

DISCOVER ST. MARYS

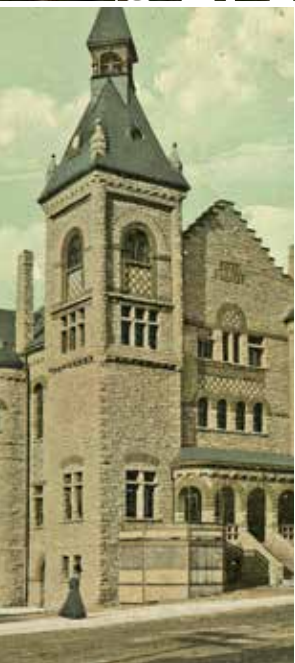
EXPERIENCE THE
charm and history
OF ST. MARYS WITH
three historic walking tours

Downtown Heritage Tour
South Ward Tour
North Ward Tour





EXPLORE ST. MARYS



Carved in stone, etched in history

Discover the hidden gems and rich history of St. Marys, Ontario on our series of walking tours. Choose from three unique tours that will take you on a journey through time and showcase the beauty of our charming town.

From stunning architecture to picturesque vistas, St. Marys has a special character all of its own.

We invite you to discover the stories of our historic downtown and the beauty of St. Marys.



The **Downtown Heritage Tour** is perfect for those who want to explore the heart of St. Marys. You'll see beautifully restored Victorian-era retail spaces, stunning limestone architecture, and learn about the town's rich history.

The **South Ward Tour** takes you on a scenic journey through the history and natural beauty of St. Marys. You'll explore Lind Park, admire the Gothic Revival-style St. James Anglican Church, discover the town's rich history at the St. Marys Museum, and visit the Quarry, Canada's largest freshwater swimming pool.

For those looking to venture beyond downtown, the **North Ward Tour** takes you through the charming residential neighborhoods of St. Marys, where you'll discover local landmarks that tell the story of the town's heritage, and explore the natural beauty of the Grand Trunk Trail.

THE STONETOWN

A brief history of St. Marys

A visit to St. Marys will transport you back to the 19th century while still offering you the modern amenities and conveniences of today. Our town is shaped by our history and we are excited to share it with you during your visit.

The first European settlers arrived in St. Marys in the early 1840s, attracted by the area's natural resources. At the new town site, Trout Creek met the Thames River and cascaded over a series of limestone ledges, providing the power to run the first mills.

In the riverbed and along the banks, limestone was close to the surface and could be quarried for building materials. Many 19th century limestone structures still remain, including but not limited to churches, commercial blocks, and private homes. They have given St. Marys its current nickname: Stonetown.

The arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway in the late 1850s spurred growth and soon St. Marys became a centre for milling, grain-trading and the manufacture of agriculture-related products. The railway connected the town to the rest of the world and framed the local landscape with its two large trestle bridges on limestone pillars across the waterways.

In the late 1800s the town prospered and social, educational, and cultural facilities expanded. The established churches built beautiful new places of worship, their steeples visible for miles around the countryside. The Opera House opened in 1880. A new Town Hall was built in 1891 and a beautiful Carnegie Library in 1904.



St. Marys today retains its 19th century flavour while offering all the attractions of a modern and friendly small town. In the downtown Heritage Conservation District, the streets are flanked with century-old buildings.

Although the old mills have vanished, a community walkway follows the old millrace along the river. Limestone is no longer quarried for building blocks but it is still essential to production at the St. Marys Cement Company, a major local industry. A limestone quarry abandoned in 1930 is now a municipal swimming facility. The Opera House still stands as a feature to our downtown but operates as an apartment building today.

St. Marys residents are proud of their community's heritage and look forward to sharing it with you.



The Town of St. Marys acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. This area is within the boundaries covered by Treaty 29, known as the Huron Tract Purchase, and is protected by the Dish With One Spoon wampum agreement. Today, many Indigenous peoples continue to call this land home and act as its stewards, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on this territory.



NORTH WARD TOUR

- 4 KM
- Walk or Drive
- 60-90min

DOWNTOWN HERITAGE TOUR

- 750 M
- Walkable
- 20-30min

SOUTH WARD TOUR

- 4 KM
- Walk or Drive
- 60-90min

DOWNTOWN HERITAGE TOUR



750 M



Walkable



20-30min



1

ST. MARYS TRAIN STATION

5 James Street North

BUILT
1907

The Grand Trunk Railway Depot was constructed in the summer of 1907. It was the third station on the line, built to supplement the Junction Station and replace a smaller frame depot near Elizabeth Street. The General Contractor was E. Chandler of

Stratford, and it is possible that he also designed the building. In the mid-1980s, CN slated this station for demolition. Intervention by the Town of St. Marys and senior levels of government resulted in the ownership being transferred to the municipality and a complete renovation of the station. It is still used for passenger train service and houses the St. Marys Station Gallery.

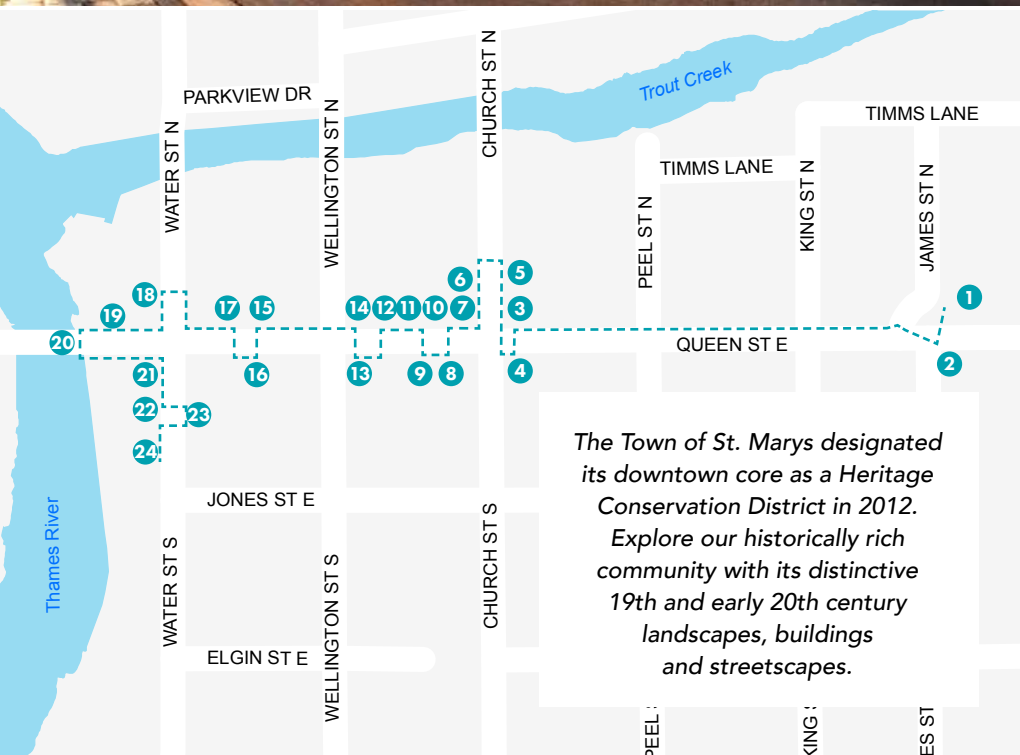
2

WATER TOWER

5 James Street North

BUILT
1899

The Water Tower was built in 1899 and is a solid stone structure which is representative of other stone buildings erected during this period in St. Marys. It is one of the best examples of industrial architecture constructed during the turn of the century in southwestern Ontario. Town Council appointed Willis Chipman, a civil engineer from Toronto and a pioneer in the construction of municipal waterworks systems. Mr. Chipman's plans called for pumping facilities, seven miles of water mains and a 75,000 gallon water tower. Stone work was done by Robert Clyde, a local stone mason, and steel work by John Inglis & Son. In May 1900, the new waterworks system, including the Water Tower, was tested and put into service. The Water Tower served the Town for 90 years as the main tower until 1989 when a new tower was commissioned.





3

ST. MARYS TOWN HALL

175 Queen Street East

BUILT
1891

In 1891 after the frame town hall on this site was burned, Town Council ran a competition for the design of a new town hall. Toronto architect G.W. Gouinlock's plans for a Richardsonian Romanesque building were chosen. The structure, made of St. Marys limestone and red sandstone, was completed at a cost of about \$15,000. Contractors were local craftsmen John Elliott (masonry), Jacob Near (carpentry), Fred Patterson (plastering), and J.C. Gilpin (galvanized iron). The first Town Council meeting took place in the new town hall on May 12, 1892 and Council has consistently met here ever since. The town hall was designated as a historic site on July 14, 1981.



4

J.D. MOORE BLOCK

176 - 182 Queen Street East

BUILT
1869

Erected in 1869 by J.D. Moore, this three-storey, six-bay block was one of the earliest brick blocks on Queen Street and is the only one constructed of red brick trimmed with buff brick.

Founder of the J.D. Moore Cold Storage Company, Moore was also the owner of an oatmeal mill and planing mill. The local Argus newspaper reports in the November 18, 1880 edition that in the previous week J.D. Moore shipped twenty carloads containing 210,000 dozen eggs valued at \$37,200 to New York.



5

ST. MARYS PUBLIC LIBRARY

15 Church Street North

BUILT
1904

The St. Marys Public Library was built in 1904-1905 with a \$10,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. J.A. Humphris, a local architect, was able to adapt the standard Carnegie design so that it could be built in St. Marys limestone and complement the neighbouring Town Hall. An addition to the east, containing new offices and a children's area, was completed in 1988.



6 MERCURY THEATRE

14 - 16 Church Street North



This two and a half storey stone sloped shingled roofed building originally operated as a "New Boots and Shoe Business" for owners S. Dusty and Son. There are two identical dormer windows on the roof with small gabled roofs and arched window outlines, that suggest there used to be glass windows located within. There are flat concrete quoins apparent on both sides of the second storey, with several other thicker quoins on the east side of the first storey that are attached to the red-bricked part of this attached building to the left (also the Mercury Theatre).



Small, white coloured, square-shaped objects are apparent near the second storey windows, which suggests that something might have previously been mounted on the second storey.

7 LYRIC THEATRE

167 Queen Street East



This building was predated by a saltbox-style building, which was destroyed by fire at the beginning of the 20th century. Robert Dixon rebuilt the structure in 1907. In the 1920s, Florence Sutherland transformed the location into a movie house, eventually known as the Lyric Theatre. The theatre entertained audiences until the mid-1960s. Despite undergoing extensive renovations in its latter years, this structure is significant because of its connection to early cinema and fusion of contemporary and Victorian building styles.



8 HARRISON BUILDING

166 Queen Street East



This two-storey, smooth-face limestone building once housed the business of one of St. Marys most prominent citizens, Timothy Eaton. From 1860 to 1869 Timothy and his brother James ran a general store which sold everything from dry goods to groceries, boots, hardware and patent medicines. From 1911 to the late 1920s the building was home to Pleasant Hour Movie Theatre, and then in 1930 was removed as a drugstore for F.H. Smith. The two upper storey windows have radiating limestone voussoir arches around the top and limestone sills below.

9 GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL

150-152 Queen Street East



The nucleus of this building is a frame structure built for T.B. Guest in the 1850s; as such it stands as the earliest remaining hotel in St. Marys. The present brick façade and Italianate cornice were added by J.W. Pierson in 1874. In 1886 the name Oxford House was changed to Grand Central Hotel. The storefronts were remodeled

in the 1920s when the carriage-way leading to the hotel stable was converted into an additional shop. There were over a dozen hotels in St. Marys and nearby area in 1880. The Grand Central Hotel is one of a few early hotel buildings that still stands.

10 G.B. MCINTYRE BUILDING

159 - 161 Queen Street East

BUILT
1854



Built circa 1854, this store is one of the earliest limestone commercial buildings in St. Marys. Constructed of coursed rubble with an attractive 1880s window shape, the structure is one of few limestones buildings in St. Marys that is still almost perfectly preserved.

This building was home to McIntyre's boot and shoe business that employed twenty people in the 1860s. McIntyre's brother-in-law owned nearby businesses and was responsible (alongside other relations) for the construction of the frame village hall on the site where the limestone Town Hall now stands.

11 MCINTYRE DRUGS

155 Queen Street East

BUILT
1882

Sidney Fraleigh built this structure in 1882, after purchasing the property that same year from George McIntyre. Fraleigh was a well known and wealthy pharmacist, also responsible for constructing a mansion (which later became Kingsway Lodge at 310 Queen Street East). The building was sold back to the McIntyre family in 1913. Home to McIntyre Drugs and eventually Hubbard Pharmacy, this structure is noteworthy because of its long association with the apothecary trade. Although the structure has been renovated several times, its current exterior reflects a creative, eclectic Victorian style that adds to the uniqueness of downtown St. Marys.



12 ROBERT EATON BUILDING

147 Queen Street East

BUILT
1872



Timothy Eaton's older brother, Robert, purchased this Queen Street property 1857. By 1872, he had built this brick building where he operated a grocery and dry goods business until 1890. It is one of the oldest commercial brick buildings in St. Marys.

13 GUEST BLOCK

136-142 Queen Street East

BUILT
1868

Built in the Classical Revival style, this stone block is one of several downtown structures built by T.B. Guest, the first Reeve and Mayor of St. Marys. It is divided into three sections. The corner store originally housed William Gordon, a dry goods dealer. Since 1892 it has been occupied by the Bank of Montreal. The middle section was once home to a grocery store called the 'Chinese Warehouse'. The east third is the most elaborate, fronted with carved wooden mouldings. Known as the 'Journal Argus building', it became home to the Eedy publishing firm in 1895. The Journal Argus newspaper moved from this location in the early 1990s.



14 ANDREWS JEWELLER

135 Queen Street East

BUILT
1884



This building with its clock tower has been a landmark on Queen Street in St. Marys since it was constructed for William Andrews, a local jeweller (and Town Clerk), in 1884. It was designed by a St. Marys architect, William Williams, in the Second Empire style. Its façade is richly ornamented with features in the Italianate style. Williams was known for using white brick trimmed with red in his designs throughout St. Marys. The building has miraculously retained almost all of its important original exterior and interior features. As an ensemble, it is unique in St. Marys and a rarity in the entire province.

15 JOHN MCDONALD STORE

115 Queen Street East

BUILT
1859

This building is one of the best-preserved limestone blocks in St. Marys. Built before 1859, it is also one of the earliest. The lower part of the coursed rubble façade is well preserved; the cast iron supports still exist, as does the horizontal window band which is beneath the large front sign. Although the original wooden window framing has been replaced, the simple frame design which was added is very effective in keeping with the storefront. Historians believe that this was also the site of one of the earliest retail establishments in St. Marys, a log cabin built by either Lauriston Cruttenden or James McKay.



16 GREGORY BLOCK

112-114 Queen Street East

BUILT
1922

This two-storey brick and pressed-concrete structure was built for George Gregory in the summer of 1922 as a replacement to an 1850s frame structure which had been destroyed by fire a few weeks earlier. W. J. Stafford, a local contractor and builder, is noted for his sympathetic treatment of earlier buildings. This block is one of the few commercial blocks in the core of St. Marys for which plans exist. These elevations and floor plans are signed 'W.J. Stafford/Architect/May 11, 1922'. In scale, materials, and architectural detailing this building is a handsome 20th-century compliment to Queen Street's outstanding collection of 19th-century commercial blocks.



17 F.W. HUTTON STORE

109-113 Queen Street East

BUILT
1904



In 1904, Robert Clyde, the Irish builder, replaced Fred Hutton's simple, one-storey frame building with a two-storey establishment constructed of red brick with limestone accents in the lintels and pilasters. Here Hutton would continue the mercantile tradition established by his father. The Queen Anne style influences and the virtually intact survival of this fine façade, make this a very important building in its own right, and as a part of the developing streetscape in St. Marys.

18 FIRST HUTTON BLOCK

6 Water Street North



In 1841, John Ingersoll built a log general store on this site. Around 1854, W. V. Hutton, an early mayor of the town, had the first two storeys of the present building built by L. Cruttenden. Circa 1884 the third storey (mansard) was completed, almost certainly designed by William Williams, a local architect.



20 VICTORIA BRIDGE

81°8'40.332"W 43°15'32.983"N

This pre-confederation stone four-arched structure spanning the Thames River is and has been the most important of the several bridges in the town. Several log and timber bridges occupied the site until Town Council in August of 1864 authorized the signing of a contract with Alex McDonald "for the construction of a stone arched bridge across the Thames, on Queen Street, according to the plan submitted by Mr. Niven, P. L. S. - cost \$4,450 - completion date September 1, 1865."



19 THE BOX HOUSE

75 Queen Street East

The Box House was built in flat coursed rubble masonry of St. Marys limestone. It is a two and one-half storey structure built in the Ontario Gothic style. The longer west façade was once the front of the building and the original house faced onto the river. The stone residence was built for William Hutton in 1858 to replace the frame miller's house. The Huttons were avid horticulturalists, and originally the house had a lovely garden which separated it from the river. In 1864, Hutton sold the mill and house to the company Box and Somerville, and Richard Box moved into the house. Without the Huttons' financial contributions, many of the limestone commercial buildings on Queen Street and Water Street would have never been built.

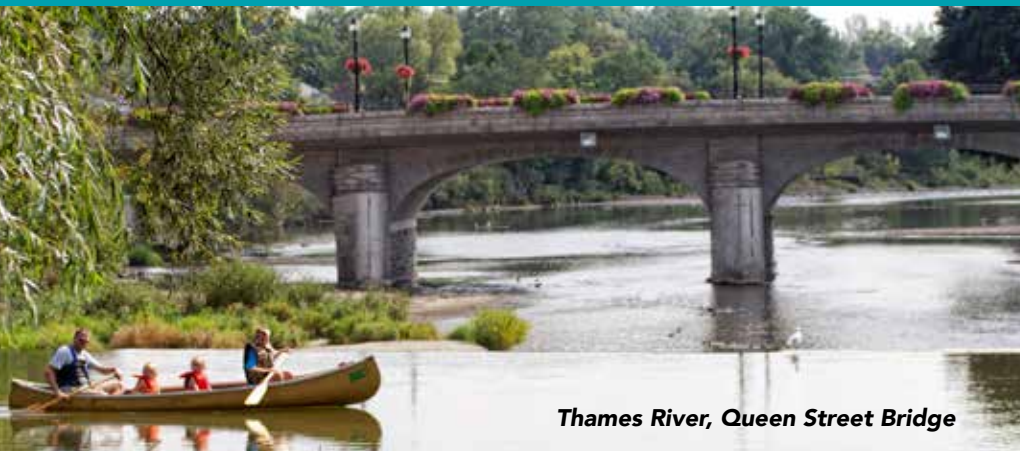


21 SECOND HUTTON BLOCK

6 Water Street South

Built in 1863 for William Veal Hutton, this block with a ten-bay façade originally housed five retail stores. This building (as well as the Armouries) with its segmental arches (above the windows) and their finely finished voussoirs and projecting keystones give an Italianate flavour to these structures. The similar, simplified treatment of these flanking buildings provides a very effective foil for the exuberance of the Opera House façade. Hutton was an early mayor of St. Marys who was also responsible for the construction of the Box House and First Hutton Block. The Thames River runs to the west of this building, emphasizing the importance of the waterway to Hutton's entrepreneurship and the growth of St. Marys.





Thames River, Queen Street Bridge

22 THE OPERA HOUSE

12 Water Street South

BUILT
1879

The St. Marys Opera House was constructed in 1879-1880 for the St. Marys Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. It was designed by Silas Weekes, a local architect and member of the lodge. James Elliott, the master mason, supplied stone from his local quarry and lime from his kiln. Originally the block housed three stores on the ground level, a concert hall above, and the Oddfellows temple on the upper floor. In the hall many varied theatrical performances and political rallies were held. Here Sir John A. McDonald spoke on his latest campaign in 1891. The entire block was converted into a flour mill in 1919, and it functioned as such for fifty years. In 1987 - 1988 it was saved from certain destruction and restored by the St. Marys Lions Club. It is a noble example of a Gothic Revival building, and, with the two flanking structures, forms one of the finest stone rows in the country.



23 THE POST OFFICE

17 Water Street South

BUILT
1908

The federal government built this impressive, Romanesque style building to house the local post and customs offices. The words "Post Office" and "Customs" are still visible between lines of raised stone dividing the first and second stories. Henry Wilson was the Collector of Customs during the early 1900s and his offices were on the second floor. The third storey apartment was home to the building's janitor and his family. In 1957, the post office was relocated to Wellington Street.



24 THE ARMOURIES

26 Water Street South

BUILT
1868

The three-storey stone block at 26 Water Street South was built in 1868 by Robert Barbour as a general and dry goods store for Theodore Hutton, a brother of W. V. Hutton. The retail portion was at street level with living quarters in the upper two storeys. Used for several years from the 1930s as a drill hall for the Perth militia, it is also known locally as the Armouries. Architecturally, the building's effectiveness is in its simplicity although the segmental arches above the windows with their finely finished voussoirs and projecting keystones add an Italianate flavour. Together with the Hutton Block at 6 Water Street South, the similar, simplified treatment in the two flanking buildings provide an effective contrast to the much more complex Opera House façade in the centre. It was restored by the St. Marys Lions Club in 1987.



SOUTH WARD TOUR



4 KM

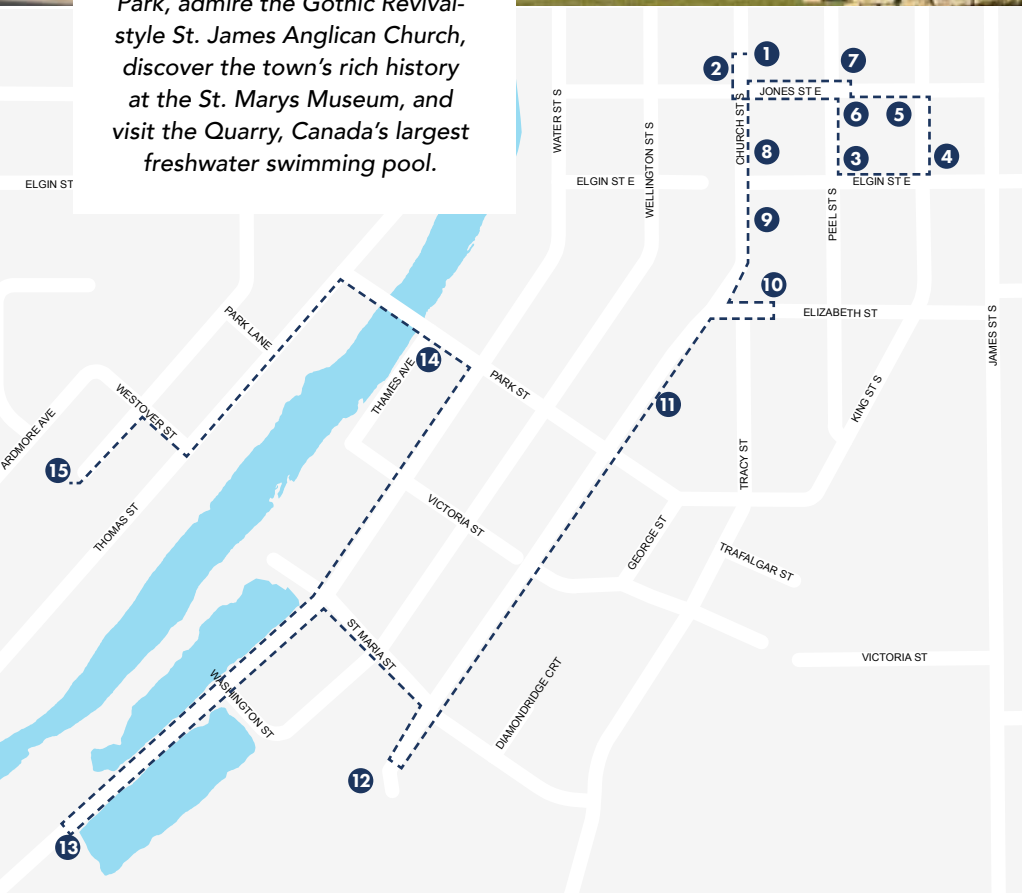


Walk + Drive



60-90min

The South Ward Tour takes you on a scenic journey through the history and natural beauty of St. Marys. You'll explore Lind Park, admire the Gothic Revival-style St. James Anglican Church, discover the town's rich history at the St. Marys Museum, and visit the Quarry, Canada's largest freshwater swimming pool.



1

LIND PARK

27 Church Street South



In 1933, John Grieve Lind, Klondike sourdough self-made millionaire, and manager of the St. Marys Cement Co., took an unsightly corner, cleaned it up, hired a landscape architect, and created a park known today as Lind

Park. It was the height of the Great Depression, and this project gave additional hours of paid work to some of his employees while creating a benefit for the town. Lind transferred the park to the municipality in 1942. A statue of Arthur Meighen, Canada's ninth Prime Minister, was installed in 1988 in the back corner of the park. [Learn more about John G. Lind by reading the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque near the park entrance.](#)

2

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

34 Church Street South



The Baptist Church began in St. Marys in 1867 in what is now a house on Queen Street West. The cornerstone of the current building on Church Street South was laid on June 26, 1902. The first service in the new church was on Sunday December 21, 1902, and the dedicatory services were held a week later on December 28. Built in a Romanesque revival style, it features a small rectangular tower with half-round stained glass windows and long, narrow arched windows along the rest of the building. It also features a steep roof as well as buttresses supporting the outer walls



3

JAMES CARTER HOUSE

67 Peel Street South

BUILT
1883

The James Carter House is one of four mansions built at the expense of George Carter for himself and members of his family. By 1868, George Carter had acquired the town block bounded by Jones, Peel, Elgin and King Streets and intended to build several homes for his family on this land. This family compound of four grand houses built within a space of fifteen years owes its existence to the prosperity of the

St. Marys' grain market in the 1860s and 1870s, and of George Carter's ability to capture that market. The James Carter house was built for James Carter and his wife Mary Box in 1883. This building is attributed stylistically to architect William Williams, the St. Marys Town Clerk during the 1880s.

4

LOFFT HOUSE

253 Elgin Street East

BUILT
1886

This large, beautiful, two-storey house was built in 1886 for prosperous merchant, A. H. Lofft, a year after his marriage. It has many design features used by William Williams, the local architect of choice. These include paired brackets, two storey bay windows, white brick with red brick accents and segmented lintels. It is well-positioned on a large corner lot. The addition to the northeast was built in 1897.



5

CHARLOTTE CARTER HOUSE

236 Jones Street East

BUILT
1881

The Charlotte Carter House, also known as Ercildoune, was built in 1881 for Charlotte Carter and Henry L. Rice as wedding present from Charlotte's father, grain merchant George Carter. This red brick Second Empire style house has a mansard roof, tower, and elaborate dormer windows. The Rice family moved back to the Carter home in the late

1880s, and subsequent owners of this house included Dr. Thomas Sparks. The Sparks family lived in this home from about 1905 into the 1950s.

6

GEORGE CARTER HOUSE

224 Jones Street East

BUILT
1868

The George Carter House is one of four mansions built at the expense of prominent grain merchant George Carter for himself and members of his family. By 1868, George Carter had acquired the town block bounded by Jones, Peel, Elgin and King Streets and intended to build several homes for his family on this land. George Carter's first home was built as the "home place" for his family. This Italianate style house was built in 1868 for George and Elizabeth Carter, designed by architect William Robinson of London. The original full veranda on the west side facing a large lawn and garden was lost when the west portion was severed in 1914.



7

HARRIET CARTER HOUSE

217 Jones Street East

BUILT
1875

The Harriet Carter House is one of four mansions built at the expense of prominent grain merchant George Carter for himself and members of his family. By 1868, George Carter had acquired the town block bounded by Jones, Peel, Elgin and King Streets and intended to build several homes

for his family on this land. This Italianate style house was built around 1875 for George Carter's daughter Harriet and her husband Clarence Freeman. It has a beautiful collection of stained, bevelled, and etched glass.

8

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

65 Church Street South

BUILT
1856

The St. James Anglican Church was built in 1856. A plain, rectangular building of local limestone, it still forms the heart of St. James, making its nave the town's oldest place of worship in continuous use. As the congregation grew, there have been several additions to the original structure. In 1885,



the roof was raised to create a much steeper pitch. At the same time, the square tower was added at the southwest corner, the porch to the west entrance, and the chancel area was also expanded to the east. The Parish Hall was built in 1907 and a new Vestry added in 1965. The walkway between the Parish Hall and the Church was closed in with glass doors in 1985.

9

UNITED CHURCH

85 Church Street South

BUILT
1879

Originally the St. Marys Methodist Church, this building was constructed in 1879 out of white brick. It differs from the town's other nineteenth-century churches that are made of local limestone. The current building replaced a much smaller and simpler stone pioneer church. A section of the

exterior stone wall of this early church was incorporated into the 1879 church and can still be seen at the southeast corner of the building's exterior. In 1925, the St. Marys Methodist Church became the St. Marys United Church, its congregation augmented by a number of Presbyterians who supported church union. The tower in the northwest corner originally had a spire but it was damaged in the 1940s and not replaced.

10

CENTRAL SCHOOL MANOR

189 Elizabeth Street

BUILT
1914

The current structure on this site was the second school to be located here, with the first built in 1857 also of stone in Italianate style. This replacement school, Classical Revival in style, was constructed in 1914 to plans of London architect, Watt and Blackwell using St. Marys limestone. This is one of the last stone buildings to be constructed in St. Marys.



In 2010, the school was closed, and its students and teachers moved to the new Little Falls Public School. The Avon Maitland District School Board put the building up for sale and there was considerable concern about its future. In 2011, the property was purchased by Michael Ebert and Ray Doerksen who undertook an ambitious and sympathetic conversion to condominium units. [You can learn more about Central School by reading the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque located on the property.](#)

11

ST. MARYS MUSEUM

177 Church Street South

BUILT
1854

Constructed in 1854 of smooth dressed St. Marys limestone, the St. Marys Museum represents the earliest large stone residence in town. The structure was built for the family of George Tracy, one of the town's earliest settlers. The builder and designer was Robert Barbour of New York, while the masonry was done by local stonemasons Frank Anderson, Andrew Know and John Whimster. Set in a

prominent location atop the hill, the Museum served as an important residence for many years and for a time was the home of William Weir, the mayor of St. Marys from 1916 - 1917. The large blocks of limestone used in the building compliment the sturdy Georgian proportions, while the picturesque curling bargeboards and the unusual chimney groupings set on an angle in the roof, all add to the charm and uniqueness of the structure.

For more information and hours of operation, visit www.stmarysmuseum.ca.

12

CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

386 Church Street South

BUILT
1868

One of the first recorded games of baseball in North America took place in Beachville, Ontario (30 minutes south of St. Marys) on June 4, 1838. It was written about by St. Marys native Adam Ford, a local doctor, in the 1886 Sporting Life magazine.

Located in an 1860s limestone house with an impressive 2019 addition, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is on 13 picturesque hectares (32 acres) overlooking the local quarry swimming hole. The site includes a major league-style baseball diamond, two children's fields and picturesque walking trails. The museum showcases artifacts and memorabilia and pays tribute to baseball's impressive Canadian roots and the accomplishments of inductees.

For more information and hours of operation, visit www.baseballhalloffame.ca



13

THE QUARRIES

425 Water Street South

MID
1800s

The Thames Quarry Company grew out of a number of small, independently owned quarries that had been opened along Water Street in the mid-1800s. Finally, one quarrying company developed and the two pits were joined by a tunnel under Water Street. In 1914 the Thames Quarry Company sought to expand and petitioned the Town of St. Marys to close the Water Street route out of town so that limestone under the road could be extracted. Town council decided Water Street was too important and the proposal was rejected.



St. Marys Quarry

13 THE QUARRIES

(continued)



The Thames Quarry Company ceased operations in 1930, although a stockpile of crushed stone continued to be used years afterward. All useful pieces of machinery including the pumps that had continually pumped the water from the springs out of the pit were removed and the two quarries filled with water. However, railway tracks once used to carry limestone out of the quarry still lie on the bottom.

In 1945, the Town purchased the quarries along with 50 acres of land for a nominal fee. In 1946, the first lifeguard was hired for the sum of \$25 per week. In 1950, the decision to charge admission was made. Local children could purchase a season's pass for 25 cents. **You can learn more about the history of quarrying in St. Marys by reading the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque at the entrance to the swimming quarry.**

Today the swimming Quarry is a fun, family-friendly destination. For hours of operation, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/quarry



Riverview Walkway

14 RIVERVIEW WALKWAY

81°9'3.849"W 43°14'54.021"N 2.9km hike / 45 min



This is a popular trail for birding, biking, and running, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. The trail follows the former right-of-way of the St. Marys and Western Ontario Railway, which later became part of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This line came into town in 1908, providing competition to the well-established Grand Trunk Railway. After 80 years of activity,

CPR abandoned this section of track in 1988. With strong community support, the Town of St. Marys acquired the right-of-way along the Thames River from Queen Street to the Cement Plant and built the Riverview Walkway in 1992. The Riverview Walkway takes people past remnants of the milling and quarrying industries that once flourished along the river. **You can learn more about the history of the Riverview Walkway by visiting the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque, located on the east side of the trail, between Park and Elgin Streets.**

15 WESTOVER INN

300 Thomas Street



Brothers William and Joseph Hutton were prolific businessmen, responsible for constructing six commercial buildings downtown. On the verge of retirement and seeking a "quieter" lifestyle, they commissioned Robert Barbour to design this Victorian limestone mansion. Seven acres were meticulously landscaped and open for the public to enjoy. In the 1930s the property was acquired by the Roman Catholic Church for use as a seminary. A red brick dormitory was added. In the 1970s a group purchased the property for the purpose of communal living. In 1987, the property became the Westover Inn, presently known for its unique lodgings and fine dining. **You can learn more about the history of the property and the Hutton family by reading the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque, located near the entrance of the Inn.**



NORTH WARD TOUR



4 KM



Walk + Drive



60-90min

The North Ward Tour takes you through the scenic north neighbourhoods of St. Marys, where you'll discover natural beauty, hidden gems and local landmarks that tell the story of the town's heritage.



1

MILL RACE & ISLAND PARK

81°8'39.114"W 43°15'35.827"N (75 Riverview Walkway)



The north end of the Riverview Walkway, where Queen Street crosses the Thames River, is the historic heart of St. Marys. In 1841, the Canada Company sold property in today's core area of the town to Thomas and James Ingersoll on the condition that they erect a sawmill and a grist mill to

attract and serve settlers to the new community. The sawmill was built on the east bank of the Thames just south of its junction with Trout Creek and the grist mill was built downstream, just south of Queen Street. The millrace that directed water to power the grist mill was altered a number of times over the years but a portion of it has been preserved and runs beside the floodwall north of Queen Street. A special arch built into Victoria Bridge takes the race under the street. There is still an operating gate governing the flow of water at the north end of the race. The outlet for the tailrace is in the stone wall along the river south of the bridge. Look over the walkway railing immediately south of Queen Street and you can see the place where the last operating water wheel in St. Marys sat horizontally in the race channel.

2

TROUT CREEK BRIDGES

BUILT
1899

Water Street Bridge: 81°8'37.417"W 43°15'37.616"N

This steel truss bridge was built in 1899. From its walkway, there is a pleasant view of other picturesque bridges and the Thames River as it is joined by Trout Creek and falls over the old mill dam. **To learn more about the Water Street Bridge, read the Heritage Interpretive Plaque, located northwest of the bridge.**



2

TROUT CREEK BRIDGES

(continued)



Wellington Street Bridge:

81°8'32.549"W
43°15'38.558"N

There has been a series of bridges on this site since the 1840s. Unfortunately, due to spring flooding, the lifespan of the early bridges was short. The Wellington Street Bridge most like what we see today was constructed in 1911 using concrete. The original design of the posts on the bridge had decorative panels with lamppost lighting atop the posts and sidewalks were built on either side of the bridge. The bridge was reconstructed in 1971 and utilized the original piers, but the decorative concrete panels were replaced with metal railings. The bridge underwent major reconstruction again in 2017. At that time, a time capsule commemorating Canada 150 was buried at the northwest edge of the bridge.



3

MILT DUNNELL FIELD (Formerly "The Flats")

1 Veterans Circle



Milt Dunnell was born in 1905 and grew up in St. Marys. Milt had a successful career as a sportswriter for the Toronto Star. During his career he covered the Miracle Mile in 1954 (the first time that two four-minute miler runners dueled against each other), the Canada-USSR Hockey series in 1972, the Toronto Blue Jays World

Series Victories in 1992 and 1993, and several Olympic and Commonwealth games all over the world. One of his favourite places while he was growing up in St. Marys was the Flats, the town's athletic park along the banks of the Thames River. Here he had his first close contact with sports. In 2005, for his 100th birthday, the Flats was officially renamed in his honour: Milt Dunnell Field. Milt Dunnell passed away in 2008 at the age of 102.

4

THE CREAMERY

120 Parkview Drive



The building was first built as a planing mill circa 1860, was converted into a creamery in 1915, a garden center in 1972, and finally a restaurant in 1982. The building operated under numerous carpenters as a planing mill and sash, door, and bind factory. However, fire and floods were devastating to these businesses. Later it was turned into a creamery where milk, cream, butter and cheese were produced. It operated successfully as a creamery for many years. The property first officially became a restaurant in 1982 and was known as the Parkview Creamery Restaurant. It has been a restaurant since then, with various owners, managers, and business names, but is known locally as "The Creamery".



5

MATHIESON HOME

109 Wellington Street North



This house was built in 1874 for Dr. John Hugh Mathieson and his wife, Mary Harrison, daughter of the prominent early settlers Milner Harrison and Catherine Howard. Mathieson is an example of a man who was outstanding in his profession and also gave vision and leadership to the community. He was primarily responsible for the selecting the design of the St. Marys Town Hall in 1890. The builder, Robert Barbour, was designer/contractor for many of this town's finest buildings. Mathieson's house is a handsome example of mid-Victorian building in the Italian style. Internal features such as original fireplaces and woodwork, decorative plasterwork, a portrait of Nora Clench in stained glass in the west entrance as well as all other original stained and etched glass and fenestration are also included in this heritage designation. An outstanding feature of this house is the Italianate veranda which through constant care has survived since the 1870s.



6 GREY GABLES

130 Wellington Street North

BUILT
1890



This large rough-faced stone home was built for local merchant Robert Dickson in 1890. It became known locally as "Gray Gables". The house was built using quarried St. Marys limestone with red stone accents around the windows. The architect responsible for the design of the home was George W. Gouinlock, most known for his design of St. Marys' current Town Hall. You can see many similarities between this home and Town Hall. The house was built in a Romanesque-Revival style. It features an ornate stone veranda entrance cut back from the outer exterior. Dormer windows grace the roof of this grand house, and there are protruding two-storey bay windows at the southwest corner of the house. Robert's daughter, Marion Dickson, was the last member of the family to live in the home.

7 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

147 Widder St East

BUILT
1879



In 1852, a modest frame church was built on this site, but as St. Marys grew a larger church was deemed necessary. Construction on this church began in 1879. It was completed in 1881 at the cost of \$12,000. The interior was renovated in the 1960s to accommodate the further growing congregation when two local Presbyterian congregations united. In 1988, disaster struck when the massive stone chimney collapsed with stones tearing through the fabric of the building right to the basement. The congregation, and the entire community, rallied

in support. Repairs were made and a stronger faith community emerged. The architecturally sympathetic addition to the east containing offices, Sunday School, meeting space and the church library was opened in 1993. The limestone structure is an example of Gothic Revival style, featuring steep rooftops, a tall spire, and large stained glass windows along the exterior of the hall.

8 SARNIA BRIDGE & GRAND TRUNK TRAIL

BUILT
1858

Trail Head: 81°8'18.841"W 43°16'1.46"N 3.2km hike / 45 - 60 min

Sarnia Bridge: 81°8'52.517"W 43°15'48.706"N

This community walkway started out as part of the historic Grand Trunk Railway. In 1858, the Railway reached the small village of St. Marys from Toronto and points further east. From here, the line went west to Sarnia and then, on the other side of the border, from Port Huron to Chicago. When the railway builders arrived in St. Marys in the mid-1850s, the major challenge for both structural engineers and contractors was the erection of two high railway bridges. One was needed to cross the Thames River, and the other took a spur line to London across Trout Creek. Both required a row of massive stone pillars to support the girders and tracks. These immediately became landmarks in St. Marys and are still known as the Sarnia Bridge and the London Bridge. Today, VIA Rail continues to operate the line to London. However, it abandoned the line to Sarnia in 1989, placing the future of the Sarnia Bridge in doubt. In 1995, the Town of St. Marys was able to purchase the Sarnia Bridge from the Canadian National Railway, as well as the right of way within Town limits along the abandoned line. A citizens' committee was formed in June 1996, to work towards transforming this old railway line into a trail for everyone to enjoy - residents and visitors alike.



Grand Trunk Trail

9

JUNCTION STATION

480 Glass Street

In the late 1850s, the Grand Trunk Railway, moving westward from Toronto, prepared to construct two lines through St. Marys, one going southwest to London and the other directly west to Sarnia. In 1858, a limestone station was built at the junction of these two lines on the northeastern limits of the town. This station was abandoned by the railway and later purchased by the Town of St. Marys. As a fine example of early railway architecture and as a symbol of 19th century enterprise, it has been designated as a national historic site. Currently the home of Broken Rail Brewing, who have transformed the abandoned station into a fresh, new whistle stop for craft beer fans. [To learn more about the Junction Station, read the green Heritage Interpretive Plaque located in front of the building.](#)

BUILT
1858

10

HOLY NAME OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

149 King Street North



A missionary Roman Catholic parish was formed in St. Marys in 1854 and soon an established congregation was formed. A rectangular stone church was built on the site of the current church in 1859 and a stone rectory to the east was built about the same time. The rectory survives although its exterior has been modified. This large limestone church was erected in 1892. It is built in Gothic Revival style and measures 130 feet from the ground to the top of the

gilded cross on the spire. The label mouldings, strings, sills, and arch stones of the doors and windows are made of Ohio sandstone while the roofs are covered with black and green slate shingles. The construction was completed by local stonemasons Patrick and John McFadden, David Fitzpatrick, and John Keen. The church property fills the block bordered by Peel, Widder and King Streets and provides a gracious setting for this landmark building.

BUILT
1879

11

MAXWELL HOUSES

191 & 197 Widder Street East

Built for industrialist David Maxwell in 1895, this handsome red brick villa at 197 Widder Street East is the oldest in this impressive row of homes along this block of Widder Street. In 1900, David Maxwell Jr. constructed the red brick house immediately to the west at 191 Widder Street East. This house is a good example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Exterior attributes which distinguish the house include the Milton red pressed brick with St. Marys limestone for the foundation and the sills and lintels of the windows, the spacious two-storey veranda with bandshell corner, the slate roof, the decorated ridgepoles and the crows feet gable at the attic level.

BUILT
1900BUILT
1895

12

CHURCH STREET BRIDGE

Station Street/Queen Street East

The Church Street bridge was designed by William Williams who worked both as an architect and local municipal clerk. Construction on the bridge began in 1884 and the bridge was completed in October of the same year. Contractors James Clyde and James Elliott worked on the bridge and the total cost of the project was approximately \$3800. The bridge was built of local St. Marys limestone, and replaced an older wooden bridge over Trout Creek at Church Street. The wooden bridge had been considered unstable and dangerous as heavy loads were often passing over it.

BUILT
1884



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