

# explore



CITY OF HAMILTON  
WALKWAY OF HISTORY

# hamilton



# adventure

## WALKWAY OF HISTORY

As part of Bermuda's 400th Anniversary in 2009, a Walkway of History was created around the City of Hamilton. Plaques were installed on the sidewalk at various points along the route to identify important sites of architectural, social, cultural or historical significance in the City.

The self-guided tour starts and ends on Church Street in front of the City Hall, just west of the Hamilton bus terminal. It is designed as a circular walking tour and may be taken as a whole or in parts. Numbered items in this brochure correspond to the numbers on the plaques set into the sidewalk as you follow the route.

It is recommended that you allow at least two hours for the complete tour. Please respect the privacy of the owners and occupants of the buildings.

Black and white pictures are archival and correspond to buildings that have been demolished.



*Details were correct at the time of going to press but changes may have occurred since.*

# buildings

## 1. CHURCH STREET IN FRONT OF CITY HALL

The City Hall was designed by Bermudian architect Wilfred Onions and completed in 1960. It sits on the site of the former Hamilton Hotel, Bermuda's first major hotel (cornerstone laid 1852). During World War II the hotel became a recreation centre called the United Services Club for Allied servicemen, merchant mariners and workers constructing the United States bases in Bermuda. It later housed several government departments until it was destroyed by fire in 1955.



*City Hall*



The sculpture, *When Voices Rise*, commemorates the 1959 Theatre Boycott of cinemas in this area. The Boycott was spearheaded by the Progressive Group. This movement brought about a dramatic change in racial equality for Bermuda.



*Zion Methodist Chapel*

The sidewalk in front of the City Hall is known as Nellie's Walk in memory of Helen (Nellie) Rees, suffragette and animal lover, who in the early 20th century was largely responsible for tree planting in Hamilton. A plaque says that 'her enthusiasm and efforts over many years contributed greatly to beautifying the city'. Prior to the Hamilton Hotel, the first Methodist Church in Bermuda, known as Zion Chapel and opened by the reformist preacher Joshua Marsden in 1810, stood in the area of the newly created Wesley Square. It remained there until 1875 when the Methodists built their new church at its present location further east along Church Street. In the park stands a monument by the noted sculptor, Chesley Trott, installed as part of the 400th Anniversary celebrations.

# city parks

The Band Stand at Victoria Park



## 2. EASTERN GATE OF VICTORIA PARK ON CEDAR AVENUE

Victoria Park was developed in 1889 in what had been a low-lying boggy area called Deane's Bottom after Alfred Deane whose Springfield Academy (founded 1848) students had used the area as their playground. The bandstand was sent from Scotland to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee and soon became a popular venue for military and other concerts.

It was dismantled and underwent major renovations in 2008. Upon reinstallation, a time capsule was inserted into one of its pillars. The park also contains a memorial to members of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps (an infantry unit raised in 1895 to supplement the British Garrison at Prospect Camp) killed in World Wars I and II. A high proportion of Bermudians who served gave their lives.

# travel



*Queen's Club*



*Cedarville*

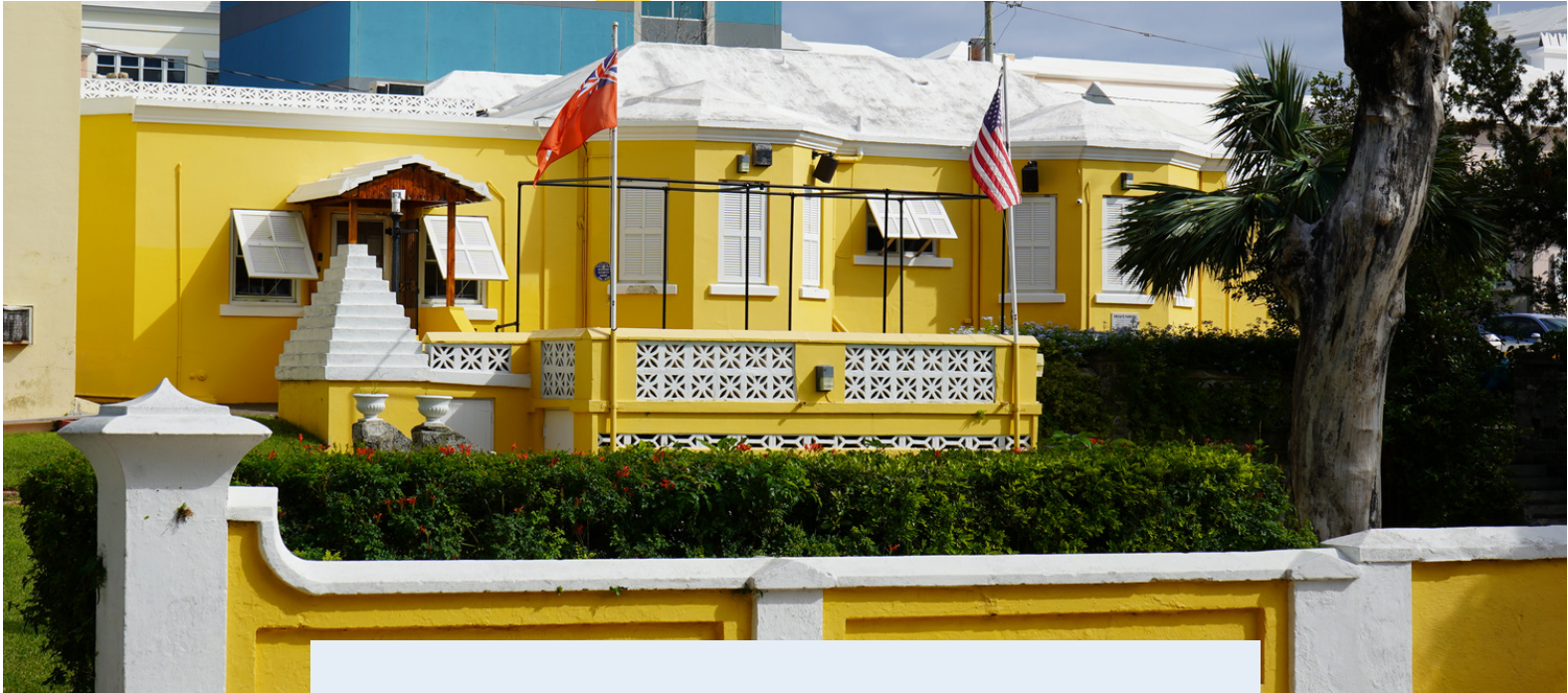
As you reach Cedar Avenue, to the right on the corner with Victoria Street is the Queen's Club, once Park House.

It was the home of Dr W. E. Tucker, an outstanding rugby player and prominent physician of the early 20th century, and his wife Henrietta Hutchings, a well-known suffragette (see No. 13 for other doctors who lived or worked on or near Victoria Street).

Opposite the Cedar Avenue park gate stood Cedarville, typical of the grand houses that once lined the street. It was the home of merchant James Adam Conyers and the childhood home of his son, Sir Reginald Conyers, one-time Speaker of the House of Assembly and founder of one of Bermuda's most prominent law firms.

# explore

The Leopards Club



## 3. CEDAR AVENUE

On the east side of Cedar Avenue is the Leopards Club, founded in February 1949. The house was built about 1850 as a private home by Samuel Prudden Watson, merchant, United States consular agent and member for Pembroke in the House of Assembly. Somewhat changed architecturally, the building is now a club, a place for political education and a site for black entrepreneurship and entertainment. The street behind it to the east is Brunswick Street where Brunswick Hall began life as a modest hotel in the early days of tourism in Bermuda. Later it was the site of various enterprises of the Joell family, a prominent black family of the period.

Here and to the east along Angle Street was a myriad of small dry goods stores with immigrants living above.

## 4. CORNER OF CEDAR AVENUE AND ANGLE STREET

Designed by Lawrence Smart and built in 1931 in Spanish style, St. Theresa's Cathedral is the spiritual home of Bermuda's Roman Catholics. The tower, surmounted by a 13-foot aluminium cross with its life-size statue of St. Theresa in its niche, was added in 1947.



*St. Theresa's Cathedral*



*The Centre*

The former Pembroke Sunday School was built in the 1820s and extended in 1882 to the design of Dr Henry Hinson, whose work is evident in a number of Bermuda's parish churches and St. Paul AME (see No. 13). Now a community centre, it is appropriately called 'The Centre'.

## 5. JUNCTION OF NORTH AND ANGLE STREETS

# churches

# discover

## 6. CORNER OF ANGLE AND COURT STREET

*Alaska Hall*



Alaska Hall, now the headquarters of the Progressive Labour Party, was built as a lodge in 1896 by the Working Men's Aid & Helping Society and the Ladies of Industry. It was the home of The Berkeley Institute Ladies' School under Edith Crawford from 1908 until 1928 when Central School in Pembroke was opened. The Berkeley Educational Society had been formed in 1879 by black business leaders including Samuel David Robinson (see No. 7).

In 1897 The Berkeley Institute opened with the intention of educating both blacks and whites after the spirit of Bishop George Berkeley, who, in 1725 promoted a college in Bermuda to educate English settlers and native Americans. The Berkeley's first home was in the since-demolished Samaritans' Lodge in what is now a parking lot on the eastern junction of Court and Elliott Streets.

*Samaritans' Lodge*





# buildings



*Victoria Terrace, 13–25 Princess Street*



*11 Princess Street*



*Hilltop, 14 Princess Street*



*Wantley, 20 Princess Street*

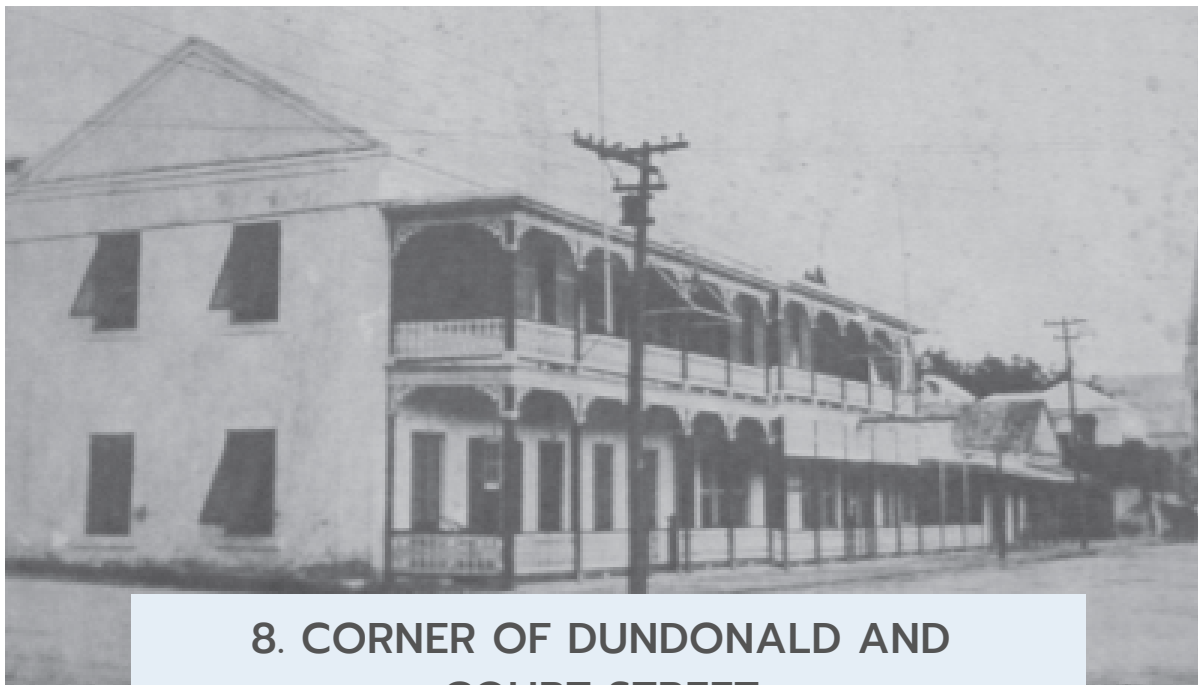
## 7. CORNER OF ELLIOTT AND PRINCESS STREETS

On the northeast corner is 11 Princess Street, with a rare surviving example of a double outside staircase from the days when the residents above needed entrances separate from the stores below. It was probably built after 1899 by blacksmith John Greenslade. On the southwest corner is Hilltop with its attractive Victorian woodwork, built by either Mary Elizabeth Richardson or her son-in-law, tailor/clerk Agnew Strachan Eve, around 1896 when he married her daughter. The Stovell family has owned it since 1937. To the west of Hilltop was Parker's Hill, now completely excavated but in its time a well-known place to fly kites on Good Friday.

On the left is Victoria Terrace. Also known as Robinson's Range, it was built in 1881 by Samuel David Robinson to provide a rental income for his daughters and was Bermuda's first stone apartment building. On the western side of Princess Street, a little way to the south, is Wantley, its fine verandah one of the best surviving examples in Hamilton. It was built in the 1870s by Samuel David Robinson who was co-founder of The Berkeley Institute and who also built The Arcade on Burnaby Street (see No. 24).

# nistory

Cedarville



## 8. CORNER OF DUNDONALD AND COURT STREET

Hamilton's streets did not acquire names until 1849. Dundonald Street was once known as the 5th Longitudinal Street because it was the fifth street north of Hamilton Harbour.

Streets at right angles to the harbour were known as cross streets and also given numbers. On the southeast corner is Finsbury with another fine verandah and original fanlights. It was built by Samuel David Robinson's brother, businessman Joseph Henry Robinson, builder of the Emporium on Front Street (see No. 20). A similar house called The Oleanders, also owned by the Robinsons, was demolished during the straightening of Dundonald Street in the 1970s. Court Street (formerly the 3rd Cross Street) extends from the Old Town Hall on Front Street (see No. 16) north to Till's Hill above Pembroke Marsh and this section has long been the centre of black entrepreneurial activity.

# discover

## 9. DR E.F. GORDON SQUARE ON DUNDONALD STREET

*E.F. Gordon Square Monument*



*Franklyn Lodge, 30 Union Street*

Named after Dr Edgar Fitzgerald Gordon, charismatic labour leader of the 1940s (see No. 11 for his home) and the site of the Bermuda Industrial Union's offices and many historic rallies, the square is at the eastern edge of what once was 'Crissons Hill', another popular place to fly kites and colloquially named after the Christensen family who kept a grocery store at 55 Dundonald Street just north of the square.

A short way to the north is Franklyn Lodge at 30 Union Street. The building was willed to the Bermuda Nursing Association by Blanche Smith and its rents were used to help finance black students in the medical professions. It is now a boarding house. The oldest part of the building appears to have been built by master stone cutter Enfield Dill after 1846 when he bought the land. At that time he was president of the Young Men's Friendly Institution of Pembroke and the Bermuda Friendly Society Orders met here. In the 1870s Jairus Swan's school was here.

# explore

Maria Benn's House



## 10. CORNER OF ELLIOT AND KING STREET

On the corner of Elliott and King Streets is the house formerly owned by Maria Benn who is remembered for the community block parties she ran in the 1970s and 1980s. The house was built by the Gauntlett family and survives little altered. Other black-owned businesses have flourished in this area, including that of Alpheaus 'Artie' Black who started as a small blacksmith in 1953 and now has a large flourishing metal and autobody working business. This was part of a self-contained social/commercial hub for the area in the 1950s. Opposite No. 10 is the driveway to the Sunshine League, a home for children in need of help (see No. 21).

# adventure

## 11. CORNER OF KING STREET AND VICTORIA STREET

A detour may be taken from this point to Fort Hamilton. Although the fort directly overlooks the city it was constructed by the Royal Engineers in the 1860s to 1880s as one of a series of forts designed to protect the Royal Naval Dockyard at Ireland Island in case of a land invasion by the United States of America. Not one shot was ever fired in anger from any of these forts. At one time fallen into disrepair, Fort Hamilton, although not within the city limits, is now maintained by the City of Hamilton as a cultural site with an attractive moat garden and magnificent views of Hamilton and her approaches.

Beulah at 79 Victoria Street was the home of Dr E.F. Gordon (see No. 9). He bought the house in 1942 from the family of Reverend Andrew Burrows of nearby St Andrew's Church. Reverend Burrows had built it sometime after 1900. Opposite is the Ex-Artillerymen's Association clubhouse. During both World Wars, many black Bermudians joined the Bermuda Militia Artillery and served overseas, with many losing their lives. The BMA was formed in 1895 to supplement the Royal Artillery in manning Bermuda's forts and guns. The house itself, partly built in the mid-1800s, was once the home of schoolteacher and first chairman of the Berkeley Educational Society, Joseph Henry Thomas, father-in-law of Samuel David Robinson.

*Fort Hamilton*



*Beulah, 79 Victoria Street*



*Ex-Artillerymen's Association clubhouse*

# explore

## 12. VICTORIA STREET AT JOELL'S ALLEY

*Manchester Unity Hall*



*Colonial Opera House*

Manchester Unity Hall is an early 20th-century lodge building and is home to the Bermuda Friendly Societies Association, the Loyal Flower of the Day Lodge and the Loyal Mayflower Lodge. The Friendly Societies, originating in England as self-help bodies in a pre-public welfare society, played a very significant role in Bermuda. They included much of the black leadership within their ranks and provided fundamental support for hundreds of artisans', tradesmen's and workers' families.

To the west stood the Colonial Opera House, an exceptionally handsome hall on classical lines designed by William 'Syke' Smith and built by master masons William Francis Wilson and William Stowe for the Oddfellows as Bermuda's first purpose-built entertainment centre. Completed in 1908 and used by both black and white performers, it burned down in 1978.

## 13. CORNER OF VICTORIA AND COURT STREETS

St Paul AME Church



*Eastbourne, 48  
Victoria Street*



*Cavendish Cottage, 57 Victoria  
Street*

St Paul AME is the most prominent African Methodist Episcopal church in Bermuda and has been extremely influential in Hamilton. The British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada came to Bermuda in 1870 to help to organise the denomination, one result of which was the erection of this church. The formation of the AME Church was effected in 1885 out of the union of the British and the American Methodist Episcopal Churches. The church was dedicated in 1881 and its spire, built by Julian Tucker and adapted from that of Dr Henry Hinson's St Mark's in Smith's Parish, was added in 1902. Along Victoria Street or just off it, extending westward to Park House (see No. 2), so many doctors lived and practised in the last century that the street was sometimes called 'Doctors' Row'. As well as Dr Tucker and Dr Gordon (see No. 11), Dr Charles Smith owned 57 Victoria Street, known as Cavendish Cottage when it was built in the mid-19th century for the spinster daughters of Chief Justice John Harvey Darrell. Dr Leon Williams lived in and practised from Dundonald House, now demolished, on the southwest corner of Victoria and Court Streets (where at the time of going to press a combined court building and the police station is being erected). Dr Eldon Harvey lived at Eastbourne, 48 Victoria Street. He was the Medical Officer of Health who was largely responsible for the building of Bermuda's first civilian hospital, the Cottage Hospital on Happy Valley Road, before World War I. Dr Vivian O'Donnell King, Vice President of the Legislative Council in the mid-1960s, worked from a building on the corner of Victoria and Parliament Streets until it was redeveloped. Other doctors associated with the street in the early and mid-20th century were Dr Ernest E. Brown, Dr Eugene Walker and Dr Eugene Harvey Sr, as well as Dr Simon Frazer. Dr Frazer the Public Health Department in the building now owned by the Salvation Army on the corner of King Street in the years after World War II and first made family planning widely available in Bermuda.

# city tour

## 14. COURT STREET BETWEEN VICTORIA AND CHURCH STREETS

*St Andrew's Church*



*The Recorder Building*

The 1937 Recorder Building on the eastern side of Court Street was the home of The Recorder newspaper. The paper had been established in 1925 by Alfred Brownlow Place and others to provide a 'newspaper in the interest of the coloured people of Bermuda'. Mr Place was the manager for 46 years and a number of black leaders served as editor until publication ceased in 1975.

Just south, on the corner of Church Street, is St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, built 1844–1846. The 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment (the 'Black Watch') provided the Hamilton garrison from 1847–1851 and was a significant supporter of the church in its early days. Since its beginnings, Hamilton had had a garrison whose military facilities occupied ground in the block between Court and King and Church and Reid Streets. When Prospect Camp opened in the 1870s, Hamilton lost its military garrison.



# Streets

## 15. COURT STREET BETWEEN CHURCH AND REID STREETS



*Alexandrina Lodge*

The oldest functioning Friendly Society lodge in Bermuda, Alexandrina Lodge No. 1026 of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows, was built in 1852. It was severely damaged in the 1926 hurricane but faithfully rebuilt. Founded by Peter Ogden, the Lodge still celebrates Peter Ogden Day every May. Joseph Hayne Rainey became a member in 1865 when he moved to Hamilton from St George's in an attempt to escape the worst effects of the yellow fever epidemic that raged through 1864–65. Rainey later returned to the United States where he became the first black member to be sworn into the US House of Representatives. Another early member of the Lodge was Joseph Henry Thomas (see No. 11).

Alexandrina Hall was a major social and political public meeting site for black Bermudians. Labourers and mechanics met here in 1941 to form the Bermuda Workers Association to campaign for a minimum wage and against pay differentiation between local and American workers during the construction of the US bases. In 1946, the formative stages of the Bermuda Industrial Union took place here. Here also, the Bermuda Labour Party, soon the Progressive Labour Party, was launched.

# explore

Old Town Hall, 113 Front Street



## 16. CORNER OF COURT AND FRONT STREETS

Known then as the Customs House Warehouse and serving also as Town Hall, the Old Town Hall building was erected in 1794, one of the earliest in the new town. The first municipal election was held here in 1795. Goods were stored on the ground floor and the upper floor served as the town meeting place for the city fathers, both as town hall and court, as well as for numerous other meetings and social occasions. It was here in February 1835 that the 78 slaves on the American ship *Enterprise* (see No. 22 Barr's Bay Park), blown off course to Bermuda, were freed on a writ of habeas corpus, taken out by Richard Tucker, then president of the Young Men's Friendly Institution. Slavery had been abolished in Bermuda in 1834. Given their choice, all but one woman and her children asked to remain in Bermuda and were cared for by a public collection. In the mid-20th century, the upper floor was used as a Sunday school for blacks and for many years the ground floor housed the volunteer Hamilton Fire Brigade. More recently it has resumed its judicial role as the home of the Office of the Registrar and Bermuda's Supreme Court No. 3.

# discover

## 17. FRONT STREET OPPOSITE CENOTAPH

*The Cenotaph*



*The Cabinet Building*

The cornerstone of the cenotaph was laid in 1920 by Edward, Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor). It is a tribute to the 126 Bermudians who sacrificed their lives during the two World Wars and the Korean War. A service of remembrance is held here each year on 11 November.

The building behind, now called the Cabinet Building but also containing the Senate chamber, was designed in 1837 and opened in 1841. It was then known as the Public Building and housed the Customs and Treasury Departments and the Bermuda Library on the ground floor with the Council Room and Secretariat on the upper. In the Senate chamber is 'The Throne', a Bermuda cedar chair dated 1642. To the east rises a monument erected in 1861 by the Bermuda Legislature in remembrance of the public works of Major General Sir William Reid, KCB, Governor of Bermuda from 1839 to 1846. It is the only such monument to a governor in Bermuda.

# buildings

## 18. CORNER OF PARLIAMENT AND REID STREET

The Sessions House on the hill to the northeast was built in 1817 and had its red Italianate towers and colonnade added to celebrate Queen Victoria's 1887 jubilee. It houses the House of Assembly and some of Bermuda's courts. The clock in the tower struck the hour for the first time at midnight on 31 December 1893. The vote had been restricted to white property holders but was extended to black property-holders at Emancipation in 1834. In 1883, William H. T. Joell became the first black man to be elected to the Assembly. The vote was extended to women in 1944 and in 1948 Hilda Aitken and Edna Watson were the first to be elected. Universal adult suffrage came into effect in 1968 (the voting age being lowered from 21 to 18 in 1990).



*Sessions House*

Below the Sessions House, on the corner, is the Magistrates' Court. It was built in 1869 as the first official Post Office and was also the Telegraph Office for the line that ran from Hamilton to St George's.



*Magistrates' Court*



*Hinson Hill Building, 34 Parliament Street*

Facing the Court is 34 Parliament Street, owned by the Hill family, where John Herbert Taylor's shoe shop was in the first half of the 20th century. It became known as the 'Little Parliament' because black leaders in and out of the House of Assembly would meet there to debate the issues of the day. At an earlier time, James Tynes' blacksmith's shop was on the corner.

# city sites



*Freemasons' Hall*



*48 Reid Street*

## 19. CORNER OF REID STREET AND CHANCERY LANE

On the north side of Reid Street, the façade of the Freemasons' Hall is a handsome example of Classical Revival architecture of the early 20th century and is one of Hamilton's most dignified buildings. The hall dates back to 1847 when the cornerstone of the Atlantic Phoenix Lodge No. 224 was laid here. The freemasons became established in Bermuda largely because of the initiative of officers in the various army regiments garrisoning the islands and in the naval and civilian department at Royal Naval Dockyard. Chancery Lane takes its name from 48 Reid Street, the small building across the road from the Freemasons' Hall because for a century or more it was the legal office of some of Bermuda's best-known lawyers. Chancery Lane is typical of the alleyways which connect Hamilton's longitudinal streets.

# front street

## 20. SOUTH SIDE OF FRONT STREET OPPOSITE CHANCERY LANE

Hamilton developed first at the eastern, Crow Lane, end of the town and moved westward along First (or Front) Street.

Here was located the main site of commercial activity for the civic elite such as Tuckers, Trimingshams, Darrells, Jennings, Butterfields, Outerbridges and Woods.

Best viewed from the south side of Front Street, a number of prominent buildings survive comparatively unchanged.



*91-93 Front Street*

However, not all the commercial property was in the hands of the elite. The Emporium at 69 Front Street was built by Joseph Henry Robinson (see No. 8) about 1880 when it was one of the largest and most substantial business buildings in Hamilton. It has had extensive changes but the shell is as built.



*Emporium, 69 Front Street*

Moving several buildings west, 91-93 Front Street was built about 1891 as the store of Lockward and Ingham. Henry Lockward was one of the founders of the Telephone Company. Its tower has been removed and the front verandah enhanced in the 20th century, but many other architectural details are unchanged.

# discover



*103 Front Street*

On the corner with Parliament Street is 103 Front Street. Now the offices of an insurance company with a bar below, in Bermuda's tourism heyday the Ace of Clubs was here. James Outerbridge, a merchant from Somerset, built it as his store in 1808.



*Old Hamilton Coffee House, 89 Front Street*

The local offices of British Airways were at 89 Front Street for many years but the building started life in the 1790s as the Hamilton Coffee House. It is one of the oldest structures to survive in Hamilton and remains largely unaltered.

## 21. OLD YACHT CLUB STEPS ON FRONT STREET

In the early 19th century, goods were brought ashore by tenders manned usually by blacks, slaves at first and freemen after 1834. When wharves were built in anticipation of growing commerce and tourism, the first steamships, such as the *Canima* (1875–1885) and the *Bermudian* (1905–1915), could not tie up at the dockside so gangplanks had to be built out to the ships for off-loading of passengers and goods.

After Bermuda's Trade Development Board (forerunner of the Department of Tourism) contracted in 1919 with the Furness Bermuda Line to provide a weekly service from New York, things had to change.

Extensive dredging and rebuilding of docks in 1922 were crucial to the development of Bermuda as a prime tourism destination. At first, there were the so-called 'Fort' ships: Fort Hamilton, Fort Victoria, Fort George. However, it was the 20,000-ton *Bermuda*, beginning service in 1928, that provided the first true premier-class service, until she was burnt in a dramatic Hamilton dockside fire in June 1931.

Replaced in the same year by the *Monarch of Bermuda*, she was joined by the beloved *Queen of Bermuda* in 1933.



*Dock Scene*





*Monarch of Bermuda*

Both served until the outbreak of war when they were requisitioned as a troopship and armed merchantman respectively. The Queen returned, refurbished, to the Bermuda service in 1949 and continued her regular Monday morning arrivals at No. 1 Shed until she was retired in 1966, by which time aircraft had become the main mode of transport for Bermuda's visitors. In the days of horses, however, Front Street was dusty, smelly and fly-ridden on account of the horse droppings.

The laying of brick sidewalks was therefore a noteworthy event. The railway ran parallel to the docks down the centre of Front Street from 1931 to 1947. Until the 1960s there was a rowboat service across Hamilton Harbour to the Lower Ferry in Paget. The rowers stood to row and faced forward, charging sixpence per person per trip (bicycles extra!). The last ferrymen were Reginald Wentworth Stovell, Walter Hilgrove Ingham (who sadly was killed by the propeller of a ship in March 1952) and Louis Astwood.

The Old Yacht Club Steps were where dignitaries arrived and departed before the days of aeroplanes, and the men going off to World War I boarded the tenders to their ships. The docks were also where some abandoned children (known as the 'wharf rats') lived. Their plight led to the Sunshine League children's home and day nursery (one of the most famous of Bermuda's charities) being founded in 1919 by Agnes May Robinson (see No. 10).

# adventure

## 22. CORNER OF FRONT AND QUEEN STREETS

Continuing west along Front Street, 45 Front Street (still showing the earlier street numbers 23 and 24) is another little changed building. It was built in 1879 as Miles Meat Market.

To its west stood the establishment of Trimmingham Brothers shop (1844–2005) which had occupied the site since 1861 but was demolished in 2007 to be replaced by a bank.

The junction with Queen Street is known as Heyl's Corner after James B. Heyl, Bermuda's second pharmacist, who ran his drugstore or Apothecaries Hall from what is now the Irish Linen Shop. A Confederate sympathiser, Heyl was United States Vice Consul from 1889–1902. He was also an important early photographer of the Hamilton scene and his daughter Edith's Bermuda Through the Camera of James B. Heyl, 1868–1897 is a classic. The building dates from 1851.

On the eastern corner is the Victoria Block, an early 20th century replacement for the first government building in Hamilton and the site where Queen Victoria's accession to the throne was announced in 1837.

45 Front Street



*Trimingham Brothers*



Victoria Block



*Heyl's Corner*

# experience



*Illustration of a ship similar to the Enterprise*

*Across Front Street, under the bow of the Queen of Bermuda, was the site of a near-confrontation in 1959 between police in riot gear and striking dockworkers who had marched down Front Street from the Sessions House to press their demands. This incident was the prelude for both rapid growth in the labour movement and significant political reform in Bermuda. From here a detour may be taken westward to Albouy's Point and Barr's Bay Park.*

A sculpture, *We Arrive*, by Chesley Trott was erected at Barr's Bay in 2009. It was in 1835 the landing site for the slaves freed from the *Enterprise* (see No. 16), an event indicating the growing significance of Hamilton as a harbour and port. Indeed, that was the town's very *raison d'être*. Most communication with the rest of the islands was by water, and most fishermen, pilots and sailors of Bermuda's workboats were black. Not all of their sailing was work-related, however.

This area is also associated with a less well-known yacht club, the Bermuda Native Yacht Club, which pre-dated the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club and was formed by black professional sailors when yacht racing was first developing as a sport. It later relocated to Paget.

These men were the progenitors of Bermuda's competitive sailing history. In 1844 a Bermuda Yacht Club had been formed, largely through the initiative of the British army and navy officers joining with the white gentry. With Prince Albert's patronage, the Club became 'Royal' in 1846. By the 1870s, the amateurs (whites) had taken over all aspects of sail racing. In 1882, the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club was formed to promote that form of sailing, and the Princess Louise Cup (1883) and the Jubilee Cup (1887) were donated for competition in one of Bermuda's unique sporting activities.

The current home of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club is on Albouy's Point, as is a memorial that serves as a reminder of Bermuda's role during World War II as an Atlantic outpost. The Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Jervis Bay, which operated out of Bermuda and Halifax, was sunk with most of her crew on 5 November 1940 after an unequal contest with the German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer when she was successfully protecting her convoy. By March 1941, the United States was already active in Bermuda (nine months before Pearl Harbor). Soon thousands of servicemen, merchant mariners and US base workers would be landing at Albouy's Point and the US Navy's Shore Patrol station at Barr's Bay on their way to dances and recreation at the United Services Club at the Hamilton Hotel (see No. 1).

Across the street from Barr's Bay is the site of the former Bermudiana Hotel which (along with the nearby Princess Hotel) was where in World War II the vital task of censoring all mail passing between Europe and North America for information on enemy activities in North America was carried out. This work came under the British Security Coordination effort headed by Sir William Stephenson, subject of the 1976 best-seller *A Man Called Intrepid*.



*Jervis Bay Memorial*

# buildings



*Victoria Terrace, 13–25 Princess Street*



*Perot Post Office*



*2 Reid Street*

## 23. CORNER OF QUEEN AND REID STREETS

Par-la-Ville, now housing the Bermuda National Library and the Bermuda Historical Society Museum, was built by William Perot in 1814. His postmaster son, William B. Perot inherited the house and used the little building next door, now the Perot Post Office, as his office. Postmaster since 1835, in about 1842 he began to issue his rare and famous 'Perot stamps', value one penny, one of which sold in 2003 for \$105,000! In 1847, the now-massive rubber tree was imported from Essequibo, Guyana, as a sapling. The five-acre property was purchased by the Corporation of Hamilton from Perot's American heirs and became the Bermuda Library in 1917, while the gardens became Par-la-Ville Park.

On the southeast corner, the then premises of the Phoenix Drug Store were designed and built by Edward Peniston of Flatts and opened in December 1902 with electric lighting, an innovation at the time. Later in the century, the Drug Store was said to sell the best ice cream sundaes in town. The Phoenix was and is famous for its grand sidewalk clock. Made in Boston the clock was brought to Bermuda by jeweller Edwin Troupe Child in the 1890s and has moved from site to site, now being on the north side of Reid Street a few buildings further east.

# city sites



*Orange House*



*The Arcade, 9–15 Burnaby Street*

## 24. CORNER OF REID AND BURNABY STREETS

On the northwest corner of the junction, a site currently occupied by an investment company, used to be occupied by *The Royal Gazette* from 1854 until after World War I. The paper began publishing in 1828 and has been Bermuda's 'newspaper of record' ever since. Donald McPhee Lee was its editor for 55 years (1828–1883) and he also began the publication of the Bermuda Pocket Almanack, first in sheet form and then in pocketbook form. Taken together, the newspaper and the almanacks constitute a historical record of fundamental importance to Bermuda. Across Burnaby Street and a little further north, The Arcade was built about 1880 by Samuel David Robinson, businessman and co-founder of The Berkeley Institute (see also No. 7). He advertised in 1908 as an importer of fine groceries, provisions, grain, Portland cement and stove coal.

# architecture

The Cathedral



## 25. CORNER OF BURNABY AND CHURCH STREETS

The Anglican Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity stands out on the Hamilton skyline and was built on the site of Trinity Church which had been destroyed by arson in 1884. Work began on the new building in 1886 and it was consecrated in 1911. It was designed by Messrs Hay and Henderson, Scottish architects, in a style known as Gothic-revival and was built of local limestone, mostly quarried from what is now Par-la-Ville Park, whilst stone from Caen in France was used for finishing the doors and windows. The originally tiled roof has been replaced by copper. Amongst its many treasures, it contains a notable reredos screen which was designed by Canadian-born sculptor Evelyn Fay (Byllee) Lang who completed most of the figures before her death in 1966.

## RETURN TO CITY HALL

More information about Hamilton may be obtained from the Bermuda Archives, the Bermuda Historical Society, the Bermuda National Library or the Bermuda National Trust.

*Photo Credits to Fly High Media*



# hamilton