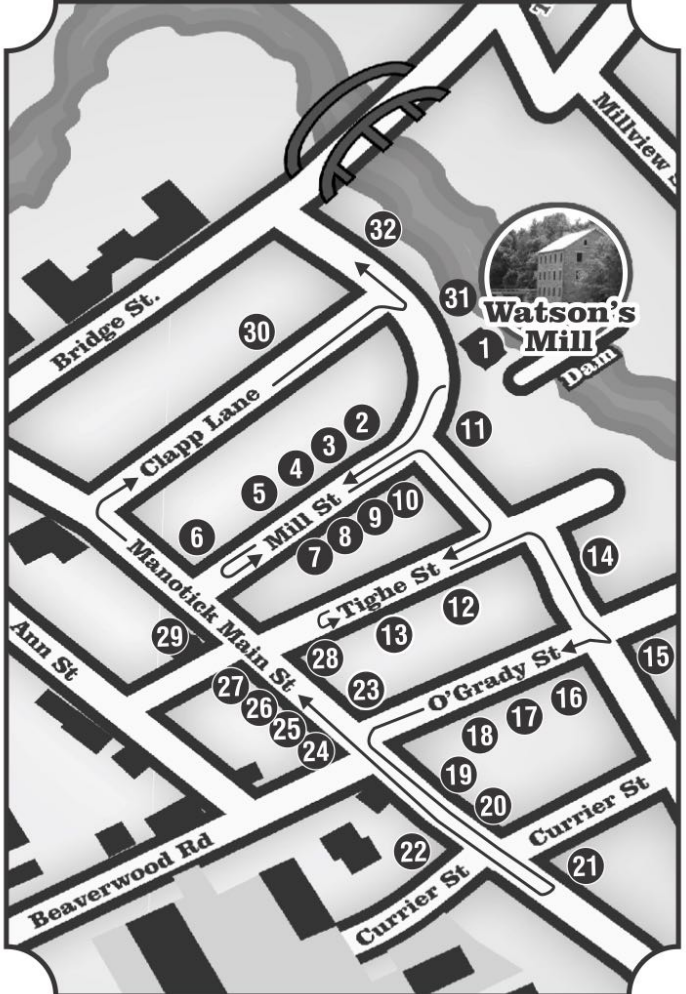



A  
*Walking Tour*  
of  
*Manotick's*  
*Historic Core*



*M. H. Dickenson*

Presented by the  
**Manotick BIA**  
**Rideau Township**  
**Historical Society**  
**Watson's Mill**



 Indicates buildings designated by the Township of Rideau and the City of Ottawa



Text: Rideau Township Historical Society  
[www.rideautwp/history.org](http://www.rideautwp/history.org)  
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**MANOTICK** — An Indigenous word meaning "Island in the River". The name was given to the town in 1859 by its founder Moss Kent Dickinson. Dickinson and his partner Joseph Currier obtained the water rights following construction of the bulkhead or dam. The partners then built a milling complex, purchased much of the adjoining land and established the village.

Over time, there were four mills: the present grist mill, a sawmill, a woolen mill, and a bung mill across the river, the foundations of which are still visible. The village housed the workers for this small industrial complex and also served as a marketing, shipping, and shopping centre for neighbouring farmers.

Wharves for steamboats were located on the east channel of the river and at the south end of the village in Mahogany Harbour, but the railway came no closer than Manotick Station 6 km to the east. When river traffic gave way to rail, and water power to steam and electricity, the village accordingly went into a long period of non growth.

For many years Main Street was the original Highway 16, the main route from Ottawa to Prescott to connect to Highway 2 and much later the 401. The paving of the highway and the arrival of hydro in the 1920s was a memorable period in the village's history.

Significant growth resumed in the 1950's, when improved road transportation and the expanding Ottawa-Carleton metropolitan population led to the residential/commercial prosperity of the present day.

**1. 5525 Dickinson Street**



The mill was built by Moss Kent Dickinson in 1859 of limestone quarried from the river bed. It is one of the finest examples of 19th century grist mills in Canada. Noted for the quality of its stone work and interior detailing, the mill is the only working heritage site in the City of Ottawa. The Mill was sold to Alex Spratt in 1928 and then to Harry Watson whose name has been retained honouring his care in preservation of the mechanism. It was sold next to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority who undertook the restoration of turbines and machinery, making it possible once again to produce stone ground flour. It is now the property of the City of Ottawa, and operated and maintained along with the Dickinson house by Watson's Mill Manotick Incorporated.



**1859**



**1127 Mill Street**

**1868**

This house was built in 1867 by M.K. Dickinson and served as an office, general store, family home and the village's first post office. Once the head office of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority it is now owned by the City of Ottawa. It continues in use with displays relevant to the Dickinson family and the early history of Manotick. A major renovation of the exterior of the building was completed in 2021. With its clean classical lines, balanced proportions and attractively detailed entrance the house is a good example of the Classic Revival style of architecture popular from the 1820s to 60s. The original Dickinson carriage house, now much modified to accommodate office space for the Mill, is just north of the house. (5524 Dickinson St.).

**3. 1131 Mill Street**

**1904**



The original owner was a tailor who had his shop next door. The exterior is relatively unchanged, the truncated hip roof and general shape being typical of houses of this era. This example is unusually decorative with roof brackets, patterned window heads, hooded dormers and brick detailing.



**4. 1137 Mill Street**

**c. 1880**



The Miller's Oven was a very busy general store from 1887 to 1920, selling everything from fish to raccoon coats. It was the site of the telegraph office and the village's first telephone. Next owned by the Independent Order of Oddfellows, it housed a hall on the upper floor, a barbershop on the lower level, and for a time, a pool table and the public library! In 1981 the building was acquired and the exterior carefully restored by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and is now owned by the City of Ottawa. It is currently a popular lunch and tea room independently operated by the Miller's Oven Senior Citizen's Committee, and staffed mainly by volunteers.



**5. 1143 Mill Street**

**c. 1863**

Originally one of Manotick's three hotels, this building has been much altered but traces of the original trim can still be seen on the porch and the west gable.

**6. 1145 Mill Street**

**1902**

This building is situated on lots originally purchased from George Dickinson in 1903. The building is distinguished by the hooded dormers and 2 storey veranda, with its attractive treillage intact. Built as a store and residence, its former uses are recalled by the exterior stairway to the upstairs apartment and the large display windows which served the store on the ground floor.



**7. Memorial to Moss Kent Dickinson**

Erected in 2003 by the Rideau Township Historical Society and the City of Ottawa in commemoration of Moss Kent Dickinson (1822-1897) a co-founder of Manotick, builder of Long Island (Watson's) Mill, Member of Parliament (1882-87) and Mayor of Ottawa (1864-1866).



**8. 1136 Mill Street**

**1877**

Built by M.K. Dickinson for his mill workers, and later moved back from its original street-side location, this building retains its basic design. Note the detailed eaves, turned veranda posts and classical pediment, all features of the Classic Revival style.



**9. 1130 Mill Street****1926**

The design of this building with its extended roof line shading the full width veranda is typical of bungalows popularized on the Canadian west coast. It is constructed of Boyd Block, a product of the Boyd Brothers Block company of Osgoode.


**10. 1128 Mill Street****1902**

 The Ayers Building was originally the Union Bank. Built at a time when bank managers were expected to live above the bank for security reasons, quarters were provided on the upper floor. Styled with large round-headed windows, this one is typical of small bank buildings of the early 1900s. Named for Frank Ayers, a former Chairman of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, this building is now owned by Rural Ottawa South Support Services.

**11. 5533 Dickinson Street****1926**

Knox Presbyterian replaces the original brick church built in 1877 on Long Island, which was lost to the congregation following church union in 1925. To serve the needs of an ever-growing membership a compatible addition was added on the south side of this building in the 1980s.

**12. 1136 Tighe Street****1859 & 1889**

 One of the earliest commercial buildings in Manotick, the original section dates from early 1860s, and the front section from 30 years later. It was first occupied by a wagon and carriage maker, with a paint shop upstairs. By the 1940s, the building had become a busy hardware store serving the surrounding community. It has continued in use housing a variety of business enterprises to the present day.


**13. 1138 Tighe Street****1860's**

Modern siding now conceals the sturdy log construction of the main section of this house, a method rarely used for houses in this area. The mansard roof with its decorative hooded dormers was added in the 1870s, in the Second Empire style which flourished at that time.


**14. 5545 Dickinson Street****c. 1905**

Built by a harness maker, this house has been considerably altered with several additions but has retained the decorative gable trim of a panelled design typical of the period in contrast with the lacier trim of the earlier Gothic Revival style shown on 1126 O'Grady street.


**15. 1126 O'Grady Street****1872**

 With its steep gables and gingerbread trim, this is a fine example of Gothic Revival style. An 1880's addition housed Manotick's first bake shop, which closed in 1900. The original brick oven remains. Later owners included 3 doctors who practised here from 1906 to 1918. A founder and second president of Carleton University, Dr. M.M. MacOdrum lived here from 1948 to 1955.

**16. 1128 O'Grady Street****1905**

 This house is a product of the mason who built 1131 and 1128 on Mill Street. It exhibits the same careful brickwork and detailing. Note the interesting window arches and side trim, the metal roofing pressed to resemble shingles, and the Classic Revival design of the porches, one of which has now been closed in.


**17. 1130 O'Grady Street****c. 1888**

 Built as an office and residence for the local veterinarian, this house with its wide veranda and hooded dormers was stuccoed in the 1920s. It served as the Presbyterian Manse from 1929 to 1967.


**18. 1134 O'Grady Street****c. 1880**

The first resident here was an undertaker who plied his trade from his home. The stone work on the west side was a 1967 Centennial project by the owner and has been further developed by the successive owners.

**19. 5559 Manotick Main Street****1880s & 1902**

 The original portion of this house at the rear was erected in the early 1880s. It was set at an oblique angle to the road, following the lot line. The front addition constructed in 1902 was built parallel to the road allowance, giving the whole structure an unusual dog-leg shape. The bride and groom who moved here in 1908 celebrated their seventy-third wedding anniversary under the same roof.


**20. 5561 Manotick Main Street****c.1876**

 A profusion of decorative woodwork distinguishes this red brick Gothic Revival house. It served until the 1950s as home and office for a succession of doctors including the legendary Dr. Leach. Since then it has become a commercial building.

**21. 5567 Manotick Main Street****1904**

Manotick United Church is built mainly from stone quarried from nearby Limebank. The pressed metal roof, barge-boards and finials are characteristic of church architecture at the time. Originally Methodist, this building came to the new United Church of Canada in 1925. It has been sympathetically enlarged by recent additions.

**22. 5562 Manotick Main Street****1875 & 1900**

 This eye-catching building, was a private home until 1971. Recent major reconstruction remained faithful to the original, retaining the wood siding on the front section and the decorative trim.

**23. 5549 Manotick Main Street****1922**

Another Boyd Block building, with blocks moulded to resemble stone. This was Manotick's first garage. Photos from 1930 indicate that the gas pump was inside the building, with fuel being delivered through a hose suspended from a steel rod that extended from the front of the building.



**24. 5548 Manotick Main Street 18??**

For over 75 years commencing in the 1850s, this house belonged to the Lindsay family, which owned the building next door at 5546 Main Street. The house, along with the shop, were sold to the McCaffrey family in 1933. Numerous alterations were made to the house after that date, including construction of the two-story addition on the south face. The McCaffrey's rented out the home after they purchased it, and a 1930s the tenant sold ice cream on the verandah. Several businesses have operated at this site over the years.

**25. 5546 Manotick Main Street**

This building was constructed in the late 1870s by Alexander Lindsay, who lived next door at 5548 Main. Note the structure's carefully preserved boomtown front, a style designed to provide an impressive frontage with space for a large sign fashionable on the main streets of the Canadian West. The Lindsays rented this building out to other businesses. Miss McCaul's hat shop and the Smith sisters dress shop were located here before 1900. From 1928 onwards, the building was identified as Lindsay and McCaffrey, General Merchants, reflecting a partnership between Ken Lindsay and Del McCaffrey. Mr. McCaffrey's successors continued to carry modern dry goods in an old-fashioned setting well into the 21st century, retaining the Lindsay and McCaffrey name. While the building is now under new ownership, many interior features from a by-gone era continue to be preserved, including counters, storage bins and the tin ceiling. A large photograph at the back of the shop shows the building's exterior in the 1960s.

**1870's**



**26. 5544 Manotick Main Street c. 1870**

For almost a century this building, now completely altered both inside and out, was a combined business and residential property, first as a general store until 1948, then the village post office and until 1961, a barbershop and subsequently occupied by restaurants.

**27. 5542 Manotick Main Street 1939**

By the 1930s, the Boyd Brothers of Osgoode had developed textured concrete blocks of varying shades and sizes. A buyer was provided with an individual pattern using the special blocks. This bungalow, now a law office, is a good example of the use of this material which remained popular through the 1950s.

**28. 5541 Manotick Main Street 1880**

 (1142A & B Tighe Street)

Photos from the 1950s show an L-shaped frame building with a veranda. This older portion of the building is best viewed from around the corner on Tighe Street. The northern wing was first a general store, later a tea room and ice cream parlour, and between 1918 and 1929, Manotick's first auto show-room. Although considerably altered over the years it has continued to play a significant role in the business life of Manotick.

**29. 5540 Manotick Main Street c. 1900**

The boomtown front preserved on the northern side of this building is from a separate building that originally stood here, numbered 5538 Manotick Main Street. Over many decades, that building housed eleven different commercial uses, including a harness shop, funeral parlour, grocery store, furniture store, radio shop, taxidermy business and other specialty shops. It stood vacant for a number of years before being incorporated into the 5540 Manotick Main Street in 2011.

**30. St. James Anglican Church 1876**

As originally built in 1876 the main entrance faced today's Clapp Lane. In 1884 it was enlarged and turned around to face Bridge Street (No, 1138) restoring much of its original detailing both inside and out. A large addition opening off Clapp Lane was erected in 1998 providing office space and meeting rooms.

**31. The Cenotaph 1962**

The Cenotaph was erected in 1962 on the abutment of the 1872 bridge that used to span the back channel and was replaced in 1957 by the bridge on Main Street. Part of the railings from the original bridge were used for the outer fencing of the Cenotaph. The inner or main ones came from the home of Sir Robert Borden, Canada's Prime Minister during the first World War. The interlocking brick path, commemorating many local veterans, leads back to Watson's Mill.

**32. Remembrance Park**

Developed in 2017 by Ted Ross and the Manotick Royal Canadian Legion, the Remembrance Park honours the branches of the Canadian military and their families through the planning or perennial flowers designed to reflect the spirit of specific gardens commemorating the Homefront, Peacekeeping, and the Air Force, Army, Navy and Merchant Navy. A bronze statue in the centre of the park depicts an older veteran holding the hand of his granddaughter as they walk toward the Manotick Cenotaph.

*NOTE: Further information on any of the buildings on this tour is available at the Rideau Township Archives in North Gower.*

**Walking Tour of Manotick**

**Tour starts and ends at the Mill**

**West** on Mill Street to Main Street

**East** on Mill Street to Dickinson Street

**South** on Dickinson Street to Tighe Street

**West** on Tighe to Main Street

**East** on Tighe to Dickinson Street

**South** on Dickinson to O'Grady Street

**West** on O'Grady Street to Main Street

**South** on Main Street to Currier Street

**North** on Main Street to Clapp Lane

**East** on Clapp Lane to Dickinson

**South** on Dickinson to Mill Street - The Mill.