



Historical Background

In 1850 the Lower West Side was the community known as Carleton, directly across the harbour from the City of Saint John. Its many industries and businesses, began at the waterfront where shipbuilding and repairs was based. Vessels carrying cargo and immigrants from overseas docked beside fishing boats in a tangle of wharves.

Ferrymen did a good business transporting passengers, cargo and animals between Carleton and Saint John. There was no other easy access across the harbour where the powerful St. John River met the sea. Two attempts to build a bridge across the St. John River at its narrowest point had ended in disaster. It would be 1853 before a new design, a suspension bridge by an American engineer Edward Serrell was successful in joining the two communities.

This busy, haphazard, industrious community was happy with its place although it never was a town except in the minds of its residents. That changed beginning in the 1890s when the National Harbours Board declared Canada's official winter port would be Saint John. Over the next 40 years the port continued to expand and improve its west side operations so that it could dock the world's largest ships, and download cargo and grain. Rail lines replaced roads, The entire waterfront was closed and became a secure site in Canada's winter port.

All the buildings, businesses and homes in the flood plain area beside the harbour were destroyed or moved. What had been the heart of the thriving west side community was gone forever. Businesses, factories, shops, homes and the people never returned. Carleton amalgamated with Saint John and became known as the Lower West Side.

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.

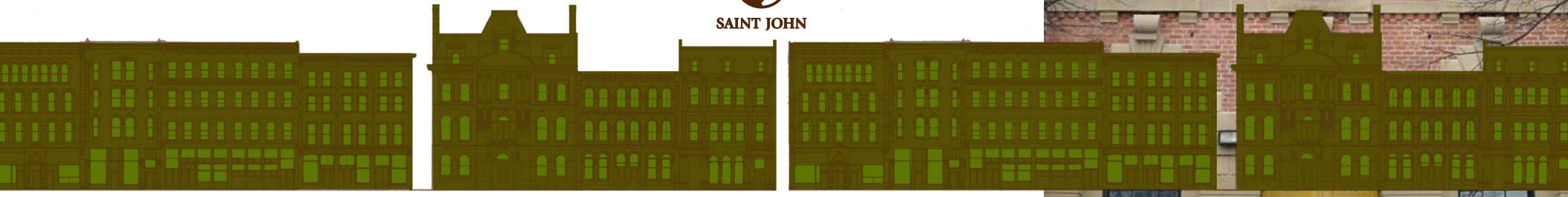
The City of Saint John is a participant in the Province of New Brunswick's Historic Places Program, funded through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). New Brunswick gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Government of Canada in supporting its participation in HPI.



SAINT JOHN



LOWER WEST SIDE Walking Tour OF HISTORIC PLACES



SOME HISTORIC HOUSES ON THIS WALK



- 1 **Carleton Public Hall**, Market Place West built in 1863, burnt in the fire of 1925 and rebuilt with only two stories. Now used as a community centre. Originally it held the west-side waterworks, a health department, police station, and an auditorium-theatre on the third floor. Oldest public building in continuous use owned by the City of Saint John.
- 2 **105 Duke Street West**, Brittain home, clapboard, Dutch Colonial style, Gambrel roof, 1899
- 3 **138 Duke Street West**, built for the Parsons family on land that was formerly part of the Sewell property (site of early carriage house), Classical Revival style, 1888
- 4 **148 Duke Street West**, corner of Ludlow Street, Sewell house, built for Jonathan Sewell, believed to be the oldest wood building in Saint John. Georgian style, c.1785 - 1791
- 5 **285 King Street West**, C. A. Hamm Grocery store, Second Empire style with Mansard roof, c. 1880
- 6 **287 King Street West**, Clark House built for John S. Clark (co-owned with his sons), operated one of largest sawmills in Carleton. Sons had grocery store and bakery businesses, Carpenter Gothic Revival style, 1850



- 7a **291 King Street West**, Waring house, Queen Anne style, c. 1914
- 7b **293 King Street West**, built for Ernest J. Waring, part of the industrialist Waring family who took over the Allan Foundry (1906) and renamed it the Union Foundry & Machine Works to produce metalwork for local shipping and railways. Colonial Revival style, 1906 [no photo]
- 8a **100 Watson Street**, St. George's Anglican Church built in Georgian style, 1820, tower added in 1890 and the hall in 1921. [no photo]
- 8b **152 Watson Street**, the Peters' house built for Dr. Martin Hunter Peters who performed the first operation in Canada with an anesthetic, 1847. Richly ornamented Carpenter Gothic style, c.1840
- 9 **270 Charlotte Street**, Masonic Hall, one of the oldest continually used in Canada, built in 1869 [no photo]
- 10 **244 Charlotte Street West**, Clark House one of three built side by side, Carpenter Gothic, c. 1850
- 11 **162 Charlotte Street West**, Baptist Church, now an apartment complex, c. 1900 [no photo]
- 12 **Post War Veterans housing** on former mill pond site, built from 1946 - 1953 [no photo]

