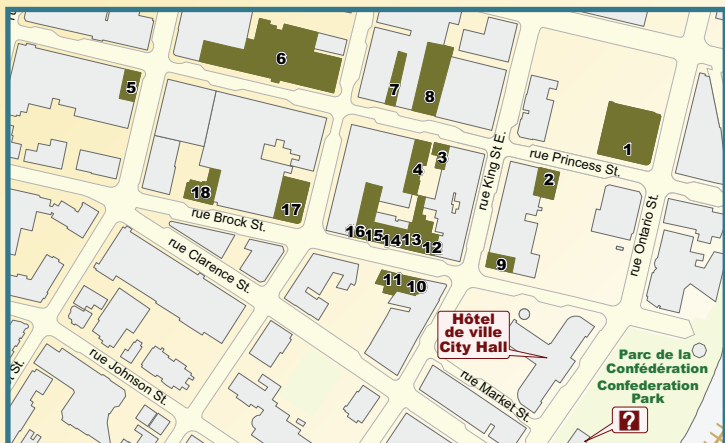


Free A Walking Tour: KINGSTON

Princess Street and Brock Street, Kingston

A tour through the old Kingston business district. Estimated walking time is 45 minutes including the return to the starting point at the Visitor Information Centre.



Starting from the Visitor Information Centre, cross Ontario St., turn right and proceed north a block and a half to the corner of Ontario and Princess Streets. Look across Princess St.

1 27 Princess St. The original part of this imposing commercial building, the west seven windows on Princess St., was built about 1820. It was a combined grocery store and home for the grocer. In 1841, architect George Browne added to it with five windows each side of a rounded corner (one of three buildings with round corners he designed in the city; see #17 below for another one). It then consisted of three stores with housing above. The building was later used as a piano factory and to manufacture vehicles. It was completely gutted by fire in 1908. Only the walls were left. Rebuilt, it became an army barracks during World War II; and from 1959 to 2009, the S&R Department Store.



Cross Princess St., turn left and walk west (uphill and away from the harbour). Look across the street.

2 44 Princess St. (Pan Chanco). Built in 1833, interesting features of this building include the open colonnade that is now filled in with show windows, and above the much-changed first floor, you can see a classical stone building, with large 24-pane windows inside arches. The building first served as a bank and later became the office of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Cross King St. E.

3 68 Princess St. This 1893 brick façade conceals an 1820 stone house. Look up and you will see a high central gable with the 1893 date and an arch with an intricate brick design. William Newlands designed the new façade.



Enjoy this historical City of Kingston Walking Tour. Look for more Walking Tours in this series.



As a result of frequent fires that burned down many of the wooden buildings, all new construction in the downtown area after 1847 had to be built with limestone that was easily found in the immediate area, or with brick.

4 70-74 Princess St. (Namaste and Modern Primitive). Known as the Rochleau House, it was built in 1808 by François Xavier Rochleau who left his mark 'F.X.R. 1808' high up on the fire-break wall next to the passage-way facing Princess St. The first floor has been modified greatly over the years.



Cross Wellington St. Continue up Princess St. Stop at the corner of Bagot St. Look ahead of you and diagonally across Princess to your left.

5 156 Princess St. (Novel Idea). Now a bookstore, this is an 1842 building, five windows wide on Princess and four deep on Bagot St. It is hammer dressed stone with a projecting stone band. There are stone arches (voussoirs) above the windows.



Cross Princess St., turn left and walk half a block downhill towards the harbour. Look across Princess St.

6 101-139 Princess St. Most of these buildings were built after an 1851 fire destroyed the block. Note the unity of design above the modernised first floors (the upper storey of 113-117 was destroyed in a 1940 fire). #101 (Tweed & Hickory) was built in 1841-42 as a grocery store. #105 (Chumleigh's) was built in 1852-53. #111 (Golden Rooster) by 1857 for a shoe-making business. #123-129, built in 1854, originally housed a grocer, a chair maker and a shoe maker. #131-139 was built in 1851 as a hotel with stables for 100 horses and sheds for 35 carriages.



Continue down the street. Cross Wellington St. and look across Princess St.

7 85 Princess St. (Wayfarer Books). This was built as a house by 1840. In 1845 its brick walls stopped a fire that was spreading east from Wellington St. Notice the upper storey double-hung sash windows each with 24 panes and above them the blind arcade of twelve 'windows' beneath the cornice.



8 75-77 Princess St. (Vandervoort General Store and Frontenac Jewellers). Originally built in 1820 as a coffee house to attract the stagecoach traffic on the York (Toronto) to Montréal route, it had a large enclosed yard for circuses, etc. It has housed a library; a ballroom; a military hospital; a grammar school; a hardware store; and today, a general store with an art gallery and apartments. This is a good example of a solid stone commercial building that has been adapted through the years.



Please respect private property.

Other tours available in this series include:

- Earl St. – one of the oldest streets in Kingston
- John & Joseph Power – featuring some of the buildings designed by these prominent Kingston architects
- King St. – the ‘ceremonial’ entrance to Kingston’s downtown
- Ontario St. – the waterfront of old Kingston
- Wellington St. – through the heart of old Sydenham Ward

Turn right at the corner of King St. Proceed one block south to the corner of Brock St. Look across King St.

9 37-43 Brock St. (Olivea).

William Coverdale designed this building in 1856 – one of three similar buildings he designed around what is now called Springer Market Square. The second one was on the corner where you are standing and where an empty 1960s building now stands. The third one was where the Bank of Montreal is now located on the other side of the square. Together, they made the square an imposing commercial centre. The use of brick was a deliberate contrast to the many limestone buildings in Kingston. It is called the ‘Anchor Building’ after the name of an insurance company that was one of the first tenants.



Look up Brock St. on the other side.

10 56-60 Brock St. (Unique Imports and Designer Baby). This 1839 two-storey stone building was first built with a frame façade. A new façade and third storey were added in 1912 to better blend with the adjacent bank. There are two recessed entrances with show windows. The central entrance has a semi-circular arched transom.



11 62-66 Brock St. (Accent the Details, As the Plot Thickens). These are amongst the oldest buildings downtown. They were built as a frame house sometime between 1825 and 1828. The street level of the house was later divided in two with housing above and given a brick façade. Notice the faucet above the door of #66. There were tinsmithing, steam fitting and plumbing shops here for over 150 years. This building has been restored by the Frontenac Heritage Foundation.

Cross Brock St. Turn right and proceed uphill away from the harbour. Look across the street.

12 55-61 Brock St. (Hardy Har Har, Oderin Kitchen Supplies and Cooke’s Fine Foods). Despite appearances, this is a single building that was deliberately built in two sections about 1865. Notice the second floor windows. #55 has a carriageway (square-headed at the front, arched at the rear) and 24-paned windows. It has 2½ small storeys with small upper windows. #57-61 is two full storeys high and has large windows. Over #61’s doorway, you will see the stained-glass sign bearing the name “Henderson”, the brothers who owned the “Italian Warehouse” here before 1924. Today it is still a grocery store with a Victorian atmosphere.



13 65-69 Brock St. (Trugs, Chien Noir) was designed by William Newlands

in 1885 and built of brick and stone. There is a recessed entrance at each end and a carriageway in the middle. The higher you look, the more decoration there is in the brickwork. There was originally a plumbing supplies business here.



14 71 Brock St. (Atomica) is another 1885 Newlands building. Note the round-headed windows and the decorative brickwork.



15 73-75 Brock St. (Sacred Source and Cunningham & Poupore). Built of brick in 1885, this building has been occupied by tailors, dressmakers and clothing stores. It has irregular windows and an off-centre raised parapet to emphasize the main part of the building. Notice the abundance of elaborate decoration, especially in the brickwork.

16 77 Brock St. (Birds ‘N Paws). This 1882 building replaced an earlier one where the Daily British Whig (now The Kingston Whig-Standard) had its offices. The “Whig” is Canada’s oldest continuously published daily newspaper (1834). Notice the large second storey window with keystone and the semi-circular arched windows on the third floor.

When you come to Wellington St. look ahead of you and diagonally across Wellington St.

17 Corner of Brock and Wellington Streets (Scotiabank).

George Browne designed this 1842 building as a series of arches. It is one of three he built in Kingston with a round corner (see #1 above for another). In 1972 architect Wilfred Sorenson restored the building which extends for 13 windows north on Wellington St. The narrow attic windows appear to be original.



Cross Wellington St. and continue west (away from the harbour).

18 125 Brock St. (Queen’s Inn). The hotel was built in 1840-42 as three separate buildings (the fire walls protruding through the roof show the divisions). The eastern (your right) one has its windows and roof out of line with the others. A cornice with dentils (teeth) runs the length of the first storey and unites the three buildings.



Behind you, in the small triangle of land between Brock and Clarence Streets, is a cast iron horse-watering trough. It is a reminder of times before the automobile.

Return down Brock St. to Ontario St. from where you can see the Visitor Information Centre across the street to your right.

