

Territorial Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the community of Dundas is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga People. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant and the Between the Lakes Purchase of 1792. We recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.



Brief History of Dundas

Dundas, formerly known as Cootes Paradise, continues to be a small picturesque town. In the early 1800s, Richard Hatt began buying up land and financed Spencer Creek's clearing to build mill sites. The Creek's water power and the growing number of mills became the nucleus of Dundas, securing it as a regional industrial revolution model.



Just Over the Creek

The industries on the South-side of Spencer Creek date even further back than the Globe Foundry:

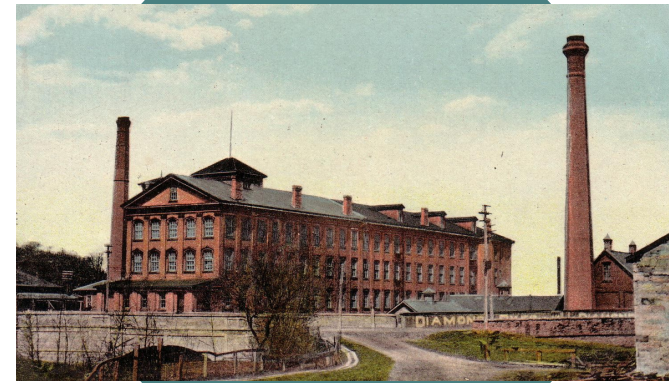
The **Wentworth Flour & Grist Mill** was formed around 1830 by William Dewstow. Robert Holt, who constructed a mill upstream to supply water energy downstream, purchased the mill in 1833. The Wentworth Mill burned down in 1863.



Next to the Wentworth Mill was the **Dundas Woollen Factory**, also known as the **Elgin Woollen Mills**, founded by Walter Gorham and John Patterson in 1845. The factory produced cloth, flannels, and blankets. The quality was so good that two of their blankets won first place at the 1851 London World's Fair and was presented to Queen Victoria. The manager, William Slingsby, successfully carried on the business until it burned down in 1860.

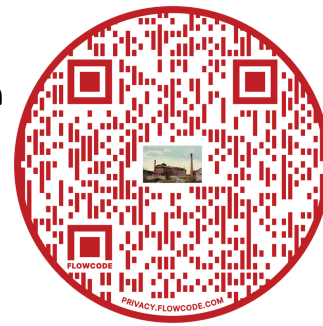
The Dundas Museum and Archives Presents:

18 Dundas Street Walking-Tour

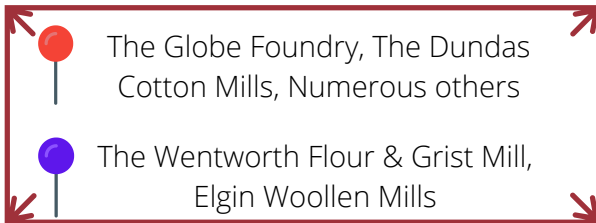
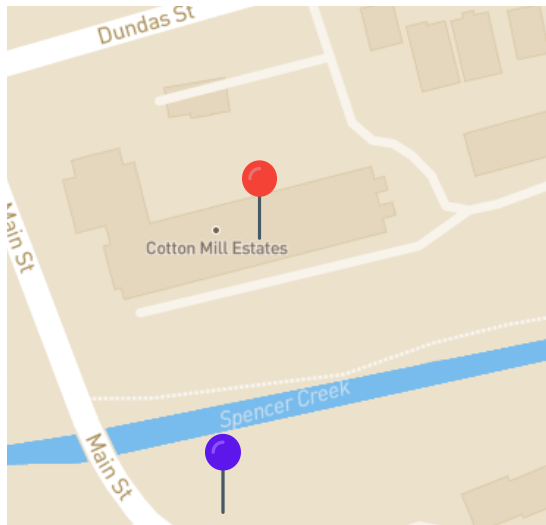


Looking east at the Dundas Cotton Mills

For an audio version check out -->



Map of Tour Area



The Globe Foundry

The first industrial site to call 18 Dundas Street home was **The Globe Foundry** in 1844, operated by George Levitt and owned by Robert Holt. Levitt was no stranger to foundry work as he apprenticed at the Gartshore Shops.

The foundry sold: stoves, thrashing machines, percussion wheels, and mill gear. A fire in May of 1859 and competition from Gartshore Shops could not justify rebuilding the foundry. Holt sold the property to Joseph Wright in January of 1860.

The Dundas Cotton Mills

By June of 1860, Joseph Wright had built **The Dundas Cotton Mills** on The Globe Foundry's old site. Young, Law & Co. of Hamilton took over the Cotton Mills in 1866, with Wright staying on as manager. Under Young, Law & Co., the factory peaked in production. It employed as many as 400 workers and was considered an honour to work at the Mill.

During the next decade, competition became intense. Eventually, larger mill owners formed a partnership and bought out smaller mills like the Dundas Cotton Mills. In 1891 the company was purchased and closed by the Canadian Cottons Limited of Montreal.



18 Dundas in the 20th Century

Many businesses occupied a portion of the giant Cotton Mills space for only a short amount of time:

- Canada Car Company**, 1896 to 1910
- Chapman Engine Company**, 1911 to 1918
- Neu Flame Company** in 1919
- United Food Productions**, 1922-1924
- Caldwell Canning Factory**, 1924 to 1926

During the Depression, there were no buyers or tenants of the property, causing the Town to take over the property in 1935.

- McMaster Pottery** (formerly Dundas Clay Products), 1935 to late 1945
- Hamilton Cotton Company**, during WWII to the late 1940s

-A fire in the late 1940s left only a shell of the building. It was demolished in 1974 to make way for condominiums

