

BROADWAY DISTRICT

“Can you picture Broadway at the turn of the century, with its boardwalks, dirt roads and horse-drawn buggies? Can you imagine the enthusiasm at the “gala opening” of the Broadway Theatre in 1947? Take a minute to look at the details of the past, as renovated buildings take on a new lease on life and our history is reclaimed.”

– Peggy Sargeant and Elaine DeCoursey

Broadway District is a special place for stories, people, architecture, and its association with the early days of Saskatoon. It was the first commercial area in Saskatoon, with many of the business owners coming from Ontario and the States. Broadway's first buildings – the Colony offices at Main Street – were constructed in 1883. In 1911, the economic boom allowed many new businesses to establish in the neighbourhood. During the Depression, the Broadway merchants relied heavily on businesses from the local Canadian National Railway yards. The post-WWII economy challenged the Broadway merchants since chain stores and shopping centres were established nearby. Today, Broadway is home to many small independent stores, and well-known in city as an area with unique shops, distinct architecture and historic associations.

1 FIVE CORNERS

The Broadway Bridge was built in 1932. Prior to this, streetcars ran down the long hill to Traffic Bridge. This was the site of former milliners' shops, shoe-repairers and ice-cream parlours.

2 VICTORIA SCHOOL

Present Day: Victoria School

Victoria School is Saskatoon's oldest educational institution. Initially, classes for the Temperance Colony were held in rented buildings along Broadway. In 1887, the Little Stone Schoolhouse was started. When it became too small, a second school was built on the same site in 1905, and the original Little Stone Schoolhouse was transferred to the U of S campus for historic preservation purposes. When the second

school became too small, a third and final school was built in its place in 1909 and additional wings were added to it in 1929/1930. This school was a major part of the community – it hosted community dances and secular church functions, and featured a skating rink as well. The interior of the school went through major renovations in 1979 to resemble much of the current interior. French Immersion classes started here in 1978 and still continue to this day.

3 FIREHALL #3 AND WATER TOWER

Present Day: The Hose and Hydrant

This fire hall was built in 1911 and it was used as a fire station for 46 years. It was first used to put out a fire caused by a pot of boiling tar in a nearby carpenter's shop. For the community, this was the go-to spot to lace up skates for the nearby Victoria Rink. This building is one of the few municipally designated heritage buildings in our city. Now, it serves as a restaurant and bar, and it also contains fire-fighting memorabilia.

4. THE BROADWAY THEATRE

Present Day: The Broadway Theatre

The Broadway Theatre was built in 1946 to serve as Saskatoon's first eastside theatre. When it was built, it was equipped with up-to-date equipment (for its time), including parabolic floors and babies' crying room. The theatre featured presentation of quality films and rejuvenated the Arts scene on Broadway. Presently, the theatre is well known for hosting intimate concerts by well-known musicians and screening independent films.

5. SMITH BLOCK

Present Day: Calories, The Shoe Boutique

Smith Block was built in 1912 by the Bugenhagen and Turnbull, who were also the architects of the Farnam Block. Previous tenants of this building include, Early's Seed and Feed Company (which is now located on Lorne Avenue), the Free Methodist Mission and a branch of the Public Library. The chief librarian at the time, James Stewart Wood, lived in the upstairs suite until his death in 1961.

6 DAVIS DAIRY

Present Day: The Burning Beard, Déjà vu Salon

This building was the build in 1930 for the Davis Dairy Company, and it served as a dairy until 1970 but went through several different owners – it was known as

the Purity Dairy, Silverwood Dairy and Dairy Pool. The plant was designed to include a mezzanine floor from which milk flowed by gravity into refrigerated storage. Presently, this building houses numerous different businesses, such as Burning Beard, Déjà vu Salon and Fly Channel.

7 EATON BLOCK

Present Day: Starbucks, Sushiro

This block was built in 1991 by Dr. Frederick Eaton, a physician from Toronto, who moved his offices from a building across the street into here. After Dr. Eaton left for British Columbia, other notable tenants of this building included the Canadian Bank of Imperial Commerce, and W.D. Malouf, who was a member of a prominent family in Broadway affairs.

8 “ROYAL BANK” BUILDING AND SOMMERFELD BLOCK

Present Day: Broadway BID, SK Craft Council; Buds on Broadway

Both buildings were built by 1912 by Paul Sommerfeld, president of the Saskatoon Mutual Fire Insurance Company, who arrived in Saskatoon from Minnesota in 1901. Royal Bank Building was also designed by Bugenhagen and Turnbull, and housed the Royal Bank's Nutana Branch from 1913-1966. The bank was the site of a robbery in 1961, which ended with a car-chase up to the university. In the 30's and 40's, the Saskatoon Printers occupied the basement and published the Herald for distribution to local farmers. The building is currently home to the Saskatchewan Craft Council.

Early tenants of Sommerfeld block include teachers from nearby schools and workers of the nearby Canadian National Railway yards. In 1917, the first mass for the Nutana Catholic community was celebrated in the basement. Additionally, a ladies' wear store operated on the ground floor in the 20s and 40s.

9 SITE OF 835 BROADWAY AVE.

Present Day: 7/11, Szechuan Kitchen

This site provided many of the basic services for the residents of the area. A series of businesses were here including: Gordon and Sparling's butcher shop, Robert Irvine's and Paul Sommerfeld's lumber companies, Mulvey Brothers Feed and Dray business, and series of service stations.

10 ST. JOSEPH'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Present Day: Oskayak High School

The school was built at the same time as the church across the street from funds secured by the Separate School Board. The school was completed in 1945 after a filling station on Main and Broadway moved. In the 1970s, an Aboriginal controlled school was established to address the high dropout rate amongst Aboriginal high school students. In 1989, the school was renamed Joe Duquette High School, in honour of an elder from the Mistawasis First Nation who worked with students extensively in the 1980s. In 2007, the school was renamed to Oskayak, which is a Cree word for “young people”.

11 ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Present Day: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Parish

Designed by Mr. G. Verbeke, the Catholic church was built in 1928, in a predominately Protestant colony. The taller tower was intended to have bells, but they were never installed.

12 SITE OF IRVINE AND CLARE GENERAL MERCHANTS AND THE RED ROBIN CAFE

Present Day: Empty Lot

Site of the recently demolished location of the Royal Bank of Canada. Earlier, the site housed Robert Irvine's and GH Clare's general merchant's business. Later, it housed the Q and S store, the Red Robin Café and Allwood's harness shop. The earlier building was demolished in 1965, and shortly after, RBC went up in its place.

The Red Robin Café was a gathering place for people in the neighbourhood. The proprietor, John Heitman, welcomed everyone – travelers from the railroad, sisters from St. Joseph's school, farmers from south of the city, and his Aboriginal friends who sold him firewood. His neon sign, a red robin, was a local landmark.

13 THE VARIETY STORE

Present Day: Broadway Cafe

Tony Assaly, from Lebanon, arrived in Saskatoon in 1937 and set up a ladies and children's clothing store on Broadway. He later moved his business to this location and changed the name of his store to include Assaly. The business closed its doors in 1975.

14 STEWART'S DRUGSTORE

Present Day: Empty Store

This was the site of one of the most stable businesses on Broadway, specifically as a drug store from 1911 to 1989. Charles Henry Stewart came from Toronto and set up his business as a druggist (pharmacist) next door at #806 Broadway Ave. before purchasing the current building and moving his business to #810. The building received a heritage award in 1911.

15 806-808 BROADWAY AVE.

Present Day: #808 – Modern Country Interiors; #806 – Nutana Café

This is the oldest surviving building on Broadway Avenue. Many businesses and individuals have taken up residence here. Druggists Fred Johnson and Robert Love started their business here. Charles Stewart also set up his shop here, before the completion of his store next door. Dr. Frederick Eaton also lived upstairs until his office block was completed across the street. #806 Broadway Ave. was the home of the Absalom Rice confectionary and shoe-store (1912-13). #808 Broadway Ave. was also A.D. Malouf's general store (1915-46).

16 SITE OF GARRISON HOUSE

Present Day: The Bulk Cheese Warehouse

The brick building that was once here was a direct link to the Temperance Colony. The original building was built by George Wesley Garrison 1886. It was a residence and boarding house. In 1918, the stone exterior was dismantled and replaced with a brick and concrete exterior, while the basement remained as the original stone. After George Garrison, subsequent tenants include W.D. Malouf, Barclay's Confectionery and Broadway Jewellers.

17 BROADWAY HARDWARE

Present Day: Western Fitness Equipment LTD

Originally, this site was home to Frank Holmes' grocery and hardware store. Frank was a teacher who came west, first to Prince Albert, and then to Saskatoon in 1901. He subsequently became a merchant and also Nutana's postmaster. He was also known to trade with many farmers and Indians south of the city, who used the barn behind the store to stable their horses. In 1947, the Oliver brothers bought the business, and in 1951, built Broadway Hardware in its place.

18 722-708 BROADWAY AVE.

Present Day: #720 – Maisie Grace, 718 – The Yard and Flagon Pub, 714 – The Better Good, 712 – Bill's House of Flowers, 710 – Handmade House, 708 – McQuarrie's Tea & Coffee Merchants

This block has had a diverse history in its occupants. In 1916, Home and Central Bakery was established at 722 Broadway Ave, while the rest of the block wasn't developed until the 1930s. From 1947-51, #712-714 was home to Malouf's Exclusive Menswear, and subsequently it housed Willey's Jewellers. From 1935-40, #708 Broadway Ave. housed a branch of the public library, after which, it became the new location of the Broadway Bakery.

19 SITE OF FARNAM BLOCK

Present Day: Parking Lot

In 1912, Arlington Ingalls Farnam, employed an Anglo/American architectural firm of Bugenhagen and Turnbull to build the Farnam Block. Originally, he wanted the building to serve as a hotel, but Temperance blocked from doing so by the Temperance movement. In subsequent years, the building was used for commercial and residential use. Notable tenants of the basement business area include the Nutana Catholic Church and John Gibson's photographic studio. Lydia's Pub was the last tenant of Farnam Block and it closed in 2013. Farnam Block itself was demolished in 2015. Rumours are that a new building will be going up in its place that is inspired by the original building.

20 632-636 BROADWAY AVE.

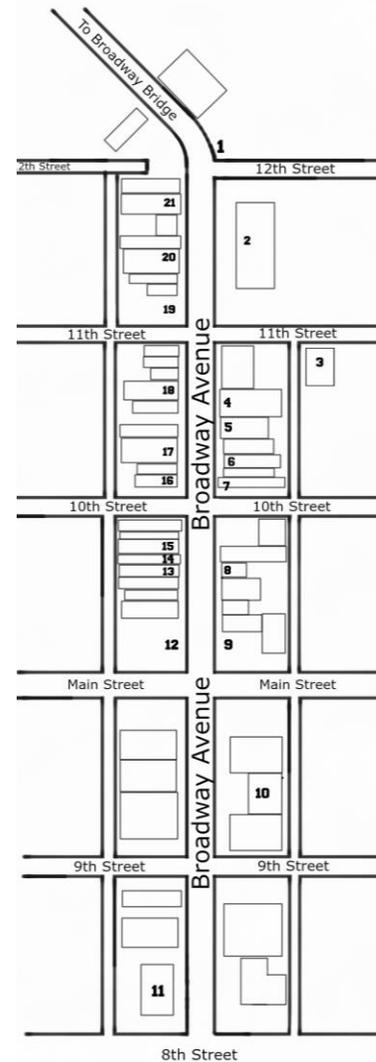
Present Day: #636 – Hats and That; #634 – Dharma Chakra; #632 – Londin Lash

The one-story building originally housed a shoe repair business, and it still does. Other businesses formerly located on this block include Pinders Drug Store, Faillie's confectionary (well known spot to watch Faillie make chocolates), and Harrington's Jeweller's.

21 SITE OF HARRINGTON'S JEWELLERS

Present Day: Outer Limits

G.W. Harrington was a well-known watch-repairer, and supplier of collegiate and university jewelry, who moved his store to this after a fire at his first store. He was known to be a generous man – he welcomed other jewelry stores to Broadway with the belief that "so long as we are not all too greedy, there is lots of business for us to share."



BROADWAY DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

"Heritage of Broadway"

ADAPTED FROM:
"Broadway: Through the Boom and Bust and... Back Again!"
By Peggy Sarjeant and Elaine DeCoursey

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