

FIELD
ASSESSMENT ROLLS. FIELD and ALPHABETICAL
for E. BURRELL'S PROPERTY.- MILL ST. BALDWIN WARD TO 1874. THEREAFTER
BLEECKER WARD.

ASSESSMENT NUMBER	NAME	OCCUPATION	TENANT HOUSEHOLDER FREEHOLDER	NAME OF OWNER	ADDRESS	ASSESSED VALUE
1871 ALPHABETICAL ROLL FOR BALDWIN WARD.						
317	BURRELL ELLIS FACTORY	AXE	F.	E. BURRELL	W. MILL ST	5500.
FIELD LIST, BALDWIN WARD						
317	SYLVESTER OSTROM	CLOTHIER	T.	E. BURRELL	W. MILL ST	500.
1872 - 317	"NEW BUILDING ON LAND"					
317	E. BURRELL	AXE FACTORY	F.	" "	" "	5500.
317	WM. RANKIN	SHOE MAKER	H	WM. BLEECKER	" "	600.
317	ANDREW HELLER	DYER	H.	" "	" "	
1873 FIELD ROLL BALDWIN WARD.						
317	CHAS. MARTIN	FOUNDRY	T	ELLIS BURRELL	W. MILL	3400.
317	SYLVESTER OSTROM	CLOTHIER	T	" "	" "	1800
317	ELLIS BURRELL	AXE MAKER	F	" "	" "	5500.
317	ANDREW HELLER	DYER	F	AND. HELLER	" "	
1875 ALPHABETICAL ASSESSMENT ROLL - BLEECKER WARD						
45	BURRELL, ELLIS	AXE FACTORY	F	E. BURRELL	W. MILL	3000
45	"	WOOLLEN	F	" "	" "	1600.
1877. FIELD ROLL - BLEECKER WARD.						
44	ANDREW HELLER	DYER	F.	A. HELLER	W. MILL	
45	VACANT HOUSE			E. BURRELL	"	450.
45	JOHN QUINN	AXE MAKER	H	" "	"	450
45	E. BURRELL	OFFICE, AXE FACTORY	F	" "	"	3000.
45	GEORGE DIXON	WOOL FACTORY	T	" "	"	1600.
46	CHARLES MARTIN	FOUNDRY	T	" "	"	3500

ASSESSMENT NUMBER	NAME	OCCUPATION	TENANT HOUSEHOLDER FREEHOLDER	NAME OF OWNER	ADDRESS	ASSESSED VALUE
1877 ALPHABETICAL ROLL - BLEECKER WARD.						
45	VAC. HOUSE		F.	E. BURRELL	W. MILL	450.
45	OFFICE AND AXE FACTORY		F	E. BURRELL	"	3000.
1878 ALPHABETICAL ROLL - BLEECKER WARD						
45	OFFICE	OFFICE	F.	E. BURRELL	W. MILL	3000
45	AXE FACTORY	AXE				
1878 FIELD ASSESSMENT ROLL - BLEECKER WARD						
45	WM. J. HINDSON	PRINTER	H.	E. BURRELL	" "	450
45	JOHN QUINN	AXE GRINDER	H	E. BURRELL	" "	450
45	ELLIS BURRELL	AXE FACTORY	F.	" "	" "	3000
45	CHAS. MARTIN	FOUNDRY	T	" "	" "	3500
45	WILLIAM LOTT	MACHINE SHOP	T	" "	" "	1600.
CONCLUSION: The ASSESSMENT ROLLS of the 1870's to 1882 do NOT OFFER ANY EVIDENCE AS TO THE BUILDING DATE OF THE PACKING BUILDING, In 1881 Tenants of Burrell on the same site had occupations listed as Axemaker, Temperer, Machine Shop Operator, Foundry, and Carding Mill tenants. Burrell's occupation is listed as "Axe Factory". The Packing Building seems to be included in that description. The 1882 assessment description may be a carry-over from 1881, as Ellis Burrell died in March, 1882.						

JAMES AL ROY.

From Street

Born in a house back of the old Albert Co. - Born in December 1844, about the 19th of December. My father was in the brewery business. Allen Petrie had the brewery at the time. Father I was in Montreal three years learning the Brewery business. 1867-8-9- I spent in Montreal at the Dow brewery, I came back to Belleville and started up in 1870. I was in the same business at the same stand on Front Street (West?) - ante-pre until prohibition came in 1915. I ceased business about that time. I had quite a stock of beer on hand. I didn't bother to sell it. My father came from Scotland, Perthshire. I was born here. My mother came from Rocksborough shire, in the south of Scotland. I went up to Niagara in 1865 with the volunteers with the 15th Battalion No. 1 company. Colonel A. Campbell in command. A. R. Beckett who kept a bookstore in the city A. F. McLeod surveyor, Fred Ridley, Eisinger were some of the officers in the battalion. The brewery building was there when I started in. The stone building to the north was built by a man named William Courtney The Wallace's bakery was built before, by a man named Robert Bird. What is now Boyce's Garage was built by a man named Samuel Stevens built it as a hotel. No built for a private dwelling. Jim and Michael Cummings and Neil McArthur learned the harned making trade with Samuel Stevens. He had a nice little garden in front of the house. William Coleman built the next building. Built it as a Hotel. Then Dr. Coleman had a store, a drug store, and Munro and Rosone had a liquor store. Then there was a grist mill in back of the Walker foundry. The foundry was not there. Patterson was the first in the old boundry. The building was put up in my time. Wm. Coleman built it, and it was occupied by Patterson Brothers. William Courtney ran the grist mill. There was an island in the river back of the hotel. There used to be great big elm trees on it, and the boys set fire to them and burned them down. Hempseed used to grow there too. Then there was a cabinet factory and an axe factory. George Walton ran the sash and blind factory on the island. Lewis Ronich had a cabinet facoty, making furniture. Amos Proctor had an axe factory. Above the foundry set stephen's house. Built by Samuel Stephens. Woodrough ran it after Stephens. Stephens was married to Bishop Reynolds daughter, Reynolds was the Bishop of the Pioscopal Methodist church. The fire hall no 2. stands on a port of the Reynold's property. Reynolds owned all that. He owned across the road, too, right up to the Corner of Pinnacle and Front Street. The original fire hall was built for a fire hall and police station and the bells were right along by Moore Marble store. the fire engine was in the south end. Upstairs was the police Court. Abe Diamond was Police Magistrate. Smith Bartlett was there before him. Above that was a frame building owned by Jim Quinn. The upper bridge has been in the same place as long as I can remember. Then up along the river, the first building, a frame one was built by old Man Heller, and it still stands there. the next was a building Ellix Burrell axe factory. Burrell was over the river at one time. Then he built this factory on Station Street. That was some of the Meyer's property. There was a saw mill and grist mill. Burrell married a daughter of Tobias Bleeker. There was a woolen mill along there. Was-t- Burrell's factory was where the junk shop is now. Seth Wheadon ran the woolen factory and Joe Reid ran the saw mill. Above that the late William Baker kept a blacksmith's shop. Above that was a house and then John Reid had a store. There were some more houses then John McCreary had a bask shop. Then sam Belsh had a store and kept soda water, and ginger beer. Then there was a building, Whiteford wuilt it, at what is now McGinnis Corner'w. Then next to the brewery on the south was a brick building, Taylor's watch establshment was there. Then the stone tavern, set about where Fitzpatrick is now. Then Whiteford's. He was a jeweller. Then we come to the National Bakery now. It used to be Holtons. He also built the old Ritchie place. Then the place on the other side of the bakery. Hills owned it. The anglo American was built

mill Street

original ready "ran below to Joe Ashton's, tailor"
by Timothy Holbrook (who had a lease ground from Joe Ashton's tailor) written in pencil
Joe Ashton's he built three or four little stone houses.
Eugene McManis married his daughter.
"Ashton's" written in pencil

Dear Mr. Kellaway,

Ballyblax,
Durrus,
Co. Cork,
Ireland.

I was so very pleased to get your letter, asking for a November 4th, 1979 any information I might have about early Belleville and the old stone building on Meyers mill site. Please forgive the delay in replying, but your letter arrived on the day the husband of a close friend died, and ever since then I have been very involved with all sorts of legal and family arrangements almost every day, and just had no time to myself, nor the time to delve into my records.

I am delighted to hear that efforts are being made to restore the old building which I visited when I was last in Belleville and heard from the curator of the Belleville museum that the City Council might be going to restore it. I did not know that it had been built for an axe packing house. Would this be anything to do with the Burrell Axe Factory? We were related to the Burrells, and I know my father had shares in the factory. Who owns the old building now?

Probably you know the mention of Capt. Meyers' mill in "The Settlement of Upper Canada" by Canniff (which I have here).

My father wrote his memoirs some years ago, and when I have the time I mean to type them out or have them reproduced in some way, as I think they would be of interest to Belleville though only about 100 pages concern his early life there, the remainder describe his life in the Army. He was awarded the Sword of Honour at the Royal Military College, Kingston and joined the British Army.

I have extracted the following in case they are of interest:-

"One of my grandfather Bleecker's farms was what is now Bleecker Avenue in Belleville, and, I think before he died it was laid out in building lots, and in his will these lots were divided between my aunt and my mother, as part of their legacies; they had also city lots and houses, as well as the two farms. I think my mother died in the old "round house" an octagonal house on one of my mother's lots on Bleecker Avenue on the elevation overlooking the Grand Trunk railway station..."

"In front of the old farm on the bay shore, was Bleecker's mill (my grandfather's) Buck's mill, to the Westward Sutherland's mill, and one or two others" He goes on to describe how the logs were taken down the Moira river and on arrival at the Bay of Quinte were enclosed in booms in front of the mill. The last mill running in his day was Sutherlands, the manager being a Mr. Hargreaves.

"The flour mills were situated in the Northern part of the city on the bank of the Moira and run by water power from that river, as was also E.B. Burrell's (my uncle) axe factory. One of the flour mills was started by old Capt. Meyers and was the first one in Upper Canada but that was finished along with the others years before."

My father was (Major) James Jay Bleecker Farley, son of Alfred Adolphus Farley who was the third son of James Jay Farley who lived on, and worked his farm on the second concession of Thurlow, about two miles east of Canifiton. My father's mother was Catharine Matilda Bleecker who lived with her father Tobias on his 200 acre farm which extended on its southern boundary from the shore of the Bay of Quinte to what is now the Grand Trunk Railway on the north. The lovely old one storey rough cast house was about a quarter of a mile from the Kinston road and the garden gate opened practically on the water where a boat was moored".

You and your group most probably know far more than I do concerning the area, and I should be most interested to hear what you have found out.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Breckenridge
Elizabeth Breckenridge.

MOIRA RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE: February 9, 1989
REPORT TO: Full Authority
FROM: David King, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Report and Recommendation on the
Meyers Mill Property

HISTORY: The Meyers Mill property was purchased by John W. Meyers in 1789. The grist mill and dam was constructed by Meyers the following year. Located on the east bank of "Meyers Creek", (later the Moira River,) Meyers' grist mill was a boom to settlers in surrounding districts.

Meyers, a merchant as well as a mill owner, expanded his commercial operations in 1797 by building a saw mill. By his death in 1821 the Meyers complex included a grist mill, saw mill, distillery, blacksmith's shop, storehouses, dwelling house and other buildings. The store and mills, then referred to as "Meyers Mills" remained in the family until the sale of the property in early 1840's.

From the time the mill was sold the history becomes rather complicated. The mill and property changed hands many times, parts of the complex were demolished or destroyed by fire, while other buildings and improvements were added. The following are important dates in the history of Meyers Mill:

1860 - James Ross, a Belleville lawyer, acquires the grist mill and fulling operation, woollen mill is reactivated

1867 - William Bleecher and Ellis Burrell acquire the property

1870 - Burrell purchases Bleecher's share and starts a new axe and edge tool factory
- the axe factory played a significant role in Ottawa River Lumber and timber trade

1871 - Burrell constructs a carding factory and expands foundary

1885 - William Lott purchased the property and phases out the axe factory to expand his woollen operations

The 1888 - 1900 and the 1904 - 1906 Goad Insurance Plans:

The stone building is shown as converted to wool packing *and drying*
See attached maps.

1915 - 1926 Goad Insurance Plan:

The stone building and other buildings on the property are shown as part of a junk yard.

1917 Abraham Safe: bought the central buildings originally built by Ellis Burrell; including the stone building.⁵ This is now the only remaining building of the Axe factory, woollen mills and other mills that lined the bank of the Moira River in this area, on land originally developed as mill sites by John W. Meyers.

1917 - the packing houses on the property are acquired by Abraham Safe for scrap storage

1919 - another building was acquired by Belleville Creamery

CONCLUSION: the existing building does not date back to the period of John W. Meyers' original mill operation

- the historical importance of the Meyers' property was long derived from the prominence of John Meyers
- in view of the rarity of early axe factories in Ontario and Ellis Burrell's own prominence in Belleville, however, the existing building constitutes the remains of an important industrial complex apart from any association with Meyers.

(Source: D. Roberts, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 1976, and M.R.C.A. files)

RECENT HISTORY OF MEYERS' MILL PROPERTY

The Moira River Conservation Authority acquired the "Meyers Mill property" in 1975 from A. Safe and Son Ltd. and Stirling Creamery. Subsequent to its acquisition the Authority added this property to a 20 year lease agreement with the City of Belleville which expired on December 1, 1987 and has been continuing on a month to month basis up to this date.

1978 - City of Belleville was planning to demolish the Meyers' Mill building

- Agreement between Hastings County Historical Society, City of Belleville and MRCA to prevent any further deterioration of the Mill and save it from demolition.

- The Historical Society stabilized the Mill at no cost to the City nor the MRCA

- this agreement included the following repairs:
- repair existing stone foundation wall to match adjacent walls
- replace and repair stonework of south wall
- repair timber lintel on south wall by supporting with steel beams and columns
- restrain north stone wall section with 3 steel rods

- The cost for this stabilization was over \$4,800 with an additional \$600 for the City to break their contract for demolition.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 10490

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A STONE BUILDING WITHIN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE TO BE OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 provides that where a Council of a Municipality has given notice of its intention to designate a property to be of historic or architectural value or interest and no notice of objection is served upon the said Municipality within the thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of such notice of intention, the Council shall pass a by-law designating the property to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS all statutory requirements for giving notice of Council's intention to pass a by-law designating the property herein described to be of historic or architectural value or interest have been complied with;

AND WHEREAS no objection has been received to the by-law;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The stone building, being the remains of an important Industrial Complex, located on parts of lots A and B lying northwest of Station Street formerly "Mill Street" in the City of Belleville more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto be and the same is designated as a property to be of historic or architectural value or interest, as provided in the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.
2. Nothing in this by-law shall be construed to designate any of the lands described in Schedule "A" attached hereto to be of historic or architectural value or interest, as provided in the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.

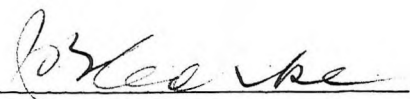
THIS BY-LAW SHALL COME INTO FORCE AND TAKE EFFECT FROM AND AFTER THE PASSING THEREOF.

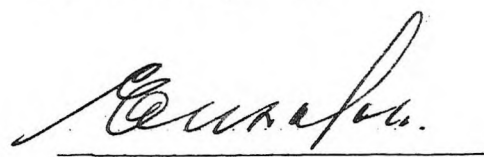
Read a first time this 11th day of September, 1978.

Read a second time this 11th day of September, 1978.

Read a third time and finally passed this 11th day of September, 1978.




J.B. CORKE, MAYOR


EARL M. DAFOE, CITY CLERK

2

SCHEDULE "A"
TO BY-LAW NUMBER 10490

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate lying and being in the City of Belleville, in the County of Hastings, being composed of Part of Lot A and Lot B lying northwest of Station Street (formerly Mill Street) according to J. Haslett's plan registered as Plan No. 296, which parcel may be more particularly described as follows;

PREMISING that the southeasterly boundary of said Lot B has an assumed astronomic bearing of $N 46^{\circ} E$ and relating all bearings herein thereto;

COMMENCING at a point on the southeasterly boundary of said Lot B, distant 120.865 feet measured $S 46^{\circ} W$ from the southeast angle of said Lot B;

THENCE continuing $S 46^{\circ} W$, a distance of 139.175 feet to the southwest angle of said Lot B;

THENCE continuing $S 46^{\circ} W$, a distance of 90.2 feet to a point in the southeasterly boundary of said Lot A;

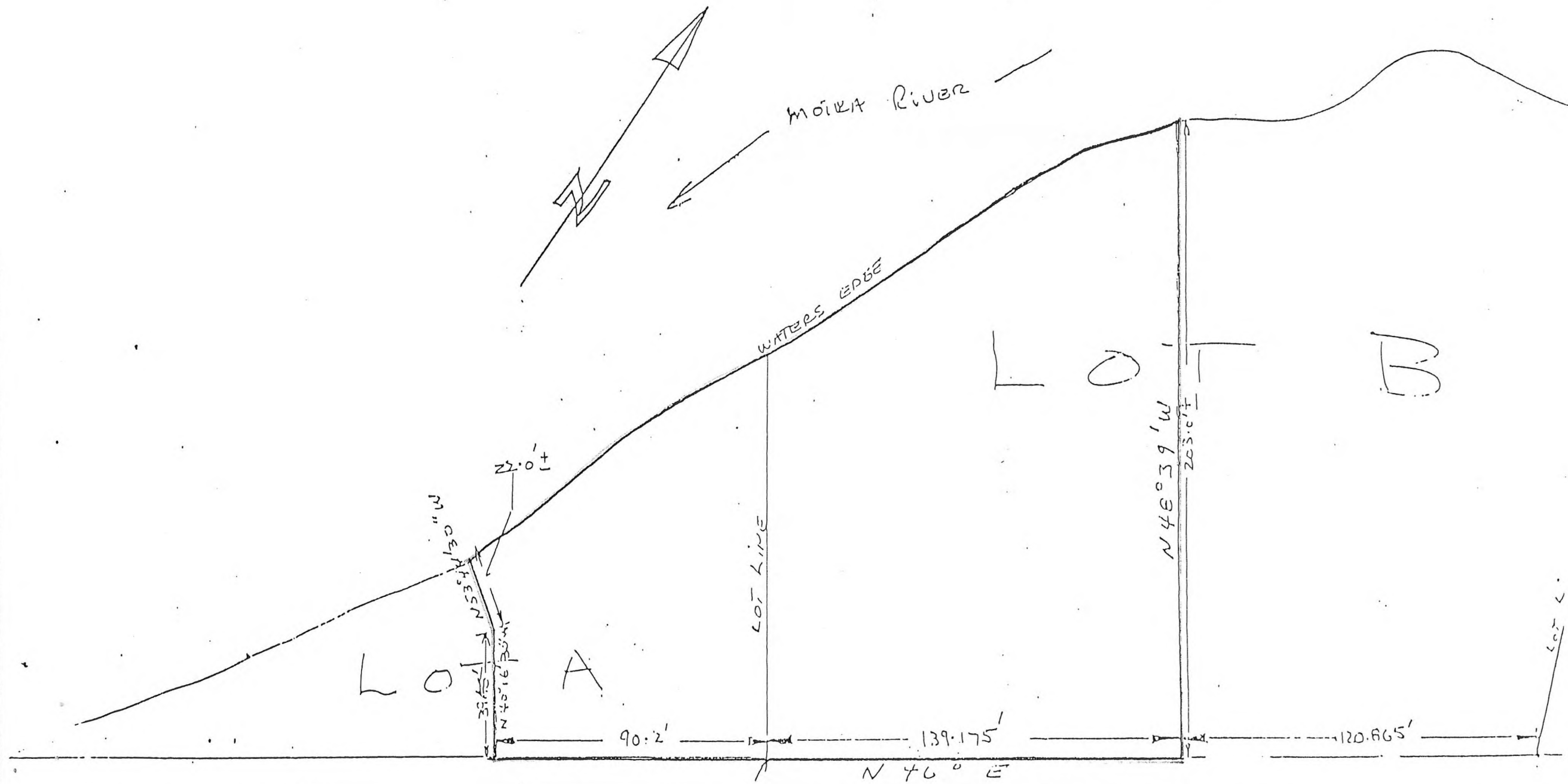
THENCE $N 40^{\circ} 16' 30'' W$, a distance of 39.48 feet to a point;

THENCE $N 53^{\circ} 44' 30'' W$, a distance of 22 feet more or less to the high water line of the Moira River;

THENCE northerly along the high water line of the Moira River to its intersection with a line drawn $N 48^{\circ} 39' W$, a distance of 203 feet more or less from the said point of commencement;

THENCE $S 48^{\circ} 39' E$, a distance of 203 feet more or less to the point of commencement.

To illustrate description the above parcel of land is shown outlined in red on the sketch attached.



DATED; SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1978

259546

No.
Registry Division of Hastings (No. 21)
I CERTIFY that this instrument is registered

as of

BY-LAW NUMBER 10490

2.70 P.M. SEP 18 1978

in the Land
Registry Office
at Belleville,
Ontario,

S. L. Geneja
LAND REGISTRAR

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A STONE BUILDING
WITHIN THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE TO BE OF
HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL VALUE OR
INTEREST

13.00

Heller - Dyer Master Directory Information.
 74 then Hastings County Directory - Belleville section.
 44 Mill St. (now Station St.).
 1861-62 - Not listed.
 1864-5 Heller, Andrew - Dyer. H. W. Mill St. p. ¹³⁶~~148~~ Residents' list.
 1868-9 Heller - Andrew - W. Mill p. 186 - Business Directory.
 Heller - Andrew - Dyer, W. Mill - p. 130 List of Residents.
 1878-9 Heller - ~~Andrew~~ - Dyer. H. W. Mill (same as W. Mill).
 1884-85 - Heller - Andrew - Dyer. L. 74 Mill. Kimball's Belleville City Directory.

1909 Vernon's Belleville Directory.
 Streets: Mill - east from head of Pinnacle to Cannon Rd.; N. side.
 74 - W. J. Deacon. (only one with a number - first house).
 Heller not listed. No business listing for Dyers.
 1911 74 - W. J. Deacon ("head of Pinnacle -"
 1913 44 - Wm. J. Deacon.
 Demolished 1978 or ~~1979~~.

On the Moira Bellville
from the Loc³ Bridge



958-70 F

30

Conclusions:

The Goad Insurance Plan of 1878 revised to July 1883, and the Evans and Bolger map of 1877, studied together, indicate that the building was not there until after 1878. David Roberts would have seen photocopied maps of the Goad Insurance Plan, 1878 - 1883, (see his report, footnote 32, page 16) as that is what is at the Hastings County Museum. He may not have been aware of the Evans and Bolger map, it is not mentioned in his research. His report does rule out Russell Cooper's suggested dates, but these were a result of a one-day visual survey.

Both Russell Cooper and Peter Stokes make the point that dimensioned circular sawn joists were evidence that the building was built after 1850, so presumably circular saws were not in use prior to that date. (Other evidence is also stated.) The earliest, or 1816 map shows J. W. Meyers' Mills and stores at the same location as buildings appear on the 1845 map, (Haslett's Town Plan) although by 1845 other buildings have been added. The building identified as "forge" on the 1845 map might have provided the foundation upon which Ellis Burrell built the stone building, and as Peter Stokes points out, could have provided some of the material for it. Ellis Burrell may have had future plans for the building, other than for packing the axes and handles, but he died in 1882.

Billa Flint's answer to A. L. Bogart's letter to The Intelligencer dated January 13, 1881, titled "Sixty Years Since", corrects several of Bogart's errors. Flint, who arrived as a young man in 1829, states that "Meyers' Mill was above Burrell's Axe Factory and drew its water from what is commonly called Bleecker's dam". This dam appears in the same place from 1816 on, and the stone building is well to the west of it, and not a part of Meyers' original group of mills, store, and distillery. But it possibly is built on the foundations of the blacksmith shop (see 1845 map) which was included as a part of his property appraised in March 1822 after Meyers' death.

The most important conclusion is that this building is all that remains of the complex of the mills and factories once on this site, which helped make Belleville a thriving city. It got its start when John W. Meyers chose this section of the river bank on which to build his mills, store, and distillery. This drew the settlers and merchants who founded the village at the mouth of the river, which grew into the town and then the city of Belleville.

From report by Beth Green

RIVER MOIR

Scale 1" = 20'

Sam G. Wilg. at Deputy Surveyor
April 23 1816

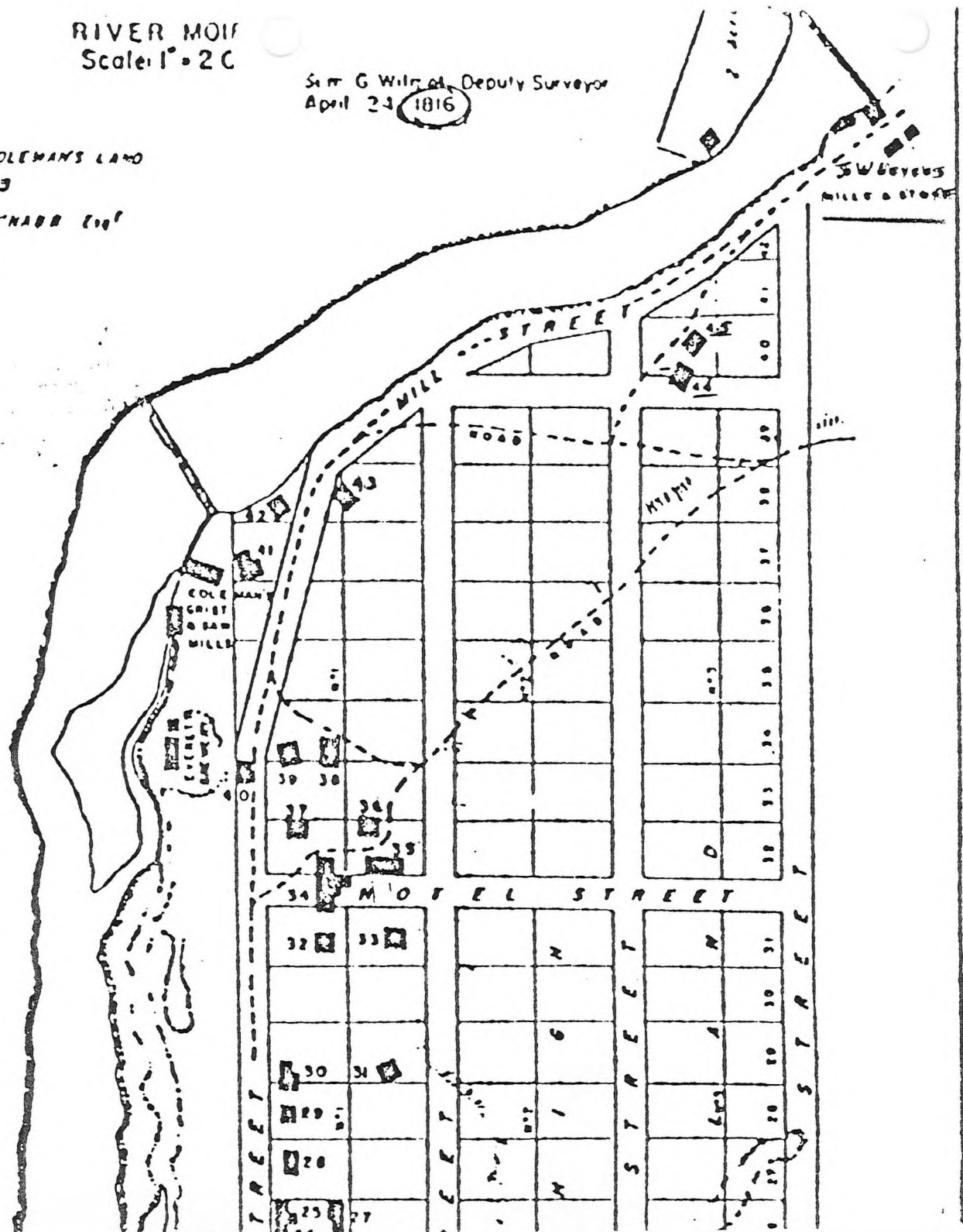
CAPT THOMAS COLEMAN'S LAND

101 A. 3

Purchased from JAMES McNABER Esq
1816

LEGEND TO BUILDINGS.

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Martin McWish House |
| 2 | Distillery |
| 3 | Store |
| 4 | Log House |
| 5 | Stable |
| 6 | I W Meyer's House |
| 7 | Thomas Sparrow's House |
| 8 | Alexander O Petro's House |
| 9 | John Thomson's |
| 10 | |
| 11 | Wm McCarty |
| 12 | Peter Holmes |
| 13 | Margaret Simons |
| 14 | Stable |
| 15 | School House |
| 16 | James Harris House |
| 17 | Rowen Leaven's Store |
| 18 | House |
| 19 | Stable |
| 20 | Robert Smith's House |
| 21 | Store |
| 22 | R Leaven's Black Smith Shop |
| 23 | Theophilus Nelson's House |
| 24 | Barn |
| 25 | Alan Taylor's House |
| 26 | Store |
| 27 | Stable |
| 28 | Permel G Selmon's House |
| 29 | Walter Shop |
| 30 | John Sparrow's House |
| 31 | Wm J Mayboe's |
| 32 | Richard Groom's |
| 33 | Stable |
| 34 | John Everett's House |
| 35 | |
| 36 | Barn |
| 37 | Simon Ellis's House |
| 38 | Simon McHobb's |
| 39 | Store |
| 40 | T Coleman's Black Smith Shop |
| 41 | House |
| 42 | Benjamin Stone's House |
| 43 | John Reynolds |
| 44 | I W Meyer's Log House |
| 45 | Distillery |



A list of persons who have erected buildings within the limits of the Town Plot, on the front of the Mississauga Reservation, on the first Concession of the Township of Huron, lot number four, and their claims, or pretensions thereto - -

[illegible]

Deputy Surveyor Samuel G. Wilnot prepared the above "list of claims of Inhabitants who have Erected Buildings on the Mississauga Reservation Lot No. 4 at the River Moira" on April 24, 1816, to accompany the "Plan of a Town Plot at the Mouth of the River Moira", which he had completed four days earlier. The "Numbers" column refers to lot numbers from south to north (1 through 42). The range number refers to the west (1) or the east (2) portion of the lot. The block number indicates distance from Front Street (block 1 is closest to Front Street). By reference to these numbers each of the buildings listed above can be located on the plan. This list and the plan reveal how the land was obtained, how the residents earned a living, and how the Indian reserve was occupied by white settlers between 1799 and 1816. The plan also indicates buildings that were outside the town plot, for example Everett's brewery and Coleman's mills in lot 3 and Meyers' mills and store in lot 5.

The original list and plan are found in the archives of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Let's save Meyers Mill

Aug. 25/88

Editor
The Intelligencer

Recently, the name of Capt. John Meyers has figured prominently in the local news. Editorials have been written and letters to the editor produced. Capt. Meyers' name is now well-known throughout the district, so much so that some would erect a statue to his memory. In short, Capt. Meyers has become somewhat of a folk hero in our town. We have developed a considerable enthusiasm for him and his activities — real or fancied.

WRONG

However, the real world is somewhat different from the fanciful one of our folk hero. Capt. Meyers was real. He settled in Belleville and did real things to develop the town. He left a real legacy and it sits on a bit of park land on Station Street. Meyers' Mill, the oldest commercial property in this part of the country, and his real legacy to us, has been abandoned by the city he helped found. Each spring, the roof sags a little more, some mortar drops from

between the stones and the doors and windows have long since been left to allow the weather to take its toll internally, as well. In short, the real world means the city apparently could care less.

But, all is not lost. The building still stands. We have all had a change of heart. We are all now Capt. Meyers boosters. If the people who wrote those editorials, the politicians who made those speeches, the chamber of commerce and the industries and people all retain their enthusiasm for Capt. Meyers and what he did for Belleville, then certainly action will be taken to restore his mill so that it will remain as a "statue" to his memory.

It boils down to this, then. What sort of city are we— Do we permit our heritage to decay and fall into dust, or do we preserve it to add an important dimension to the life we enjoy today. All over the world, the past is being preserved as an integral part of our present existence.

So, we shall see. Who will take the necessary steps to preserve this very important part of our past— What committee— What group— Somebody has to start. What sort of city are we— We shall see, won't we.

HERSCHELL E. REILLEY

Meyers Mill included in plan

Aug 31/88

Editor,
The Intelligencer

I was pleased to see the letter by Herschell E. Reilley concerning the future of Meyers Mill (Let's Save Meyers Mill — Aug. 24).

It provided me a reason to write this letter and evidence that an appropriate decision has been made. Allow me to explain.

You will no doubt recall last year's waterfront issue. Many citizens fought to save it from high-rise condos. The land at Meyers Pier was subsequently rezoned back to "parkland" and the commitment for a long-range bayfront plan was made.

The pre-requisite to this plan is a

Letter Box

"total" bayfront study. Four citizens, who are also opposed to condo development on the bayfront, were appointed by the mayor to a special committee of council to assist in drawing up the "terms of reference" for such a study.

As a member of that committee, I am pleased to inform Herschell and the rest of Belleville that the terms of reference are complete, save Council's approval. Additionally, at our last meeting the committee agreed to extend the northern boundary of the study area from the Sagonaska

Bridge to the Lott Dam, specifically to include Meyers Mill and associated property.

Several issues remain, however. The first step has been taken. Meyers Mill is now included in the study. The study "terms" will be let to a short list of consultants. What use will they propose for the mill? A restaurant, store, museum, etc? Will it still be standing when the proposal results are approved and the implementation begins?

The next step is for the citizens to provide suggested uses for Meyers Mill and any other area or aspect of the waterfront study.

And finally, there appears to be some debate as to whether this building on the north side of Station Street is really Meyers Mill. Perhaps Herschell or members of the Hastings County Historical Society could resolve this issue once and for all, by providing evidence if such to the planning committee, care of Stewart Murray at city hall. I'm certain it would be welcomed.

ROBERT A. GIDDINGS

Let's save Meyers Mill

Aug. 25/88

Editor
The Intelligencer

Recently, the name of Capt. John Meyers has figured prominently in the local news. Editorials have been written and letters to the editor produced. Capt. Meyers' name is now well-known throughout the district, so much so that some would erect a statue to his memory. In short, Capt. Meyers has become somewhat of a folk hero in our town. We have developed a considerable enthusiasm for him and his activities — real or fancied.

However, the real world is somewhat different from the fanciful one of our folk hero. Capt. Meyers was real. He settled in Belleville and did real things to develop the town. He left a real legacy and it sits on a bit of park land on Station Street. Meyers' Mill, the oldest commercial property in this part of the country, and his real legacy to us, has been abandoned by the city he helped found. Each spring, the roof sags a little more, some mortar drops from

WRONG

between the stones and the doors and windows have long since been left to allow the weather to take its toll internally, as well. In short, the real world means the city apparently could care less.

But, all is not lost. The building still stands. We have all had a change of heart. We are all now Capt. Meyers boosters. If the people who wrote those editorials, the politicians who made those speeches, the chamber of commerce and the industries and people all retain their enthusiasm for Capt. Meyers and what he did for Belleville, then certainly action will be taken to restore his mill so that it will remain as a "statue" to his memory.

It boils down to this, then. What sort of city are we— Do we permit our heritage to decay and fall into dust, or do we preserve it to add an important dimension to the life we enjoy today. All over the world, the past is being preserved as an integral part of our present existence.

So, we shall see. Who will take the necessary steps to preserve this very important part of our past— What committee— What group— Somebody has to start. What sort of city are we— We shall see, won't we.

HERSCHEL E. REILLEY

Meyers Mill included in plan

Aug 31/88

Editor,
The Intelligencer

I was pleased to see the letter by Herschell E. Reilley concerning the future of Meyers Mill (Let's Save Meyers Mill— Aug. 24).

It provided me a reason to write this letter and evidence that an appropriate decision has been made. Allow me to explain.

You will no doubt recall last year's waterfront issue. Many citizens fought to save it from high-rise condos. The land at Meyers Pier was subsequently rezoned back to "parkland" and the commitment for a long-range bayfront plan was made.

The pre-requisite to this plan is a

Letter Box

"total" bayfront study. Four citizens, who are also opposed to condo development on the bayfront, were appointed by the mayor to a special committee of council to assist in drawing up the "terms of reference" for such a study.

As a member of that committee, I am pleased to inform Herschell and the rest of Belleville that the terms of reference are complete, save Council's approval. Additionally, at our last meeting the committee agreed to extend the northern boundary of the study area from the Sagonaska

Bridge to the Lott Dam, specifically to include Meyers Mill and associated property.

Several issues remain, however. The first step has been taken. Meyers Mill is now included in the study. The study "terms" will be let to a short list of consultants. What use will they propose for the mill? A restaurant, store, museum, etc? Will it still be standing when the proposal results are approved and the implementation begins?

The next step is for the citizens to provide suggested uses for Meyers Mill and any other area or aspect of the waterfront study.

And finally, there appears to be some debate as to whether this building on the north side of Station Street is really Meyers Mill. Perhaps Herschell or members of the Hastings County Historical Society could resolve this issue once and for all, by providing evidence if such to the planning committee, care of Stewart Murray at city hall. I'm certain it would be welcomed.

ROBERT A. GIDDINGS

City seeks heritage status for Mo

City hall has moved to obtain official heritage recognition for the derelict stone building that marks the site of Belleville's first industry—Meyers Mill.

Meantime, says Don Kellaway, of the Hastings County Historical Society—and its spokesman on the project—further action must await response from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

City council Monday night approved application to the foundation to have the building designated as a heritage asset.

Once the designation comes through the society then will seek permission to halt further deterioration of the building.

Council originally agreed last March to preservation of the building—an old 19th century adjunct of an axe industry. But the

structure also stands on the site of the mill built in the late 1700s by John Meyers—a founding figure in Belleville's settlement.

The property became public after it was purchased as part of land acquisition for the Lott ice-control dam by the Moira River Conservation Authority. (MRCA).

Early plans by the historical society called for an industrial graphics museum.

The

Meyers Mill to halt building decay

offices and a meeting hall in a converted building.

However, the MRCA executive voiced disapproval of proposed alterations to the buildings exterior. It felt this would not be in keeping with heritage claims for the site.

City manager Wilbur Purcell reported to council the society has now decided to pro-

ceed in phases—with preservation as the first stage.

Council also had to cancel a demolition contract on the building—after the site was leased as parkland from the MRCA. The contractor had to be paid \$600.

Ald. Stu Meeks asked if the \$600 had been recovered from the historical society.

The city manager replied no invoice had

been issued yet.

In his report to council, however, he noted he'd been informed the society would meet the \$600 bill if it could get permission to halt further deterioration of the building.

The heritage designation request was the first move toward such work.

Designated by Council in September 1978

Intelligencer

THE INTELLIGENCER, Tuesday, June 20, 1978—11

100 take walking tour in city

By ADELE DIBBEN
For The Intelligencer

Almost 100 people came to the stone building on Station Street during Sunday's walking tour.

The stone mill, which was open to the public that day, was the highlight of the tour—sponsored by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and led by Rodger Greig.

There is no proof that the present building was erected by Capt. John Meyers, but it is on the site of the industrial complex he started here in 1789. It included a sawmill, gristmill, blacksmith shop, fulling mill and distillery.

Greg Gordon drew attention to evidence which suggests the building had been used as a mill. On the river bank there is a section of sluiceway wall. Near the northeast corner there is a bearing stone that shows the wear of a turning shaft. On the north wall are iron stains from continuous water splash. Grinding stones have been found in the crawl space and used as beam supports.

Leaving the mill, the tour group climbed the stairs to Mount Pleasant Road, the site of Capt. Meyers home. Reputed to be the first brick house in the area, it was demolished in the 1870s. A photograph of the house was on display. Shown in the background was Orchard House which is still standing. From his house at the top of the hill, Capt. Meyers could keep an eye on his industrial buildings along the river.

Other houses noted were the Forin House at 2 Forin Street, home of the builder of city hall, and an early rectory of St. Michael's on Alexander Street.

Two churches were visited on the tour. In outlining the history of Tabernacle United Church, Rev. Ted Colwell, explained the difference between the Episcopal Methodists at his church and the Wesleyan Methodists of Bridge Street United Church. At St. Michael's, Estelle Burkett presented a history of the parish, noting the changes in decorative style of the church in-

terior over the years.

Descending the hill, the tour group stopped at the corner of Church and Great St. James streets. The northeast corner was the site of the first church built by the Methodist Episcopal Church. When the new church was built in 1877, the old one became a vinegar factory. On the southeast corner is the Coulter-Tennant house, built around 1840.

The group returned to the mill for a more leisurely look at the building and to enjoy

lemonade and homemade cookies. The Hastings County Historical Society is looking for an organization or individual in the area who can find a use for this unique structure.

The next walking tour being sponsored by the Architectural Conservancy will be held on Sunday June 10. It will start from the United Church in Consecon and will include buildings in Consecon and Carrying Place.

May 1984

File # 754 - 4

Sixty years Since - 1881

on AL. Bogart's letter
to the Editor.

For the Intelligencer, Dec. Jan. 17,
"Sixty Years Since." 1881

Mr. Editor, I notice in your issue of the 13th inst. an article headed "Sixty Years Since," in reference to A. L. Bogart, Esq., and from the statements made it is quite evident that Mr. Bogart's memory is defective.

"The first Methodist church" was not "on the site which the second church (now the C. J. R. station) afterwards occupied," but was to the north, on the part of the lot afterwards occupied by the parsonage. This second church was built on a lot expressly bought for that purpose of the late John Turnbull, and after it was built the old church was sold and removed. This I know, because I negotiated with Mr. Turnbull for the site of the present building.

Coleman's mill, not Meyers', was near Walker's foundry and was run by water from the mill pond extending above the upper bridge. Meyers' mill was above Burrell's axe factory and drew its water from what is commonly called Bleecker's dam.

"The only vessel owned in the village" was not a "schooner" if my memory serves me right, but a Durham boat, and ran from the head of the bay to Montreal, not Oswego.

The old Charlotte, the first Bay and river boat on the Canadian side, must have commenced running in 1818 or '19 and ran two trips weekly from Kingston to the Carrying Place, and one trip to Prescott; and used that trip to take the Frontenac passengers down the river, as the Frontenac only ran from Niagara to Kingston.

The William IV came out in 1832 or '33 and ran from Prescott to Toronto and Niagara, but not up the Bay until after she became a tow boat under Mr. Calvin, of Garden Island.

Mr. Bogart must have taken the Commodore Barry for the William. This boat ran for a short time to Belleville in 1833 and '34, but was found too expensive, and was put on the lake route, where she was lost with all on board.

Belleville was named after Lady Belle Gore, and was called by that name shortly after the close of the war of 1812 and '13, it was then called "Meyer's Creek." In 1819 I used to buy flour from the late Capt. Gildersleeve, brought by the Charlotte from Belleville, as also in 1820 and '21. In the spring of 1822 I went on the Charlotte to Belleville with a lot of double wagons for sale, I therefore know that the place was called Belleville as early as 1822.

1822

Yours, &c., &c.,

BILLA FLINT.

Ottawa, 15th Jan., 1881.

also his correction Jan. 1881.

1st
Church
2nd
Church on
Mr. Turnbull's lot

Meyers' Mill

- The "Charlotte"

- The "Frontenac"

- The "William IV"

- The "Commodore Barry"

- "Lady Belle Gore"

The "Charlotte" & Capt. Gildersleeve

By Billie Flint

The history of the mill complex on the former Meyers' property is not entirely clear during the 1850's. The 1851 census returns listed three water-powered mills or factories in Baldwinward, the location of the Meyers property and adjacent Mill Street (now Station Street).¹³ There were a morocco leather factory, a cloth factory, and a sawmill, managed by one Jonathan McCurdy, but their exact locations are not specified here or in Smith's section on Belleville in Canada: Past, Present and Future....¹⁴

The assessment roll for 1854, however, connects the cloth and leather factories with the properties of Gersham and J. L. Reid respectively further up the east bank of the Moira. The sawmill on the Meyers property, the roll indicates, was owned by James Ross, a Belleville lawyer, but the grist-mill and fulling operations were apparently shut down.¹⁵ In the 1857-58 Canada Directory no industries, with the exception of Ward & LaFontaine's axe factory, are listed for Mill Street.¹⁶ This is not conclusive, however, as the Reed cloth factory on Mill Street, listed in the 1857 assessment roll, does not appear in the Directory.¹⁷

Following the Hon. John Ross's acquisition of the mill property in 1860, the operations of the woollen mill were reactivated.¹⁸ The services of Seth Wheadon, a former proprietor of Reed's factory, were secured by Ross for the operation of his mill, which Wheadon advertised in the 1860-61

For some reason Ostrom withdrew from Burrell's operation and the carding factory was vacant throughout 1874 and 1875.³³

In 1876 Thomas McGinnis and William Lott operated a "shadow factory" there and the next year, under George D. Dickson's management, the woollen mill operations began again. Lott returned to stay as manager in 1878. About 1881 the existing brick office building was built by Burrell for the woollen factory, known from at least 1882 as the City Woollen Mills.³⁴

Following Burrell's death, Lott purchased the property in 1885 and soon thereafter phased out the axe manufactory in order to expand his woollen mill operations. According to the Goad Insurance Plan of 1904, it was evident that Lott had undertaken major changes.³⁵ In 1904 the 1871 building (the creamery), Lott's original location, was occupied by the Burrell Rock Drill Company and the City Woollen Mills were housed in the much altered main building of the former axe works. Another surviving structure, Burrell's 1870-71 packing building, was converted for use as a wool packing building. In 1896-97 grist-mill operations were added to the main building.³⁶

Several changes were made to the complex after 1906, some following fires, but this period remains a subject for further research. A brief summary of subsequent owners, however, can be given. The central buildings and

Memo re. Old Mill Building, Belleville.

The site was visited on the 27th of November 1979, when some remedial repairs were already underway.


This industrial building, from the nature of its internal structure largely of dimensioned circular sawn joists and masonry of the typical shale-like local limestone would appear to date largely after the mid 19th century. However it is evident that the building incorporates earlier structures, the north-west corner and cross wall below the main floor may belong to a much earlier building on the site. It was customary for old industrial buildings to be adapted, reconstructed and older parts to be re-used in later rebuilding. This is probably the case here.

However, as noted above, the structure is of rather indeterminate age, beyond its later 19th century elements. The typical details of openings and roof pitch are common to many vernacular buildings of this type. The round stones, apparently old grindstones, forming a neat pier and supporting a cross beam under the ground floor might suggest that this was part of the axe factory complex at one time or that these stones were used to convert the structure for other purposes.

It would appear from earlier investigations and studies (R. Cooper and D. Roberts) that there is little evidence to support any contention that the present stone building incorporates any part of the original Meyers' grist mill. Therefore, lacking precise documentation such as a plan or survey of the original mill it would be wiser not to press the supposition that a portion of the old Meyers' mill is incorporated into the present buildings.

The decision to rehabilitate the structure at minimum cost, however, seems the most admirable decision, and its adaptation to a new use the wisest course to follow. It is, after all, a good looking structure, interestingly disposed alongside the river and a reminder, at least, of Belleville's earlier industrial history.

7 December 1979.


Peter John Stokes
Consulting Restoration Architect

Notes on the Limestone Building on Station Street
Belleville - M.R.C.A. property

August 13, 1870: The Intelligencer reported that "A seam of fine building stone, two feet in thickness, has been laid bare by the workmen at Burrell's new axe factory, in constructing the flume".¹

This may have been used to construct the packing building for Ellis Burrell's Axe and Edge Tool Factory complex, now the only building remaining from the group.

November 1870: Burrell had intended to build facilities for a workshop, office and packing operations.²

September 16, 1871: The Intelligencer reported that Burrell was "erecting a carding factory, a grist mill, and a foundry, all adjoining his axe factory".³ Note that a packing building was not mentioned, although D. Roberts in his October 1976 report assumes that he built the stone packing building at the same time. Map evidence does not support his conclusion.

1874: The "Birds' Eye Map" of Belleville published. No building of the shape of the present stone building is shown in its present location. See attached map.

1877: The Evans and Bolger Map published, of Belleville. No building shown on the site of the present building. See map.

1878 - 1883 The Goad Insurance Plan of 1878 updated to 1883. Original research of this plan (sheet 4) by D. Roberts was from a photocopy. The original book was made available February 14, 1989, to Beth Green and Lois Foster, who ascertained that the area in question had been "patched". That is, in the up-dating to 1883, changes had been made. What was discovered was, that in the original drawing (1878) a small outbuilding was shown behind no. 82 Mill Street, but apparently no building on the river bank. The covering patch shows the rectangular stone building. Therefore, the stone building was built some time between 1878 and 1883. Since Ellis Burrell died in 1882 we can assume that it might have been built in 1879 or 1880, or "circa" 1880. Insurance maps are coloured to indicate the building material used. Stone is coloured blue; brick, red; frame, yellow; etc. The building is labelled "packing" and two storeys indicated. It is coloured blue, for stone.

1882: Ellis Burrell died in March.

1885: William Lott purchased Burrell's property, and soon phased out the axe manufactory in order to expand his woollen mill.⁴

The 1888 - 1900 and the 1904 - 1906 Goad Insurance Plans:

The stone building is shown as converted to wool packing.
See attached maps.

1915 - 1926 Goad Insurance Plan:

The stone building and other buildings on the property are shown as part of a junk yard.

1917 Abraham Safe: bought the central buildings originally built by Ellis Burrell; including the stone building.⁵ This is now the only remaining building of the Axe factory, woollen mills and other mills that lined the bank of the Moira River in this area, on land originally developed as mill sites by John W. Meyers.

M.R.C.A. Report.

ISSUES TO ADDRESS:

1. The Meyers Mill Building is a designated Historic Structure under the Ontario Heritage Act.
2. The Meyers Mill Building continues to deteriorate.
3. The Moira River Conservation Authority (owners of the property) does not have the funding required to restore the building.
4. No effort has been made to date by the City of Belleville (leaseholders of the building) to restore the building.
5. A number of agencies and interest groups would like to see something done to preserve the building, but to date none of the proposals have come to fruition.

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION:

It is recommended that a joint committee be established consisting of a representative from the Moira River Conservation Authority (M.R.C.A.), the City of Belleville and Heritage Belleville with responsibility for the preparation of guide lines for proposals for the Meyers Mill Building; the invitation of proposals from both the public and private sectors and the review and selection of the recommended proposal.

Acceptance of the recommended proposal would be subject to the concurrence of the City of Belleville (lease holder) and approval of the M.R.C.A. (land owner).

MOIRA RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE: February 9, 1989

REPORT TO: Full Authority

FROM: David King, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Report and Recommendation on the
Meyers Mill Property

HISTORY: The Meyers Mill property was purchased by John W. Meyers in 1789. The grist mill and dam was constructed by Meyers the following year. Located on the east bank of "Meyers Creek", (later the Moira River,) Meyers' grist mill was a boom to settlers in surrounding districts.

Meyers, a merchant as well as a mill owner, expanded his commercial operations in 1797 by building a saw mill. By his death in 1821 the Meyers complex included a grist mill, saw mill, distillery, blacksmith's shop, storehouses, dwelling house and other buildings. The store and mills, then referred to as "Meyers Mills" remained in the family until the sale of the property in early 1840's.

From the time the mill was sold the history becomes rather complicated. The mill and property changed hands many times, parts of the complex were demolished or destroyed by fire, while other buildings and improvements were added. The following are important dates in the history of Meyers Mill:

1860 - James Ross, a Belleville lawyer, acquires the grist mill and fulling operation, woollen mill is reactivated

1867 - William Bleeker and Ellis Burrell acquire the property

1870 - Burrell purchases Bleeker's share and starts a new axe and edge tool factory
- the axe factory played a significant role in Ottawa River Lumber and timber trade

1871 - Burrell constructs a carding factory and expands foundary

1885 - William Lott purchased the property and phases out the axe factory to expand his woollen operations

- Meyers' Mill was designated an Historic Structure under the Ontario Heritage Act as a result of Historical Society's efforts to save demolition of the building.

1985 - Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) indicated interest in leasing the property and restoring the Mill for its offices and training centre.

- The Authority endorsed the concept since it would provide a viable use for the Mill and restore a building of historic value.

1986 - CNIB decided not to utilize Meyer's Mill due to the large restoration costs involved (\$221,520.), its inaccessibility for visually impaired clients and limited space for expansion.

March 5, 1987 - Conservation and Land Management Advisory Board approves the idea presented by the MRCA Chairman, Stu Meeks, of using a renovated portion of Meyers' Mill as a picnic shelter. The Board further recommends that the Authority Chairman call a meeting of the principals involved to discuss the renovations of the Mill.

- The MRCA Full Authority approves idea of using a renovated portion of the Mill as a picnic shelter and of the meeting of the principals involved to discuss the renovations.

May 5, 1987 - At the invitation of M.R.C.A. Chairman, S. Meeks, representatives from various Heritage groups, the Downtown Board of Management, Lions Club, and Belleville Parks Department met to discuss the concept of renovating Meyers Mill for use as a picnic shelter. Reaction to this proposal was mixed with the major concern being maintaining the architectural integrity of the building. The outcome of the meeting was "that steps be taken to develop the Meyers Mill Building as a stabilized ruin for picnic purposes with the design to incorporate as much of the architectural integrity of the building as possible." Funding for the design and renovations of the structure was discussed but no commitments were made. No further action was taken on this matter.

August, 1987 - A request to purchase the Meyers Mill Building was received by the M.R.C.A. At that time the Authority advised that it was not interested in disposing of the property at this time.

August, 1988 - A proposal to lease the Meyers Mill Building for commercial purposes was discussed by the Authority. No further action was taken.

1917 - the packing houses on the property are acquired by Abraham Safe for scrap storage

1919 - another building was acquired by Belleville Creamery

CONCLUSION: the existing building does not date back to the period of John W. Meyers' original mill operation
- the historical importance of the Meyers' property was long derived from the prominence of John Meyers
- in view of the rarity of early axe factories in Ontario and Ellis Burrell's own prominence in Belleville, however, the existing building constitutes the remains of an important industrial complex apart from any association with Meyers.

(Source: D. Roberts, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 1976, and M.R.C.A. files)

RECENT HISTORY OF MEYERS' MILL PROPERTY

The Moira River Conservation Authority acquired the "Meyers Mill property" in 1975 from A. Safe and Son Ltd. and Stirling Creamery. Subsequent to its acquisition the Authority added this property to a 20 year lease agreement with the City of Belleville which expired on December 1, 1987 and has been continuing on a month to month basis up to this date.

1978 - City of Belleville was planning to demolish the Meyers' Mill building

- Agreement between Hastings County Historical Society, City of Belleville and MRCA to prevent any further deterioration of the Mill and save it from demolition.

- The Historical Society stabilized the Mill at no cost to the City nor the MRCA

- this agreement included the following repairs:
- repair existing stone foundation wall to match adjacent walls
- replace and repair stonework of south wall
- repair timber lintel on south wall by supporting with steel beams and columns
- restrain north stone wall section with 3 steel rods

- The cost for this stabilization was over \$4,800 with an additional \$600 for the City to break their contract for demolition.

Footnotes

1. David Roberts, Historian Heritage Administration Branch, Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Report, October 1976 - The Industrial Development of Meyers Property, Belleville. R971.3585, Belleville Public Library, Canadiana. Page 6.
2. Ibid., Page 8.
3. Ibid., Page 8.
4. Ibid., Page 9.
5. Ibid., Page 10. Also Goad Insurance Plan, 1915 to 1926 attached. Also, Abstract Book #51, Hastings County Registry Office; Meyers Property, Instrument V1563: Bill and Sale, October 17, 1917: Josephine Helen Lott, widow of Com. Lott, to Abraham Safe.

See also attached reports:

David Roberts, as above.

Russel Cooper, Administrator of Black Creek Village, July 26, 1976.

Peter John Stokes, eminent restoration architect, December 1979.

Also see attached, letter to the editor of The Intelligencer, January 17, 1881, from Belleville Pioneer and city father Billa Flint, titled Sixty Years Since.

In general appearance the building in question on the west side of the property (The Stone Storage Building), presents a very quaint look, much earlier in style than normal mid-19th. Century buildings of this type. The stone work and general state of preservation indicates a very early structural date, a fact which is further strengthened by the presence of the slanted bulwark into the riverbed, no doubt built by Meyers because of the river's reputation for flooding. The man who built the mill dam was obviously the same person who would build such a wall as this. This building falls into the sequence of stone buildings as executed in the Upper Bay of Quinte, by a succession of prominent settlers and was entirely possible at this date. (For comparison of dating and techniques of building, please follow accompanying pictures of successive building in limestone over the years). In this same year, for example, the limestone house built by Captain Zwick at Meyers' Creek overlooking the Bay, took place and yet he too was not a professional stonemason, but just a clever man who taught himself to use the materials of building at hand.

Circular saw marks on the beams, floors and roofing of the Storage Building are to be expected, especially when these building materials were produced by Meyers himself in his own sawmill right next door to the Storage Building. The cut square nails noted in the roof, are also to be expected, as the building was no doubt ready for reshingling by the 1850's. The original shingles had probably by that time, worn out and had been torn off and replaced. The presence of circular saw marks on lumber used in early buildings and early furniture was always possible if the lumber was fortunate enough to come from the small output of the few early sawmills. Captain Meyers' Mill, as such, was indeed one of the earliest. Pit saw marks on lumber are, therefore, contemporary with circular marks, and are never a reliable source of dating. The most common mark was indeed the pit saw mark, but does not apply in this case.

See
R. Cooper
P. Stokes
"After 1850"
Pg

Not
before
1850

See above
R. Cooper
and P.
Stokes.

The stone work in the building was indeed all of one period, as cited in the report.

It is suggested by the writer that since the examiners could not find an access to the lower south section, that it could have been through the original upper floor, which fact has probably been obscured by the floor boards being changed at a later date. In the east section, the fact that grinding stones were used as a supportive pillar by the mid-Victorian era is strongly indicative that the building was by that date beginning to sag a bit, and that is the reason why the supportive column was added. The grinding stones should be rescued and preserved, as they are probably the original grinding stones of Meyers' Mill, or a succeeding mill and as such, ought to be on display to the public.

see P.
Stokes
Report

The report states that there is now no proper door of entrance to the lower level. Surely a door is present, fully noticeable. The writer suggests that there was indeed probably a lower door, narrower than the one now there, which was, no doubt, widened at the date of usage of this building in the 19th. Century.

The presence of the chimneys in the upper area, with their accompanying thimbles of entry are the strongest support for the original purpose of this structure. The thimbles are of a very small size, and are the type to be expected on a late 18th. Century building, and not meant to accommodate the larger pipe holes of the 19th. Century. Captain Meyers was most certainly in possession of several stoves, these having been brought up from Montreal by him. Numbers of stoves in his home were in use and are listed in his inventory at the time of his death. It was impossible to run fireplaces from the chimneys in the Storage Building. The chimneys were solely for the purpose of the use of stoves to create extra heat for drying purposes. Otherwise, there was no purpose for the presence of the chimneys at all. Again, the small size of the bricks in these chimneys is the true indication of the building date of circa 1792, bricks having been produced at Meyer's' brickyard since 1789 - 90.

It was not unusual to find fabrics and traces of textiles clinging to the upper floor of this building as apparently, that was the second use of this building as it passed down into future owners in the mid 19th. Century.

It is stated that the lower half of a bearing was discovered high on the north wall near the east end. It is entirely possible that some type of machinery driven equipment was installed in this building at some date, indeed, maybe part of the shingle cutting equipment or any of the succeeding uses. To date this building as late as post 1860, does not even allow time for its use as a fabric drying building. It was used in connection with Lott's Woolen Mill c. 1845-

It is entirely possible that some fire damage was sustained by the Stone Storage Building at the time of the gutting of any building lying to the east of it.

The fact that the doorway (lower) was enlarged in the mid 19th. Century is proof that at that period, there was a need for an access for a different use of the building than what it was originally intended.

Finally, in the comments: All reasons for architecturally citing this building as being built circa 1860 are misleading and untrue. The flooring on the ground floor, it states, has been replaced - but that very fact cites that the original flooring was either worn out or unsuitable for the current purposes, and was therefore replaced. There would have been no reason to replace it had it

Not noted
by R. Cooper
or P. Stoker

Not noted
by R. Cooper
or P. Stoker

been newly built. There never has been a claim, finally, that this storage building was ever used as a flour mill building. There is no evidence of such a fact, inside or out. No wheel was ever in place to turn the machinery. This structure was merely an auxiliary building to Meyers' milling operations, but a very vital one, as from this he was able to offer properly dried lumber and shingles.

In Section "C", the author ^{12 R. Cooper} offers further comments:

"In the conglomerate to the east, it is possible that some of the stone base of this complex was indeed a part of the original foundation of Meyers' true mill, although all is demolished. The foundry-type chimney might have been part of his blacksmith shop, or could have been of a later date. The extremely thick stone wall noted by the inspectors could probably have been built by Meyers as it indicates an early date. The alignment of the foundations of the second building, built later, and the original Storage Building is easily explained, if there was indeed a pulley entering the Storage Building at a later date to drive some type of machinery. As the various combinations of industry built in the 19th. Century on this site was large and complex, the writer suggests that all the existing original milling buildings built by Captain Meyers were demolished at the earliest time of the beginning of the 19th. Century renovations, except the Storage Building. The grist mill equipment noted was much later than Meyers' era, as was all the brick superstructure. The only brick edifice recorded in Meyers' time was the residence on top of the hill, demolished in the 1880's."

Comments ¹³ on the section entitled The Industrial Development of Meyers' Property, Belleville: Author, David Roberts

Page I The term 'frame', as given in the Hastings Directory of 1864-5 is not to be confused with "log". It was impossible to have this building (the mill) of frame, as there were no boards to be had from which to build it. The first mill to be erected was, as stated, of log and was the saw mill. ¹⁴ It was not yet ^{it was the} Grist Mill. the style to build mills of frame construction. The earliest were of available log or stone. (See the Stone Mills, Lake-on-the-Mountain and the King's Mills of log at Napanee). When the grist mill was erected the same year, it was the only mill between the King's Mills, Napanee and the Rouge River - not the Bay of Quinte.

The date cited for the saw mill is erroneously late by two to six years. The wood work for the brick house built by Meyers was cut in 1792, his beams for many buildings cut from 1790 on and his first timber rafts were squared from 1790 on. Since these mills were built so close together and run by the same dam and mill-race, it is possible they were counted as one mill. He only mentions building a

¹⁵ See Roberts report, foot notes # 2 and # 4 Petitions, documented

Grist Mill in his 1792 petition. If he had also built a saw mill would he not have said so to give added weight to his case?

Re-type

Yes, it does

8. See
attached list to
Bib map.
Bib.

Samuel Wilmot's report does not indicate that the distillery¹⁴ ¹⁴ was newly built by 1815, but was merely listed as being in existence, as Captain Meyers was distilling and exporting whisky much earlier in his career. The production of whisky was imperative for the use of his inn and trading post, and was a natural expansion of most pioneer mills.

The fulling mill and dwelling house mentioned on the opposite side of the dam: the fulling mill was part of the establishment, but the house so cited was not Meyers' own dwelling house. "Meyers' Castle", the brick house built by him, was located on the brow of the east hill, facing north west, and the dwelling house on the opposite river bank was probably occupied by one of his grandsons - Tobiās or George Bleecker - who worked for their grandfather at the mill. By 1882, there was listed a second dwelling house, having been built ^{at an early date} for his helpers on the west side of the river.

Page 2 The second grist mill was a much later addition in Meyers' life, indeed added since 1816. The store and mills were all run by his two grandsons - George and Tobias Bleecker, for many years after their grandfather's death.

The two brothers purchased farm property on the east side of Belleville, it being bounded on the west side by the present Bleecker Avenue, Belleville. It is possible that the mills were ~~leased~~ ^{leased} to Messrs. Baldwin and McAnnany finally.

Page 3 The presence of strands of fabric indicate fulling operations in the ^{mid} 19th. Century, a further proof that the building was indeed up at the time.

Page 8 Concerning the use of Meyers' Stone Storage Building during the era of Burrell's axe factory, there appears to be a logical sequence of events. Burrell's complex of new structured buildings were separate still from the old Meyers' Stone Building. Apparently, the new Burrell factory had some stone base. The reason for the lack of mention in the local Intelligencer of the erection of the grinding shop as a new building is because it indeed was not ¹⁸ a new building, but was still the old Meyers building, having been renovated by the laying of the new floor and the widening of the door. Here is where the grinding of the axes would have been done. It states that the Intelligencer reported that Burrell was using the existing limestone structure also, as a packing house for his axes. He evidently had not built his separate packing house as originally intended, but was now pursuing other business interests.

Page 9 Here it states that the surviving structure, Burrell's packing building, now traceable to the old Meyers building ¹⁸ was converted for use as a

wool packing building, a fact which is still substantiated by the presence of the wool fibres on the floors.

Page 10 Here, Meyers building is still referred to as the "Packing House". From appearances, the sole use of the Meyers building has been as storage of scrap since the beginning of the twentieth century. The structure, as pointed out by the writer from all evidence here presented, was not built by Elias Burrell at even a later date of 1870-71. The total aspects of the building all prove an earlier date. If Burrell had only used this building as a fresh edifice, there would be no need for replacement of old flooring, or propping up by pillars of old mill stones. The style is not of the 1870's and there would be no need to face it so close to the river. 20

Page 12 This Stone Storage Building is in fact an original Meyers building. 21

Final comment

Unproved.

There is no doubt in the writer's mind that we are dealing with an Eighteenth Century building, and enough evidence has been suggested in this report to substantiate that claim. The final note of interest is the quaint dove coot²²? ~~Not a~~ ~~dove-cot~~ * that was added by Captain John W. Meyers to the top of this building. He no doubt, noted the presence of wild doves and added a coot at the top of his building for them, as they were attracted to the grains always lying about the mill.

The writer doubts very much if Burrell's axes would have attracted the doves! The author has also noted an old repair in the stone-work on the outer wall, (north side, extreme right hand corner, at the highest part), a repair obviously made in the 19th. Century on the 18th. Century wall, and again proving a great age to the old structure.

* Roy Turner, President of the Board of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, has suggested that it very likely is the remains of the housing for a ventilator shaft. All the dove-cots I have seen in Britain and in Europe are large stone bee-hive shaped structures (on the ground) with rows and rows of protruding ridges, ringing around the inside on which the birds perched.

Bleecker Ward - 1877 Assessment Roll

	1	Rent To Andrew Heller (#44) Dyer - Freeholder	- W. Mill St -	
	#45	Vac. House - Owner E. Burrell		\$450
Field Roll	45	John Quinn - Axemaker - Householder		\$450
	45	E. Burrell - Office Axe factory - Freeholder	Owner - Value	3000.00
	46	Charles Martin - foundry - Tenant	E. Burrell	3500.00
	46	George D. Desor - Wood factory - Tenant		\$1600

Alphabetical Roll - Bleecker Ward 1877

Burrell - E	No. 33	Axemaker - Householder - Owner Mr. Leavens - East Mill St	Val. 1800.
"	#45	Vacant House - Freeholder	West Mill " 450.
"	#45	Office & Axe Factory - F.	" " " 3000.
Plus several lots (vacant) on H. Meyers, S. Meyers, E. Bleecker & W.B.			

Alphabetical Roll for Bleecker Ward 1878

#33	Burrell, Ellis - Axemaker - H. at Mr. Victor Leavens - E. Mill St	
#45	" " - Office & Axe factory - Freeholder - W. Mill St - \$3000	

Field Assessment Roll as above

#45	Wm. J. Hindson - Printer - H. - Owner Ellis Burrell	W. Mill	450
45	John Quinn - Axe Grinder H. - " "	W. Mill	450
45	Ellis Burrell - Office & Axe factory - F. - " "	W. Mill	3000
45	Charles Martin - Foundry & Machine Shop - F. - " "	" "	3500.
45	William Lott - Woollen factory - F. - " "	" "	1600.

1871 Alphabetical Assessment Roll - Baldwin Ward

Baldwin Ward.	317	Burrell, Ellis, axe factory, (F.) - W. Mill St	5500!
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Field List

Woollen Mill.	317	Sylvester Astrom - Clothier Ten. Owner Ellis Burrell - W. Mill	500
	317	Ellis Burrell - Axe Factory - F. - " "	5500!
	317	Wm. Ranken - Shoemaker - F. - Wm. Bleecker	600
	317	Andrew Heller - Dyer - F. - Wm. Bleecker	"

1873 Alphabetical Field

317	Charles Martin - Foundry - F. - Ellis Burrell	W. Mill	3400.
317	Sylvester Astrom - Clothier (Woollen Mill) F. - Burrell	W. Mill	1800
317	Ellis Burrell - Axemaker - F. - " "	" "	5000

1873 Contd. - Baldwin

317 F. Goucher - J. - Ellis Burrell - W. Mill & 600
John Goucher - with F. Goucher.
317 Andrew Heller - Syer - J. Owner A. Keller - W. Mill -

Alphabetical Assessment Roll 1875 Bleecker Ward
#45 - Burrell - Ellis - Axe Factory & Office F. E. Burrell ~~W. Mill~~ ^{should be West?} 3000
45 " " - Woolen factory - J. Do - 1600'

Conclusion:

The stone packing building as shown first on the Good Insurance Plan of 1878-83 does not appear as a separate entry in Assessment Rolls for Baldwin Ward, W. Mill St. for 1871 or 1873. By 1875 Ward name was Bleecker. No entry as above in 1875 or 1877 or 1878.