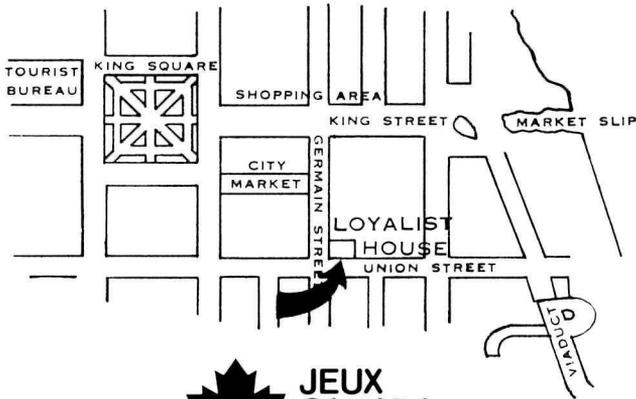


LOYALIST HOUSE is located at the corner of Union and Germain Streets, in the heart of Saint John.



Saint John, N.B. / August 11-24
Du 11 au 24 août

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

JUNE and SEPTEMBER:

Weekdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

JULY and AUGUST:

Weekdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For further information write to Loyalist House, 120 Union St., Saint John, N.B., E2L 1A3; or telephone (506) 652-3590.

ADMISSION:

Adults \$2.00

Children 25c

Free to members of the N.B. Historical Society,
upon presentation of membership card.

LOYALIST HOUSE

(A National Historic Site)

Saint John

New Brunswick



LOYALIST HOUSE was built by David Daniel Merritt, a United Empire Loyalist from New York, and finished in 1817. The house remained in the possession of four generations of Merritts, until it was acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959. Members of six generations have lived here at some time in their lives. It remains today very much as it was when built — the gracious Georgian mansion of a successful Loyalist family. It is a most fitting memorial to the first fifty years of the Loyalists in Canada, and a tribute to the excellence of the early craftsmen of Saint John.

Operated by the New Brunswick Historical Society.

IT WAS IN 1783 that Thomas and Amy Merritt emigrated to Saint John with their family from Rye, New York. Thomas was a United Empire Loyalist, forced to leave his home because he had signed the protest against Rebellion in 1775. He left behind one son, killed while serving in the Loyalist army defending the American colonies for Britain. Another son, Thomas, went to Ontario. It was the third son, David Daniel, who built "the house on the hill", now Loyalist House.

David Daniel was nineteen when he arrived in Saint John. He became an active member of the new community, prospering as the proprietor of a large store on the North side of Market Square. According to family tradition, it was some time after 1810 that he began to build a house for himself and his family of seven on the corner of Union and Germain streets. Some seven years passed before the house was completed.

David Daniel died in 1820, as did his father, leaving the house to his son, David Jabez. Upon his death in 1884, it was passed to his daughter, Louise Harrison; and to her son, Louis, in 1941. Louis' son, David, was born in 1946.

Thus the house was continuously occupied by the same family for about 150 years. It was acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959, upon the death of Louis Harrison, through private, municipal, and provincial assistance.

THE MERRITT HOUSE, typically Georgian in style, is the oldest building in Saint John which has not been structurally altered since it was built. It stands today almost exactly as it was in 1817.

Like many early wood buildings in this area, the North and East exterior walls are faced with clap-boarding (in this case of cypress), because these sides were most

affected by the weather. The South and West walls are shingled. Only the windows on the North and East sides have shutters. Most of the wood used in the construction of the house is pine, from the Upper Saint John River.

WHILE PLAIN on the exterior, the house has interiors of very handsome proportions, and some fine examples of Adam wood carving. The hand carved mouldings, arches, and fireplaces are particularly noteworthy. Over the front door, with its original brass knocker, is an unusual fan light. In the main hallway is a gracefully curving stairway, and between the front and back hallways, curving doors which at first glance appear to be part of the panelling. The interior can be as much appreciated for the fine details of its craftsmanship as for its generous spaciousness, and for the elegant way of life for which it was obviously designed.

Most of the furniture was found in the house at the time it was acquired by the Historical Society. Some of it was brought with the family from New York, some was probably imported from England, and some from New England at a later time. The majority of it is Sheraton in style; specifically, Sheraton as executed by the New York cabinet-maker, Duncan Phyfe.

IN 1817, the Merritts' house was in the middle of an open field. The city grew up rapidly around it. It is one of the few buildings in the downtown area which survived the Great Fire of 1877.

By 1833, as the city expanded, the distinct identity of the Loyalists was being diffused, with the immigration of other national and ethnic groups. Thus it is the first fifty years of the Loyalists in New Brunswick which Loyalist House commemorates, and the early craftsmen of Saint John to whom it stands a silent tribute.