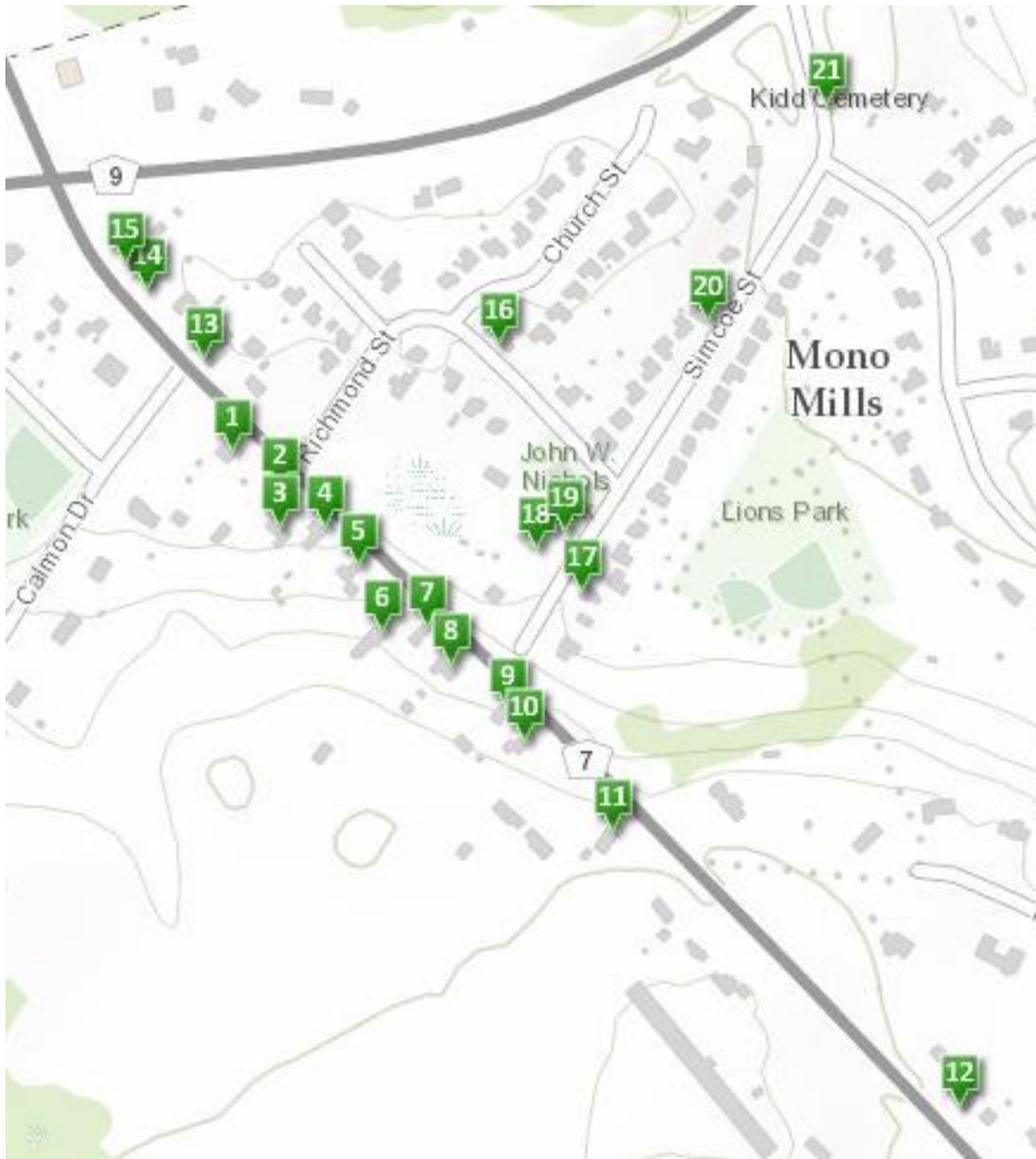


# *Heritage Caledon Walking Tour Series*

## **Mono Mills**

### **Self-Directed Walking Tour**



*\*Please respect private property*

1



**19796 Airport Road** John Kidd House pre-1867

This gable roofed, 2 storey frame house was acquired by farmer and entrepreneur John Kidd in 1867. Kidd lived south of the village so this building may have provided worker accommodation for his hotel staff or others. From 1877-1884, it was the home of his widowed daughter Mary Jane Chambers (later Mrs. Robert Lawrence) and her family. Timothy Chambers, a local innkeeper, died young from a surfeit of whisky. In 1897 the house was inherited by John Kidd's granddaughters Charlotte Allan Mills and Ethel Allan. Purchased in 1914 by Robert Harvey, it remained in the Harvey family for over 50 years. Annie Harvey was one of the party-line operators for the Mono Mills Telephone Co. The property is now a two-family private residence.

2



**19782 Airport Road** Ontario Cottage 1890s

This single storey, frame Ontario Cottage has a centre entry, a round top window in the centre gable and symmetrically positioned lower windows. For many years, this was the home of George W. Stork and his wife Ida. George's brother, merchant Ira Albert Stork, preceded him as postmaster, operating the Post Office from his General Store which stood across on the east side of Airport Road, where the Running Fox now stands. George was appointed after Ira's untimely death in 1914 and operated the Post Office from his home for over 30 years until his death in 1946. He was succeeded by merchant John George James Mitchell who purchased the Stork General Store and was the 4<sup>th</sup> postmaster to operate the Post Office from those premises.

3



**19774 Airport Road** Susan and John Fagan House mid-1870s

This frame, 'L' plan house has an extended verandah which stretches across the width of the house. In 1876, blacksmith John Fagan married Susan Moore, daughter of saddler James Moore. John's smithy operation was in the building immediately south. The Fagans had 9 children. Their eldest daughter Pearl married Fredrick Stubbs who owned 'Western Rubber Company' now the Alton Mill Complex. The house is described in the 1891 census as 1½ storeys with 8 rooms. By the 1930s, grandson Dr. H. Fagan was operating a veterinary clinic on the premises. The home's exterior has been altered with the addition of modern wood siding.

4



**19772 Airport Road**                      Blacksmith Shop                      mid-1870s

This 1½ storey single gable frame building was originally part of John Fagan's blacksmith operation. Fagan resided in the house immediately to the north (#19774 Airport Road). The building is now clad in board-and-batten siding and has been converted to a single-family residence. At one time, Mrs. May lived here. The front bay window is a relatively modern addition.

5



**19762 Airport Road**                      John and Eliza Moore House                      c.1870

This 1½ storey, Victorian Gothic style frame house with bay window, offset front entry and decorative fretwork is a Mono Mills landmark. The house was owned by and probably built by John J. Moore, the carpenter son of saddler James Moore. John's sister Susan lived just down the hill. The house has a 'modern' brick veneer added in the 1960s. Examples of using white brick to 'update' brick or frame buildings can be found in Inglewood and in Bolton. Fortunately, the trend didn't last long. The most recent owners were Don and Marion Lester who lived here for over 50 years.

6



**19734 Airport Road**                      Elizabeth and William Mills House                      late 1880s

This 2 storey, red brick, Italianate style house has symmetrically placed doors and windows, bracketed eaves and decorative spool-work trim. The pitch of the hip roof is repeated over the broad front verandah. The house is believed to have been built for William Mills and his wife Elizabeth Kidd, the widow of merchant John Allan who served as postmaster from 1871 until his death in 1885. William Mills, a hardware merchant, was appointed as postmaster in John Allan's place in 1885 and served until 1902. Subsequent owners included: David and Elizabeth Hooke, William and Annie Wilson.

7



**19732 Airport Road**                      Former Orange Hall                      circa 1870

The Loyal Orange Lodge #192 in Mono Mills received its Charter in the 1845 after having held meetings since the mid-1830s in a small log structure reportedly the village's first public building. As membership grew, the log building was replaced with this larger timber frame Hall which had a roughcast exterior. The Hall opened with much fanfare in May 1870. The lodge membership remained active until the mid-1970s after which the Hall was converted to a private residence. Board-and-batten siding has been used to blend the original structure with the addition to the rear.

8



**19726 Airport Road** Yellow Brick House late 1860s

The 1½ storey Victorian Gothic style house with its 'L' plan is one of a very few yellow brick houses built anywhere in Caledon, but unlike those, this home has contrasting red brick quoins. The property was at one time owned by George John McManus, farmer and local MPP (1871-1874) who lived in Mono Township. It was home to Margaret Potter and Stuart Mason, a retired farmer, in the 1920s. The windows, colourful trim and rear addition are modern updates. Since the 1960s, it has been the home of several generation of the Buckle family.

9



**19718 Airport Road** Moore's Saddlery late 1840s

This 1½ storey frame structure, Neoclassical in style, has been altered with modern windows and board-and-batten exterior cladding. It was built with the gable end to the road while the full-length verandah shields the entry. This property belonged to harnessmaker James Moore for over 60 years beginning in 1845. The 1851 census documents Sarah and James Moore in a frame building shared with the saddlery/harness making shop. Moore likely sourced his saddle and harness leather from Wm. Campbell's nearby tannery. Both Moore and Campbell subscribed to Tremaine's 1859 Map. The 1891 census describes this dwelling as 1½ storeys with 9 rooms. Dr. Mark Dunning signed Moore's death certificate in 1908. Coincidentally, he later practiced medicine in this building and was one of the principal investors in the Mono Mills Telephone Company along with Ira Stork, merchant and postmaster.

10



**19700 Airport Road** Edwardian Classical house early 1900s

This 2 storey frame house is a '4 square' with the front and sides walls all equal in size. It is built in Edwardian Classical style characterized by an asymmetrical floor plan while the roof pitch is repeated over the wrap-around verandah below. An 'L' shaped addition is to the rear. The house replaced an early inn which was marked in this location on Tremaine's 1859 Map.

11



**19666 Airport Road** Elizabeth & James Taylor House late 1870s

This 1½ storey, late Victorian Gothic style house, sitting atop what is known locally as 'Taylor's Hill', features a large wrap-around verandah and offset front entry. The later rear addition preserves the original side gable and window. The house was for many years owned by members of the Taylor family the first of whom, James, a skilled carriage maker, came to Mono Mills in 1876, marrying Elizabeth Speers two years later. He worked at Isaac Simpson's carriage works located in the village next to the Albion Hotel. By this time the local economy was already in decline but demand for carriages was growing. However, in 1893, a massive fire broke out behind the Albion Hotel; the hotel, carriage-works, hardware store and other buildings burned down. Isaac re-located his business to

Brantford. But Mono Mills' economy never recovered from the fire. James' career path mirrored the decline: 1901- wagon maker; 1911- carpenter; 1921- labourer.

12



**19563 Airport Road \*** John Kidd's Home/Tavern pre-1861  
 This stone house, originally 1½ storeys, was built by farmer John Kidd for his family of 9 children. The 1851 census records the family living in a log house; by the 1861 census they were living in this stone building. However, John reportedly was so tempted by the potential revenue from alcohol that he converted half of the house into a tavern. He continued farming on his land and living in this house but prospered sufficiently from selling whisky that he later purchased the Albion Hotel in the village. He died in 1895 at age 97. By the 1970s, the house had fallen into disrepair. It was rescued, reduced in height and rebuilt using stone from the upper half storey.  
 \* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act

## TOUR DIRECTIONS

Return to the bottom of the hill to continue with the tour

13



**19815 Airport Road** Site of successive General Stores  
 This plot of land was the site of a general store for more than a century. The original building, the McLaurin General Store, dated to the 1850s as marked on Tremaine's 1859 map. From the early 1870s, the store housed the Mono Mills Post office under a succession of merchants appointed as Postmasters by the Federal Government.

John Allan 1871-1885

Ira Albert Stork 1905-1914

John George James Mitchell 1947-1960

'Running Fox', a riding tack shop, was built around 2010. It sits on top of the filled-in foundation of the original general store. Some artifacts from that store are part of the new structure.

14



**19835 Airport Road** Local Store circa 1870s  
 This 1½ storey Gothic style frame building has a simple gable roof and is now clad in board-and-batten. The original verandah has been enclosed. The building had a succession of owners and was possibly Dr. Robert Lawrence's pharmacy in its earliest days. From 1911, it was operated by Alex Murray and then by his sons.

\* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act

15



**19839 Airport Road** Bungalow Style early 1900s

This 1½ storey red brick house has a distinctive fieldstone foundation around the enclosed verandah. This property was purchased in 1926 by Wm. G. Winchester from Rose McGovern and the house was later occupied by Mary and Elgin Winchester possibly from the time of their 1936 marriage. Elgin was the linesman for the local Mono Mills Telephone Company. Telephone subscribers bought their own phone, batteries, poles and road connections. Party line service depended on the 'central' switchboard, located in this home, and operated by Mary, her sister Jenny and neighbor Annie Harvey until Bell Canada took over in 1962.

## TOUR DIRECTIONS

Tour continues Richmond Street

16



**60 Richmond Street** Mono Mills Drill Shed circa 1869

This frame structure was built as a drill shed for Company #8, the Mono Mills volunteer militia unit, formed in 1866 during the Fenian unrest as part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Peel Regiment. It was led by Capt. John Patterson, in civilian life a builder, and Lt. Matt Vance, the drill sergeant. The government contracted drill shed was originally located at the Fair Grounds, on a plot deeded to 'Her Majesty the Queen'. It was re-purposed several times before being moved to this Richmond Street site in the 1920s by Peter Rawn and David Potter. Here, the shed was converted into a church, replacing a pre-1859 building, marked on Tremaine's 1859 map as the sanctuary of the 'Free Church', a dissident branch of Presbyterianism. The Free Church later evolved into a Presbyterian congregation which, with church union in 1925, became Mono Mills United.

17



**3 Simcoe Street** Market Hill House 1840s

This 1½ storey Neoclassical style house with centre entry and flanking windows sits on the 100 acres patented by John Gilmore in April 1840. Settling duties required John to build a 16' x 20' house. He sold the 100 acres to James Gillespie who, shortly after, built the Albion Hotel. By 1848 the property was owned by farmer Thomas Holmes; the 1851 census records his family living in a log (which could include timber frame) dwelling. By the mid-1850s, Holmes' son Richard, 'farmer and dealer in real estate', started subdividing part of the farm into ¼ acre lots. The house is noted on Tremaine's 1859 map. Now known locally as the Arlow Farmhouse, the house is supported on visible cedar tree trunks while a modern exterior has replaced original shiplap siding. If this is John Gilmore's c.1840 home, then it is also Mono Mills' oldest building.

\* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act

18



**6 Simcoe Street \*** St. John's Anglican Church circa 1867

This beautiful stone building was the Anglican congregation's 2<sup>nd</sup> church home and stands on land acquired in 1866; the first was a log structure on the 7<sup>th</sup> line Mono Twp. George Kidd and Capt John Patterson were the building contractors while stone cutter William Jones set the stones and carpenter Richard McCandless crafted the church pews. Gothic windows line both sides of the building whose shape is replicated in miniature in the front and rear porches. In the mid-1990s, the church was converted into a private residence.

**\* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act**

19



**8 Simcoe Street** Anglican Church Hall circa 1870s

This single storey frame structure was built by the congregation of the adjacent St. John's Anglican Church. The building has a gable roof and has undergone major renovations in the recent past. Although described as a 'Hall', it may have also served as a driveshed or for stabling horses during Sunday church services. It is now a private family residence.

20



**26 Simcoe Street** Italianate Manse late 1860s

This red brick house was originally a single storey frame cottage built on property acquired in 1866 by the Market Hill Congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for their manse. Sometime later, the exterior was clad with a red brick veneer. After church union in 1925, the manse was sold and became a private residence. It has since been transformed into a 2 storey Italianate style home with a pyramidal hip roof, symmetrically placed windows and bracketed eaves. Both the east and west walls of this house show evidence of the addition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> level.

21



**45 Simcoe Street** Kidd Family Cemetery

Kidd Family Crypt circa 1892

This unique burial vault was built for the Kidd Family. John Kidd was a prominent citizen and entrepreneur at the height of Mono Mills economic boom, first as an early tavern owner and later as a hotel owner. Stories suggest he led an interesting and colourful life. John Kidd and several other Kidd family members are buried inside this sealed vault, the only burial crypt in Caledon. It has been reported that John's coffin had a glass 'window'. The tombstone overhead is for Janes and John Kidd's son George Kidd who died in 1884, age 52.

**\* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act**

# Mono Mills - Timeline

- 1818: British Crown purchases north part of Peel County: Ajetance Treaty (2<sup>nd</sup> Mississauga Purchase)
- 1819: James Chewett completes Albion & Caledon EHS Twp. surveys; marks concessions, lot #s; is paid in land
- 1819: Wm. Frank Jr., United Empire Loyalist, is assigned Lot 22, Con 6 EHS Caledon; he builds a log hut
- 1820: Ezekiel Benson completes Mono Township survey and is paid in land
- 1821: William Frank Jr. marries Elizabeth Erwin in Williamsburg; their son is born there in 1827
- 1824: Francis and Alice McLaughlin are assigned 100 acres E½ of Lot 7, Con 1 Mono
- 1825: The McLaughlins (4 sons, 3 daughters) clear land, start building grist mill, clear road allowances
- 1827: McLaughlin grist mill is operating
- 1830: Crown issues Patent to William Frank Jr. on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>; he sells his land and house to John Coulthead for £100
- 1832: After selling W½, John Coulthead sells E½ to John Gilmore and profits by more than £56
- 1830s: First general store is opened by John Gilmore on west side of village
- 1835: Loyal Orange Lodge #192 starts meeting locally; the L.O.L. charter is issued in 1845
- 1839: Dan McLaughlin acquires two Crown Reserves located between the mill and village; a mill store opens
- 1839: Post Office #6724, Mono Mills, opens in McLaughlin's store; Alexander Lewis is appointed postmaster
- 1840: John Gilmore patents the 100-acre lot east of 6<sup>th</sup> line (W½ Lot 39, C 1 ALB)
- 1840: Log schoolhouse is built; Dan McLaughlin builds the village's first hotel- there are six by 1865
- 1840: John Gilmore sells his properties: 100 acres each to James McKenna and James Gillespie
- 1842: James McKenna starts subdividing west side of village into parcels of various sizes
- 1847: James Moore is operating a saddlery and harness making shop
- 1848: Michael McLaughlin buys grist mill, expands it, adds oats; he later builds carding/fulfilling mill for wool
- 1848: Thomas Holmes buys W½ Lot 39; his son Richard inherits it in 1854 and sells fifteen ¼ acre lots
- 1850: William Frank Jr. dies in Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois
- 1850: St. Francis of Assisi Church is built north of village on land donated by Michael McLaughlin
- 1853: William Campbell builds a large tannery on next concession west of the village
- 1865: The 'Stone School' is built west of the log school: Mono Mills Union, S.S. No. 16 Caledon
- 1866: During Fenian unrest, Mono Mills 8<sup>th</sup> Company is formed under Capt. John Patterson
- 1867: Agricultural Society of Peel buys 3 acres for local fairgrounds; land is held for Government drill shed
- 1867: St. John's Anglican church is built near the local 'Free Church'; Methodist church is built in 1871
- 1869: Carpenter James Jeffers starts sash and door factory
- 1870: Plans of subdivision drawn up for both sides of the village (ALB 6 and CAL 8)
- 1870: Tannery burns down with significant loss of jobs
- 1871: Mono Mills is at the height of its prosperity with multiple stores; population exceeds 500
- 1871: Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, with service to Orangeville, bypasses Mono Mills
- 1871: Local resident George McManus, J.P., is elected to provincial legislature representing Cardwell
- 1873: Blacksmith Isaac Simpson starts up a wagon and carriage making business

**\* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act**

- 1876: Michael McLaughlin sells the McLaughlin mill operations to William Jackson
- 1880: Mono Mill's economy declines rapidly while Orangeville prospers with railway access
- 1889: Local fairgrounds are sold to John Kidd
- 1893: Massive fire destroys much of the village
- 1907: First telephone line privately installed by Dr. Mark Dunning; Mono Mills Telephone Co. evolves
- 1921: Cenotaph is erected, dedicated to 12 fallen World War I soldiers
- 1933: Former Methodist Church is moved to Richmond Street and converted to Continuation School
- 1934: Mono Mills population dwindles to 92 inhabitants
- 1937: Hydro poles are erected throughout the village; wiring of buildings begins
- 1946: Tannery chimney, local landmark, taken down 76 years after tannery buildings destroyed by fire
- 1959: New Elementary School is built on Victoria Crescent; the 'Stone School' is closed
- 1970: Post Office closes

*A Project of Heritage Caledon in 2019*

*Together with Mono Mills Historical Society*

*Technical, mapping and heritage support from the Town of Caledon*

*For the web application go to:*

<https://caledon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=369ed088e0754a35be5681c0e0ca9b4e>

*Or visit the Town of Caledon:*

<https://www.visitcaledon.ca/en/tourism/walking-tours.asp>

