



4. Old City Hall
46 Dickson St.

The history of what is now known as Fiddlers Green Irish Pub and Riverview Dining is shrouded with myth and mystery.

The building, situated at the heart of Galt and considered a historical landmark, once served as the local post office. It was built in 1885, and was designed by the well-known architect Thomas Fuller, who also designed the first Canadian Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

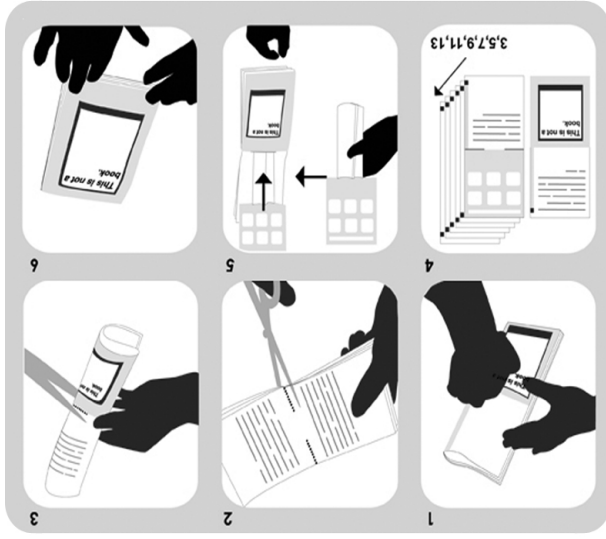
According to an urban legend, the building is haunted by the ghost of Emily, one of the original employees of the Post Office. As the story goes, her body was found hung from the rafters in the clock tower, the cause of either woeful suicide or vengeful murder. It is believed that she had been in the midst of a passionate love affair with the postmaster, William S. Turnbull, which for various possible reasons had come to end.

Legends aside, the building still offers opportunities for drinks and dining with a spectacular view of the Grand River.

Guides to Galt: A Brief History of Architectural Spaces

Ruth Van Gorp





www.diffusion.org.uk
DIFFUSION eBooks are designed to be freely available to download, print out and share.

created on: Wed Mar 5 15:54:27 2008
Ruth Van Gurp

Guides to Galt: A Brief History of Architectural Spaces

OVERVIEW

In 1973, the City of Cambridge was formed when the city of Galt merged with the towns of Preston and Hespeler and parts of the townships of Waterloo and North Dumfries.

Each of these communities has its own rich and multi-layered history; however, this booklet focuses on the heart of downtown Galt--that enchanting section of the city along the Grand River that has been officially designated as a heritage conservation district.

The purpose of this distributable ebook is to serve as an unofficial guide to the history of architectural spaces within this district that continue to provide valuable services to the community.

Sponsored by Render & the University of Waterloo

Founded in 1852, GCI is the oldest continuously-operating educational institution in Ontario, and has been designated as a historical landmark. Initially, it began as an all-boys boarding grammar school in the old town hall under headmaster William Tassie, and earned a reputation for academic excellence. From its onset it instructed many bright young men and entrepreneurs, including Joseph E. Seagram. Today, Galt offers a complete academic and extra-curricular experience to a population of 1200+ students in a wide-range of academic and vocational programs.

1. School of Architecture 7 Melville St. South





6. Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School

200 Water St. North

In October of 2004, the University of Waterloo chose downtown Galt as the location for its new School of Architecture.

Overlooking the Grand River, the three-level, 85,000-square-foot facility accommodates about 400 architecture students, faculty and staff. It includes a gallery built and operated by the Cambridge Libraries and Galleries as well as a 70-seat cafe. Both facilities are open to the general public.

The building formerly was known as the Riverside Silk Mill, founded in 1915 by the brothers Donald and E.M. McCormick. The Mill has an affluent history, pioneering the switch from natural to synthetic fibres as well as introducing a profit-sharing plan, and was a major contributor to the rich history of textile production in the region.

Later it changed ownership several times, hosting a number of small retail and manufacturing concerns, the last of which were Galt Knitting and Tiger Brand.

Mill Race Park, formerly the site of the old Dickson Textile Mill, now fulfills a variety of functions in the community. The site's chief feature is an amphitheatre built within the ruins, which overlooks the Grand River. It is host to a number of popular events throughout the year, such as the annual Mill Race Folk Festival, the Rock the Mill concert and youth festival, and is a venue for a variety of local talent. The site also features an excavated "raceway" or canal which once provided power to the mill, contains the official Canadian Heritage River Designation Plaque denoting the historical significance of the Grand River, functions as a picnic site, and is the only park within the city that is reserved for wedding purposes.

2. Southworks Outlet Mall

64 Grand Avenue South





5. Mill Race Park

Located on the corner of Park Hill Road & Water St. North

Southworks Outlet Mall is named after the South Works of Babcock & Wilcox. Dumfries Foundry was founded in 1844 by James Andrews and James Crombie. In 1847 the foundry was relocated to the Grand Avenue site upon which Southworks is built.

By the mid 1850s the Crimean War had created a necessity for local manufacturing within Canada, which stimulated an industrial boom in the city of Galt. The foundry itself changed hands twice, first to Crombie alone and then to John Goldie and Hugh McCulloch. It gained a reputation for its engine building and became a major manufacturing company with a broad line of products.

In 1923 Goldie McCulloch Ltd. and Babcock & Wilcox merged and continued operation until the building was sold in 1987. The old foundry was renovated to its current status; however, many traces of antique machinery remain around the property and can be seen today.

Most of the development at Southworks has taken place since 1996. Today there are more than twenty-eight outlet stores open for business, plus a 30,000 square ft Antique Mall.



3. Fiddler's Green Irish Pub & Riverview Dining

12 1/2 Water St. South

In 1856, the decision was made to build a new town hall. To make room, the former structure was sold for \$130.00 and was moved via rollers to Cambridge Street, where it was converted into housing.

The new town hall was designed by architect H. B. Sinclair and was meant to reflect Galt's rapid growth, prosperity and influence in the region. However, not everyone was pleased with the design. Some condemned the Italianate design as inadequate and not at all reflective of Galt's growing importance. However, the hall was completed in October of 1858. It was built of granite and white limestone. Blue granite was used as a decorative feature. These local materials, typical of Galt, are what lead it to be known as "The Granite City".

Marketing was held in the basement until 1887 when the new market was built down the street to ease the increase of traffic.