12. St. Stanislaus School (212 Miles St. E.)

Constructed: 1902
Contractor: Berthaume
Architect: 1912 addition, Hood & Scott
Father Roger Arpin, named pastor of the St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1893, believed the best thing for Fort William was a Roman Catholic elementary school. His passion and persistence resulted in this Fort William's first separate school. The first floor held classes for 130 pupils, while the second storey acted as residence for the teachers. Constructed on a simple symmetrical plan, the school is made mainly of brick with a rubble stone foundation and a truncated hip roof. The most striking feature is the crenellated tower located above the arched main entrance.

13. James Murphy Coal Company (112 Simpson St.)

Constructed: 1903
Architect: J. C. Stinson
Known as the Murphy Block, this three-storey brick building was designed by architect John C. Stinson and constructed for James Murphy in 1904. It was home to James Murphy Coal Company, founded by Murphy in 1903, which became one of the leading fuel businesses in western Canada. The company consistently expanded by improving facilities, securing ample fuel businesses in western Canada. The railway companies were

14. Financial District (Victoria Ave. E. from Simpson to May St.)

Constructed: Early 1900s
Architect: Various
Victoria Avenue East once contained the bulk of the Fort William financial institutions. The northwest corner of Simpson and May was the site of Fort William's first bank, the Bank of Montreal, built in 1893 (since replaced: the Embassy Block at 400 Victoria Ave. E. was built in 1912 to house the Traders Bank of Canada. Architect Carl Wirth designed this striking building with its bright appearance. Wirth also designed Union Bank of Canada further along at 428 Victoria Ave. E., built in 1912 as well. By 1913 six of Fort William's ten financial institutions were all located within this one block of Victoria Ave.

15. Caledonia Building / Graham & Horne Block (409 Victoria Ave. E.)

Constructed: 1904
Architect: Carl Wirth
Built for Graham and Horne, this building was designed by Architect Carl Wirth. George A. Graham and John T. Horne established one of the first sawmills in Thunder Bay in the 1870s, later investing heavily into industries at the Lakehead. The building itself was constructed in two phases, the first in 1904 and the second between 1906 and 1908. Twenty-eight rooms were noted in the 1909 Henderson Directory with the Imperial Bank of Canada anchoring the corner store front. For many years this building also housed the Toronto Dominion Bank. The property, now known as the Caledonia Building, was restored in 2008, retaining many original features including woodwork, glass, and flooring.


Constructed: 1910-11
Architect: V.D. Horsburgh
Construction began in 1910 on this classical Beaux-Arts style bank. Opening in 1911, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was described as "something bank managers dream about but only occasionally attain."
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 the Lake shore and the western shore of Lake Superior. The City of Thunder Bay is built on a 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 Historic Métis Settlement.

1. **Brodie Resource Library** (216 Brodie St. S.)
   - **Constructed:** 1908
   - **Architect:** Hood & Scott
   - Built with a $50,000 grant received from the Carnegie Foundation in 1908, the Fort William Public Library, now known as the Brodie Resource Library, opened on April 29, 1912 under the direction of Fort William's first female librarian, Mary J. L. Black. Constructed of red brick and limestone, its main entrance marked by elaborate columns is topped by a parapet with ornamental scrols and the inscription “Public Library”. Beautiful stained glass depictions of authors such as Shakespeare and Dickens are encased within the arched windows and framed by prominent keystones. A stained glass depiction of Andrew Carnegie, originally above the main entrance, can be found on display in the library's lower level.

2. **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church** (207 Brodie St. S.)
   - **Constructed:** 1909
   - **Architect:** Stinson & Hood
   - Donated to the Presbyterians of Fort William by the McKellar family in 1899, this property was Fort William’s first Presbyterian church. By 1908, the congregation had grown. The original church, now too small, was moved to its current site (becoming Knox United Church) and a new church was built. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of today is constructed almost entirely of Simpson Island sandstone. The pointed arches and windows, two towers of uneven height, crenellated parapets, and corner buttresses of the church are all fashioned in a 14th century Gothic style. 17 memorial stained glass windows grace the church, the majority by renowned glaziers Russell Goodman and Yvonne Williams.

3. **Federal Office Building** (130 Syndicate Ave. S.)
   - **Constructed:** 1935
   - **Architect:** T. W. Fuller
   - Construction of this building was meant to stimulate the economy of Fort William and relieve unemployment during the Great Depression of 1930s. True to its Beaux-Arts design, the building shows attention to symmetry, proportion, and detail in its formal arches and windows spanning both the first and second floor. The home's brick porch is supported by square piers with arches along its foundation.

4. **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (211 Archibald St. S.)
   - **Constructed:** 1898
   - **Architect:** J. E. Rutledge
   - Situated on the block between 10th and 11th Street, the St. Patrick’s Cathedral was designed by J. E. Rutledge. The facade a unique, unbalanced appearance. The Coo family retained the property for additions were underway almost immediately after construction. Carved parapets of the multi-storey building give it the appearance of a building block, but the open covered porches identify it as an apartment building. Each of the porches is supported by black piers and decorated with multiple brackets and balusters. The bay windows flanking the main entrance and the cut-stone window sills and lintels give the building symmetry. With restoration work completed in the early 1990's, the Arlington Apartments are still in use as apartments today.

5. **Deese Building** / Fort William Grain Exchange (102 Victoria Ave. E.)
   - **View from Victoria Ave. E.**
   - This was the first apartment building built in the Lakehead. It proved so popular that plans for additions were underway almost immediately after construction. Carved parapets of the multi-storey building give it the appearance of a building block, but the open covered porches identify it as an apartment building. Each of the porches is supported by black piers and decorated with multiple brackets and balusters. The bay windows flanking the main entrance and the cut-stone window sills and lintels give the building symmetry. With restoration work completed in the early 1990's, the Arlington Apartments are still in use as apartments today.

6. **Federal Revenue Building** (201 May St. S.)
   - **Constructed:** 1913
   - **Architect:** H. E. Matthews
   - The pre-war years were a time of prosperity and optimism in Fort William. As one of the world’s largest grain-handling ports and a major trade and transportation point, the expansion of east-west trade and the economic importance of customs meant the city required an examination and customs warehouse. Styled in Beaux-Arts Classicism, this building is finished with Tyndall (Mamoth) limestone, containing numerous visible fossil, with granite ascents. Strong horizontal lines divide the building’s base body and ornament. The central pedimented entryway is flanked either side by two-storey paired pilasters separating arched top windows. The same paired pilasters continue on the north and south sides of the building. Recessed pilasters adorn the entryway and building corners.

7. **The Coo House** (135 Archibald St. N.)
   - **Constructed:** 1888
   - **Architect:** Edward M. Stephen
   - Finished with its corin roof topped with a white pointed finial. Oddly placed windows of various shapes give the façade a unique, unbalanced appearance. The Coo family retained ownership of this house until 1952. In the early 1980’s the home, then apartments, was converted into commercial use as it remains today.

8. **Arlington Apartments** (230 Brodie St. N.)
   - **Constructed:** 1913
   - **Architect:** R. E. Mason
   - Designed by R. E. Mason, Charles Jenkins constructed this building in 1913 becoming not only its first owner but also its first tenant. The building was made famous by its retail tenant and eventual owner. Chapples Limited opened on Friday November 13, 1913 in the main floor and basement level, as the largest department store in Western Canada.

9. **Smith Block** (325 May St.)
   - **Proposed architect:** John Russel Smith
   - Named for John and Charles Wesley who brought Methodism to the Americas, this church was built in 1910. The first record of a Methodist service in Fort William, however, dates back to 1885, with the first church built in 1891 - Grace Methodist Church. 19 years later, the congregation, too large for Grace Methodist, built this new church. The architectural style is Romansque with Gothic Revival, with its emphases on square shapes and verticality. We see this also in the triplets of lancet windows, cut stone hood molding on both square towers, and the rampant copping to the roof. Inside the church is a magnificent 2,500 pipe organ in the English Romantic style. The church’s Memorial Hall was added in 1947.

10. **Lewis United Church** (320 Brodie St. N.)
    - **Proposed architect:** J. C. Stinson
    - John Russell Smith, for whom this building was named, was the first owner and likely the commissioner of its construction. He was also, for a time, the owner of the popular Arthur Daily News. This three-storey commercial block was designed to suit its corner location with Taperity brick (brick used to create a pattern effect), the building also features stone detailing for its window sills and row of dentils underneath the cornice. Stone lintels crown the third-storey windows, while a stone string course winds around the building above the second-storey windows.

Please respect private property and view all properties from the sidewalk. Further information about heritage properties in Thunder Bay as well as the Heritage Advisory Committee can be found at www.thunderbay.ca/heritage.

The tour is provided by the City of Thunder Bay's Heritage Advisory Committee.