

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
THE GATEHOUSE, MILL OF KINTAIL CONSERVATION AREA

Location: N.W. half of the S.W. half of Lot 23, Concession 8  
Ramsay Township, Lanark County, Ontario

Present Owner: Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Present Use: to be developed as a year-round visitor orientation centre  
at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.

Statement of Significance: Two noteworthy historical figures, John Baird and Robert Tait McKenzie, have been associated with this building. It was erected circa 1830 and is a good example of Lanark County stone vernacular. Additions made to the building by McKenzie are also significant. The Gatehouse occupies a prominent location on the 8th line of Ramsay at the entrance to the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.

Part I Historical Information

A) Physical History

1) Original and Subsequent Owners:

- 1830 Crown granted all of lot 23 (200 acres) to Canada Company  
1872 Canada Company sold lot 23 to John Baird the Younger for \$500.  
1896 High Court of Justice awarded lot 23 to Hugh Kennedy through Vesting Order. A life lease was granted to enable Jean and Isabella Baird to live in the house until their deaths.  
1896 Hugh Kennedy sold west half of lot 23 to Robert Philip for \$2,500.  
1919 Robert Philip granted land to William Philip through Probate  
1920 William Philip granted land to Jane Philip through a conveyance for \$1.00.  
1931 Jane Philip sold N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to William Haydon for \$1,500.  
1932 William Haydon sold N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to Robert Tait McKenzie for \$2,000.  
  
1947 Ethel O'Neil McKenzie, widow, sold Part N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to Wilbert and Margaret Monette for \$1,000.  
1986 William Margaret Monette sold part of S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for \$110,000.

2) Date of Erection: Uncertain. Completed by 1830 (attachment)

3) Architect: Uncertain. John Baird owned the property. Labourers were hired to assist with construction.

4) Alterations and Additions:

By 1932, McKenzie had renovated the store as a lodge for tenants. Occasionally guests would stay there. Major changes to the building included: addition of front verandah  
addition of front dormer window  
excavation of half basement

s.w. side door was changed to window  
addition of rear shingle-sided addition

Between 1946 and 1986, Mr. Monette made alterations to the interior and exterior. Exterior changes include:

installation of rear window on second floor on east side  
side entrance and stairs to basement on north side  
addition of porch on south side of rear addition  
change to roof line of rear addition

(Attachment 2)

5) Historical Events or Persons Connected with Structure

a) John Baird was an enterprising pioneer in the local community of Bennie's Corners. He built a grist mill, known as Woodside Mills, a home, this structure, a general store. The upper floor housed mill workers. The store was ideally situated beside the road running to the grist mill. Farmers could leave their grain at the mill and receive a credit note to spend on goods at the store. (Attachment 3)

b) Robert Tait McKenzie (1867 - 1938) has been recognized internationally for his accomplishments as a physician, sculptor and physical educator. In the 1930's, he purchased the old Baird Mill and General Store. The store was used as a guest lodge and to accommodate a tenant.

Part 11 Architectural Information

A) General Statement

1) Architectural Character: A 1½ storey store structure with a medium gabled roof, the building is representative of Lanark County Stone vernacular. Alterations made to the building by McKenzie contribute to the historical significance of the building and should be retained where possible. The rear addition has been altered by subsequent owners and while documentation would be informative, it is not essential to maintain.

2) Condition: stable

B) Description of Exterior

1) Overall dimensions: 35' x 25', rear addition 18' x 40'

2) Foundation and wall construction, finish, colour: coursed rubble sandstone, flat arch construction over doors and windows

3) Structural system and framing:

Interior framing of log and timber with 2" tongue and groove flooring

- 4) Verandah: simple Regency Revival style, wood frame
  - 5) Chimneys: coursed rubble masonry, rebuilt in 1930's
  - 6) Openings:
    - a) Front Door: Panelled door with divided light transom, possibly dating from 1930's
    - b) Windows: Lower floor, 12 over 12; Upper floor 6 over 6. Appears to be original configuration, although sash may have been replaced in 1930's. Divided light casement sash in dormer and modified door, dating from 1930's renovation.
  - 8) Roof - brown asphalt shingles
- C) Description of Interior  
Many changes in interior have left little evidence of original floor plans.
- D) Site
  - a) General Setting and Orientation: front facade faces west
    - : nicely landscaped
    - : set back from roadway
    - : at entrance to Mill of Kintail

Conservation Area

  - b) Outbuildings - modern workshop
    - drive shed
    - archaeological ruins of Baird family home.

Part 111 Project Information

- W. Monette
- Registry Office
- Major and Mrs. J. F. Leys