

12. Atkinson's Jewelers (8 Cumberland St. S.)



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. They commissioned this three-storey Beaux Arts and Classical Revivalist style building as a more substantial Port Arthur location after successfully branching into Fort William. Upon the bank's closure in 1914, the Canada Permanent Mortgage Co. 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 1901 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 brackets at the roofline. A restoration project completed in the 1980's 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 with dentil ornaments. "Bank of Montreal" carved in the frieze would have been added after the Bank of Montreal absorbed the bank in 1925. The circa 1926 one-storey addition was designed to coordinate with the original structure.

15. Emerson Block (17 Cumberland St. S.)



Constructed: 1901 **Architect:** James A. Ellis
Built to house Wells and Emerson, a hardware store praised as "the finest store in the great west", the J.T. Emerson Block is faced with Verte Island stone on the first-storey, while red sandstone from Portage Entry was used for the moulded lintels and sills on the second storey. The original portion of the building 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 (9 Cumberland St. S.)



Constructed: 1889 **Architect:** James A. Ellis
Robert Mitchell, who had arrived at the lakehead in 1871, commissioned this building in 1889. It is one of the earliest brick structures still standing 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 intended use as a commercial block with living quarters above has remained. 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 those same arches and the moulded cornice.

17. Publicity Pagoda (170 Red River Rd.)



Constructed: 1909 **Architect:** H. Russell Halton
Constructed 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 ogee 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 ornament of good luck. The Pagoda is the oldest continuously 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 Ojibwa (Sibley Peninsula, across the harbour)



Thunder Bay's most well-known natural wonder! Resembling a man sleeping on his back, the Sleeping Giant can be seen from numerous vantage points around the city. The landmass itself 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-Ojibwa legends associate the site with the Nanabijou, Original Man or the Spirit of the Deep Sea 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, the building served as a seasonal art 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 a modern open-concept space used as a community arts and events facility now known as the Baggage Building Arts Centre.

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 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 Gorrie
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 Métis Nation. The area, constructed to honour and re-establish the Anishinaabe communities that have inhabited this area for over 9,000 years, is a place where local Indigenous artistry, culture, 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 1909 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 unmanned 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, 197.8 foot 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 Kingston, Ontario, before being purchased by 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.



Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour:
THUNDER BAY WATERFRONT AND NORTH CORE
(Formerly Downtown Port Arthur)



TOUR MAP



- 1 CNR Caboose 78175

2 Gathering Table*

3 Paramount Theatre*

4 Ruttan Block*

5 Court Street Fire Hall**

6 Sargent & Son Funeral Chapel

7 Courthouse Hotel*

8 Whalen Building**

9 Lyceum Theatre*

10 Prince Arthur Hotel*

11 Andrew Block

12 Atkinson's Jewellers*
- 13 Ottawa House**

14 Bank of Montreal*

15 Emmerson Block

16 Mitchell Block

17 Pagoda**

18 The Sleeping Giant

19 CPR Freight Office

20 CN Station**

21 Celebration Circle

22 Thunder Bay Main Lighthouse*

23 Alexander Henry

*denotes a property listed on the Heritage Registry ** denotes a property as designated on the Heritage Registry

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

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 Ojibwa people inhabited this western shore of Lake Superior. The City of Thunder Bay is built on the traditional territory of the Ojibwa people of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. This area is also recognized as a historic Métis settlement.

1. CNR Caboose 78175 (Pearl St. entrance, Marina Park)



Constructed: 1929
Contractor: Canadian National's Transcona (Winnipeg, MB) Shops
For nearly sixty years, Caboose 78175 served the Canadian National Railway, most likely running between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Upon her retirement in the 1980's, Caboose 78175 was gifted to Thunder Bay. In 1991, she was put on display here at Marina Park. During a 2016 restoration the Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society was created to care for the Caboose. This volunteer group, now its owners, has restored her to the glory days of serving the CNR. Restoration included repairs to the internal structure, restoring windows, rebuilding the cupola, toolbox, and roof walks. The exterior has been painted and lettered to 1956 CNR specifications.

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 southern entrance has seen two additions, each with a lower roofline 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 Sheila Burnford'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 décor, 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 Wirth (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 adjoining 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.

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. N., 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 tapestry brick trimmed with limestone, the building was designed to exude 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 in 2016, underwent an extensive 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 this dream a reality, 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 Halton
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-story structure is steel framed with brick facing and stone trim (visible in the lintels and quoins). Red brick arched surrounds top the five bays of the second storey, with keystones of 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 hotel 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 Guerin, the “Poppy 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 façade which at one time were filled with balusters.