The school was built on land bought from John Lindsay in 1875. It was built by A. Willoughby with broken course lime-stone from the Harris Quarry on Bedell Road. The building is rectangular and the front porch gable roof is highlighted by a decorative belfry. 

Quarry. The building was completed renovated in 2001 and has served as the church hall ever since. In 2008, administration of the hall was transferred to the local Community Association. This building has seen so many of the great and small events of Oxford Mills since 1875, and remains an important part of the village’s life and history. It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1991.

This is all that remains of the four blacksmiths that once operated in Oxford Mills. Joseph LeFaver first rented the property in 1854, and continued in operation under numerous owners until 1947. The cheese factory operated 6 days a week from spring to fall under numerous ownerships. The Oxford Mills Cheese Factory Association was formed in 1946, but snow loads caused the roof to collapse in 1967. The factory was not rebuilt. The picture shows the factory after the roof collapse.

This building was constructed c. 1835 of timber frame and served as a hotel until 1914. It had a 2nd story balcony and 1st story veranda both of which ran the length of the front facade. It was built by Asa Clothier and was owned by numerous individuals, many of whom also used the property for other businesses such as shoemaking, over the years. The last hotel keeper was Thomas Warren, who left here and moved to Kemptville, where he ran the White House for many years. It was sold to the Loyal Orange Lodge No. 72 in 1915. The Lodge and Regalia rooms were on the 2nd floor with a large hall on the 1st floor that saw many community dances, masquerades and dinners. The Hall had its own Band, which played here regularly. There were horse stables and stables between the Hall and the river. It took 5 wood stoves to keep the interior warm. The Lodge had as many as seventy members at one time. The Lodge went into darkness’ in the 1970s and the library operated from the first floor.

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However, in November, 1939 it burned to the ground. It was never rebuilt.

Thomas Anderson opened his shoemaker’s shop here in 1855 and it remained in the family until 1945. Miss Mary Anne Anderson operated a lending library from the house. Bill, her brother, drew mail from Swan Station twice a day. His teams were kept in a large log stable behind the house.

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Oxford-on-Rideau in 1879 and served as such until 1946. Deanery meetings were held here, dozens of priests gathered on the steps on the then open veranda on the west side for photographs. It remained a family home until it was renovated into a Nursing Home in the 1950’s, a function it still serves today.

16. Grist Mill
East Bank, South of the bridge
Originally two-storey’s over a basement, a wooden top floor was added to accommodate new technology. The basement housed two large water wheels connected by pulleys and shafts to operate the mill. Water to power the wheels came through two large doors. The mill was demolished in 1961. The steam boilers were unearthed in 2001 when the retaining wall was being rebuilt and were once again covered over.

Researchers and written by Dr. David Shanahan

10. Presbyterian Church 61 Water Street

The cornerstone for St Andrews was laid on May 20, 1882. The limestone was quarried from Robert Patton’s farm. Joseph Wilson was the mason and William Acton the Carpenter. It is built in the Gothic Revival Style. A burial ground was once located north of the church, most remains were re-interred in the union cemetery on Main Street. The old headstones were incorporated into a cairn.

11. Methodist Church 42 Water Street

The first church on this site was built in 1858 and was replaced in 1881. But this later church proved unsound and was replaced in turn by the present edifice in 1897. It is constructed of common bond red brick with a corner bell tower topped with 4 turrets. The interior features an intricate pattern of tongue and groove paneling on the walls and ceiling designed and installed by Ormond Barnard. In 1889 the congregation bought the lot south of the church. This was the site of the first school building in Oxford Mills. When the school was moved to Maplewood in 1875, the land was sold and a house built there. This house was used as the Parsonage until it was sold in 1913 and moved to its current location at 22 Water Street.

12. Original Methodist Rectory 22 Water Street

This house was originally located on the south side of the Methodist Church. It was built after the school there had closed and was bought by the church in 1889 to use as a Parsonage. In 1913, when the new rectory was built north of the church, the house was bought by Freeman Brown and moved on rollers down Water Street to its present location at 22 Water Street.

13. Magee Tavern and Kidd’s Store
14-16 Water St
Archibald Magee ran a tavern on lot 16 from 1853 and it was later bought by Murdoch Gair, along with lot 14, which had been a rented dwelling owned by Ambrose Clothier of Kemptville. Gair went bankrupt in 1887. The two lots were bought by Thomas A. Kidd, storekeeper, who replaced the wood frame buildings with a brick one. The store also served as the Post Office, but burned down in 1939. Another store was built by Joseph Postlethwaite, but it too burned down in 1976. The land has since been used as a garage and storage shed.

14. Waugh General Store 9 Bridge Street
Rickey Waugh built this structure as a general store with living quarters above c. 1850. It served as the first Post Office in the village, as well as a general store, for many years. A tin smith and antique dealer have also operated from the premises. It has been beautifully restored and is now an upscale restaurant, although it retains many of the original elements of the Waugh store, such as part of the timber flooring, counters and a fireproof vault. It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1997.

15. Waugh Residence 12 Bridge Street
This home was built by Rickey Waugh as his family home in the 1860’s. Waugh was responsible for two fine stone buildings in the village and was the first developer in Oxford Mills, selling the lots on Water Street to the first settlers. The house was purchased as the parsonage for the Anglican Parish of Oxford-on-Rideau in 1879 and served as such until 1946. Deanery meetings were held here, dozens of priests gathered on the steps on the then open veranda on the west side for photographs. It remained a family home until it was renovated into a Nursing Home in the 1950’s, a function it still serves today.

16. Grist Mill East Bank, South of the bridge
This was the site of the stone grist mill, started by Asa Clothier and completed by Rickey Waugh. The building was constructed of locally quarried limestone.

Researchers and written by Dr. David Shanahan