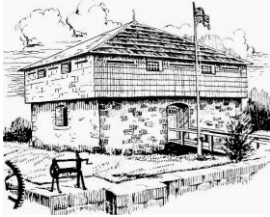


Merrickville like most of the settlements on the Rideau river system developed beside the "Great Falls" which provided the water power to drive early development. In the 1790's, William Merrick a United Empire Loyalist received a Crown grant and built a saw mill, around which grew the community then known as Merrick's Mills. The Rideau Canal opened in 1832 and the commerce it brought stimulated the community's growth and, in 1860 the Village of Merrickville was incorporated.

As the railways grew, other locations were chosen as divisional junctions and by the 1880's Merrickville's period of major growth had ended. From then until the 1960's the village slumbered in relative obscurity. As a result, Merrickville's unique character and architecture survived many of the ravages of modernization. And so, today it exists as a modern village with a naturally preserved 19th century flavour.

This brochure highlights some of the Village's many historic properties.

**1. The Blockhouse 1832
Main & St Lawrence**



Built to defend the Canal, this is the largest of the four such military stone blockhouses on the Rideau. Never used militarily it was the home of Lockmaster

Johnston, and is now a National Historic Site. A Museum inside operated by the Merrickville & District Historical Society houses a collection of typical 19th century implements.

2. The Industrial complex 1793

On the north side of the bridge is the site of the industrial complex which grew around William Merrick's original sawmill. By the early 1800's, flour and grist mills had been added, and by 1850 a major foundry and woollen mill were part of the complex.

**3. *William Merrick House c. 1821- 1835
129 Mill Street**

The third and last home of the Village founder and pioneer industrialist William Merrick.

It was later owned by industrialist and foundryman William Pearson and his daughter Mary Pearson.



**4. *The Magee House c. 1845
205 Mill Street**

Built in the 1840's and acquired shortly thereafter by early foundryman William Magee, this Queen Anne style Victorian is one of the most attractive homes in the Village. Carefully restored it is now operated as the "Millisle B&B".

**5. *Merrick Tavern c. 1830
106 Mill Street**

Commonly considered a tavern because of its style and proximity to the industrial complex. this stone house was owned by Aaron & Terrance Merrick. One of the earliest surviving homes in the Village, it was restored as a private home in 1980.



**6 * Jakes- McLean Block c.1862
Main & St Lawrence SE**

The largest commercial building in Merrickville was built and served as a department store, one of the grandest in the region. During the 1930's entrepreneur Harry F McLean acquired it for his company offices. It now houses retail shops, a pub named for Harry McLean and the Baldachin Inn dining and hospitality operations.



**7. * Sam Jakes House c. 1861
118 Main Street E**

Originally built as the home of prominent merchant, Samuel Jakes, this solid stone structure now houses the Fulford Preparatory College.

**8. * The Pearson House c. 1890
111 Main Street E**

Donated by Miss Mary Pearson to the Village in 1938 this early Victorian home is the former premises of the Merrickville Public Library.

**9. *Percival House c. 1890
206 Main Street E**

The Richardsonian-Romanesque style home of foundry-man Roger Percival. Note the new "coach house" built in the style of the original house.



10. Elgin Streetscape 1820-1920

The five blocks on Elgin Street, between Wellington and Bruce present a parade of architectural evolution from the early 19th to 20th centuries. The Duke house at 206 Elgin circa 1855 has covered its original logs with wooden shipboard siding.



Across the street, the stone liquor store was the 1860 foundry of H D Smith. At *306 Elgin the elegant wooden gabled home was built by Merrickville master builder Samuel Langford as a wedding gift for his daughter. At Drummond, note the 1860's, 1 1/2 story clapboard and on the opposite corner a 1920's generic style, both carefully restored. Further up Elgin at Colborne are fine examples of the red brick houses with colourful yellow brick quoins and trim, stylish and popular in the 1880's.

**11. *Stephen Merrick House c.1850
106 Brock St E**

One of the finest stone homes in the village, this fine house originally was built by



Samuel Langford for Stephen Merrick, a son of village founder William Merrick. Note the superior fine cut ashlar stone on the front façade; an indication of the Merrick family's prosperity and stature.

**12. * Aaron Merrick House c. 1845
905 St Lawrence**



The ultimate Merrick house built by Aaron Merrick, the son of town founder Wm. Merrick and

later owned by Harry Falconer McLean, Engineer-Contractor, extraordinaire.

**13. *Knox Presbyterian Church 1861
618 St Lawrence**

Restored by Heritage Merrickville Foundation in 1983 to maintain its historic presence, this red-brick building, the earliest surviving church structure, is now in private hands.



**14. McEntyre House c. 1861
605 St Lawrence**

Constructed for Daniel McEntyre, a shoemaker, this one and half storey stone home with Greek revival details was later used as a millinery shop.

15. ***John Johnston House c. 1850**
512 St Lawrence

Built for retired Sergeant John Johnston, who served as Merrickville's lock-master from 1836 to 1869, this stone house, exhibits the classic style of Greek revival. Note the suicide door, installed in anticipation of a porch to be later added.



16. * **The Tyndall House c.1855**
105 Lewis St W

This Adamesque style stone house imitates an earlier style "loyalist" doorway and trim details. It was built about 1855 for Jane Tyndall and was in the Tyndall family until the late 19th century,



17. **Classic Red Brick Homes c.1860**
St John & Drummond St

By 1860 Merrickville produced brick was replacing stone as a preferred building material. These two homes demonstrate more elaborate trim and steeply pitched gable begin to appear at this time previewing the coming Victorian style.

18. ***John Mills House c.1860**
130 Brock Street W

Constructed as a store and furniture factory by cabinet maker John Mills. Note the parapetted end gables to help prevent spread of roof fires to neighbours.



19. **Early Stone House c.1830**
323 St Lawrence

Probably built about 1830, before the canal, this recently renovated largely rubble and stucco structure is one of the earliest remaining stone houses in the Village, now an antique store.

20. * **General Store c. 1848-1855**
136 St Lawrence

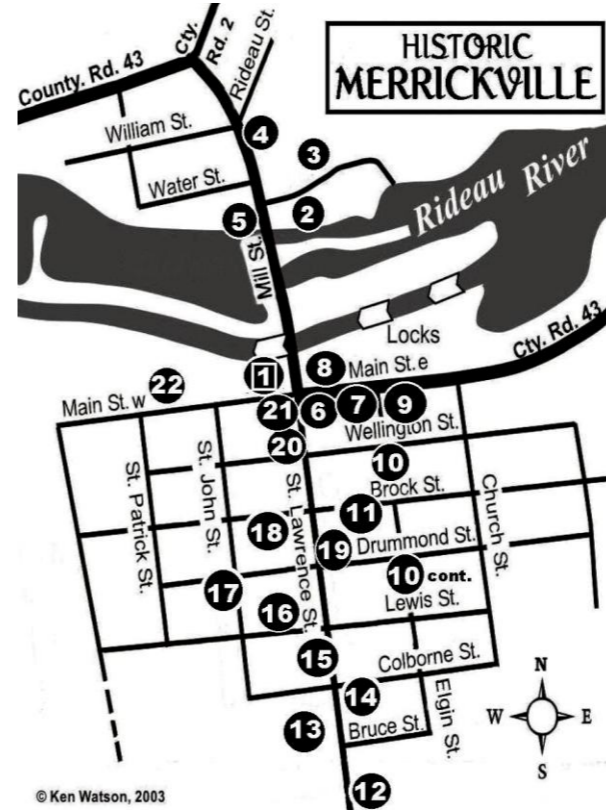
Until recently a stucco finish hid the cut stone details of this building. It was built as a general store about 1848 by an early Merrickville merchant, Charles Holden. The building has since served continuously as a retail outlet.

21. ***Aaron Merrick Block c. 1856**
106 -108 St. Lawrence

Commissioned by Aaron Merrick, this massive three story stone structure was built to house Merrickville's early commercial interests. From the mid 1800's until the early years of the 20th century it was operated by the Tallman family as a grand scale general store. Like much of the Village it fell into disrepair until renovations began in 1974. A counterpoint to the Jakes block across the street, it now houses apartments, offices and several of the Village's attractive retail shops.

22. ***Old Town Hall c. 1856**

Designed by Samuel Langford and constructed in 1856 by the township of Woford, and later transferred in 1860 to the Village of Merrickville, this stalwart stone three story building with its wide open second and third story spaces was ideally suited for public administration, political events and community gatherings. Used as such it served the community for over 100 years. By the early 1970's it was abandoned but kept from total deterioration by private owners. In 1984 the building was acquired by the Heritage Merrickville Foundation which, with funding from private, corporate and government sources, conducted badly needed renovations. The property is presently owned and operated by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 245, Merrickville.



Properties indicated with an asterisk * are among the 33 Village properties that have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 through LACAC. (now the Merrickville Municipal Heritage Committee)

For more complete descriptions please see the Walking Tour Booklet available for purchase at the Blockhouse Museum.

**The Merrickville & District
Historical Society**

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Merrickville Historic Properties

a

Walking Tour



John Petapiece House c. 1900
212 Brock Street east

**Presented by
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