

THE SAINT JOHN REGION



THREE HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Loyalist Trail
Victorian Stroll
Prince William Walk

A SAINT JOHN HISTORY

Saint John is located on the ancestral lands of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Peskotomukhati, who have lived here for thousands of years. This land is part of the larger Wabanaki Confederacy, which includes the Penobscot and Abenaki nations. Saint John, known as Ougoudi (Navy Island) in Wolastoqey, was an important seasonal gathering place and portage site long before European arrival. Indigenous peoples played a pivotal role in early trade, diplomacy, and alliances with French, British, and American powers.

The first European to explore this area was Portuguese explorer Estavan Gomez who, in 1535, identified a river on the east coast as the "Rio de la Vuelta" (River of the Return). In 1604, Mi'kmaq gathered on Ougoudi (Navy Island), where they watched a foreign-looking ship enter the harbour on June 24, St. Jean de Baptiste Day. Aboard were Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Monts, and Samuel de Champlain. They charted the harbour and made note of the Reversing Falls Rapids. They named the Wolastoq river after their patron saint (St. John). Almost thirty years later, in 1631, Charles de La Tour, the newly commissioned Governor of Acadia, built a fortified trading post as his headquarters at the mouth of the river. Built on Wolastoqey land, Fort La Tour relied on indigenous alliance for survival and trade. The Wolastoqiyik played a critical role in the fur trade, supplying beaver pelts and guiding French traders through the region. In 1645, the fort was captured by La Tour's rival for Governor, Charles d'Aulnay, after a valiant defence led by La Tour's wife – Françoise Marie Jacquelin – while her husband was in Boston seeking aid from the English. This defense would not have been possible without Indigenous allies who understood the land and warfare strategies. A redevelopment interpreting the heritage of the Fort La Tour site is located here.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht ceded French Acadia, including the Saint John River Valley, to England. The French settlers were gradually displaced by colonists and traders from New England. The Massachusetts firm of Simonds, Hazen, and White established a trading post at the river mouth in 1762, and the first permanent settlement in the area was established.

In 1775, the American Revolution began and bands of American rebels and privateers raided the eastern seacoast, which threatened to topple the Simonds, Hazen, and White enterprise. Fort Howe was established in 1777, during the American Revolution, to prevent rebel incursions; it was also the site of a key treaty negotiation. In 1778, the British convened a council of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq leaders here to secure their neutrality in the war. The resulting Peace and Friendship Treaty was meant to guarantee Indigenous hunting, fishing, and land rights, though these promises were frequently broken in subsequent years. At the end of the American Revolution in 1783, 14,000 Loyalist supporters of the British arrived at Portland Point en route to settle along the Saint John River, using land grants allotted to them by the crown.

Some of the Loyalists established two settlements, one on either side of the river mouth: "Parr-Town" on the east and "Carleton" on the west. In 1785, the two settlements were incorporated by Charter into the City of Saint John – Canada's first incorporated city.

The years that followed brought economic growth and social development. Saint John developed a prosperous timber trade and a wood shipbuilding industry, which by the mid-1800s, was the third largest in the world.

Saint John also attracted an influx of immigrants, beginning after the War of 1812, mainly from Scotland, England, and the West Indies. In the 1840s, more than 30,000 Irish arrived in New Brunswick, mainly in Saint John. Many suffered from typhus. Later immigrants from Germany, Denmark, and Russia brought with them smallpox and cholera. Some were quarantined on Partridge Island.

The 1860s saw the city's shipbuilding industry decline as steel steam-powered vessels replaced wooden sailing ships. Canada's oldest surviving wooden ship is the Egeria, built in Millidgeville in 1859 and now resting at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

Canada's Confederation in 1867 dealt another blow to Saint John and to the Maritimes. In order to encourage Maritime trade with central Canada, the government of the new dominion imposed high tariffs on foreign goods, forcing Maritime businessmen to import costly materials from Ontario and Quebec.

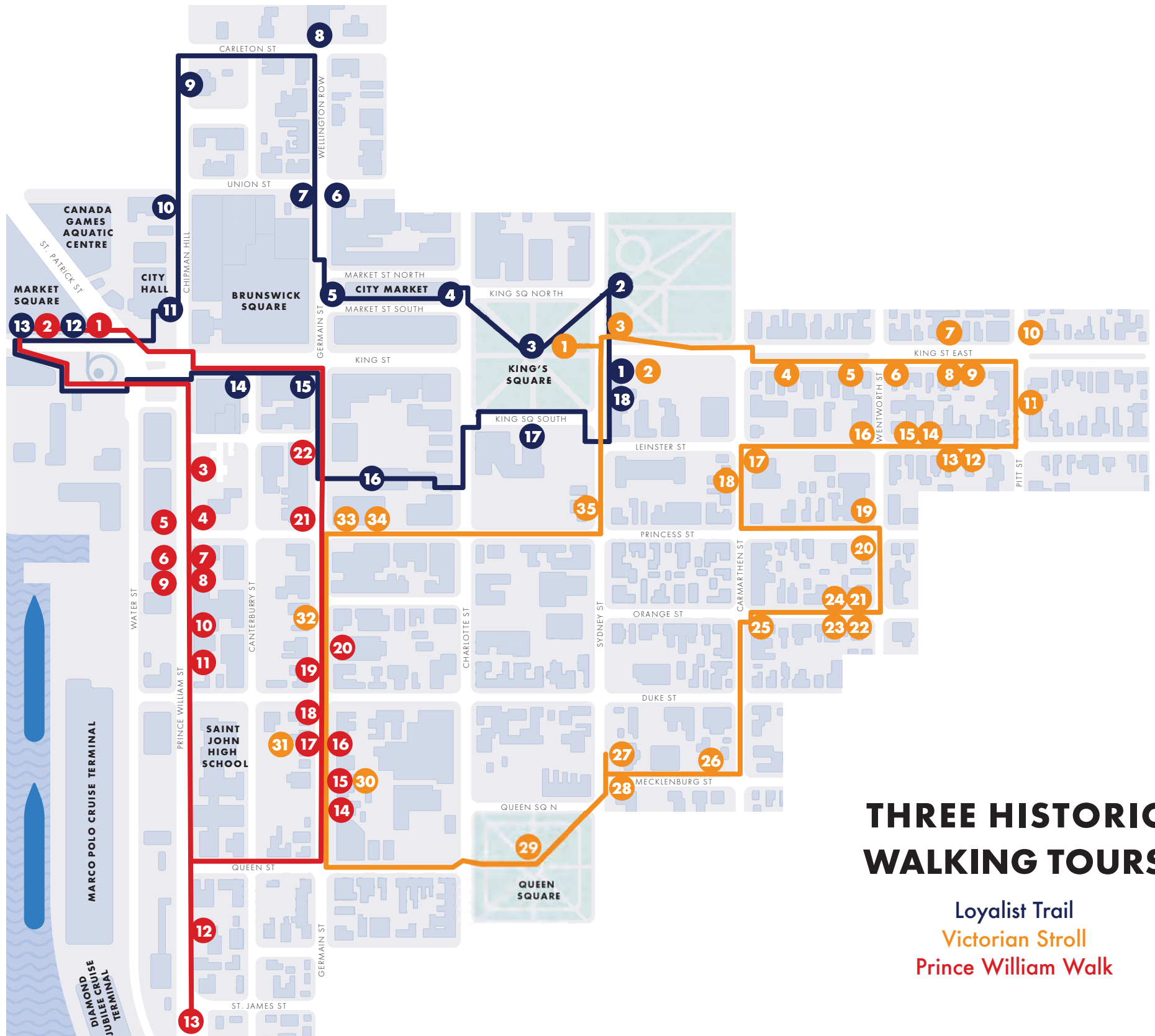
On June 20, 1877, a disastrous fire destroyed the city's central business district and much of the residential south end. The task of rebuilding the city was an enormous one for Saint John's citizens – but rebuild it they did, this time out of brick and stone in the commercial district and primarily wood in the residential areas.

Better times were underway. Beginning in 1880, the railway expansion provided direct links with the rest of Canada, stimulating the flow of goods and commerce. Consequently, the port began to flourish and manufacturing boomed. Even the shipbuilding industry was revived with the establishment of the Saint John Dry Dock in 1923. Gradually, Saint John regained its prominence as an important manufacturing and shipbuilding centre.

With our Drydock and port facilities, the City played a prominent role during the Second World War. Post-war, entire neighbourhoods were built for Veterans and their young families. Urban renewal wiped out other neighbourhoods and replaced them with new transportation links and commercial facilities. Saint John experienced suburban sprawl like most North American communities.

Take in our historic architecture, step back to the time of our earliest settlers and immerse yourself in our tree-lined neighbourhoods. Packed with interesting facts and charming stories, the Three Historic Walking Tours brochure will be your valued companion along the way.

Let's get going!



THREE HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Loyalist Trail
Victorian Stroll
Prince William Walk



LOYALIST TRAIL

Named for the arrival of the 14,000 American Loyalists.

May 1783

Seven ships lie anchored in the Bay of Fundy, off the mouth of the Saint John River. The passengers aboard are a curious collection of refugees – they are farmers and doctors, carpenters and lawyers, craftsmen and soldiers – people of every age, from all walks of life. As they gaze grimly upon the rocky peninsula and the Fundy mud flats sprawling before them, they share a common longing for the homes they left behind.

From the beginnings of the American Revolution in 1775, to shortly after its conclusion in 1783, some 40,000 British subjects fled north to escape persecution. The 3,000 “Loyalists” – as they were called – who arrived in Saint John that May were followed by 11,000 more before the year ended.

The Loyalists established two settlements at the mouth of the Saint John River – Parr-Town, named after the Governor of Nova Scotia; and Carleton, after their Commander-in-Chief in New York. Many moved and settled upriver. In 1785, the two settlements were incorporated by Charter into the City of Saint John. In time, the Loyalists would come to regard their infant city with an affection similar to that which they had felt for their American homes. This deep sentiment, combined with patience, toil and a strong will to survive, enabled them to build a brand new life upon this once seemingly inhospitable shore.

The LOYALIST TRAIL walking tour retraces the footsteps of our founders – exploring the spots where they landed on May 18, 1783. You’ll visit the Old Burial Ground; the County Court; Loyalist House – now a museum of period furnishings; historic Trinity Church; Saint John’s delightful City Market; and so much more.

Saint John has an uptown, not a downtown. To reach King’s Square, the symbolic centre of the City, you had to go up one of several hills – King, Charlotte, Sydney, Waterloo, or Garden Street.

Explore the very heart of old Saint John and step back through two fascinating centuries of our city’s history.

LOYALIST TRAIL

Length: Approximately 1.5 hours

1. County Court, King's Square

The courthouse was built in 1825 to plans by Saint John architect John Cunningham, who designed many prominent Saint John buildings during this period. Fluted pilasters and a pediment on the upper floors evoke imagery of a Greek Temple. Of special interest is the stone staircase, which spirals up three storeys without a central support.

The Court closed in 2012, and the building is currently being renovated into a modern performance space for the Saint John Theatre Company. Designs were unveiled in August 2022 with a planned completion date of 2028.



KING STREET EAST

Known originally as "Great Georges Street" after King George III, the Great Fire of 1877 destroyed most of the buildings on the south side of King Street East, except for the Court complex. It is now the King Street East Heritage Conservation Area.

The British soldier who fired the first shot at Bunker Hill was John Paul of the Royal Artillery. He died in Saint John in 1833 and is buried in the Old Burial Ground.

2. Old Burial Ground, Sydney Street

This area was set aside as a public ground in the original town plan drawn up by Paul Bedell in 1783. The oldest surviving stone dates to 1784 (Conrad Hendricks) and is located on the southern side of the graveyard near the southwest corner. In April 1848, the graveyard was closed to further burials by an Act of the Provincial Legislature as it was full with some 12,000 burials.

3. King's Square

Long before it became a public square in colonial Saint John, this area was a natural gathering place for the Wolastoqiyik. It was part of an extensive system of trails and portages used by Indigenous travellers, linking the Saint John River with the Bay of Fundy. Oral histories recount its use for council gatherings, seasonal camps, and ceremonial practices. Its current design is one of four squares included in the 1783 original town plan. The site was cleared in 1844 and laid in an 'X' pattern. The two-storey bandstand was donated by the City Cornet Band as a "Memorial to Edward VII, King Emperor 1901-1910." The War Memorial Cenotaph was erected in 1925. Also in the Square is a statue of Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, a Father of 1867 Confederation, and the Young monument, erected by public subscription to commemorate the valiant effort of Frederick Young to save a drowning boy. Both were lost.

The Royal Union Flag, more commonly known as the Union Jack, was not created until 1801 with the union of Great Britain and Ireland. Before that, the flag was known as the Queen Anne flag, which had the red cross of St. George and the white saltire Cross of St. Andrew.

4. City Market, 47 Charlotte Street

This City Market has been in continuous use since 1876 and is believed to be the oldest common-law market in Canada. Designed by local architects, McKean & Fairweather, the interior roof supports are suggestive of a ship's hull but are actually called Queen Post Truss. Over the Germain Street entrance hangs the oldest example of the City's Corporate Seal, carved by John Graham in 1830. The City's official seal was designed by Ward Chipman in 1785. This corporate seal is also used as the city's crest. The Market is open six days a week, year-round.



5. "Figurehead", City Market (Germain Street Entrance)

On the outside wall of the City Market is a sculpture work entitled "Figurehead." Commissioned by Uptown Saint John Inc., this piece was installed in July 1995. Local artist Carol Taylor took her cues from the interior roof supports. The figurehead is a stylized interpretation of those that guided wooden sailing ships. It is comprised of individually sculptured clay tiles affixed to a fibreglass background. Each tile has been fired and glazed to form the whole figure and withstand the test of time.

6. Nutting House, 2 Germain Street

This Georgian style structure was the second brick building in Saint John. The first was destroyed in the 1877 Great Fire, making this 1819 home for Joseph Nutting, Collector of Customs, the oldest brick building.



7. Loyalist House, 120 Union Street

The house was built in the Georgian style by Loyalist David Merritt between 1810 and 1817. It was acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959 and restored as a museum with

period furnishings. A son, Dr. David Merritt, served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Loyalist House is open daily in the summer and during the majority of the fall cruise season. Admission charged.

UNION STREET

This was the original 1783 boundary between Parr-Town and the lands of Simonds, Hazen, and White to the north. With the creation of the City of Saint John in 1785, the boundary was moved north to City Road.

8. St. John's Stone Church, 87 Carleton Street

This church, completed in 1825, was the first stone church built in the city. Although named St. John's Church, a national historic site (1987), its contrast to the many frame churches of the day resulted in its being dubbed Stone Church. The stone on the front facade came as ballast aboard ships. Stone Church welcomes visitors during the week. During the summer months, guided tours are available.



9. Saint John Arts Centre, 20 Peel Plaza

The building opened in 1904 as one of 2,509 public library buildings Andrew Carnegie gave to communities of North America. It is an outstanding example of the period architecture with a stained-glass ceiling in the almost three-storey-high rotunda. The building was refurbished during the Saint John Bicentennial celebrations (1983-85). Funded through the generosity of the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation and the Royal Bank of Canada it became the Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre. Now known as the Saint John Arts Centre, it serves as a centre for the Arts & Sciences in Saint John.

10. Chipman Hill Suites, 1 – 5 Chipman Hill

These buildings were built between 1854 and 1857 by brothers-in-law Aaron Hastings and Robert Armstrong. The plain, classical lines are typical of many fine homes of the period when any extravagance was confined to the interiors. The entrance of Number 1 is still decorated with exquisite wall and ceiling paintings. These buildings were the fire break which stopped the 1877 Great Fire from spreading to this area of the uptown.



11. Site of Barlow's Corner, Foot of Chipman Hill

This corner was originally granted to James Putnam, who studied law with John Adams in Boston and was appointed Assistant Supreme Court Judge in 1784. Putnam erected a splendid three-storey building with a store on the lower floor. Putnam died and the lot was sold to Ezekiel Barlow, who had to comply with some unusual terms of sale. The price was \$2,000 in Mexican silver dollars, to be counted in coin before lawyer Ward Chipman. To the great merriment of the public, Barlow procured a wheelbarrow and pushed his considerable load up Chipman Hill to the lawyer's office.

12. Market Square

The area derived its name from its early function as a marketplace for the City. By the 1860s, Market Square, along with King and Prince William Streets, was the centre of the City's dry goods trade. From their construction immediately following the Great Fire of 1877, to well into this century, the numerous warehouses, which lined both sides of Market Slip, held cargo from around the world. Today, seven of these warehouse facades have survived and are incorporated into the Market Square Complex.



13. Market Slip at Market Square

Adjacent to Market Square is Market Slip, celebrated as the site of the first Loyalist landing on May 18, 1783. This was the Upper Cove and the Loyalists who landed here were called Upper Covers. The slip itself was constructed in 1788 and handled coastal marine traffic until the 1970s. Before Loyalists arrived in

1783, this site was a key trading and gathering area for the Wolastoqiyik. Canoes would land here, bringing furs, fish, and other goods for trade

with both Indigenous and European traders. This continued even after British settlement, as Indigenous traders adapted to the evolving economy. The redeveloped public space in and around Market Slip is called Ihtoli-maqahamok, which in Wolastoqey means “The Gathering Space,” acknowledging its historic role as a meeting place.

14. Vassie’s Corner, 20 King Street

In 1787, Benedict Arnold took up residence in a large frame house on this corner. He lived in Saint John until 1791 when he returned to England. The current building was built in 1878 for James Vassie and Co., wholesale dry goods and woolen merchants. Note the painted crosses on and below windows on the upper floors of the building and its neighbour. City building codes of the past required this as an indication of where occupants would gather to be evacuated in case of fire.

George Washington wrote this of his friend Benedict Arnold: “He is judicious and brave, and one in whom all men can have confidence.”

15. Commercial Block, 22 – 40 King Street

On this block, there were four similar structures, four-storeys high, built in 1878 and known collectively as the “Commercial Block.” The building at the western end of the block was destroyed by fire in 1906. Shortly thereafter additional storeys were added to the remaining three buildings.



16. Trinity Church, 115 Charlotte Street (main entrance faces Germain Street)

Trinity was built in 1880 to plans by architect W.T. Thomas of Montreal. On prominent display inside the church is the Hanover Coat of Arms (carved in 1744), of the reign of King George I of Great Britain and Ireland (1714-1727). The Coat of Arms arrived in Saint John after being rescued from the Boston Council Chamber by Colonel Edward Winslow after the American Revolution. It was once again rescued from old Trinity Church during the Great 1877 Fire. Trinity

Church welcomes visitors during the week. Trinity’s 1882 bells were recently restored and continue their Westminster Chimes every quarter hour. These are the only Church bells which continue to ring in the City.

17. Imperial Theatre, King Square South

In 1911, Albert E. Westover, a leading architect from Philadelphia, designed this performance centre. It opened in 1913 as the Imperial Theatre, with 1500 seats. Over the years, it featured such great American performers as John Philip Sousa, Ethel Barrymore and Gracie Fields. The theatre was renamed the Capitol in 1929 and began showing movies in addition to live performances. In 1957, the building was sold and became the Full Gospel Assembly. A public campaign in 1982 raised \$1 million to purchase the building. The renamed Imperial Theatre opened in May 1994.

18. Firefighters’ Museum, 24 Sydney Street

Engine House #2, built in 1840-1841, designed in the Georgian style by architect John Cunningham. It served for many years as a fire station and later as a tourist bureau. It opened as a Firefighters’ Museum and Union Hall in 1991. The building is a Provincial Heritage Place. Open July and August.

VICTORIAN STROLL

Named after Queen Victoria, 1819 – 1901.

High Style in Old Saint John

The Great Fire of 1877 dealt a devastating blow to Saint John, destroying 1,612 buildings, leaving 13,000 homeless, and killing 22 people.

But the City was quick to recover. One local observer wrote after the Fire: "Everywhere buildings are going up, most of them of a thoroughly substantial character. To walk through the principal streets seems like inspecting a beehive."

Many of the fine homes that lined the main residential streets of Saint John had been reduced to ashes. Their owners – wealthy ship owners, commission agents, and merchants – were determined that their new homes would be equally, if not more splendid than those they replaced.

They commissioned architects from Saint John, Boston, Halifax, New York, Toronto, and Montreal. They imported fine materials – mahogany from Honduras and marble from Italy – and they engaged noted Saint John builders and craftsmen.

The resulting homes were grand indeed. Today most of them remain standing, and most are much as they were when they were built – fine examples of period architecture, combined with outstanding workmanship.

Take in the elegant homes nestled along the tree-lined, 19th century residential streets of central Saint John.

VICTORIAN STROLL

Length: Approximately 1.5 hours

- 1. King's Square** See page 2 of the Loyalist Trail.
- 2. County Court, King's Square** See page 2 of the Loyalist Trail.
- 3. Old Burial Ground, King Street East** See page 2 of the Loyalist Trail.

4. Carson Flood House, 166 – 168 King Street East

In 1878, the year this house was built, its plans were featured in an issue of the "American Architect and Building News." The house was designed by architects Henry Clark and John Briggs. The first occupants, the Taylors and Dearborns, had the first letters of their respective family names carved above the doorways for posterity.



5. Peters House, 190 King Street East

William Peters built this home in 1877-78. He and his family owned the Peters Tannery which was located a few blocks northeast. His father, C.H. Peters, built the large stone house directly behind this home on Leinster Street. That building, at 91 Leinster Street, is the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.



6. McAvity House, 192 – 196 King Street East

Looking at these two houses today, one would hardly believe they were built as a matched pair in 1878. The homes were built for Thomas and his son Thomas Jr., of Thomas McAvity and Sons, brass founders and hardware merchants. The

firm was established in 1834 as a hardware and general merchandise company. In 1863, at the height of the wood shipbuilding industry in the city, the firm expanded and established a brass foundry to supply ship fixtures. The firm grew to international renown for its fire hydrants.

7. Brass House, 167 King Street East

The elaborate masonry work at the front entrance of this home is a good example of decorative detailing creating a grand entrance to a home of otherwise clean, classic lines. The house was constructed in the Second Empire style in 1860 by contractor Edward Brass as his own home.

8. Erb House, 208 – 210 King Street East

This home was constructed in 1898 for Isaac Erb, a pre-eminent photographer who captured the very essence of Saint John between 1877 and 1924. While modest in external appearance, this house was, in its day, reputed to contain some very “classy pieces of furniture.” It was converted to a two-family structure sometime after 1924.

9. Peters House, 218 King Street East

William Peters lived in two other homes on King Street East before building this home in 1885. Peters was an employee of his father’s firm, C. H. Peters and Sons, commission merchants and leather manufactures. Note the faces carved above the front door and below the cornices.

10. Osgood House, 191 King Street East

The five-sided, bay window dormers on the roofline of this house are known as Scottish dormers and are very common on many of the 19th century homes in Saint John. This home was constructed in the 1840s for Samuel P. Osgood, a stone cutter whose business on King Square South featured “all descriptions of head stones, monuments and marble mantel pieces.”

11. Melaney House, 60 Pitt Street

This richly detailed, gaily decorated house predates the Great Fire of 1877. The ornate wood carving is typical of the quality craftsmanship available from wood carvers who applied their talents with equal skill to both ships and buildings.



LEINSTER STREET

When one reaches the corner of Pitt and Leinster Streets, Courtney Bay is easily visible to the left. This street was named in honour of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, 2nd Duke of Leinster, an Irish aristocrat who apparently served at Fort Howe in 1784.

12. Wright House, 114 Leinster Street

This home was constructed in 1902 in the Queen Anne Revival style for Hugh Wright, the manager of North American Life Insurance Company. While it has not lost its basic charm, modern siding was added in recent years and some of the finer details were removed.

13. Frink House, 112 Leinster Street

This house is of the Queen Anne Revival style, built in 1904 for R. Walker Frink, the manager of the Western Assurance Company. R.W.W. was in the insurance business for 46 years. He was also a Captain in the Saint John Salvage Corps and Fire Police. He died in January 1919 and is buried in Fernhill cemetery.

14. Barbour House, 105 Leinster Street

Two prominent Saint John businessmen have called this rather plain residence home. It was built in 1879 for William V. Barbour of Barbour Brothers, a merchant firm which continues to thrive today in Sussex, New Brunswick. The home was later occupied by George McAvity, one of Thomas McAvity's six sons, who went on to become president of T. McAvity & Sons between 1910 and 1933.



15. Hayward House, 103 Leinster Street

The Great Fire of 1877 destroyed William H. Hayward's home and business premises. In 1878 Hayward had this home constructed, and he was quick to rebuild his store, W. H. Hayward. The company continued until 2017 as Hayward & Warwick Limited at 85 Princess Street.



16. Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, 91 Leinster Street

Charles H. Peters, the father of William Peters, a former resident of 218 King Street East, had this impressive stone dwelling built over a three-year period beginning in 1897. When finished, it was reputed to be the best finished home in the city. In 1965 it was converted to a funeral home. In 2008 the building became the new home

for the Congregation Shaarei Zekek and the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. A collection of religious and secular artifacts is displayed in the Wedgewood Room, and other galleries. Also on display is a rare Tiffany lamp. Admission charged.

17. Former Leinster Street Baptist Church, 42 Leinster Street

The former Leinster Street Baptist Church was built in 1878 on a design by Boston architect John Stevens and Son. It had seating for 700 people and cost \$30,000 to build. It amalgamated with other Baptist Churches to become the Cornerstone Baptist Church.

18. Site of the home of Mrs. Georgina “the Ice Lady” Whetsel, 43 Carmarthen Street

Located at the southwest corner of Leinster and Carmarthen Streets, now the rear of St. Malachy’s Memorial High School, Georgina, widow of escaped slave Robert Whetsel, became the most successful black woman entrepreneur of the 19th century owning the city’s ice business for ice boxes (before refrigerators). Born in Nova Scotia, Georgina lived in Saint John and Boston and was a delegate in Washington of the National Federation of Afro-American Women, the precursor to the National Association of Colored Women. She died in 1919 and is buried in Bedford, NS. Her husband Robert is buried in Fernhill cemetery.

WENTWORTH STREET

This street was named for Sir John Wentworth. He was the second Governor of Nova Scotia after having served as the last Royal Governor of New Hampshire before the American Revolution.



19. Troop House, 96 Wentworth Street

In a city noted for its many ship owners and merchants, Jacob Valentine Troop was the best known. He parlayed his fortunes from a 60-ton wooden schooner to a shipping fleet whose flag was recognized around the world. The first home on this site was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. This house was completed in 1878. Jacob died in 1881 and his widow lived in the house until her death in 1906. Henry A. Doherty bought the home in 1908, thus the name “Doherty” on the frosted glass front doors.

20. Smith House, 99 Wentworth Street

This solid Second Empire style was designed by New York architects, C.B. Croft and F.T. Camp. It was constructed in 1878 for A. Chipman Smith, a druggist whose shop was located in the City Market. The newspaper of the day praised this “handsome French cottage” for its beauty and convenience.

ORANGE STREET

Orange Street was named for Frederick, Duke of Orange, who was a Commander of the Hanoverian troops during the Napoleonic War. He was killed at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815. Looking down Wentworth Street from Orange, one can see the commanding view of the harbour, which is why ship owners built homes along Orange Street. This vantage point provided them with an opportunity to keep a watchful eye on their vessels. Today, this view is obscured by the large potash shed, a vital part of Saint John’s current commercial port activity.

Amelia Earhart landed in Saint John in 1932 en route for her famous trans-Atlantic aeroplane flight from Newfoundland to Ireland.

21. 75 – 79 Orange Street

These massive Italianate row houses were built in 1880 for three prominent Saint John men. Drury Ward Chipman, the Registrar of Deeds, occupied 75 Orange; Frederick Barker, a barrister, number 77; and George MacLeod, a ship owner and lumber merchant, number 79. Of note are the dormer windows, perched above the main body of the house, giving the occupants an unobstructed view of the harbour and the Bay of Fundy. The similar but unique stone carvings surrounding each doorway are amongst the best in the city.

22. Bent House, 78 Orange Street

Like others on Orange Street, Gilbert Bent had an interest in oceangoing commerce. He was the owner of G. Bent and Sons, a food wholesale firm with offices at Market Slip. He too wished to keep an eye on shipping movements and had this Second Empire sandstone home built in 1879. Note the initial of the family name carved in stone above the doorway.

23. Howard D. Troop House, 70 Orange Street

Although Jacob Troop had two sons, only Howard D. became involved in the family business. He assumed control of Troop and Son upon his father's death and successfully lead the company through difficult years in the 1880s and 1890s. In 1881 alone, the company lost 41

vessels at sea. Despite these hard times, the firm remained the largest Canadian fleet of its day and Howard was the first Canadian ship owner to acquire an iron vessel. He died in 1912 and with him, his firm. This house was constructed for H. D. in 1878. The Troop initials can still be seen in the etched glass on the inner front doors.

On December 1, 1922 we switched from driving on the left side to the right side of the street. There had been too many accidents with American tourists driving on the "wrong" side of the road.

24. MacLeod House, 71 Orange Street

One can see even today that George MacLeod had some particularly prosperous years in the late 1870s.

No sooner had the shipping and lumber tycoon moved into 79 Orange, than he purchased a lot from the Troop family and commissioned architects, D.E. Dunham and W. P. Clarke, to design this imposing sandstone structure at 71 Orange. Note the fascinating stone carvings above the windows.

25. Haley House, 50 Orange Street

This home was built around 1913 for Robert G. Haley of Haley Brothers & Co., Builders and Contractors. The house was the rectory of Trinity Church on Germain Street described in the "Loyalist Trail." It is now privately owned. Note the curved glass windows in the turret of the house.

MECKLENBURG STREET

This Street was named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (a tiny German State), consort of King George III at the time the Loyalists arrived in Saint John.

26. Eaton House, 37 Mecklenburg Street

Built for the Eaton family about 1880, this home was fairly typical of Second Empire buildings in the post-fire period. This one-and-a-half-storey building has double bay windows, capped by triple-paned bay dormers, and still retains its slate roof shingles.



27. Caverhill Hall, 134 Sydney Street

Caverhill Hall was built for Mayor Simeon Jones, a brewer and banker. The building name came from his mother Jane Elizabeth Caverhill. John J. Brown was the Montreal architect and Simeon awarded the contract to E.J. Brass, contractor, and Michal Flood, mason, in 1879. The house was finished in early 1884. In 1901

the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, later King George V and Queen Mary, used Caverhill Hall as their residence during a Vice-Regal visit. Simeon's son, Captain Rae Jones, was the first Canadian killed in the First World War.

28. Thomson House, 2 Mecklenburg Street

This imposing home was built in the 1890s for another Saint John ship owner, Robert Thomson, of William Thomson and Co. Thomson was also the Imperial German Consul at the time. Note the ornately carved door and entranceway and the terra cotta family crest on the side of the building with the Latin motto, loosely translated, "Patience Conquers." Beautiful stained-glass windows can also be seen, particularly at night.



29. Queen Square

Queen Square was once one of the most fashionable districts in the city. The homes were built by wealthy citizens following the Great Fire of 1877. The Square itself was laid out in 1783 by Paul Bedell and like King's Square, is in the shape of an 'X'. The monument of Samuel de Champlain was erected to mark the 300th anniversary of his naming the Saint John River. On Sundays between May and October an open-air farmers market can be found at Queen Square, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

30. Rankine House, 210 – 212 Germain Street

This semi-detached structure was built in 1886 for Frank Rankine of the Rankine Biscuit Co. This is the company which gave us Animal Crackers which are still sold worldwide. Note the intricate doors and railing work, as well as the stone gargoyles at the left and right ends of the cornice. Gargoyles drain water from the building's roof through their open mouths.

31. Carleton House, 223 Germain Street



This Second Empire style home was built in 1888 for Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, a Father of Confederation, during his tenure as Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. The building was fondly named "Carleton House," because Tilley's strongest source of electoral support

came from Carleton or Saint John West. It was designed by prominent Saint John architect H.H. Mott. Fernhill Cemetery on Westmorland Road has the graves of two Canadian Fathers of Confederation – Tilley and the Honourable William Henry Steeves, a lumberman with a business in Saint John. Since 1927 the graves of these two men have been recognized on Dominion Day, now called Canada Day, July 1st.

Fernhill Cemetery
Walking Tour



32. Bullock Houses, 179 – 187 Germain Street

179 Germain Street was built as a family home in 1879 for Joseph Bullock, founder of the Eastern Oil Company and New Brunswick's first oil magnate. Starting as a kerosene supplier, Bullock parlayed his fortunes to a point where in 1898 Eastern Oil amalgamated with Imperial Oil. With business prospering, Bullock built 183-187 Germain for himself and his two sons. Number 183 was occupied by his son Thomas, who was Mayor of Saint John from 1908 to 1910; 185 was occupied by Bullock; and 187 was occupied by his son John. Note the elaborate doorknobs and plates at 179 Germain.

The world's first Boy Scout Apple Day took place here on January 31, 1932. Scout Leader Eli Boyaner of Elliott Row came up with this fund-raising scheme which sold 21,000 apples.

33. Power's Funeral Home, 79 Princess Street

New Brunswick's first professional, full-time undertaker built this building in 1878 and used it as both his residence and "warerooms." Mark Needham Powers operated his undertaking business in the city from 1846 until his death in 1892. The company had the first glass hearse in Saint John, and it could regularly be seen going through the carriageway to and from the stables which were behind the shop.

34. Former Hayward & Warwick, 85 Princess Street

Hayward & Warwick began in 1855 as retailers of china and earthenware. They relocated to this location in December 1877 and were a nationally recognized retailer of fine china, housewares, and giftware. In 2013 the fifth-generation Hayward family sold the business to a long-time employee. In 2017 Hayward & Warwick closed.



35. White House, 71 Sydney Street

Lt. Colonel Dr. Walter W. White, who commanded the N.B. Regiment of Artillery, was a successful surgeon, soldier, and politician. This was his home from the time of its construction

in 1891 until his death at age 89 in 1952. White was mayor of the city from 1902 to 1906 and again from 1930 to 1935. He married Helen Troop, the daughter of Howard D. Troop whose home is mentioned in this Stroll. Note the glass conservatory, etched glass in the front door, and the terra cotta brick insets in the chimney on Princess Street.

Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote about "the old days" as a student when he would cruise to the city, making purchases from a company of excellent wine merchants. This was Furlongs at One Princess Street.

The last Saint John to Boston ferry was the SS Saint John. During the Second World War it became the USS Rescue, which sailed into Tokyo Bay to repatriate Allied prisoners of war.

PRINCE WILLIAM WALK

Named for William V, Prince of Orange 1748-1806.

Merchant Heritage of Saint John

At 2 p.m. on June 20, 1877, a flash fire broke out in Fairweather's Hay Store at the west end of Union Street. Outside, a brisk nor'wester howled, and as the flames broke through the outside walls of the store, a burning branch was carried by the wind, igniting the nearby MacLaughlan Boiler Works. The fire spread rapidly, engulfing one wooden building after another, until most of the Central Peninsula was caught up in a roaring inferno. For nine long hours the fire raged. When it was over, two-thirds of this part of Saint John, including most of the commercial district, was a smoldering mass of charred rubble.

With 1,612 buildings destroyed, 13,000 people homeless, and 22 people dead, Saint John turned its efforts to building anew – as quickly as possible. The next decade saw much of the uptown and south end rebuilt. Many of these buildings remain intact today, and because they do, Saint John can truthfully claim to have some of the finest surviving examples of 19th century commercial facades in all of Canada.

The first block of Prince William Street was the first streetscape in Canada to be designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of national historic and architectural significance. To protect the character of the buildings in the central core of the city, Saint John created the twenty-block Trinity Royal Preservation Area. PRINCE WILLIAM WALK tours some of the charming streets within this area.

So elaborate are some of the buildings and their detailing that it is easy to imagine the fierce competition among property owners, contractors and craftsmen to out-do one another in the grandness of their proud, new structures. Take in the imposing splendor of Corinthian columns, the whimsy of Queen Anne Revival, elaborate Italianate facades and curious stone carvings grimacing atop their cornice perches.



PRINCE WILLIAM WALK

Approximately 1.5 hours

1. Market Square See page 4 of the Loyalist Trail.

2. Market Slip at Market Square See page 4 of the Loyalist Trail.



3. Former McMillan Press, 98 Prince William Street

This Italianate building opened for business in June 1878 on a design by prominent New York architects G.B. Croft and F.T. Camp. The print house was established in 1822, the original building was next to Jardine's Alley, across the street from its present location. Until its sale in the late 1990s McMillan Press was the oldest printing firm in Saint John.

4. 110 – 114 Prince William Street

This Italianate office building was constructed in 1878-1879 for the Honorable William Pugsley. The architect was R.C. John Dunn. It was built on a lot leased from Mr. Wiggins. The building had various uses over its history, from offices for insurance companies, a wine store, a car dealership, cafes and restaurants, and a hotel called the Aberdeen. You can still see the name Aberdeen on a cornerstone at the second storey. Pugsley was a lawyer, a Federal Cabinet Minister, and a New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor.

5. Chubb's Corner, 111 Prince William Street

This building was designed by noted Saint John architects McKean and Fairweather. The carved stone heads above the third-floor windows evoked the following comment from the press at that time: "We trust no more of our buildings will be adorned by such buffoonery from his hands." For many years stocks, bonds, and other securities were sold here at public auction. The Prince William Street National Historic Streetscapes Marker is also located at this address. While at this corner, walk down to One Princess Street to look at the intricate carvings on the Furlong Building.



6. Former Post Office, 113 Prince William Street

This Second Empire building was designed by government architect Matthew Stead to replace a post office just completed before the Great Fire of 1877. The original cost was \$120,000. Note the three figures carved in the keystones above the entrance and the ground floor windows.



7. Old City Hall, 116 Prince William Street

For over 100 years, between 1785 and 1877, Saint John Common Council met in buildings which were built for other uses: a church meeting hall, a market, a courthouse, and a banking house. This building was the first structure designed specifically as City Hall. It was designed by McKean and Fairweather and built immediately after the Great Fire of 1877 at a cost of \$35,500.

When its foundations were being prepared, workmen uncovered the 1839 cornerstone of the building which formerly housed city offices and which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1877. The contents, which represented artefacts of 1839, were deposited along with artefacts of 1877 in the new building's cornerstone.



8. Palatine Building, 124 Prince William Street

This classic Second Empire structure was designed by Halifax architects Dumaresq and Dewar for the Bank of Nova Scotia. Following its takeover of the Bank of New Brunswick in 1913, the Bank of Nova Scotia moved across the street, and the building was acquired by the Palatine Insurance Company. The building is richly adorned with floral and fruit motifs. Note the carved stone face of the man spitting coins, located at the top right of the entranceway.

9. Bank of New Brunswick, 119 – 125 Prince William Street

The Bank of New Brunswick came into being in Saint John in 1820 as Canada's first chartered bank. It dominated the provincial business scene for 93 years, during which time this fine edifice was built. In 1913, the bank was forced to decide between greatly enlarging its capital to compete against other

expanding banks or to amalgamate with another Maritime bank. It chose the latter, and was absorbed by the Bank of Nova Scotia, which took over this property and occupied it until 1977.



10. Seamen's Mission, 152 Prince William Street

The Seamen's Mission was founded in 1897 in part by Herbert C. Tilley, son of Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick and a Father of Confederation. Its purpose was to provide lodging, meals, and recreation to sailors from around the world. Originally located on Water Street, the Mission moved into the present building after its completion in 1908. It was designed by architect G. Ernest Fairweather.

11. The Troop Building, 162 Prince William Street

Erected in 1883, this building housed the offices of the renowned Troop Shipping Line which was established in the 1840s. A plaque on the building offers a short history of the company.

New Brunswick's first automobile was registered on April 29, 1905. Walter Holly of Coburg Street was the first to register one of twelve cars that year.

12. Stoneleigh Terrace, 262 – 268 Prince William Street

This row of Queen Anne Revival frame houses was built in 1895. They had a view of the harbour until the First World War, when a massive grain elevator was built across the street. The Canadian National Railway elevator was demolished in 1989.



13. The Trinity Lamps at St Patrick's Square

At the foot of Prince William Street stands an iron lamp known as "The Three Sisters." It has guided mariners into the harbour since 1848. In 1967, the lamps were restored as a Canadian Centennial project through the joint efforts of the stevedoring firm of H.S.

Gregory and Sons Ltd. and Saint John Iron Works Ltd. They were replaced in 1997. The Celtic Cross standing near the lamps is a copy of a larger one on Partridge Island which you can see at the harbour's mouth. The cross was erected in 1927 to commemorate the 1,200 Irish Immigrants and local citizens, who died in 1847 of typhus on Partridge Island and in the City, and to Dr. James P. Collins, who died on the island treating those sick.

GERMAIN STREET

This street was named for George Sackville, Lord George Germain from 1770-1782, who died in 1785 just as the streets of the City were being named. He was a soldier and statesman in England and served a term as Secretary of State in England. Following the Great Fire of 1877, Saint John saw the erection of many fine brick houses to replace those which had been destroyed. The wealthiest of these boasted many fine features: mahogany from Honduras, marble mantelpieces from Italy, and intricately carved wood mantels, newel posts, and doors. Some of the best examples of post-1877 residential architecture are found on Germain, considered one of the city's most elegant older residential streets.

14. Mahogany Manor, 220 Germain Street

This wood two-storey Queen Anne Revival residence, one of the few wooden residences on this street, was constructed in 1905 by contractor Michael Mooney for William Cross, who became manager of the wholesale grocery firm Hall and Fairweather in 1902, upon the death of the founders. Later the business was converted into an insurance and real estate company. Mahogany Manor is now a Bed & Breakfast.

15. Rankine House, 210 – 212 Germain Street

See page 11 of the Victorian Stroll.

16. McMillan House, 206 Germain Street

This restrained Second Empire style stone dwelling was built in 1864 for J. McMillan, stationer, printer and bookseller. The plaque on the building marks the site of Saint John's first frame building, which was used as Trinity Church and for the city's first council meetings. There was an early graveyard near this location.

Parking meters were first added to our streets in August 1948. Prior to that you could park on the street for free! The first ticket was issued in September 1948.

17. Carleton House, 223 Germain Street

See page 11 of the Victorian Stroll.

18. Robertson House, 211 Germain Street

One of six similar houses built in the 1880s, this unit is distinguished from its neighbours by its intricate doorhandle and plate. The original owner was James Robertson, partner in Saint John's original department store, Manchester, Robertson, Allison – M.R.A. – which stood on the site of today's Brunswick Square.

19. McArthur Apartments, 197 Germain Street

The McArthur Apartments were constructed in 1920 for George McArthur, contractor and local champion of the nine-hour workday. The seven-storey brick structure is the city's first high-rise apartment building. Its entrance is all that remains of Dr. William Bayard's residence which was destroyed by fire in 1918.

Mark Twain visited Saint John in 1901 but he was not impressed. He said that nobody in the City recognized him.

20. Former Church of St. Andrew and St. David, 164 Germain Street

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built in 1878-79 to replace the Kirk destroyed in the 1877 fire. It was designed by Toronto architects Langley and Burke and was one of the city's largest post-fire churches. In 1961, the congregation of St. David's united with St. Andrew's to become the Church of St. Andrew and St. David. This Church closed in 2018 and the congregation relocated to the Rotary Admiral Beatty at 72 Charlotte Street.

21. The Union Club, 123 Germain Street

The Union Club dates to May 1884, when it was the brainchild of a group of businessmen looking for a place to gather for companionship and the exchange of ideas. The building was constructed in 1889-1890 to plans by architect J.T.C. McKean, with John Flood as the principal contractor. Until 1936, only men were permitted as members. From its opening, the Union Club has welcomed the most prominent visitors to Saint John.



22. Former Bustin's, 99 Germain Street

This three-and-a-half-storey Italianate building was built for Alfred J. Lordly, one of the City's premier furniture makers. The architect was Matthew Stead. Lordly made parlour, chamber, and dining room furniture of walnut, mahogany, and white ash. After Lordly's death in 1904, their showroom was taken over by Charles L. Bustin in 1905. Bustin's Fine Furniture operated their business until they closed in 2015.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES IN SAINT JOHN 1785-1915

Georgian, 1785-1840

This style is a simple, confidently dignified rectangular block with a carefully balanced facade. Named for the reign of the British Kings George I to George IV.

Greek Revival, 1800-1880

This style emphasized the classical proportions of Greek temples as symbols of the stability and optimism of this Colonial expansion period.

Gothic Revival, 1825-1880

This style emerged as a rebellion against the stricter formality of earlier classical styles. It embraced many of the features of medieval cathedrals.

Italianate, 1850-1890

This style also emerged as a rebellion against the stricter formality of earlier classical styles. It embraced many of the characteristics of Italian farmhouses.

Second Empire, 1860-1900

This style, which is also called Mansard, imitated the latest cosmopolitan building fashions in France during the reign of Emperor Napoleon III. The distinctive roof shape is named after the French architect Francois Mansard.

Queen Anne Revival, 1880-1915

This style is vivacious and uninhibited, with each home having its own unique features, but all using asymmetrical massing. Towers or turrets are common features.

*Practical Conservation Guidelines, Architectural Styles, Planning, Building,
Infrastructure and Heritage Conservation, City of Saint John.*

Published by:

ENVISION
Saint John

THE
REGIONAL
GROWTH
AGENCY

1.866.GO.FUNDY (463 8639)

DiscoverSaintJohn.com



DiscoverSaintJohn



DiscoverSaintJohn



DiscoverSaintJohn



DiscoverSaintJohn



**More Self-Guided
Historic Tours**

These tours were updated by Harold E. Wright, with assistance from David Goss, Joan Pearce, Bob Boyce, Deanna Wilkins, and Knowledge Keeper Allan Saulis, 2025.

Photos courtesy: Heritage Resources, Saint John

Printed in Canada.