



Historical Background

Loyalist Paul Bedell arrived with the Spring Fleet of refugee ships in 1783. He laid out the streets of the Parr-town peninsula to Lower Cove with military precision. Boatloads of refugee loyalists continued to arrive through the summer and fall of 1783. By winter some 14,000 weary people were crowded into shanties and tents beside the harbour.

Lots were drawn and land given out, sometimes the same plot subdivided many times over as more ships arrived with refugees. Properties on the King Street hill rising up from the harbour were reserved for former military commanders and powerful loyalist families.

By 1824 in spite of Bedell's map of organized streets stretching across the peninsula, Charlotte Street was the recognized edge of town. Beyond it towards Courtney Bay were a few houses and pasture fields. Cattle had to be restricted from wandering the streets. The map's military grid did not match the rocky topography. Surveyors and builders battled that rock to define lots and construct roads and buildings for the new community, Saint John.

As life became more stable, waves of immigrants swelled the population. 1867 brought the most new residents, over 16,000 desperate to escape the famine and poverty of Ireland and Scotland. Saint John in 1871 was the fourth largest city in British North America. By 1874 more than 150 buildings were under construction between Saint John and Portland. Land toward Lower Cove and Courtney Bay remained unsettled.

Then the Great Fire of 1877 wiped out two thirds of the built city centre in one wild windy June day. A year later of the 2,311 buildings completed in Saint John fewer than half were houses.

Mecklenburg Street's elegant homes were built during a burst of extravagant design as the 19th century ended. It was the early 20th century, usually after 1910, before the South End finally found its residents. Below the hills, on streets that run across the flats to Lower Cove, the houses become plain and sturdy. Some are brick and stone but most are wood, built on small narrow lots to fit the income of working families.

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.



Canada's Historic Places

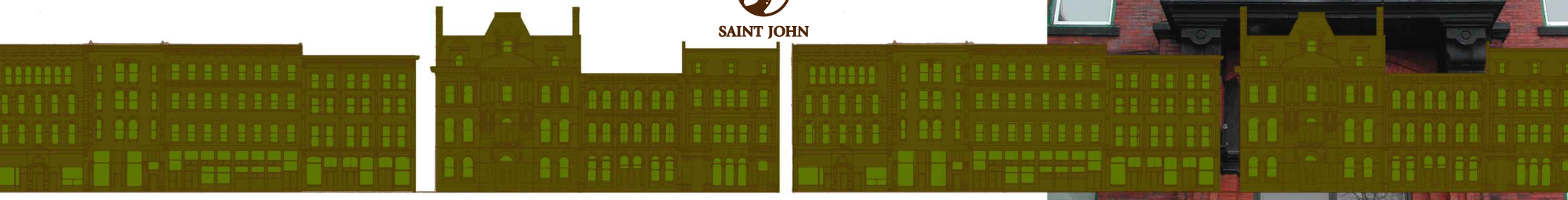
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SAINT JOHN



SOUTH END Walking Tour OF HISTORIC PLACES



SOME HISTORIC HOUSES ON THIS WALK



- ① 58 Broad Street, St. John-the-Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Gothic Revival, 1885 [no photo]
- ② 140 Broad Street, home built for John B. Jones, journalist for Saint John Globe, 1900 [no photo]
- ③ 149 Broad Street, Courtney House built as a retirement home for elderly ladies, now abandoned. 1878
- ④ 232, 252, 254 Britain Street, three examples of Italianate houses with Craftsman detailing c. 1915
- ⑤ 231 Britain Street, Turnbull Nursing Home, Second Empire, 1882
- ⑥ 209 Queen Street, may have been built directly from plans and materials purchased from the Sears Roebuck catalogue, Queen Anne style, c.1900



- ⑦ 28 Mecklenburg Street, Second Empire, 1884
- ⑧ 14-12-10 Mecklenburg Street, a trio of homes known as Merchants Hall. Queen Anne style c. 1895
- ⑨ 134 Sydney Street, Caverhill Hall (also known as Simeon Jones Castle), Baronial Gothic, 1884 [no photo]
- ⑩ 2 Mecklenburg Street, Thompson House built for prominent shipowner, terra cotta decoration, Queen Anne, c. 1895
- ⑪ North side of Queen Square is an intact streetscape build after the Great Fire of 1877, Second Empire and Italianate, 1878
- ⑫ 274 Sydney Street, Ordinance Store built by the Royal Engineers in 1841, Greek Revival style. New addition added and roof changed to mansard in 1911 when Barrack Green Armoury was built.

