15. 5 and 11 Bridge Street

This part of Bridge Street from the Union Street junction to Main Street was known as "Washburn's Hill". The two Queen Anne style houses at 5 and 11 Bridge Street, c.1890, evoke an image of San Francisco in architectural style and setting. Note the bargeboard arch under the gable of 11 Bridge Street and the decorative shingling under the eaves of these two houses.

16. 4 Bridge Street

Note the interesting example of a brick drive shed at 4 Bridge Street. The house and drive shed were owned in 1863 by Alexander Paterson, a farmer and grandson of Ebenezer Washburn, one of Picton's early settlers. The rear part of the main house encloses an earlier log structure which may date back to as early as 1803. The elegant drive shed with its arched windows suggests that he was a prosperous farmer.
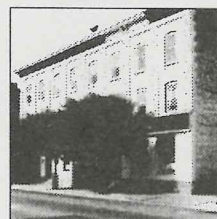
17. THE NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL
303-309 Main Street

The North American Hotel (called Cosmopolitan and Quinte by different owners) dominates the view as you climb the Town Hill. Unlike the Globe and Queens hotels that we have already seen, the North American was originally built as a three story building around 1835. One of the original features of the building, the elegant two story verandah, was removed at one point but later fully restored to its original glory. Note the elegant fan and side light windows framing the main door and the fire protection parapets and chimneys.

18. THE OWENS BLOCK
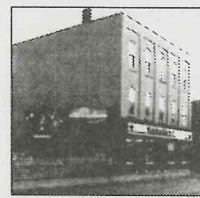### 278-288 Main Street

Built in the early 1860's, the Owens Block is an excellent example of a commercial building of the period. Note that the building is in two sections, the west half being the more ornate with its panelled brick pilasters separating each bay. Fire has reduced the center bays of this building to two stories.

19. THE ROYAL HOTEL
247 Main Street

The Royal Hotel is the last of Picton's hotels still in operation. A 1930 item in the Picton Gazette dates the construction by George Mottashed, former owner of the North American Hotel, as 1879. Time has altered some of the original details of the building but the ornate detail of the brick work deserves attention.
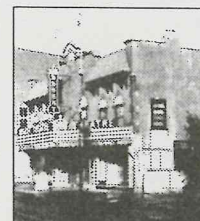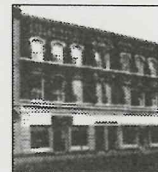
20. THE EYERS BLOCK
230 Main Street

Built c.1860 for Robert H. Eyre, merchant (son of Thomas) it is now Wright's drug store. Note the central Florentine window on the third floor. The mural on the east side of the building, "The Settlers" by Marcel Blanchette, celebrates the arrival of the first European settlers in Prince Edward County in 1784. On the west side is a faded, but still legible advertisement fro the drug store.

21. THE ALLISON BLOCK
231-237 Main Street

The Allison Block was originally a drug store built in the early 1860's for Ruben Chapman and his business partner Gideon Striker. The east side of the building served as a drug store while the west side was a dry goods store. Later the drug store was expanded to include the entire first floor. Once again the elaborate cast iron window decoration and the stone band delineating the upper stories cause us to look up to admire this splendid building. Now a fashionable gift shop and art gallery, the shopper can see the old apothecary drawers ranged along the walls converted to a more modern use.
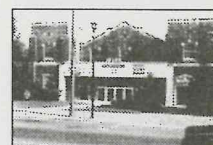
22. THE REGENT THEATRE

The Regent Theatre has had many alterations over the years. The lobby and box office is in an 1830's vintage commercial building. George Cook bought the building in 1918 and converted it into a movie theatre. A stage and 30 meter fly tower were added in 1922. With an 1,100 seat auditorium, since reduced to 456 seats, vaudeville and stage plays were performed. The Hollywood façade was added in 1931. The Regent remained in the Cook family until 1993 when it was purchased by the Regent Theatre foundation.

23. THE PICTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the turn of the century the Carnegie Foundation donated funds for the construction of public libraries across the United States and Canada. Built in1906, the Picton Public Library benefited from Carnegie's generosity and has the characteristic Carnegie look. Note the entrance with its attached columns, the wide venetian windows and brick pilasters.

24. THE PICTON ARMOURY

The Picton Armoury, built in 1913 in the style of a fortified castle, is typical of armouries that were established across Canada about the turn of the century. The Picton Armoury with its two towers at each end of the façade stone dressings and keystoned bull's-eyes gives the impression of security and strength. It was from this building that the youth of Prince Edward County marched to fight in two world wars. Take a moment to read the historic plaque in front of the armoury in memory of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and the stone in front of the plaque memorializing the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan base overlooking Picton south of the town.

25. THE POST OFFICE

The architecture of the Post Office, built in 1900, was not improved by the addition of the modern façade in 1950. A view of this building at the Elizabeth Street entrance to a lane leading behind the Post Office provides a useful view of the building and will give an indication of what the Post Office looked like before 1950. There is an historic plaque in front of the building memorializing the fact that Canada's first Prime Minister first practised law in Hallowell (Picton).

26. THE CASE BLOCK
187 Main street

The property on which the Case Block stands was purchased by Frank Hawks Case in 1862. Home of the Picton Public Utilities Commission since 1933, the building has some interesting features. Note the vertical mullions dividing the upper floor windows and the stone lintels over each opening.

27. THE WILLIAMSON BLOCK
178 Main Street

Construction of the Williamson Block probably dates back to the 1870s It once housed Thomas Hess, photographer, upstairs and the Bell Telephone switchboard. In 1959 the building was occupied by the W. H. Williamson insurance company. Renovation and careful maintenance of the building have preserved this outstanding contribution to Picton's Main Street.

Barker & Wilson The Iron Men of Picton
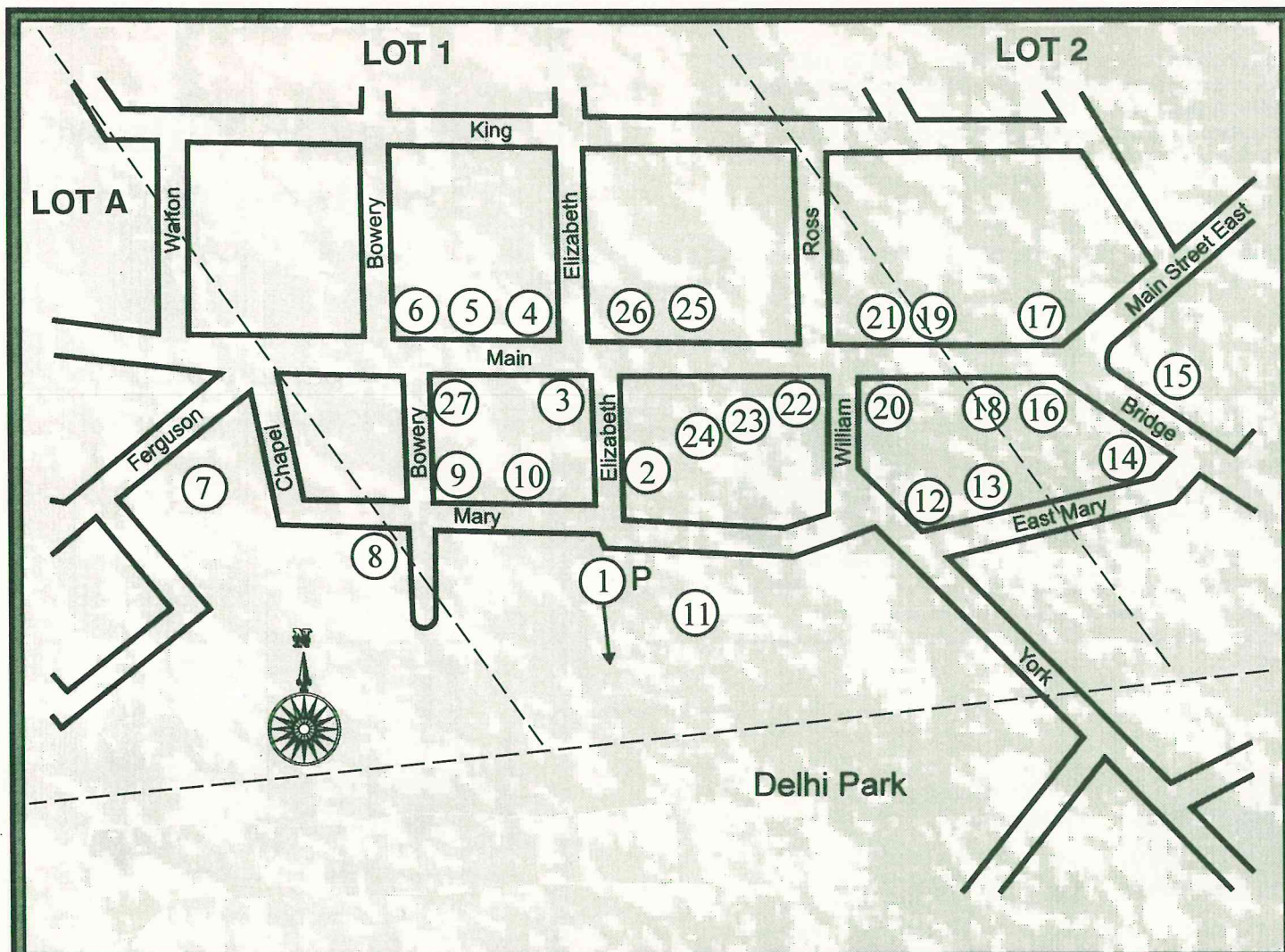
A walking tour of an historic neighbourhood

The North American Hotel

Buildings reflect the people who built them and lived in them. The building's style, or mixture of styles, it's location and the buildings next to it are clues to the heritage of the district. They are a lasting indicator of the good times and the bad times that beset every community.

As you visit the buildings highlighted in this pamphlet, occasionally stand back and look at the whole "streetscape". Imagine what it looked like when the proud owners moved into their new homes.

Above all enjoy your tour and please visit the County's many museums. It will help you hone your sensitivity to the ambience of our community.

Map Labels

LOT 1   LOT 2

LOT A

King   Elizabeth   Ross

Bowery   Main Street East

⑥ ⑤ ④   ㉖ ㉕   ㉑ ⑲   ⑰

Main   ⑮

㉗ ③   ㉒ ⑳ ⑱ ⑯

Ferguson   ㉔ ㉓   Bridge

⑦   ⑨ ⑩   ②   ⑭

Chapel   Elizabeth   William   ⑫ ⑬

⑧   Mary   East Mary

① P

⑪

York

Delhi Park

Introduction to The Iron Men of Picton - Barker & Wilson

Lot one was purchased by Abraham Barker in 1805. He and his brother James were partners in a grist mill. His son David Barker was - a merchant, elected to first Picton Council, Postmaster 1848 until his death in 1872, (see #3) and started the Barker Foundry on Elizabeth Street.
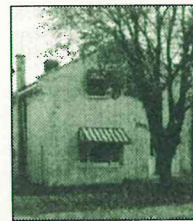
Stewart Wilson bought land from Barker in 1829 and set up business making harness, wagons, ploughs, stoves and castings. His brother Joseph came with him and started "The Hallowell Free Press". His younger brother, Samuel P. Wilson is listed as "Carriagemaker, shop and land on Bowery and Mary Streets." In 1870 Assessment Roll. Stewart became a "Gentleman" in 1850 and leased out his holdings. The family was also involved with the mill property at Glenora.

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1. DELHI PARK

The park you see from this look out is all land fill. Originally it was a marsh with a fairly large creek running from what is now the cemetery to the bay. On your right was a portage or "carrying place" from the Bay to East and West Lakes. The name DELHI has been confused over the years. It first appears in a letter from Rev. Macaulay to his brother in 1840. He wrote "...I recently had a visit from a gentleman from Delhi...". If you were from Delhi you would be Indian. And in Macaulay's tenant houses around the harbour were a large number of Mohawks from Deseronto who worked on the boats as stevedores, stokers, sailors, etc. This harbour front community was nick named Delhi.

2. 6 Elizabeth Street

6 Elizabeth Street, c. 1847, reveals its age by the corbels and fire parapet wall at the gable end of the roof. Note the brick cornices below the eaves along the side of the house and the sidelights flanking the main entrance. John A Macdonald, a Kingston Lawyer and Canada's first Prime Minister along with David Barker were trustees to the 1847 mortgage on this house.
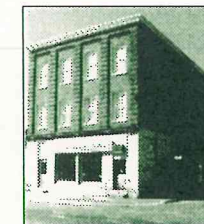
3. THE STEPHENSON BLOCK
172 Main Street

David Barker Stevenson came from New York in 1824 to work in his uncle David Barker's dry goods business. He became manager and owner and built the Stevenson Block at 172 Main Street, around 1835. The first floor provided shop spaces with living quarters on the upper level. Stevenson was the first reeve of the town of Picton and represented Prince Edward County in the Province of Canada Legislature for two terms, 1847 to 1857. In 1917 a feed mill was added to the property. The center chimneys and roof fire parapet were restored to their original state in 1989. The Stevenson block is an outstanding example of putting a fine old building to modern use while retaining its character.

4. GILBERT & LIGHTHALL CABINET SHOP
167-173 Main Street

Built in 1891, a fire in the mid 1970's reduced the building's original eight bays to four with the removal of the upper stories of the west half of the building. A view of the building from Elizabeth Street reveals that the original enterprise was both a cabinet shop and an undertaking business. An interesting architectural detail is the brick pilasters separating each bay and accentuating the height of the building. The building still serves as a furniture store.
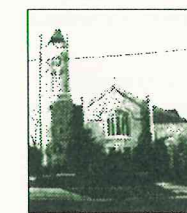
5. THE GLOBE HOTEL
147-153 Main Street

The Globe Hotel was built in three stages. The brick west wing was constructed in 1836 while the stone east wing was built in 1837. A third story was added in 1870 using the mansard roof form of the "Second Empire" style. It was operated as a hotel until the 1970's. Note the arched carriageway leading to the inn yard on the east side of the building.

6. THE QUEEN'S HOTEL
137-139 Main Street

The Queen's Hotel, architecturally similar to its neighbour, the Globe Hotel, was built by Garrett Striker. He bought the corner lot from Barker in 1830. Around 1875 a mansard roof similar to that of the Globe Hotel and a three story brick addition to the east of the original building was added. Note the wooden decoration on the dormer windows.

7. THE UNITED CHURCH
6 Chapel Street

Turn south onto Chapel Street and note the magnificent stone United Church and parsonage. Built in 1898, this church replaces an earlier stone structure built in 1854 which had replaced the Methodist meeting house built on the site in 1820. The stone parsonage adjacent to the church was built in 1902.

8. WILSON'S FOUNDRY
13-23 Bowery Street

This was the Wilson/ Phoenix Foundry site from 1829 to 1878. The foundry building was probably at the end of the street on the east side. It is long gone and the c.1840s brick building in the photo was lost in January of 1999. MacGregor and Co. used the name Phoenix Foundry in 1860s when they leased the works from Stewart Wilson. He and his son Charles S. invested a good deal of their money in property and rental units.

9. WILSON'S OR PHOENIX TERRACE
62-68 Mary Street

Wilson's Terrace was built as residential accommodation for foundry employees. Believed to have been built around 1851, the two gables were added in the 1880s Worth noting are the round headed windows under the gables and the decorative bargeboard.

10. THE WILSON HOUSE
50-52 Mary Street

The Wilson House is an elegant five bay house with centrally placed front door. It is an example of the Loyalist style. John Wilson, Innkeeper, purchased the lot from Barker in 1838. He might have been related to Stewart and Joseph but there were other Wilson families in the area. A Thomas Wilson was owner of the Victoria Hotel on Main Street in 1879.

11. THE DONNELLY HOUSE
43 Mary Street

The Donnelly House is set well back from the road. Built around 1859 for a Picton school teacher, William Donnelly, this brick cottage with its one and a half story center section flanked by two single story wings is an interesting example of the Classical Revival style of architecture with the matching wings on either side of the Central façade, supposedly a winning design in a contest sponsored by Albert, husband and Prince Consort to Queen Victoria.
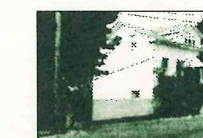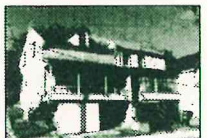
12. 38 Mary Street East

The Mary Street East buildings here are an interesting collection of houses. The houses on the north side are built into the side of the steep bank below Main Street. 38 and its neighbour 30-32 Mary Street East are not shown on Tremaine's map published in 1863. 38 Mary Street East is stone from the foundation to the roof. Note the original cornice and frieze under the roof, the original door with its transom and sidelights and the windows and door arched in stone.

13. 30-32 Mary Street East

Much of the Mary Street East block was owned by Walter Ross from 1856 to 1861, including 38 and 30-32 Mary Street East. Perhaps he built the two connected houses shortly after Tremaine did his survey. Records show that he sold 38 and 30 Mary street East in 1862 and 32 a year later suggesting that this was when these houses were built and sold. Note the fire parapets and brick corbelling at the west gable end of 30 Mary Street East.

14. 14 & 12 Bridge Street

14 Bridge was built sometime before 1863 by mason George Kelly and it is likely that 12 Bridge was built later. Although much modified from their original forms they remain as two interesting examples of a Prince Edward County cottage.