

APPLICATION
to
North Glengarry Township
for
HERITAGE DESIGNATION
at
Municipal Level

For the 1867 section of the ROBERTSON-CLARK building,
Including its architectural and historical significance.

That is
the original 1867 stone & brick section,



the 1934 bell tower and the 1854 Mrs. Catherine Quigley bell



and the 1930's St. Paul's Stencilling



The building is located at 1841 Dalkeith Road, Dalkeith, County Road 23 Ontario
Lot 7, Concession 7, Lochiel Ward, North Glengarry, Glengarry County

1811

-Background: History of the lot where the community started: Lot 7 in the 16th concession of Lancaster went from the Crown to James Ferguson September 1, 1797. By 1811 lot 7 Concession 16 was owned by Peter Ferguson, Blacksmith, Williamstown. John Robertson, Weaver & wife Janet McKay bought Lot 7, Concession 16 in 1811 from Peter Ferguson. They are listed as being from Lancaster Township-so they may already have settled on this property.

TOWNSHIP OF LOCHEL							
LOT NO. 7 IN THE 16 th CONCESSION							
Year	Month	Day	Parties	Date of Purchase	Date of Sale	Quantity	Remarks
1797	Sept	1	James Ferguson	1797			
1811	June	11	John Robertson & wife Janet McKay	1811			

Above: copy of township records showing ownership by John Robertson



Above first page of deed b/w John Robertson & Peter Ferguson, 1811- see below

"No. 300 a memorial to be registered pursuant to the laws of the province of Upper Canada of an Indenture bearing date the eleventh day of June. In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven between Peter Ferguson, Charlottenburgh in the eastern district of the province aforesaid, Blacksmith of the one part and **John Robertson of Lancaster** in the district aforesaid, **Weaver**, of the other part. Purporting to an indenture of bargain & sale of all that certain parcel like tract Or lot of land situated in the said township of Lancaster containing by measurement two hundred acres more or less being composed of lot number seven in the sixteenth concession of the said township of Lancaster. butt and bounded and maybe otherwise known and described as follows:.. That commencing on the said concession of the said lot hence north 24 degrees, west, 105 chains, 27 links more or less to the allowance for road in the rear of the said concession and hence south 66 degrees west 19 chains more or less to the limits b/w lots hence 24 degrees east 105 chains 27 links more or less to the allowance for road in front of said concession "This Robertson family were the first known settlers of what became Dalkeith Village

1820

William, a youngest child (of 4) is born to John & Janet in 1820 on Lot 7, now Concession 7, (now Lochiel, U.C). William is said to have spent a number of his younger years working/apprenticing with the “Lumber” Hamiltons of Hawkesbury then known as “Hamilton Mills”.

William is one of the important figures in the history of the 1867 building

Background: the excerpt that follows is from *Dictionary of Glengarry Biography* by Royce MacGillivray P.671 to prove there was a **FIRST** store on the shores of the De Grasse section of the Rigaud River:

“The Robertson Mill was to the north of the present village. The Robertsons had a store at that location”

1851

Names of inmates.	Profession, Trade or Occupation.	Place of Birth.	Religion.	Residence if out of limits.	Age next birth day.	Sex.	
						Male.	Female.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
John Hunt	Farmer	Holland	Baptist		42	1	
William Hunt	Labourer	Canada	ditto		25	1	
John Robertson	ditto	ditto	ditto		19	1	
John Robertson, son	Merchant	Holland	Free Church		75	1	
James Robertson	ditto	ditto	ditto		75	1	
John Robertson	ditto	Canada	ditto		32	1	
William Robertson	ditto	ditto	ditto		30	1	
Malcolm Robertson	ditto	ditto	ditto		18	1	

Above copy of 1851 census-all four sign as “merchants”

1850’s John & Janet Robertson –first generation on lot 7 -die
They are buried nearby at Kirk Hill United, Lochiel(ward)

1857

Son William inherits lot 7 now concession 7

(lot on which 1867 building is located)

1861

William is community minded

A Dalkeith Union or free school was built on the property of William Robertson in 1861 and 71 students were enrolled.

1811

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TOWNSHIP OF LOCHEL								LOT NO. 7	IN THE	16 th	CONCESSION
Year	Month	Day	Parties	Date of Purchase	Date of Sale	Quantity	Value	Remarks	Other	Notes	
1811	June	11	John Robertson & Janet McKay	1811	1811	200 acres	£1000	From Peter Ferguson			

Above: copy of township records showing ownership by John Robertson



Above first page of deed b/w John Robertson & Peter Ferguson, 1811- see below

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1867

From the book *Dictionary of Glengarry Biography* by R. MacG. p. 670 “Dalkeith got a post Office in **1867.**” The community was first called Robertson Mills. “The name change from Robertson Mills to Dalkeith and **the construction of the “new” store dates to 1867.**” It is also the year of Confederation and life has lots of promise. William has a new store and a new home for himself, his wife Catherine and their young family.



William became a Justice of the Peace around this time

The name change story of the community is as follows

(thanks to Stanley Fraser for this information)(son of Lewis Fraser)

When confederation rolled around the elders/fathers of the community got together to discuss whether

The community should keep its original name of Robertson Mills or if it should be changed

The meeting would have taken place in the school or quite possibly in the 1867 General Store

As the discussion continued one of the elders/fathers asked (Squire)William Robertson what he thought

(personal note-obviously William Robertson was not conducting the meeting)

He replied that he thought there were enough “MILLS”around already

(Munroe Mills/Dalhousie Mills/Fitzhenry Mills etc)

around already and he would be mighty pleased if the community could be named after

Dalkeith, Scotland, where the Robertsons came from before 1811.

and so it was

(an interesting detail also is that the Robertsons were willing to give up their own name)

The Building Itself

clockwise from left: basement door to outside-outline on brick indicating existence of an enclosed chamber : indoor section of basement window –some still with steel bars



Below: Front entrance door (double) of store
Left: Store picture windows on either side of front door

Bottom left: another view of brick siding
(Brick is from Vankleek Hill Brick Factory)



What the surrounding community remembered

1. Hattie MacLennan (pic below left) talks about the first Mill/Store-

Hattie (1890-1986) a long time resident of Dalkeith worked in the Robertson store & post office as a very young lady-likely age 14,15,16. & would have picked up her **Robertson memoirs** at that time



2. Sadie MacLaurin wrote her memoirs in **1973**. She was born in **1894** died in **1974** and worked as a teacher in Breadalbane and elsewhere. In the following quote she is talking about her father participating in “Glengarry Sleighs” caravans to Montreal(before bridges)

“He usually brought back sugar, molasses, dress lengths for the women folk of the household and any other articles that were in short supply at Robertson’s Store at Dalkeith”



A bit more on the Robertsons –also by Sadie-the Robertson

-“In Upper Canada, 1/7th of the Crown lands were set apart by the Constitutional Act for the support of the Anglican Clergy. These lands were not always used and were left undeveloped and this hindered the growth of the colony. About 1840 the government put them up for sale. The farm on which I was born was a Clergy Reserve and was for sale. The Stewarts who lived on the adjoining farm wanted it and to establish a claim they began potash making at the spring which is between the present house and the line fence. The Robertsons who owned the farm across the road and also the farm at Dalkeith where their store was, wanted it too..They cleared a small space at the south end of the farm. They were wealthy and influential; The Stewarts were smart for themselves’



3. A Mrs. Cécile Cadieux, (who lived in rural Dalkeith with her family) remembers being in the store as a very young child. She was born in 1906 and lived to be 103 years young. (info from her son Aurele Cadieux)

1879

Lovell’s Canadian Dominion Directory for 1879 identifies William Robertson as a JP and Postmaster, besides noting his businesses, and describes Dalkeith as formerly being called Robertson Mills

LOCHIEL TOWNSHIP.			
Breda, James	San Francisco	2	Blacksmith and Farmer
Cameron, J. H.	Albion	1	Wagon Maker and Blacksmith
Chisholm, C. D.	"	2	Black and Iron, Coffer and Farmer
McDonald, Lachlan	"	3	Blacksmith
Henson, George	"	4	General Merchant, Leather Store
Kennedy, John	Lachlan	5	Farmer
Leitch, Peter	Albion	6	Blacksmith and Merchant, General
McDonald, D. A.	"	7	Government of Halloway
McMillan, D. B.	Lochiel	8	Merchant and Bars of Township
McNab, A.	Blackburn	9	Blacksmith
McCormac, Donald	Blackburn	10	Farmer and M.P.P.
McCraig, M. R.	Blackburn	11	Farmer
McIntosh, T. J.	Blackburn	12	Farmer and Magistrate
McKay, J. L.	"	13	Dental Surgeon
McDonald, Mrs. R. J.	"	14	General Agent for Sale of Farms, Medical Instruments, etc., Insurance Agent
McGavin, W.	"	15	Proprietor Union Hotel
McPherson, D. J.	"	16	Hardware Maker
MacDougall, Angus	Blackburn	17	Black and Shoe Manufacturer
MacDonald, Eric Alex	Lochiel	18	Farmer
Morrison, D. A.	Albion	19	P. M. Alexander
Robertson, William	Dalkeith	20	Merchant
Stewart, John	"	21	General Merchant and Postmaster, Saw and Grist Mill, J.P.
Telford, Edward R.	Albion	22	Farmer, J.P. and Commissioner for taking Affidavits, etc.
			Barber

Above: Bellen Atlas 1879-lists Robertson as General Merchant, Postmaster, Saw & Grist Mill, J.P.

1885

William dies suddenly at work Sat Nov.7,1885.

The death notice appears the next week in the Cornwall paper .

and he is referred to as **Squire** Robertson. (to be called Squire usually you had to have “money, land & prestige “ in the community where you lived). William Robertson died intestate-without a will

The paper states-in Nov.1885- that the deceased had carried on a successful business for nearly 50 years in the village of Dalkeith “better known as **Robertson Mills** ”(1835-1885)



Above William’s death certificate

Their children are **Annie** who appears to be the oldest, age not known- followed by **John William** (born 1870-aged 15 when the father dies) **William James** (born 1875-aged 10 when the father dies) & **Daniel Clark** (born 1878 aged 7 when the father dies).Catherine carries on in Dalkeith.

Legend first has it that William was buried on the west side of his home-close to all he loved then buried at Kirk Hill. Note: There was a time when students from McGill University medical school would roam the countryside looking to steal/snatch bodies for research.So William could easily have been buried at home as a safeguard against that .In any case there is a grave sized dent in the yard where this is said to have occurred.Legend also has it that he left a buried treasure.

And since he died suddenly-it is theoretically possible

1887

The store is still open for 20 more years.
In May 1887 robbers tried to blow the safe in Mrs Robertsons store.(Cornwall paper)



above Catherine Clark Robertson

1891

In 1891 Census they (Catherine & children) are all listed as living in Vankleek Hill
The children are or close to high school age

1897

William's estate is finally settled. One of the sons was given legal authority to consolidate assets

1907

Robertsons sold to Angus Ranald William MacDonal (and wife Johanna McGillis) in 1907

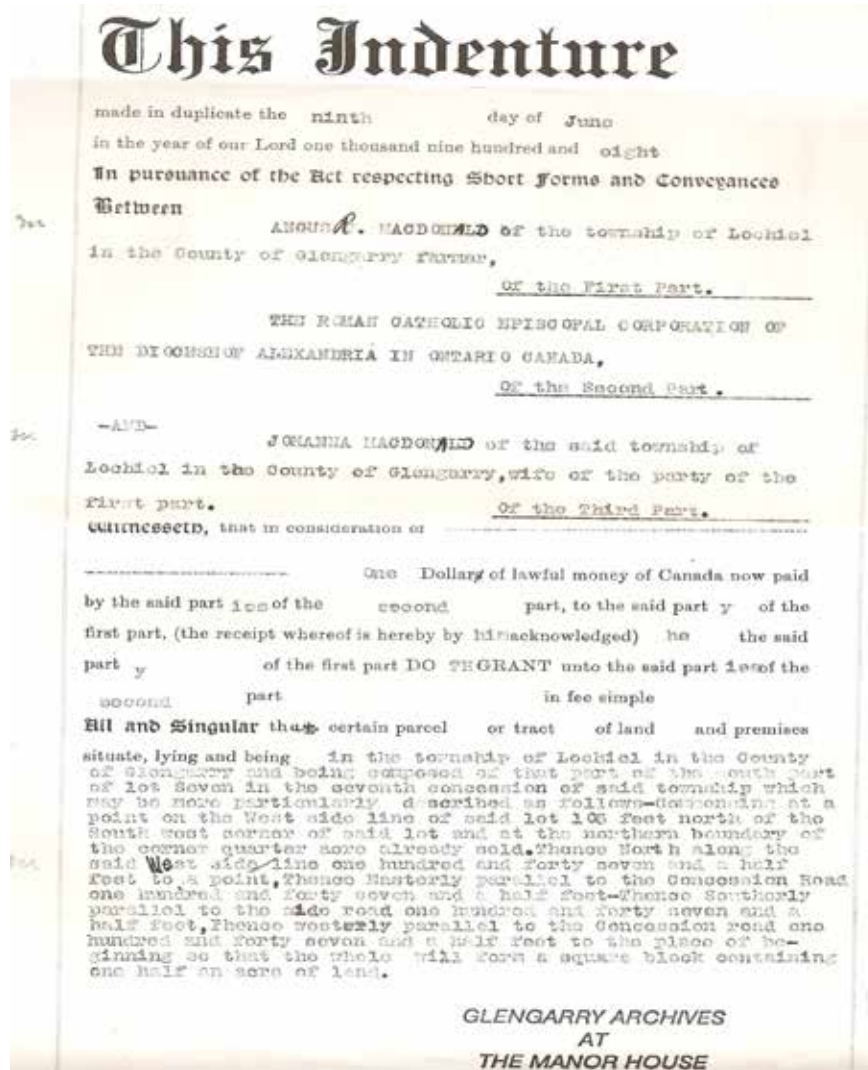
1908



The following year the MacDonalDs sold the "store " & a half acre of land to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria for ONE DOLLAR.



The land measurements are 147 1/2 Ft in each of the four directions forming a square block
The second Bishop of Alexandria, The Right Rev William Andrew Macdonell consecrated June 24, 1906 Was said to be connected to Mrs. Angus William MacDonal (the former Johannah McGillis). Both Mrs. MacDonal and the new Bishop were anxious to expand into the north eastern part of Lochiel and negotiations started on the "old Robertson Store" Mr. Macdonal agreed to sell the building and an acre of land for \$1.00-see below



1933-1935

Father Corbet McRae's report to the diocese for the years 1933-35 includes the following



In July 1933, the old bell "Catherine" blessed by the Most Reverend Bishop Phelan, of Kingston, on October 2, 1854, sponsored by Alan MacDonell and Mrs. Catherine Quigley, was donated by Lochiel to Dalkeith. Where it now calls the faithful to Mass, in St. Paul's Chapel.

Your picnic of August 7, 1935, was a credit to you, and has elicited compliments from far and near. You are surely good hosts.

Much more work has to be done. Your continued good will with God's help, is equal to the task.

Notice of any possible errors or omissions will be thankfully received and rectified. If you are pleased, tell others, if not, tell us.

I thank you
CORBET McRAE, Pastor.



Left: Rev. McRae Middle McRae's report 1933-35. Right: Bell & Belfry

From the book *BUTTERNUTS & MAPLE SYRUP P.282* "In 1854 Bishop Phelan (from Kingston) visited Saint Alexander's (Saint Paul's affiliate? parent) blessed it and consecrated the bell". So the bell that now sits in the Belfry dates back to 1854. (see above Corbet McRae report & below

He was pastor of St Alexander's (Lochiel) and St. Paul's (Dalkeith) from 1932-1940

29 Sept. 2009

From: Basil McCormick, Ottawa

B. McC

To: Ralph Dewar, Breadalbane
Jean MacLennan, Dalkeith

Subject: Why John Quigley went up into the belfry

Many years ago my aunt, Imelda McDonald, climbed up to look at the bell at St. Alexander's, Lochiel, and saw thereon an inscription "Sponsored by Catherine MacDonell and Owen Quigley". A few years ago John went up into the belfry at Lochiel and found a different bell. Earlier this year Theresa (MacRae) Ault found old church reports, one (1935) included a note saying that the bell had been given by Lochiel to St. Paul's in Dalkeith. Jack MacRae owned the store at Quigley's, 1924 to 1945

I thought you may be interested in a copy of the reports she found. The originals are going to the GHS archives.

1937

EXPANSION of BUILDING

“In July 1937, Father Corbet McRae requested permission from Bishop Couturier to enlarge the chapel which would include a sacristy at an estimated cost of \$3000.00. His request was granted and on July 10, 1938 Father McRae blessed the enlarged chapel as well as the new stations of the Cross”
Quote taken from the brief “history of Saint Paul’s” by the late **Helen Levac**-teacher & parishioner
DHS thinks this is when the window and wall stencilling was started.

1938

The building was extended eastward doubling its size.

Top -Verandah and Gables still visible-shows addition with chimney in centre south side
Lower- “store picture windows” still visible-circa 1950. notethat the Verandah is gone



above circa 1950

1954

"In 1954, Father Bernard Pion became pastor.

He had the inside of the church painted" (from Helen Levac memoirs) *DHS thinks this is when the ceiling art was started*

1957-1964

"Father Thomas Villeneuve replaced Father Pion in 1957 and he remained pastor until 1964.

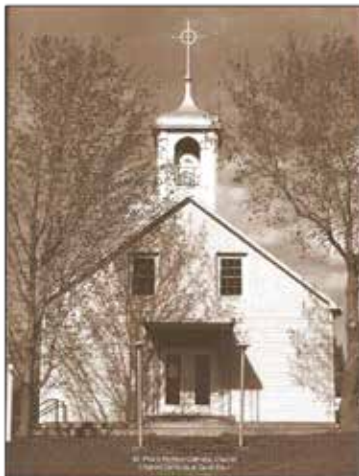
He put on a new roof on the church and covered the outside walls with imitation stone and repaired the basement." Immediately below left is a picture of Rev. Villeneuve with the church in the background. This is **the last pic DHS has of the natural brick exterior and the picture windows of the "store"**

DHS hopes these windows are still embedded under the present panelling



2000

It almost looks like it was built yesterday



INSIDE-2014

Top photo- is taken from the basement floor looking up at the main floor
Bottom photo -section of maple floor main floor



Measurement of the existing oldest inside part(ROBERTSON-CLARK) is roughly 30feet by 40 feet-
Photos of stencilling (April2014)

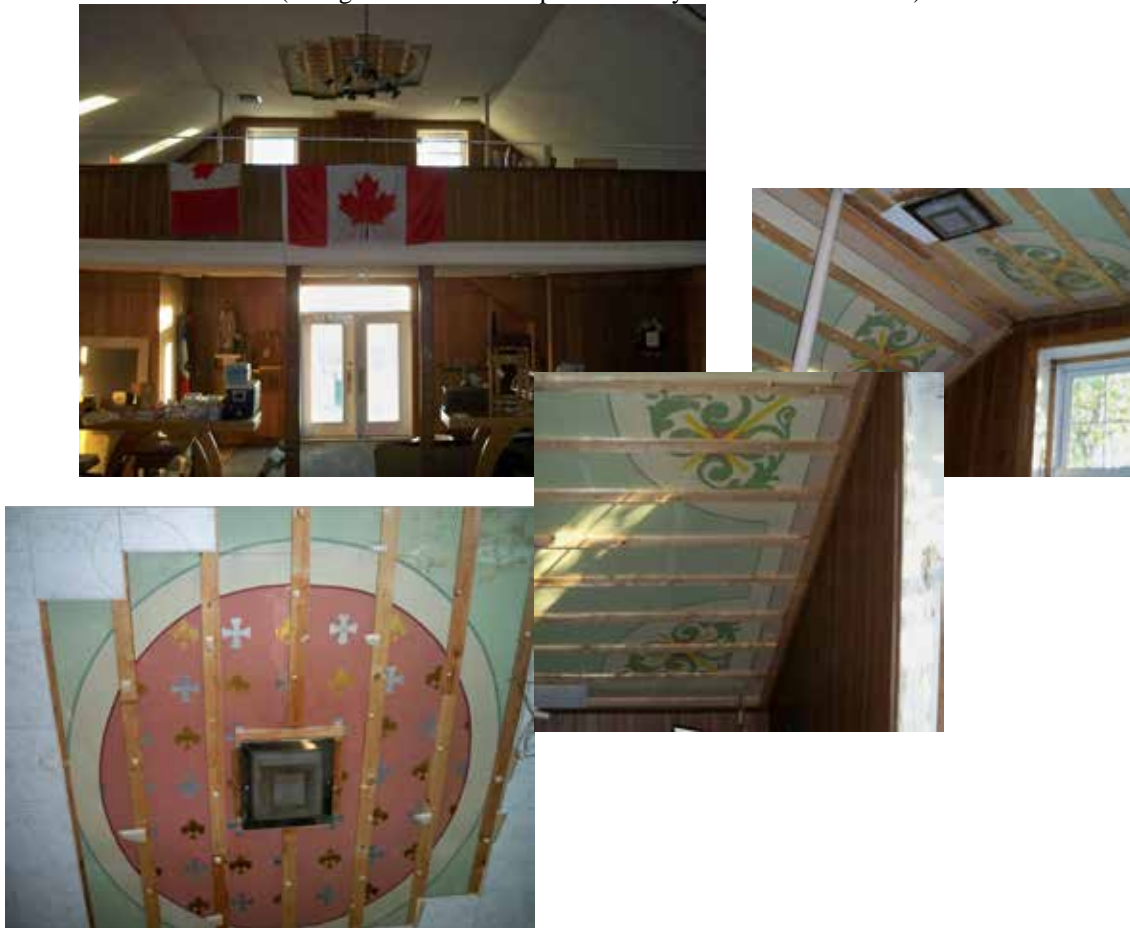


CEILING

The ceiling is Cathedral in style

DHS removed some fake ceiling tiles to find more stencilling

(the “gold” and “silver” paint is likely brass and aluminium)



This stencilling borders the west wall of the choir loft and continues across the ceiling and down to the other floor (in choir loft)

An indoor architectural detail on the Main Floor that is unusual

On the main floor between the front door and the staircase is a cupboard (under the staircase) whose inside space is approx. “32”x32” x 4 ½ feet. The walls, ceiling and floor are completely enclosed in “tin” (left picture with stamp on tin) DHS thinks this dates back to the time of the store



Reasons for designation

- 1 The building was constructed by the founding settlers of the community
- 2 The Building has always had a public face-first as a General Store & Post Office, Then as a St. Paul's Chapel and presently as the home of the Dalkeith Historical Society.
3. The history of the building embodies both the early Scottish community and the later French community
4. The Building is of Architectural interest through its early Victorian stone & brick construction and through the later contribution of the St. Paul's stencilling

Conclusion

The Dalkeith Historical Society, a grassroots group that came together when there was "talk" that the building known as St. Paul's would be taken down to provide space for a proper septic system for the manse which was on a separate adjacent property. DHS incorporated through the Ontario Historical Society in 2011 and received its charitable status in 2012. That same year DHS bought the Chapel property for \$5000 from the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. The building is now called the Robertson_Clark building in honour of the original owners and to differentiate it from St. Paul's Recreation Centre. It is the home of the Dalkeith Historical Society. The Society plans to have the building open exhibits, concerts, art shows, conferences. Etc.

Presented on behalf of all members of the Dalkeith Historical Society