

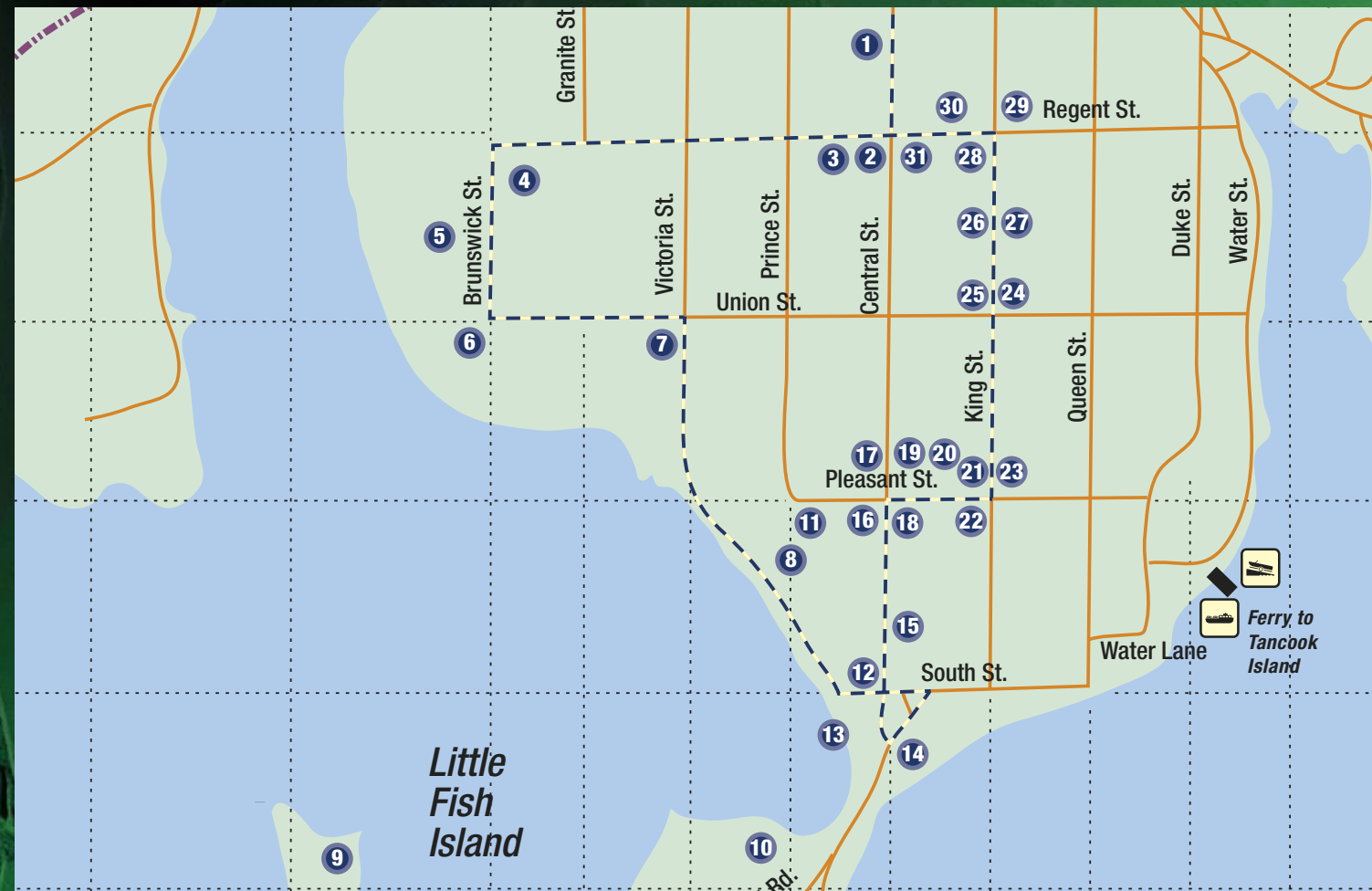
CEMETERY MUSEUM CHURCH WALK



CHESTER NOVA SCOTIA
www.chesterns.com



NOVA SCOTIA
Tourism, Culture
& Heritage



1 Park at the Chester Fire Hall on Central Street. The original fire hall was built in 1936 and burned to the ground on March 8, 1959. It was rebuilt in the same year. The current fire department is composed of both male and female volunteer fire fighters. Turn right on Central Street.

2 **Lordly Manor**, circa 1806, on the corner of Central and Regent Streets, is a good example of Georgian architecture. It was originally built for Captain McCurdy and known as "Evergreen Hall". It later became the home of Charles Lordly and his son Edwin, the first two Municipal Clerks of the Municipality of Chester.



Lordly House Museum

3 "Maple Cottage", next to the Lordly Manor, was the first Municipal Office for the Municipality of the District of Chester. The original safe is still in existence today.

4 Proceeding west, cross Victoria Street and go past Granite Street. The house on the corner of Regent and Brunswick Streets, surrounded by trees, is thought to have been the original **Catholic Glebe House**. This section of land was known as Smith's Point.

5 Turn left onto Brunswick Street. The **Old Baptist Burying Ground** is the oldest cemetery in the village. The oldest tombstone in this cemetery belongs to Sarah Levy, wife of Nathan Levy, and her daughter, dated July 3, 1771.

6 Continue along Brunswick Street to Union Street. Look to your right and you can see the back of a house originally known as "**The Jib House**," built by Lindley Keasby circa 1902. The house was designed to remind his bride of her southern U.S. home. It features four large Doric-style pillars, which support the pediment portico. It overlooks the Back Harbour.

7 Turn left on to Union Street and then right on to Victoria Street. "**Paradise Found**," formerly known as "**Millstone**," is to your right. This house was built by John Miller, a Scottish timber baron.

8 Proceed to the water, on the left is the **Jib Lot Park**, which was given to the village by Clarissa Anderson Gibbs. Its name comes from the shape of the lot, which is the same shape as a sailboat's jib. A Fireman's Memorial is located in this park. Stop and have a seat and view the Back Harbour.

9 The small island with the house on it in front of you is called **Little Fish**. It has been the summer home of Dr. John Finney's family since 1904. He purchased the island from Col. Bingham. Dr. Finney chose this location because he felt it was far enough away so that he couldn't be called back for consultations.

10 To the left you can see the western side of **Freda's Peninsula** and the summer homes that line the shore. It was once three farm lots owned by the Fredas. In the beginning you could only reach the peninsula at low tide. Later it was connected by a bridge, built in 1864-1865, and a canal to permit boats to move underneath. This bridge was replaced in 1965 with a larger bridge and a deeper canal.

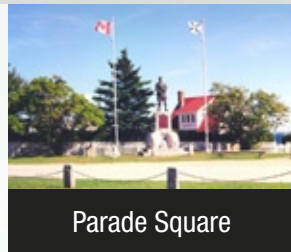
11 Turn around and look above the park to the large green house. "**Over the Way**", circa 1908, was originally built for Dr. Andrew Anderson in just three months as a summer residence. It is still owned by a family member.

12 Continue along Victoria Street to the corner of South Street. The former **Captain's House**, circa 1818, was a restaurant and inn built by Mr. Gowan. A horse stable and a coach house were nearby.

13 Further along Victoria Street is the **Lido**, a salt-water pool and **King's Wharf**. The Lido was a centennial project of the municipality and is now used by the public for swimming during the summer months. This is a favorite area for viewing the western sky at sunset.

14 **Parade Square**, with its sundial, gardens and war memorials was once called "**Market Square**". The statue was designed by J. Massey Rhind. The base and steps of the statue were cut from the same granite boulder by Wakefield Zinck. It was unveiled on August 22, 1922. The Norwegian Monument erected in 1995 by the Norwegian Government, expresses their gratitude to the people of Chester for their aid during WW II. The bandstand, moved here in 1908 from its original position on Queen Street, is a pleasant spot where you can watch the yacht races or listen to a Sunday

night concert by the Chester Brass Band. Adjacent to the square is the **Cavendish House**, circa 1928. The house sits on one of the first crown grants made to Capt. John Kinghorn in 1765 and was known as the Kinghorn Grant. The house was owned by John Henneberry, a cooper. It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by James David Houghton in 1928. George Cavendish, a member of the family from which the property derives its current name, was a schoolmate of George VI and he was invited to attend his coronation.



Parade Square

15 Leave the *Parade Square* moving north on Central Street. To the right is the "**Sheet Anchor House**", circa 1779, originally built for Casper Woolenhaupt. It was used as an Anglican Rectory from 1796 to 1855. The house contained a chapel used before the church was erected. Plans to erect a church on the lot in front of the house were changed. The church was erected in its present position on Regent Street. Eventually the house was sold and became a private residence. For a short period of time the house was used as an annex of the "*Captain's House*" across the street as a bed and breakfast.

16 Continue up the hill. The house that sits to the left on the corner of Central and Pleasant Streets was built by Samuel Prescott, a doctor and merchant and the son of Capt. Jonathan Prescott, one of the founding fathers of Chester. It is an example of a 1½ story Gothic Revival building. It is possible that Samuel may have been the boy who asked where 100 men from the local militia should be billeted during a privateer attack on the town. It was later owned by the Reverends Robert D. Clarke and Wright Shreve. Reverend Robert Clarke was the founder of the second Masonic Lodge, Clarke Lodge #61, which held its first meeting on December 29, 1870.

17 Opposite the Prescott-Clarke House on the corner is "**Tamarack**", an annex of the **Hackmatack Inn**, which was located in the now-empty field behind this house. The tennis courts were located between the house and the main inn. Some of the trees on this lot are tamaracks. Turn right on to Pleasant Street.

18 On the corner, to your right is **The Charles Saunders' House**, circa 1824, later owned by Captain Mills, who used the rear section of the second floor as a sail loft and the front of the house as a residence.

19 Across the street is the former home of George Mitchell, built circa 1890. He made his living by supplying a horse and buggy conveyance for the Hackmatack and other hotels in the village. This house was the site of the first public school in Chester.

20 Continue right, down "**Vinegar Hill**"; the third house on the left is the "**Edward Gorman House**", circa 1830. The Gorman family ran a large dry goods and general store on Queen Street in the village. It was at one time the largest store of its kind in Nova Scotia. The business operated from circa 1880 to 1903.

21 The building on the corner of Pleasant and King Streets was the original site of the "**Warp and Woof**," a well-known gift store. **Flowers, Flowers, Flowers** currently occupies this site. This is a registered heritage property.

22 On the opposite corner is an example of Second Empire style architecture, circa 1865. It once housed Swedish soldiers during WW II. It was also used to quarantine a family suspected of having TB or diphtheria. It was known as **Quedah Lodge**. Today, the building is a studio gallery owned by artist Jose Valverde.

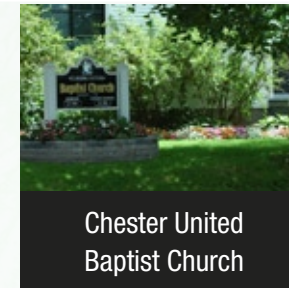
23 **Nicki's Inn** is a popular restaurant located on the corner of King and Pleasant Streets. Turn left on King Street. The second house on the right belonged to Charles Hilchie, who was a ship builder. The house was built in 1857. His shop was located where the Yacht Club now stands.

24 Continue up King Street to the corner of Union Street. The **J. Nauss House**, built circa 1864, was the former site of the home of Captain Prescott who helped save Chester from an American privateer attack in 1782.

25 On the opposite corner, surrounded by a stonewall, is the **James Mills House**, circa 1850. Mr. Mills was a shoemaker and the grandfather of the founder of Mills Brother's store in Halifax.

26 Continue up the street; next to the Mills' House is the **DeWitt House**, circa 1860. It is an example of picturesque architecture, an interpretation of Gothic Revival, utilizing decorative trim, steeply pitched gables and lapped siding. It was used as a boarding house and is now a private residence.

27 The house just beyond the **Chester United Baptist Church**, circa 1880, was built by Dr. Fred W. Kelley. It was purchased by a Swedish couple and became known locally as the "**Swedish Inn**". It is now known as "**Tall Ships Inn**" and is a private residence.



Chester United Baptist Church

28 Continue up King Street to **St. Augustine's Catholic Church**. This is the second oldest Catholic Church in Lunenburg County, built in 1846, by Mr. Schmitt, under the leadership of the Reverend Edward Doyle. The cemetery is the final resting place of Indian Joe, whose grandfather was one of the guides who led General Wolfe on his expedition to Quebec.



St. Augustine's Catholic Church

29 Diagonally across, on the opposite corner, is the **Stanford House** built by William Marvin, a carpenter, circa 1864. It has a pitched-hipped roof and is an example of late Georgian style. Dr. Stanford was the local dentist who kept his appointments written on the walls of his office. His wife, Lucy, maintained the deeds office until 1957. It is said the Dr. Stanford's fillings never fell out. He pried the teeth apart, inserting the filling and then allowed the teeth to settle back in place.

30 Turn left on to Regent Street. On the right is **St. Stephen's Anglican Church** built in 1795. This is the second church on this site. The congregation held Sunday services in the original church until 1840. They tore down the building on June 21st and laid a new corner stone. On June 25th the frame for the second church was raised and by June 27th the new church was ready and used for

Sunday service. It cost 1,100 pounds. The cross in the church is made from wood salvaged from the ship "**Young Teazer**", and two members of her crew are buried in the churchyard near the fence on Regent Street. The Reverend Seccombe, one of the first ministers to this area, is buried in this churchyard and his journals are still used for reference today. **The Church Hall**, circa 1845, was used as a school until 1870. A new Parish Centre was built in 2008.



St. Stephen's Anglican Church

31 **The Zoe Vallé Library and Tower** are on the left. The tower, circa 1902, was erected by the Lightfoote family and used to view the yacht races during high summer months. The Cape Cod style house, circa 1800, with its wide front door, flagstone walk and the dug well remain as they were. It belonged to Capt. J. Allen who, in 1864, sold it to John A. Webber (Deputy Sheriff in 1875). He sold it to Mrs. Lightfoote around 1902. The library is a gift from Mrs. Isobel Austin, New York, in memory of Mrs. Zoe Vallé Lightfoote, her sister, with the stipulation that a fund be raised to take care of the maintenance.



Zoe Vallé Library

Produced by: The Chester Municipal Heritage Society
by: C.A. Nauss, Presentations, Chester, NS
Research by: Sharon Houghton & Edward Rutherford
Reprinted by: The Chester Municipal Chamber of Commerce – 2008
Photos by: Jim Barkhouse, Chester, NS