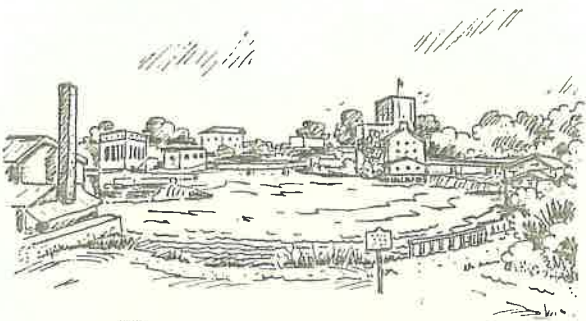


Continue down Mill Street to Kirkland Park next to the New Post Office entrance.

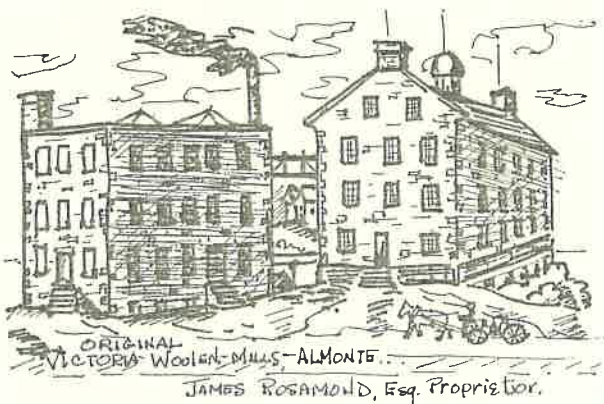
6 Kirkland Park



Created as an oasis of rest in the heart of Almonte's downtown area, this park looks out between the upper and lower falls to the place where the North Branch on the river deserts the channel and forms the upper flank of Coleman's Island.

The name "Kirkland Park" was suggested by the Town Council to honour two postmasters, Dr. J.T. Kirkland and his son, Hal B. Kirkland for their dedicated service for half a century in the original post office building.

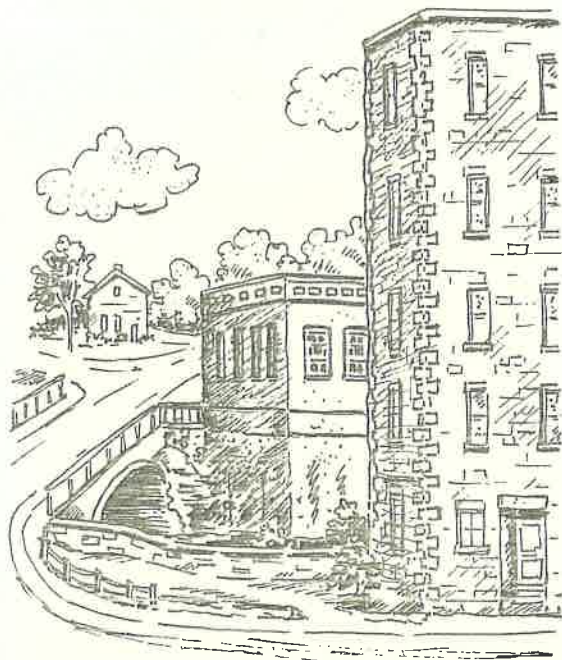
This parkland was formerly occupied by a three-storey brick-clad Penman Woolen Mill until 1930 and was used by other textile manufacturers until the building was destroyed by fire in 1957. Its loss marked the end of an era of textile manufacturing on Mill Street.



Continue down Mill Street to the corner for Victoria Mill and Slide Bridge

7 Victoria Woolen Mill

(Rosamond Mill #2)



Built by James Rosamond in the 1850s and given the name of the reigning monarch, this was the first mill to take advantage of the potential power from No. 2 falls.

Mr. Rosamond's enterprise marked the commencement of a century of textile manufacturing in Almonte and led to the use of the term "Little Manchester" in the 1880s.

The building has been designated an Historic Site to mark the emergence of industrial practices to replace the cottage style of the industry hitherto the norm for textile manufacturing in Canada.

The two upper storeys show a distinctly different colour of masonry from the lower. A fire in August 1922 so damaged the upper portions of the mill that the walls of the upper two storeys had to be rebuilt. Stone for the rebuilding came from a local quarry.

The bridge to the left is ...

8 The Slide Bridge

Built with a massive stone arch to leap over the timber slide and the gorge to give access to Coleman's Island, the bridge's cost of \$1500, aroused the severe condemnation of the Ramsay Township Council. It was claimed that four timber structures could have been built for less. Council responded saying that the stone arch bridge would last one hundred years, and it did, plus four more.

The last log drive, 3,149 white pine logs from High Lanark were sent over the slide in June 1910 to the calm waters in Gemmill's Bay below the falls. That drive spelled the decline in native forest growth in Lanark.

The present bridge, built in the 1960s to replace the 100 year old stone arch structure, is a faithful reproduction of the original with the added advantage of reinforcing steel in concrete to withstand the punishment of today's heavy trucks.

Now proceed to ...

9 Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

A walk across the Slide Bridge to Coleman's Island and along either Coleman or Mary Street takes a visitor to the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, where one gets wondrous glimpses into textile manufacturing. The museum's displays present the pursuit of excellence in worsteds and tweeds that made the name of Almonte famous world-wide.

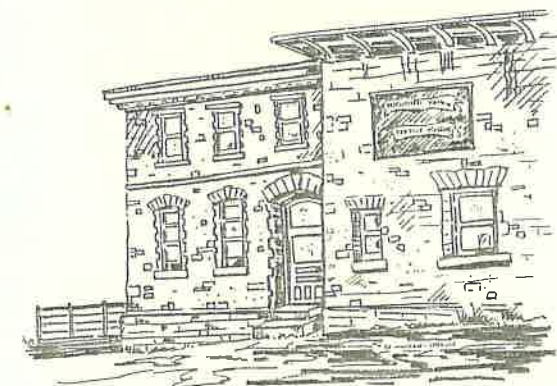
In 1864 Bennett and William Rosamond, sons of James, with Montreal financier James Stephen, conceived a giant woolen manufacturing enterprise to use the river's power. A gigantic six-storey stone mill, located beside No. 1 Falls was completed in 1867 for the sum of \$25,500.

Today, as for centuries past, the Mississippi tumbles down the rock faces beside the mill-turned-condominium, untamed by the past, unbroken by the present, into an unexplored future, a marvel to wonder-seekers from everywhere.

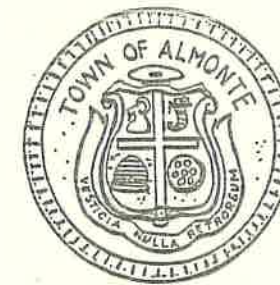
Author: John Dunn & Committee
Artist: Edward Winslow-Spragge

ALMONTE WALKING TOUR

#1



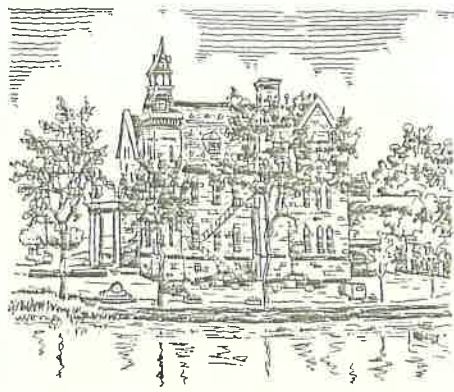
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum



Prepared by:
Almonte-Ramsay
Local Architectural Conservation
Advisory Committee
with help from
Almonte & District H.S.
Supported by a grant from
Ontario Ministry of Culture,
Tourism and Recreation.

The tour begins at ...

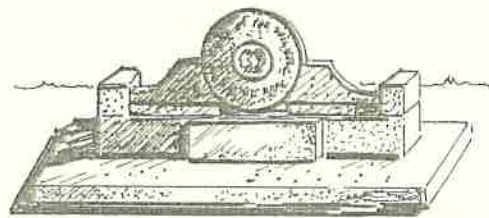
1 The Town Hall



Built in 1885 by George Willoughby, a local contractor, this mid-Victorian public building focused attention on the growing municipality. Erected on the site of a pioneer square-timber making yard, the building, from the first, housed offices and lock-up for police, fire hall, public library, mayor's office, clerk's office, council chamber and the only auditorium in the town for holding important public meetings and cultural events.

To the right of the Town Hall on the river bank.

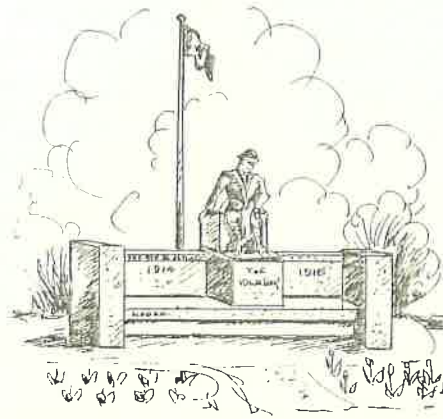
The Minister's Bench



Erected by Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie in honour of his parents, this stone bench with the millstone in its back invites the visitor to sit and reflect on the eternal contrast: time and timelessness. The millstone once busy and noisy, but now solid, unmoving and forever stilled, gazes fixedly upon the ceaselessly-flowing Mississippi River.

To the left of the Town Hall ...

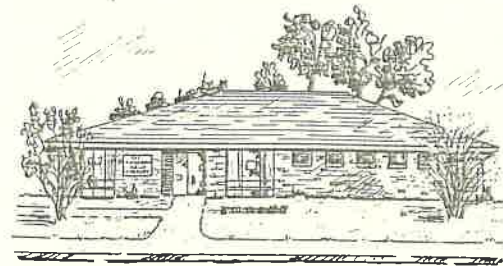
The War Memorial



One of the renowned works of sculpture by native-born Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie, "The Volunteer" commemorates particularly poignantly the sacrifices made by the men of Almonte who fell for freedom.

Carry on up over the tracks and take the first street to the left for one block.

2 The Elizabeth Kelly Library



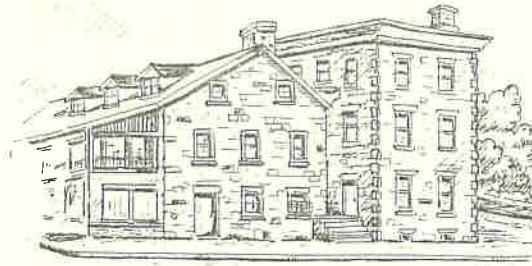
Erected on the site of the former Almonte railway station on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, this library continues the cultural tradition of reading and learning which pioneer settlers from Scotland, Ireland and the United States brought here in the 1820s.

The library is named after Dr. John Kelly's daughter, Elizabeth Kelly, who served as librarian for the town of Almonte for more than forty years.

On this site the worst train wreck in Canadian history occurred. On the night of December 27th, 1942, thirty-six passengers on the Sunday evening special train from Petawawa to Ottawa lost their lives when their train was struck from the rear by a troop train.

Return to the traffic light corner.

3 The Shipman House



Built by Daniel Shipman, "Founder of Almonte," as his residence, this house originally faced the river. Reverse orientation became necessary after the Brockville and Ottawa Railway reached Almonte in 1859 and the "Almonte House" was joined to Mr. Shipman's residence to provide accommodation for travellers venturing to take the train.

Mr. Shipman's family were mill owners in Upper New York State who chose to continue the Loyalist tradition. Their arrival at this frontier site in 1821 brought a beginning of mills along the Mississippi River.

Continue down Mill Street for 1/2 block on right.

4 The Raines House

In a central location on Mill Street, this house features a kind of "eyebrow" window over the front door with the owner's name in stained glass, "Dr. T.W. Raines, Dentist."

Dr. Raines, a lieutenant in an Alabama artillery battery during the American Civil War, was captured three times and escaped three times. The final escape brought him directly to Almonte where he set up practice in his home. He married the daughter of Daniel Shipman and became the first reeve of the village of Almonte in 1871.

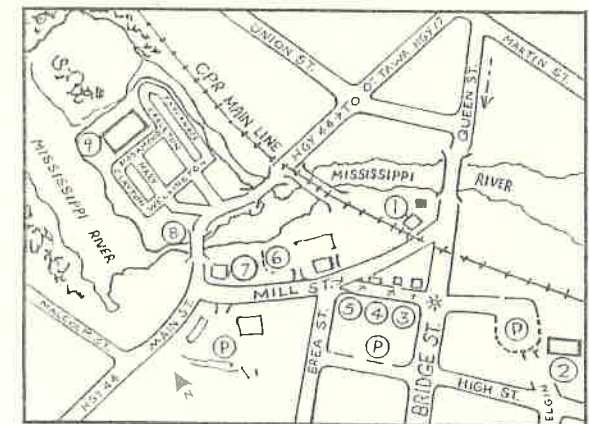
A few feet further down the hill

5 The Post Office Building



Erected in 1890, this central landmark on the brow of Mill Street housed the post office and customs and excise services for the woolen town until 1968. Created by Thomas Fuller, architect of the original centre block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, the design was similar to many such public buildings erected during the last decade of the nineteenth century. Today this imposing structure is the only remaining example lying within the National Capital Region.

Stone for the foundation came from Beckwith. The walls were built of stone from Rideau Ferry in South Elmsley Township and the darker quoins, window facings and door treatments came from Nova Scotia.



Please continue overleaf.