



Historical Background

The Old North End began with the 1762 trading post of the three colonial men from the Boston area, Simonds, Hazen and White. The back of their trading post was at the end of the ancient portage trail used by the first nations tribes — Maliseets, Micmacs, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot — as they moved from the St. John River, bypassing the dangerous tidal rapids, to the Bay of Fundy.

That portage trail began in what became known as Indiantown, based around a house for fur trade built for the first nations' chiefs as part of the 1776 treaty with the British. Portland Point traders then travelled to Indian House to buy furs.

Over the next 100 years the path grew into a road and straightened to a street as the steepest hills were carved away to accommodate horse and cart traffic. The road from east to west became Main Street linking the commercial centre of Saint John with Portland's businesses, churches and homes, its mills and its river traffic.

Old North End began where Douglas Avenue meets Main Street at the top of the hill. It slopes steeply down to Bridge Street by the river. Residents recognized Indiantown as beginning at the wooden block steps on the hill and ending at the water.

From spring to late fall regular steamer traffic left from Indiantown wharves to travel to communities upriver. Wood, coal, hay, freight and passenger business kept river boats busy at Indiantown for half the year. The area's mills employed 500 - 600 men.

Homes in this area are more modest, most built late in the 19th century. The terrible fire of 1864 destroyed 95 houses. Other fires in 1868, 1874, 1875 and 1877 took whole blocks of buildings. The worst was the 1877 fire that turned street after street to ashes as it spread from its Main Street origin. Most North End residents could not afford to rebuild in brick or stone, but many of their wood houses are still standing a hundred years later. Even the more prosperous residents on Douglas Avenue chose wood over stone in the 1880s. Many of these beautiful homes are still cared for today.

New Brunswick and Canadian Registers of Historic Places

In 2004 the New Brunswick Register of Historic Places was established as an online listing of provincial historic sites and local histories places. Places on the New Brunswick Register are also listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places, which lists formally recognized historic places throughout Canada.

These registers were established through a federal, provincial, territorial partnership and serve as a tool to identify and promote historic places. Numerous historic places in Saint John are listed on both Registers so that historic landmarks in neighbourhoods and communities can be viewed online.

The New Brunswick Register of Historic Places can be accessed at www.historicplaces.gnb.ca, and the Canadian Register of Historic Places at www.historicplaces.ca

Questions about Historic Property

If you have any questions about your historic property in Saint John, contact the City's Heritage Development staff at 658-2865. The Heritage program operates out of the City's Planning & Development Department and focuses on the stewardship of the built heritage of Saint John.

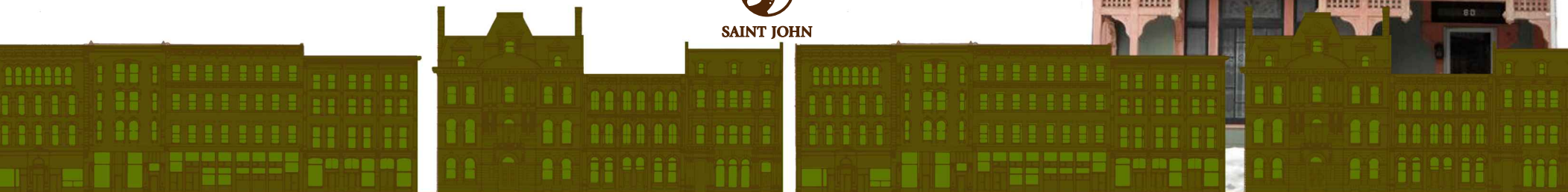
The City of Saint John is a participant in the Province of New Brunswick's Historic Places Program, funded through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). New Brunswick gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Government of Canada in supporting its participation in HPI.



OLD NORTH END Walking Tour OF HISTORIC PLACES



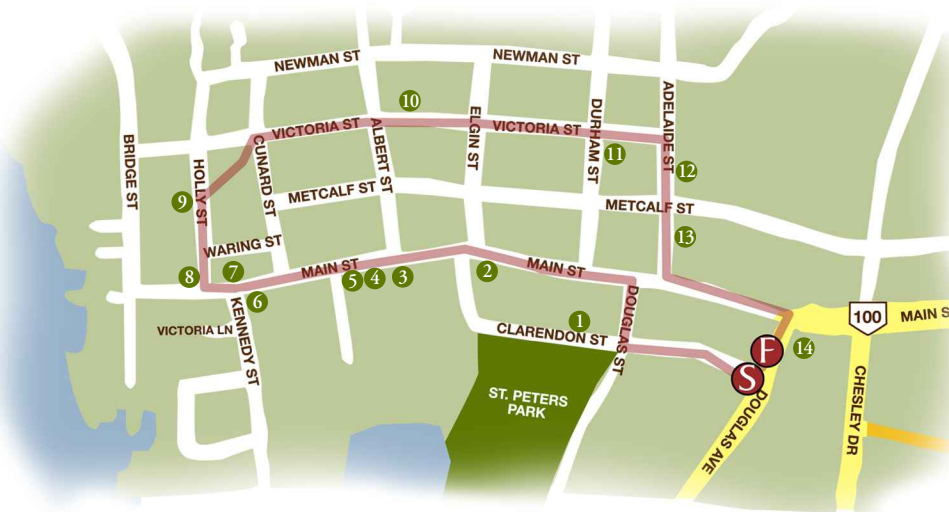
SAINT JOHN



SOME HISTORIC HOUSES ON THIS WALK



- 1 42 Clarendon Street, Nuns residence, St. Peter's Church, Second Empire style, c. 1870
- 2 168 Main Street, Italianate style, c. 1890
- 3 120 Main Street, Carpenter Gothic, c. 1850
- 4 90 Main Street, Queen Anne style, c. 1895
- 5 80 Main Street, Queen Anne style, c. 1895
- 6 68 Main Street, Ferris Hotel, now Ferris apartments, c. 1910 [no photo]
- 7 27 - 29 Waring Street on high rock cliff viewed from Kennedy Street, Craftsman style c. 1910



- 8 41 Main Street at Holly, streetscape of commercial buildings, Queen Anne style, c. 1895
- 9 45 Holly Street, Tapley Manor, Queen Anne style, 1899
- 10 119 - 121 Victoria Street, hydrastone, Craftsman style, 1916
- 11 72-74 Durham Street, Carpenter Gothic
- 12 72 Adelaide Street, Dykeman's Hardware, Queen Anne style, 1908
- 13 40 Adelaide Street, Craftsman style, c. 1915
- 14 2-4 Douglas Avenue, DeBury residence, Second Empire style, 1878 [no photo]

