12. Atkinson's Jewelers

Constructed: 1909
Architect: Unknown

Col. S. W. Ray and Mr. N. Street established their private bank, Ray, Street and Company, in 1884 next door at 6 Cumberland St. S. The building was designed to coordinate with the original structure. In 1889, the Bank of Montreal absorbed the bank in 1925. The circa 1926 one-storey addition was carved in the frieze would have been added after the Bank of Montreal operated here until it was sold to Atkinson's Jewelers in 1933. Offering great security with sixty centimeter thick walls and two vaults inside, the building served as their storefront for over seventy years until 2009. Seen above the first storey are the stone structures paired windows separated by decorative Doric columns and ornate balustrade at the roofline.

13. Ottawa House

(38-40 Cumberland St. S.)

Constructed: 1887
Architect: James A. Ellis

The Guerard brothers rebuilt Ottawa House, after the original 1884 wooden structure was lost to fire in 1886. Choosing brick for the reconstruction, Ottawa House is a fine example of turn-of-the-century craftsmanship. A 1903 addition extended the building to the corner of Lincoln Street and features the buildings truncated corner. A shallow vertical buttress marks the division between the two portions, but the architectural detailing is carefully matched. This includes the wooden cornice and decorative brick arches at the roofline. A restoration project completed in the 1980s reflects the building's early 20th century appearance. Along with replacing the windows, repainting the building and cleaning the brickwork, the original balconies, storefront windows, doors, and canopies were also reconstructed.

14. Bank of Montreal

(27 Cumberland St. S.)

Constructed: 1913
Architect: P.J. Turner

Beaux-Arts in style, this was originally Molson's Bank. The first storey of rusticated limestone features Doric columns and pediment surrounding the entrance. A projecting stringcourse with dentils separates the first storey from the brick upper storeys. Windows on the second storey have alternating rounded and triangular pediments with exaggerated keystones, moulded lintels, and stone quoins on their edges. The building is topped by a flat parapet with a raised central panel above a projecting cornice and dentil ornament. "Bank of Montreal" marks the division between the two portions, but the architectural detailing is carefully matched. This includes the wooden cornice and decorative brick arches at the roofline. A restoration project completed in the 1980s reflects the building's early 20th century appearance. Along with replacing the windows, repainting the building and cleaning the brickwork, the original balconies, storefront windows, doors, and canopies were also reconstructed.

15. Emmerson Block

(17 Cumberland St. S.)

Constructed: 1901
Architect: James A. Ellis

Built to house Wells and Emmerson, a hardware store praised as "the finest store in the great west", the J.T. Emmerson Block is constructed in Beaux Arts style and features a central Palladian window with a stone surround and a panel bearing relief floral designs. The matching southern addition matches the original but creates an asymmetrical appearance. A Greek fret pattern used as a frieze surrounds the top of the unified building.

16. Mitchell Block

(8 Cumberland St. S.)

Constructed: 1880
Architect: James A. Ellis

Robert Mitchell, who had arrived at the lakeside in 1871, commissioned this building in 1888. Its one of the earliest brick structures in Fort William. The building's intended use as a commercial block, and its location in the downtown core. When sold to the Realty Company in 1890, it was renamed the Realty Block. Regardless of numerous ownership changes over the years, the building's stone walls and detailing remain. Original brickwork and ornamental detail can be seen largely on the third storey, including a zigzag pattern in brick within the voussoir of the window arches while a basket weave of brick creates a light and dark pattern between the windows separated by the stone cornices above the first storey.

17. Publicity Pagoda

(170 Red River Rd.)

Constructed: 1909
Architect: H. Russell Halton

To demonstrate Port Arthur's merit as a business hub, the octagon shaped pagoda's eclectic design combines Eastern and Western styles symbolizing Port Arthur itself, where the East of Canada meets the West. A distinctive ogive or double-curved roof is supported by Greek peristyle columns while the entrance is flanked by Roman Ionic pilasters. Above the entryway is a carved panel featuring maple leaves and a beaver. Directly beneath the apex of the gable is a Scandinavian metal gargoyle. The building's stone work and detailing is carefully matched. This includes the wooden cornice and continuous operating tourist information bureau in Canada. It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act by The City of Thunder Bay in 1979, and designated a National Heritage Site in 1986.

18. The Sleeping Giant; "Nanabijou" in Ojibwe

(Sibley Peninsula, across the harbour)

Thunder Bay's most well-known natural wonder! Wondering if a man sleeping on his back, the Sleeping Giant can be seen from numerous vantage points around the city. The landmark is a peninsula, most of which now comprises Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. The park features many campsites and hundreds of kilometres of hiking trails to explore. Anishinaabe-Ojibwe legends associate this site with the Nanabijou. Original Man or the Spirit of the Deep Water, and includes a recent legend based around a secret silver mine, "Silver Islet".

19. CPR Freight Office

(2200 Sleeping Giant Parkway)

Constructed: 1907
Contractor: S. Brown

This one-storey red brick hip roofed structure, the freight office for the Canadian Pacific Railway, handled the railway's shipping and receiving until the early 1960's. After being purchased by the City of Port Arthur and being services as a knowledge gallery. As part of Thunder Bay's waterfront development plan, the 1907 structure was renovated and expanded to include a two-storey addition in 2012. Designed by architectural firm Brook McIlroy, the project combined historical architecture with contemporary design and incorporated the concept of the station as a transportation hub and museum. The project was completed in 2013 and opened to the public in 2014.

20. C. N. Station

(2212 Sleeping Giant Parway)

Constructed: 1906
Architect: Ralph Pratt

This beautiful railway Gothic style station was built by the Canadian Northern Railway between 1905 and 1906. Its success helped Port Arthur become a thriving transportation hub and port city. Though primarily used to ship grain, the station also welcomed many tourists and immigrants to the lakehead. Built in the uniquely Canadian style of Railway Gothic, the station is symmetrical and solid in design. It is constructed of brick trimmed in limestone and crowned with a gable roof, two pyramidal roofs, and gabled dormers. Other features include corner turrets and triangular tablets with relief carvings on the towers, and a hood across the top of the first storey. The station served trains until 1977. It was designated a National Heritage Property by the City of Thunder Bay in 1979.

21. Celebration Circle

(Within The Spirit Garden)

Constructed: 2011
Architect: Brook McIlroy Architects and Ryan Goree

The Spirit Garden evolved from a series of four workshops involving representatives from Fort William First Nation, Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850 Communities, and the Red Sky Metis Nation. The area, connected to honour and re-establish the Anishinabe communities that have inhabited this area for over 9,000 years, is a place - local Indigenous cultures and traditions are reflected and celebrated. Within The Spirit Garden is Celebration Circle. The circle's bentwood design references traditional building techniques of Indigenous people in this area while the exterior face features nine laser-cut Corten steel panels bringing to life the stories of Turtle Island through the Woodland style art of Randy and Roy Thomas.

22. Thunder Bay Main Lighthouse

(Harbour Breakwater)

Constructed: 1940
Contractor: Thunder Bay Harbour Improvements Ltd.

Navigational lighting in this harbour dates back to the late 1800s, first with a light affixed to the government dock then in 1809 with a lighthouse placed on an earlier inner harbour breakwater. As local shipping grew, a new breakwater was built to accommodate larger ships. In 1940 this two-storey clapboard lighthouse capped by a cupola on a hip roof was constructed. Built upon steel beams on four concrete pedestals, the lighthouse is anchored with two guy wires for extra bracing with its corners reinforced with steel plates for protection from the weather. Originally fitted with a fog alarm, lamp room and dwelling, it was a manned lighthouse until 1979. Today, the lighthouse is still operational using an automatic unattended beacon and accessible fog signal service.

23. CCGS Alexander Henry

(South Marina Park)

Constructed: 1957-1958
Contractor: Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company

In 1957, the Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company began work on the 3,000 ton, 170’ length Alexander Henry, which served on the Great Lakes until 1984. Named for the 18th century British explorer and fur trader, the Alexander Henry served as a Canadian Government Ship (1959-1962) before being transferred to the Canadian Coast Guard (1962-1984). Its duties included maintaining navigation buoys, ice breaking in the harbours, and transporting lighthouse keepers and their supplies. After retirement, the Henry spent thirty years as a museum in Fort William, Ontario, before being transferred to the Lakehead Transportation Museum Society for $2. She returned home to Thunder Bay in 2017. Today, the ship serves as a transportation museum at the Marina Park.
The properties featured within this tour cover the city’s built heritage dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries; however, Thunder Bay’s rich cultural history reaches back to the Paleo period and the early days following the great glaciers, nearly 11,000 years ago. At the point of European contact in the 17th Century, the Ojibwe people inhabited this western shore of Lake Superior. The City of Thunder Bay is built on the traditional territory of the Ojibwe people of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. This area is also recognized as a historic Métis settlement.

Please respect private property and view all properties from the sidewalk. Further information about heritage properties and the City of Thunder Bay’s comprehensive Heritage Registry can be found at www.thunderbay.ca/heritage.

2. Gathering Table (228 Pearl St.)

**Constructed: 1884 Architect: R. J. Edwards**
The “mother church of the Anglican community,” Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Church was initiated here in 1872. The original church structure, lost to fire in 1881, was replaced in 1884 with the red brick church we see today. Designed in a simplified Gothic Revival style, the church features low walls capped by a steeply pitched gable roof. The stone foundation has two additions, each having a horizontal element creating a stepped appearance. The entry doors and their stained glass transom light are surrounded with a centrally pointed hooded moulding and stepped quoin surround. In 2018, the congregations of Saint Luke’s (205 Cameron St.) and Saint John the Evangelist were each dissolved and the new parish, Gathering Table, formed.

3. Paramount Theatre (24 Court St. S.)

**Constructed: 1947-1948 Architect: Jay Isadore English**
Port Arthur’s “de-luxe” movie theatre designed by architect Jay Isadore English began construction in 1947, opening in December 1948. The first film shown was the western comedy, The Paleface. In 1963 the Paramount Theatre co-hosted the world premiere of Walt Disney’s “The Incredible Journey”, an adaptation of Port Arthur resident Shona Burnum’s classic novel by the same name. Built of brick, Tyndall stone, steel, and concrete, this Art Deco theatre still retains many original features including wall decor, balcony seating, and the movie projector in the projection room.

4. Ruttan Block (4 Court St. S.)

**Constructed: 1909, addition 1913 Architect: Daring and Pearson (1909), Carl Wirthen (1913)**
R. A. Ruttan commissioned this commercial building in 1909, a year in which new construction in Port Arthur boomed to a value of nearly one million dollars. Approximately twenty-two million dollars today. Housing numerous stores and office suites as well as the Ruttan real estate and insurance business, the Ruttan Block was considered the most modern structure in the city upon its completion. The building’s structural design allowed for three additional storeys to be added in future, however the addition made in 1913 was a second two-storey block adjacent to the original building to the south. The brick Ruttan block has several notable architectural features in stone including prominent corner quoins, keystones with wings above its second storey windows, and a wide string course between levels. The building’s main entrance is flanked by fluted Ionic columns while a cornice decorated with dentils tops the structure.

5. Central Fire Hall (13 Court St. N.)

**Constructed: 1906 Architect: Thomas Hanley**
Central Fire Hall, a horse stable station built in 1906, was the last of its kind to be retired in the area. The four arched entryways along the Court St. N. façade allowed for quick exit points for horse-drawn fire wagons to respond to calls. The fifth narrower bay at the south-west corner once featured a bricked tower and metal structure which housed the fire bell. The five-storey tower with mansard roof and dormers still in place today was used to hang and dry fire hoses. Decommissioned in 1986, the building was purchased in 1987 by the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association. The Court Street façade has since been renovated to recall its original design while the Cooke Street façade was restored, maintaining its original brickwork. The building's main entrance is flanked by fluted Ionic columns while a cornice decorated with dentils tops the structure.

6. Sargent & Son Funeral Home (21 Court St. N.)

**Constructed: 1940 Architect: Andrew Angus**
George Thomson and Lewis Sargent established Thomson and Sargent Funeral Directors together in 1922. Initially located in the Nelson Block on Cumberland St., they relocated to an 1880 era built home here at 21 Court St. N. in 1925. Lewis Sargent’s son Frank joined in the profession shortly thereafter, leading to the eventual buy-out of his existing partner and renaming the business Sargent and Son. In 1940 a brand new two-storey facility was built. Constructed of oak-bark tapistry brick trimmed with limestone, the building was designed to esude quiet dignity in a modern form. In 2007, the building next door was purchased as a reception centre; and in 2014, an addition was added to create the building seen today. The funeral home is still currently owned and operated by the Sargent family.

7. Courthouse Hotel (277 Camelot St.)

**Constructed: 1923-1924 Architect: Frank R. Heakes, Department of Public Works**
The first courthouse built in this part of the city dates back to 1876, a stone structure in the Greek Revival style that sat adjacent to the building we see today. In fact, the judge’s entrance of the new courthouse could not be completed until the old building had been demolished. Symmetrical in its design, the classical pediment, Corinthian columns, and central entryway give the building its ‘official’ look. The Superior Court of Justice relocated to the Thunder Bay Consolidated Courthouse on Miles Street in 2014. The building purchased at auction in 2016, underwent a five million dollar renovation to transform it into a boutique hotel. Opened in 2019, the Courthouse Hotel is a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation.

8. Whalen Building (34 Cumberland St. N.)

**Constructed: 1913 Architect: Brown & Vallance**
Prominent businessman James Whalen was determined to turn the twin cities into the “Chicago of the North.” With an aim to make Thunder Bay a major commercial and industrial centre, Whalen commissioned this building, Lakehead’s first skyscraper, in 1912. Eight stories tall and eight bays across, the Whalen Building is constructed in the Chicago school style using steel reinforced concrete and terra cotta facing on a granite foundation. The arches and fluted pilasters of the end bays on the first two storeys are ornately carved with lions, human heads, shields, and foliage. The eighth-story features arched windows and end bays topped by parapets.

9. Lyceum Theatre (12-22 Cumberland St. N.)

**Constructed: 1909 Architect: H. Russell-Hilton**
Commissioned by James Whalen and Associates, the Lyceum Theatre was initially built to accommodate travelling shows. The theatre was converted into a moving picture house in 1914. The two-storey structure is framed with brick facing and stone trim (visible in the lintels and quoins). Red brick arched surrounds top the bays of the second storey, with keystones and bearded faces. Pilasters featuring pineapple motifs within their capitals flank both the central bay and the façade ends. The large stone panel in the façade center is carved with the name “Lyceum”.

10. Prince Arthur Hotel (17 Cumberland St. N.)

**Constructed: 1911 Architect: J. D. Matheson; Warren and Wetmore**
Opened in 1911 by the Canadian Northern Railway, this six-storey stately brick and stone structure with its fine finishing and modern facilities was considered at the time the finest bell tower between Toronto and Winnipeg. Terraced gardens leading up from the lakeshore led to the Chicago School style hotel’s original main entrance. During the National Conference of the Great War Veterans Association held here in 1921, a presentation given by Madame Guearin, the “Papoy Lady of France,” resulted in the adoption of the yearly poppy campaign throughout Canada. This historic event is commemorated by a plaque found in the two-storey rotunda.

11. Andrew Block (204 Red River Rd.)

**Constructed: 1904 Architect: M.B. Aylesworth**
Thomas Nicolas Andrew commissioned this tall narrow commercial block in 1904 to house his business, the Peoples Building and Loan Association. Built of brick on a rectangular plan, the Andrew Block’s main decorative features are concentrated on the first floor facade. These classically inspired decorative elements in white stone include pilasters with relief carving at the capitals and lintels, as well as unfluted Doric columns at the entranceway. The flat roof of the building is concealed behind a parapet extending above a moulded cornice. There are three equally spaced openings in the parapet on the front facade which at one time were filled with balusters.

The Tour prepared by the Office of the City Clerk on behalf of the Heritage Advisory Committee, 2020.