



210 King Street – “Acadia Gas Engines”

While the property of 210 South King Street has been turned into a wonderful park, and the closest thing the Town of Bridgewater has had to a town square, it once housed the Acadia Gas Engines complex. It's a given that Shipyards Landing provides much more to the community than turn of the century industrial architecture, though it is still worth examining a former building from a time when even factories were made to look nice.

Founded by Winfred Theodore Ritcey of Riverport in 1908, Acadia Gas Engines Co. Ltd. became the largest manufacturer of small marine engines in Canada by 1918. The 210 King Street building was the machine shop, and thus the centrepiece of the whole operation. Though its roofline was later altered from its original form which fit much better with the building's neo-colonial aura, the surviving structure was still of architectural merit. An L-shaped building, the north wing was one story, with a front-gable roof that pitched sharply on the north side, its eaves finishing just above the first storey windows. On the south slope, the roof only went a short ways, intersecting the shallow-sloping side-gabled roof of the south wing. This led to a unique roof shape. Nevertheless, the masterpiece of the building is its prolific usage of large, glass windows. Presumably, this allowed light into the building, eliminating much need for candlelight or electric light – an economic solution, and perhaps a safer one depending on the chemicals used in the machine shop. The wonderful six-over-six windows matched perfectly with the Colonial Revival (Georgian Revival) style, also evident with the

returning eaves, shallow side-gable roof, and two-storey front elevation. Adding a nautical touch to the whole affair was the smokestack, with a resemblance to that of a boat.

While not visible at first, this building's sister – the location of the Stationary Engines plant – is still located across the street, and is now converted to the LaHave Landing apartment building. Looking closely, it is possible to see the window frames and the very solid brickwork.