



Some
Heritage
Districts
of
Greater
Halifax

including
Dartmouth
and Bedford

text by Elizabeth Pacey

Keeping
Our Heritage
Communities

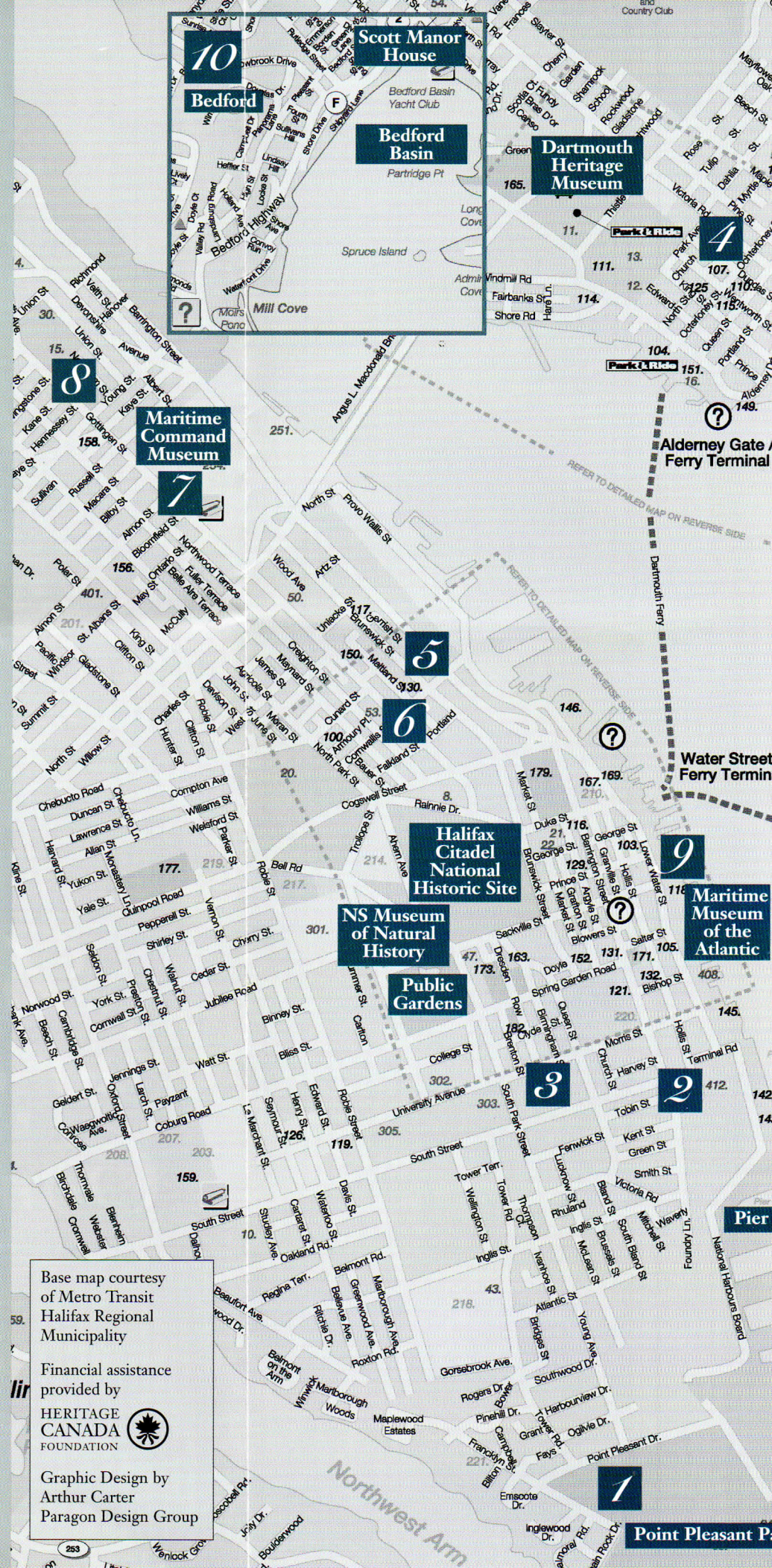


Heritage Trust
of Nova Scotia

Introduction

The Halifax Regional Municipality is one of Canada's most historic cities with areas, neighbourhoods and communities that retain their distinctive ambiance and identity. These heritage districts are showcases of the significant buildings that line the streets. The buildings range from the quaint and curious that recall the humble pioneer years, to the elegant and grand styles of the prosperous commercial eras. It is hoped that readers will be able to explore the districts, either on foot or by vehicle, to enjoy the character each has to offer, and to see the outstanding examples of all types of construction, from military, industrial and commercial to institutional, residential and religious.

Since its inception in 1959, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, Canada's oldest provincial heritage advocacy group, has promoted the preservation of historically and architecturally significant buildings, both individually and as groups in streetscapes and conservation areas. For example, Heritage Trust pressed for legislation to protect heritage buildings throughout the province. After the Heritage Property Act was passed in 1980, Heritage Trust supported an amendment to include protection for heritage conservation districts. Under those provisions, heritage districts can be protected from unwanted encroachments and unsympathetic developments that threaten their distinctive character and property values. These selected districts, along with other historic districts in the HRM, can now be officially protected as heritage conservation districts under the Heritage Property Act.



Base map courtesy of Metro Transit Halifax Regional Municipality

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Point Pleasant Area

The neighbourhood near Point Pleasant Park and the park itself contain some of the grandest examples of historic domestic, educational and military architecture. In fact, in 1895, a law was passed to ensure the grandeur of houses to be built on Young Avenue; the law stipulated the houses must cost at least \$5,000 to construct! Today the mansions are worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars. For example, at the corner of Inglis Street and Young Avenue stands a spectacular residence with a tall turret and pillared portico, built in 1903 for entrepreneur and later *Titanic* victim, George Wright. South Park Street has the expansive turreted Clarke-Harris House (1896). Tower Road has the turreted Tower Road School (now Halifax Grammar School), a superb example of

the “palace schools” of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All of these turreted masterpieces were designed by prominent architects of the day. Another eye-catching architectural feature of the area is the decorative Italianate porch found on seven houses, built in the late 1860s, on Tower Road. Inside Point Pleasant Park is the great round bulk of the Prince of Wales Tower, a national historic site. Built in 1796, this defense tower was

the prototype for 136 similar Martello towers built in coastal outposts of the British Empire.

