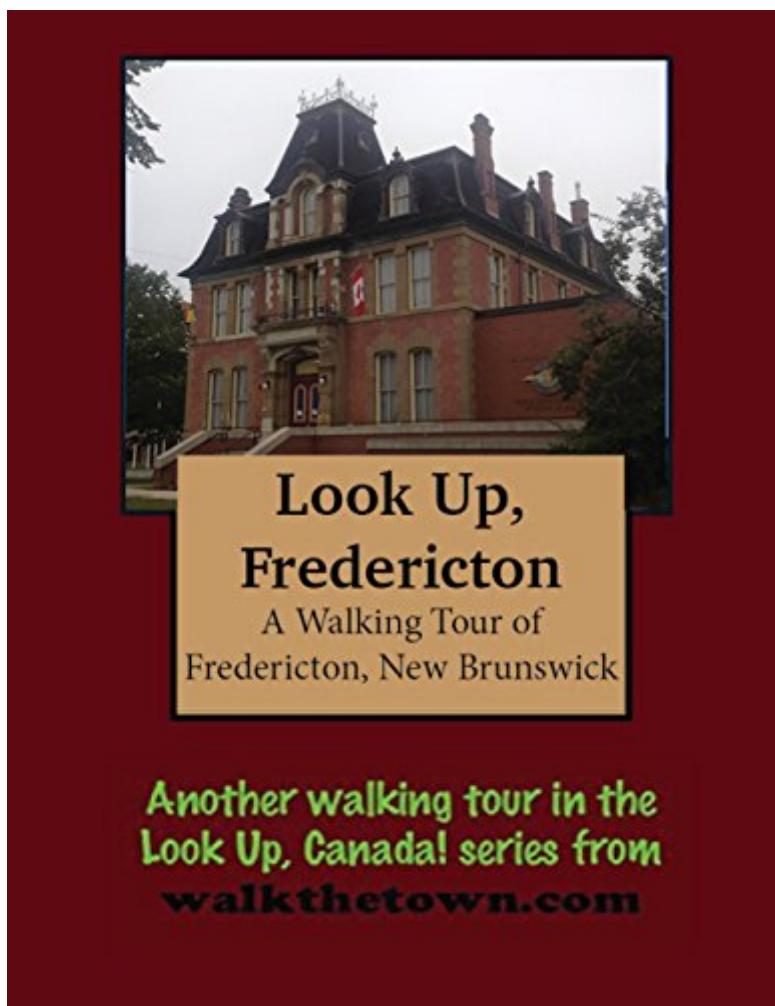


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A Walking Tour Of Fredericton, New Brunswick (Look Up Canada!)



Synopsis

There is no better way to see Canada than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are preparing for a road trip or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a downloadable walking tour from walkthetown.com is ready to explore when you are. Each walking tour describes historical and architectural landmarks and provides pictures to help out when those pesky street addresses are missing. Every tour also includes a quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on North American streets. There are good things and bad things about a remote location, say 60 miles inland from the mouth of a river. For one thing the chance of being attacked by an enemy's rampaging armada is significantly reduced. On the other hand, it is just so, you know, remote. The Maliseet peoples had long inhabited the area around this bend in the Wolastoq ("beautiful river"), pulling salmon from the pools and gathering berries from the bogs. In the 1690s Joseph Robineau de Villebon, who was in charge of the French colony of Acadia, was enamored by the defensive possibilities of this location and constructed Fort St. Joseph where the Nashwaak flowed into the French-named St. John River. He declared it the Acadian capital and indeed a British expedition was repelled in 1696. But the place was too far from everything and the French soon packed up and moved across the Bay of Fundy to Port Royale. After several more decades French settlers tried again on the south side of the river with a village they called Pointe St. Anne. It would be abandoned after reaching a peak of 15 families and 83 residents. Permanent settlement (save for a few fur trappers) finally arrived with British Loyalists hightailing it out of the new United States in 1783. When New Brunswick achieved formal colonial status the following year governor Thomas Carleton also declared nascent St. Anne's Point the capital since it was so far from the coast and potential American incursions. He also changed the name to honour the second son of King George. The British set about constructing all the requisite government and military buildings in Fredericton and set up the bones of the future University of New Brunswick. There would eventually be a brisk trade in lumber and some leatherworks and some carriage building but the main economic driver of the town would be government and education. In the 1840s the Anglican Church was making plans to build a cathedral, the first on British soil in about 300 years. The prospect of such a significant undertaking in a frontier capital with fewer than 10,000 souls was so troubling that Queen Victoria stepped in and elevated Fredericton to the status of "city" so construction could proceed. England envisioned Fredericton as a miniature London perched on an inland river in the New World. It never quite worked out that way. Fire was a regular visitor: 1849, 1854, 1880, 1911. Spring flooding when the ice began to break up in the St. John River was another

problem, even with dams built to divert the flow. But plenty of consequential buildings have survived and we will begin our explorations at one of the many architectural ornaments that grace the roomy streets laid out in the original town plan in 1785...

Book Information

File Size: 8897 KB

Print Length: 43 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 4, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N6DIQ3R

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,457,181 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #37 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Canada > Atlantic Provinces #45 in Books > Travel > Canada > Provinces > New Brunswick #976 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > One hour (33-43 pages) > Arts & Photography

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