

Guysborough Historic Walking Tour

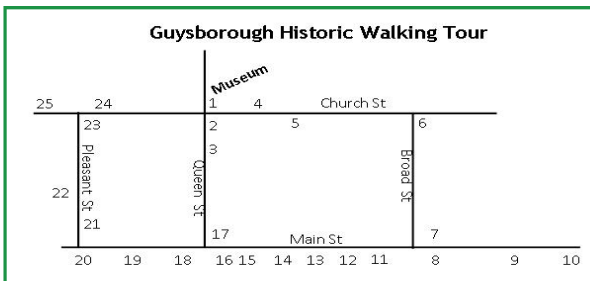
Presented by the
Guysborough Historical Society

The Guysborough Historic Walking Tour begins at the Old Court House Museum at **106 Church Street**. The small map below will guide you on the tour or you can take your own path. You can print this PDF or purchase it for a small fee at the Museum.

The tour takes approximately an hour and ends at the Christ Church at Church and Pleasant Streets. From there you can walk down to the Waterfront Trail toward the site of historic Fort Point or stroll back downtown to enjoy our local establishments.



1. Old Court House Museum, Church Street. 1843. Built in the British bulldog-style of architecture, this building was a court house for 130 years. It was also used for municipal council meetings and other public functions such as a polling station and enlistment drives during various wars. The issue of Confederation was debated here.



2 Wesley United Church, Queen Street. 1859. This is the oldest church building in the village, and is the second Methodist church here. The Bible and baptismal font, which are still used today, were gifts from Ms Charlotte Newton, the principal founder of Methodism in Guysborough in the 1820s.



3 Eastern Light Lodge, Queen Street. 1842. Built as the Kent Presbyterian Church so named for James Kent whose will provided the funds to establish a church. From 1859 to 1903 it served as a temperance hall, and for many years was known as Chedabucto Hall, serving as a public facility. It became the Masonic Lodge in 1933.

11 Main Street. c1857. This was the home of Harriet Cunningham Hart and her husband, James E. While residing here, she wrote the award-winning *History of the County of Guysborough* (1877), a definitive source of information on the village.



10 Main Street. 1885. Built by George Y. Grant, contractor, who built most of the public buildings and many of the larger homes in the area. This is the childhood home of Laurier Grant, author of *Recollections of a Life in Guysborough.*



9 Main Street. 1872. Built by Captain James E. Hadley, merchant and coastal trader, who was a direct descendant of the first English settler in the area. Hadley's ship yard, where many of the better known Guysborough vessels were built, was in operation here for many years.



4 DesBarres Manor Inn, Church Street. 1836. Built in the rare Egyptian Revival style for Judge William F. DesBarres. DesBarres was a lawyer, judge, a three-term MLA and a political ally of Joseph Howe. He was the eldest grandson of Joseph F.W. DesBarres, cartographer, aide-de-camp of General James Wolfe at Quebec and lieutenant governor of Cape Breton from 1784 to 1787.



5 St. Ann's Catholic Church, Church Street. 1873. The third Catholic Church in the area, it is the second on this site. While being constructed by Thomas O'Neil, a renowned church builder from Salmon River, it withstood the August Gale of 1873, which brought 200 mile per hour winds. It stands a testament to the skills of the builder.



6 Broad Street. 1870. This house was an inn/tavern and small shop for many years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In its time, it was one of three liquor outlets on this short street.



8 Main Street. 1857. A Provincial Heritage property, this house was built by John Walsh, a tailor. Mr. Walsh also had a shop in the house, and the display shelves can still be seen in the window on the right side of the building.



7 Days-Gone-By Bakery and Café, Main Street. c1790. This building incorporates the first court house in town, which was built in 1790 and was moved to this site. Another portion of the building was floated across the harbour from its previous location, and the gift shop was originally the home of Alexander Torrey, carriage builder.



12 Post Office, Main Street. 1902. The Post Office was built by the relatively new federal government as a statement of promise for a prosperous future for the country and the village. The building also was the Ships Registry and Customs office. It was the first brick building in the village.



13 Rose's Garden of Gifts, Main Street. c1860-1870. Built as a store by Captain Charles Francheville. He was an MLA for Guysborough and a member of the Legislative Council. The Merchant's Bank of Halifax opened in the building in 1882 and became one of the earliest branches of the Royal Bank in Canada.



14 Main Street. 1805. This is the oldest building on Main Street, and has had many owners and uses in the two centuries of its existence. It is probably best remembered as the site of Buckley's Jewelry and Watch-making shop.



15 Rare Bird Pub, Main Street. c1927. The third Jost store on this site, the building represents a long history of family entrepreneurship in Guysborough. For over 165 years, Jost family members were traders, ship owners and purveyors of general merchandise here. Their last store, *B&G Jost*, closed its doors in 1990.



16 Skipping Stone, Main Street. 1911. The Harts ran a fish and general merchandise business from this site for over 100 years. It was also the terminus for the daily steamer from Mulgrave and the weekly steamer from Halifax. The building was taken over by the Sonora Timber Company in 1927 and used as its local headquarters.



17 Main Street. c1800. This house was built for Sergeant Patrick Patton, who served as the schoolmaster when the first school opened here in 1790. The house was purchased by John Jost, the elder of the Jost brothers who arrived from Halifax in 1825, and it remained in the family for more than 100 years.

25 Christ Church, Church Street. 1878. The third Anglican church at this site, this is a Municipal Heritage property. The first church was built in 1787. For a quarter of a century it was the only church in the area, and rectors sought to meet the spiritual needs of English, French, German, Protestant, and Catholic parishioners.



Guysborough was first settled in 1634 when Fort St. François was built by the French on what is known today as Fort Point. The major influx of settlement to the area occurred, though, in 1784. The population continued to grow into the 19th century as houses, stores, wharves, churches and public buildings were erected in the bustling community. Many of these buildings still stand in the village core. We invite you to learn about their historic and architectural significance by taking our walking tour.

This tour is made possible with support from Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage and Guysborough County Regional Development Authority



18 Mulgrave Road Theatre, Main Street. 1838. Originally John Jost's store, "The British House," three generations of Morrisons also operated a general store on this site. Prior to its current use as a rehearsal space for a professional theatre company, the building was a fire hall.



24 Municipal Building, Pleasant Street. c1826. This was the spacious home of Tyrus Hart Sr., prominent early merchant in Guysborough. The Harts built and operated many vessels and carried on trade with Newfoundland and the West Indies and also operated a tannery and shoe factory in Guysborough.



23 Pleasant Street. c1800. Built by William Foster, this house was an early tavern in the village and the site of many reveries. This house has been long regarded as the oldest house in the village.



22 United Baptist Church, Pleasant Street. 1902. This is Guysborough's second Baptist church, and in its early years had an active membership of more than 250, a Sunday school of 50 children and a library of 100 books.



21 Pleasant Street. 1810. Built by William Foster, deputy sheriff, tavern-keeper and entrepreneur. This house is perhaps best known as the home of Dr. Edward Carritt, who practiced medicine in Guysborough and the surrounding communities for 42 years in the mid-19th century.



20 Guysborough County Business Service Centre, Main Street. 1888. This was the home of Dr. George Buckley, who practiced medicine in Guysborough for a remarkable 67 years. Dr. Buckley was a prominent member of the community, and many of his instruments and possessions can be viewed at the Old Court House Museum.



19 Main Street. 1863. This house was built for one son of John Jost and his intended bride. But, when the house was ready, she was not, and they did not marry. Rather than be the matrimonial home of his brother, Henry Marshall Jost, a successful businessman, lived here. When he died in 1929, Jost's estate was worth just less than one million dollars.