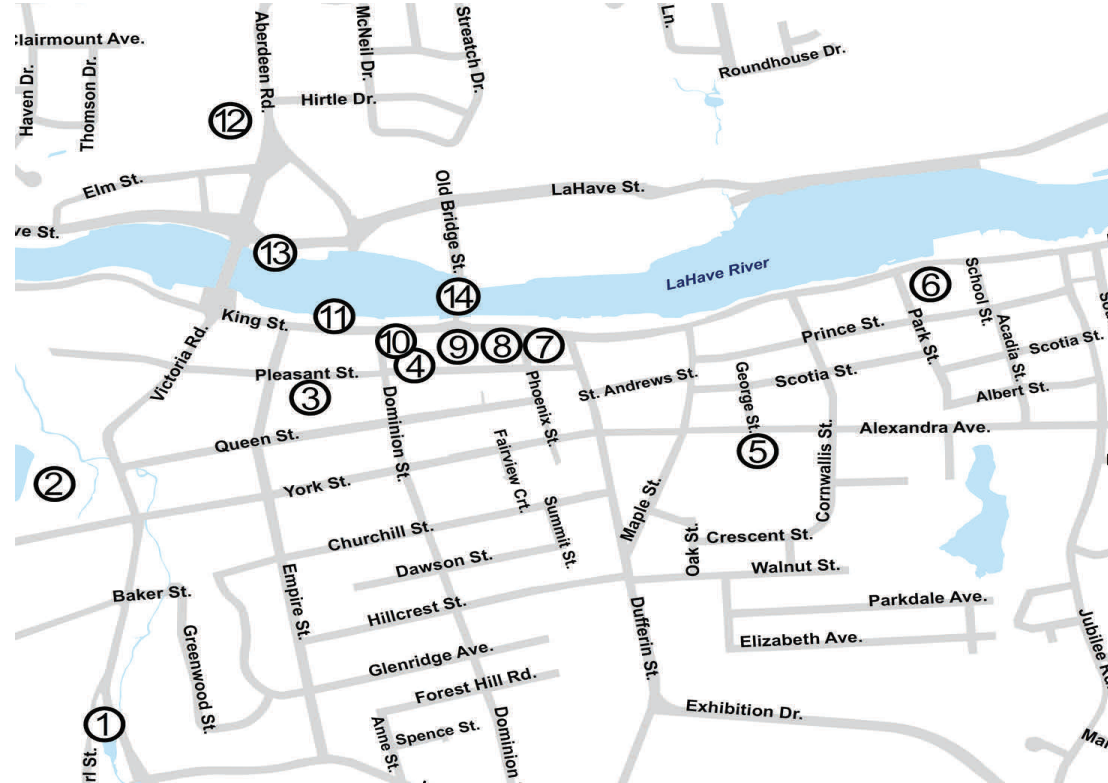


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# BRIDGEWATER'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS

**1. Wile Carding Mill** was established by Dean Wile, a local businessman, in 1860 and is the only remnant of the town's 19th century industrial area that included seven water-powered industries. The mill operated until the 1960s and today is a provincial museum as well as a designated municipal heritage property.

**2. Brookside Cemetery**, a designated municipal heritage property occupies a prominent place within the town with its first burial dating back to 1860. The 25.8 acres of land was first cared for by Dean Wile until 1879 when he transferred the land to serve as a multid denominational final resting place.

**3. St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, the town's first Catholic chapel, built in 1889 by noted local carpenter Robert Lamb. The structure was modeled from a church in England that the priest at the time, Father Kennedy, favored. You will want to note the windows with rosette trim, a common Christian symbol.

**4. The Old Courthouse** is one of Bridgewater's most controversial buildings as its location caused great debate. A vote of 7 to 6 decided that a courthouse would be built at this location rather than at the town of Lunenburg. This building is of Second Empire style which in its time spoke of progress and wealth was built in 1893.

**5. Holy Trinity Anglican Church**, a designated municipal heritage property, is a wooden church built in Gothic Revival style in 1856. The bell tower was built to house the bell donated by Judge DesBrisay, founder of the municipally owned DesBrisay Museum.

**6. The Old Acadia Gas Engine building** is now a condominium complex. In 1908, Winfred Theodore Ritcey established the Acadia Gas Engine Company on the banks of the LaHave River. The Company grew into one of the largest manufacturer of two cycle gas engines in Canada, employing up to one hundred men.

**7. The "Flat Iron" building** was built in 1900 by merchant David McKay following the "Great Fire" of 1899. Its unique Flat Iron style is derived from the acute angle of its street corner. It was home to many businesses including the Bank of Montreal, a boot and shoe shop, a tailor shop and Babylon Draperies and Design.

**8. Bank of Montreal**, former Marshall Building was built after the "Great Fire" of 1899 on the site of the town's first house. It accommodated a number of businesses before the bank took over in 1905. Although it has undergone exterior renovations, the brick building still retains strong elements of its original character.

**9. The Old Library building** was built in 1922 to house the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Designed by Victor D. Horsburgh this simplified Federal Style building has unique blue Ohio sandstone features. The town library made its first permanent home here in 1984.

**10. The Old Post Office** is of Federal style with Classical and Romanesque details and influence. Postal service began in Bridgewater in 1845 and was housed in several different locations until this new building was erected with an addition of a clock tower in June 1909. Postal service remained here for 100 years.

**11. The Old Dawson Store** remarkably still stands and was most recently in operation as Cumings' Fire and Safety. In 1864, Robert Dawson Sr. began a legacy in business in this building as a merchant on King Street. His family business thrived with his sons following in his footsteps. This building is the oldest store still standing in Bridgewater.

**12. Davison House** was built in 1889 of a late Victorian Modified Gothic style featuring three different and elaborately embellished dormers. The home housed the Davison family who owned one of Canada's largest lumber companies in its time and Bridgewater's first mayor, Frank Davison, who played a leading role in rebuilding the town after the "Great Fire" of 1899.

**13. Ramey House** is the oldest home in Town. Built as early as 1770, this home has survived town development. Its simple design reflects the style of early settlement homes. Benjamin Ramey bought the property in 1851, and it remained in his family until 1971.

**14. The Old Bridge** built in 1891 by the Dominion Bridge Company continues in use today. The first iron bridge to connect the river's west and east side, this structure played a major role in the community's growth and is a central part of Bridgewater's identity over 120 years later.



**Take a tour through Bridgewater's past and visit historic homes, churches, streetscapes, cemeteries and industrial structures that our community has inherited from previous generations!**