

76 17/2000
MISSISSIPPI IRON WORKS, Almonte, Ontario

Location: Little Bridge Street, on the Mississippi River,
Almonte, Lanark County, Ontario
Lot Letter "a" on Subdivision of Lot Letter
#7, McIntosh Section

Present Owner: D.R.E. Investments,
1550 Laperrierre Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont.. K1Z 7T2

Present Occupant: unoccupied

Present Use: not in use

Statement of
Significance: The Mississippi Iron Works is a good example
of the small manufacturing building of the
latter half of the 19th C. and is one of the
very few which has survived here in Almonte.
Architecturally, it reflects the so-called
'Almonte' style which can be seen in both
the 'Pinecraft' Building, Mill St., and in the
Almo Apt. Building, Mill and Bridge Streets.,
both much larger buildings. Thirdly, it
occupies a very visible and very picturesque
site on the 'banks of the Mississippi' thereby
high-lighting the early manufacturing history
of Almonte.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: It appears that John McIntosh was the original owner of this section which bears his name. An 1861 Plan shows his woollen factory on the site of the present Post Office. Not until 1887, under a subdivision of Lower Lot #7, was Lot "a" sold. It was then purchased by James, Robert and Alex. Metcalfe. They immediately resold the lot to the Young Bros., William, Robert and Andrew, for \$4,000.00.. In all likelihood, the building was then constructed by the two brothers who retained an interest in the business, Robert and Andrew; however, the cost of the property if indeed it was undeveloped was very high. Certainly, before 1886 there was no source of direct water power. A deed registered in the North Lanark Office in 1886 deals with the negotiations which would allow a flume to be built under the woollen factory (Thoburn's). In 1907, the property was sold to Hugh Bowland et. al. for \$13,250.00 (with machinery) but possession was regained by the Youngs in 1913. Ownership throughout the 20th C. is unclear. The building was used by both the McLeans and by the Waugh

Bros. of Carleton Place for manufacturing purposes. In 1959 it was sold to the present owners, D.R.E. Investments, for the sum of \$33,000.00, including other lands.

2. Date of erection: c. 1887
3. Architect: If the Young's were indeed the owners of the property at the time of construction, it is not unlikely that Robert Young was responsible for at least part of the building. In an instrument of 1913 whereby the Youngs regained the property he is then listed as 'builder'.
4. Alterations and additions: A third and larger building measuring 5 bays wide by 3 bays deep, 3 storeys tall, once completed the eastern end of the complex. It was destroyed by fire and/or ice mid 20th C.. Alterations on the exterior of the two remaining buildings appear to have been minor. All openings have been boarded up. As well, a second and taller chimney on the western end of the larger surviving building has been removed.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

On the level of local history, the Young Bros. was once a thriving iron foundry. The Globe, Sept. 24, 1892 described the business as follows:

MISSISSIPPI IRON WORKS

Young Brothers, Robert and Andrew, are a pair of practical, hard-working mechanics, who have made their business a study, and who have as a result succeeded in building up a large and profitable business in English and American fulling mills and washers, wool pickers, exhaust fan dryers, dusters, rotary force pumps for fire duty, boiler feed pumps, shafting hangers, castings, pulleys, gearings and forgings. Their rotary force pump has found a ready sale and is one of the best of its kind found on the market...

They have a very complete shop, well equipped with the latest improved tools for turning out their work. (*See bibliography)

C. Sources of Information:

Old Views:

- i) photograph from The Saturday Globe, Vol. XLVIII, Sat. Sept. 24. 1892.

Bibliography:

Periodicals:

C. Sources of Information(cont'd):

Periodicals:

North Lanark Historical Review, 1972.

The Saturday Globe, Vol. XLVIII, Sat. Sept. 24, 1892.

Plans:

North Lanark Registry Office, Plan #189, Coleman's Island, Josiah Richey, 1861.

Deeds, etc.:

North Lanark Registry Office, Almonte, Ontario

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building, aesthetically attractive both in construction and in choice of site, is a good example of the small manufactory of the latter part of the 19th C..
2. Condition: poor

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main block is approx. 30' wide, the river elevation being 4 bays wide while the elevation facing land is only 3 bays in width, by 20' deep (3 bays). The annex at the western end of the main block is approx. 10' wide (2 bays) by 20' deep (3 bays).
2. Foundations: These are constructed from stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and colour: The walls are gray, coursed rubble stone finished at the corners in darker gray stone quoins.
4. Structural system and framing: masonry load-bearing walls
5. Porches: None.
6. Chimneys: There is one large stone chimney on the peak of the western end of the annex.
7. Openings:
 - a) Doors and doorways: There are two loading bays, one in the central bay of the main block, the second in the eastern bay of the annex. Both doorways have a slightly arched head with stone voussoirs. The doors themselves are a very plain vertical

plank.

- b) Windows: The window openings, like the doorways, have a very slightly arched stone head with stone voussoirs. The sills are constructed in the darker stone of the quoins. The windows are no longer in evidence.

8. Roof:

- a) Shape, covering: There is a very low gabled tar-paper roof on both the main block and on the annex.

C. Description of Interior: Not done.

D. Site:

- a) General setting and orientation: The main elevation faces north across the Mississippi River toward the Almonte Flour Mills. The building is approached by land through a laneway from Little Bridge St..
- b) Outbuildings: None standing.

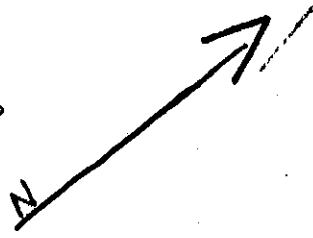
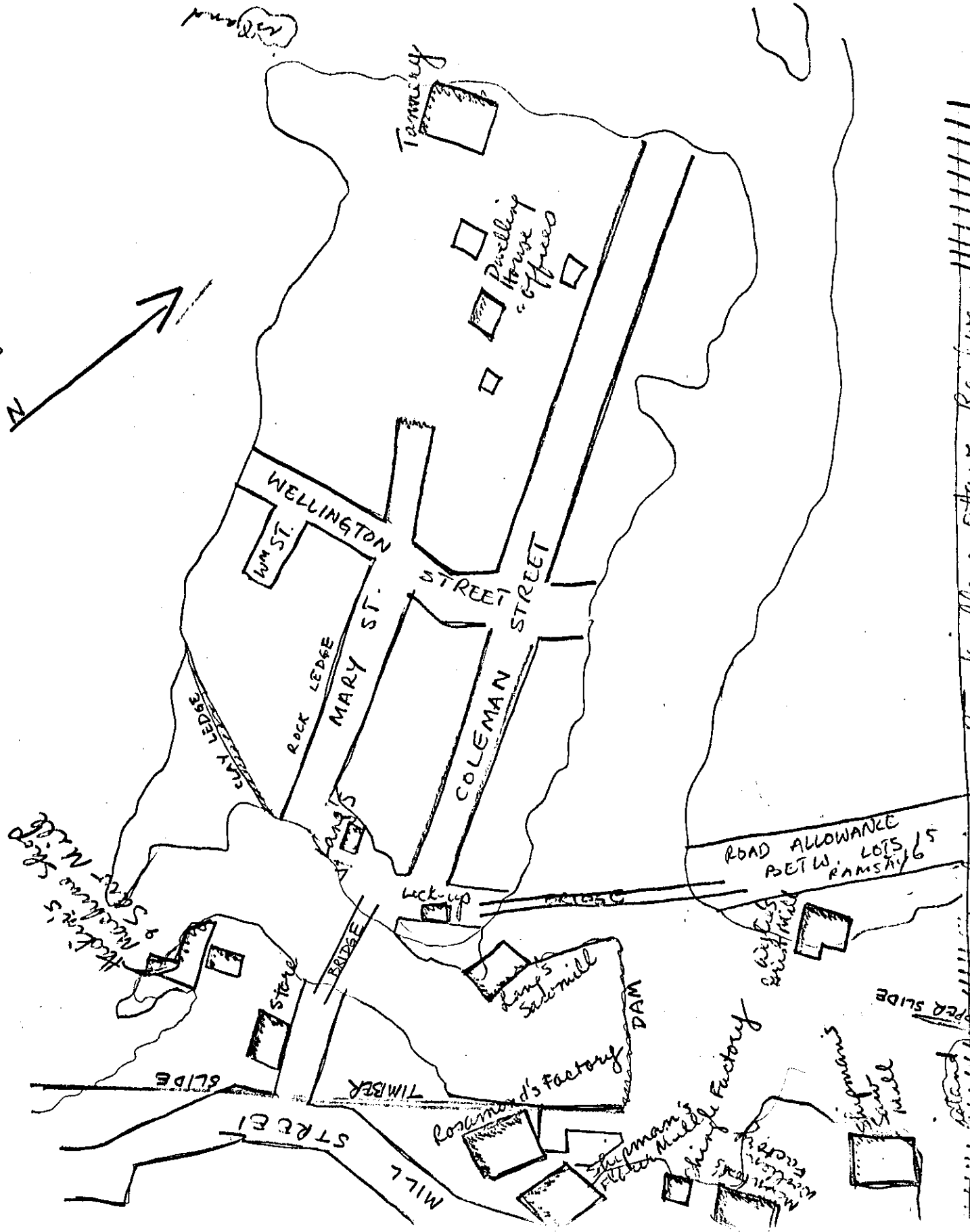
PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Compiled by M. Christine Castle under the auspices of the Almonte Local Architectural Advisory Committee and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, July, 1976.

Appended material:

- i) recent photograph
- ii) photocopy of rough sketch of Plan #189, 1861.

ETCH OF COLEMAN'S ISLAND PLAN # 189 Josias Lichey, 1861



Hickory's Store & Saw Mill

SLIDE

MILL STREET

TIMBER

Roseman's Factory

Shipman's Mill

Factory

DAM

Sawmill

Lick-up

ROAD ALLOWANCE
BETW. LOTS 15
& 16
RAMSAY

WELLINGTON STREET

MARY ST.

COLEMAN STREET

ROCK LEDGE

CLAY LEDGE

W.M. ST.

Tannery

Dwelling House & Office

Mud Bay

PER SLIDE

Shipman's Mill

Shipman's Mill

Island