A Hundred Years of Architecture - North Loop

National Historic Sites Urban Walks: Toronto



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Architecture is very revealing of the city's history. A look at a building's architecture can reveal important details about the period in which it was built, the materials that were available at the time of its construction, as well as the purpose of the building.

Take a walk around Toronto's historic neighbourhoods and delight in viewing the some of the city's architectural jewels that are considered outstanding national examples and have been designated as National Historic Sites. If only these building walls could talk...

Estimated distance: 5 km Estimated walking time: 100 minutes

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National Historic Sites Urban Walks: Toronto

1. Eaton's 7th Floor Auditorium and Round Room National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: Toronto Archives

The Designation:

The Eaton's 7th Floor Auditorium and Round Room, built 1928-31, are outstanding examples of Art Deco interior design. In 1983, they were designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

The original Eaton's Department Store complex is open to the public. The 7th floor Auditorium and Round Room, however, is open to the public for special events only. Visitors can get a glimpse of the 7th Floor by attending an event. Alternatively, the 7th floor participates in the annual Doors Open Toronto.

Address: Telephone: Email: Website: 444 Yonge Street, 7th Floor 416-597-1931 events@thecarlu.com www.thecarlu.com

2. University College National Historic Site of Canada



The Designation:

University College, built between 1856 and 1859, is an impressive Romanesque Revival building. It is also the founding college of the University of Toronto. In 1968, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

The doors of the college are open to all and visitors are encouraged to walk through the building.

Address: Website: 15 King's College Circle www.uc.utoronto.ca

3. George Brown House National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: B. Morin, Parks Canada

The Designation:

This building, designed in the Second Empire Style, was home to George Brown - Canadian statesman and founder of The Globe. In 1976, the George Brown House was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

Not open to the public. Convention and banquet space may be rented. Tours available on advanced reservation.

Address: Telephone: Website: 186 Beverley Street 416-314-3585 http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_8828_1.html

4. The Grange National Historic Site of Canada



The Designation:

The Grange is an example of an early 19th-century residence in British classical tradition. In 1970, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

The Grange is currently closed to the public as the Art Gallery of Ontario is undergoing reconstruction. It is due to reopen later in 2008.

Address: Website: Beverley Street (attached to the Art Gallery of Ontario) http://www.ago.net/www/information/grange/grange_frame.cfm

Credit: J. Butterill, Parks Canada

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5. Osgoode Hall National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: J. Butterill, Parks Canada

The Designation:

Construction of Osgoode Hall began in 1829. Since then, it has been the elegant home for the seat of courts and law society in Ontario. In 1979, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

Osgoode Hall is open to the public. It is accessible Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Address: Related Websites: 130 Queen Street West http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca/coa/en/index.htm http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca/scj/en/index.htm http://www.lsuc.on.ca/about/a/history/

6. Old Toronto City Hall and York County Court House National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: torontohistory.org

The Designation:

The Old Toronto City Hall and York County Court House, built 1889-99, is a monumental Richardsonian Romanesque Revival sandstone building. In 1984, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours: Information not available

Address: Telephone: Website: 60 Queen Street 416-585-3209 http://www.toronto.ca/old_cityhall/index.htm

7. Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: Photographer: Hill Peppard, City of Toronto Archives, Series 881, File 53 Item 0001

The Designation:

The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, built in 1911, is a unique double-decker complex designed for both vaudeville and silent films. In 1982, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

Opening hours:

The best way to experience the theatre is by attending a performance. However, guided tours of the theatre are also available. For information about what's playing and **guided tours**, please consult the website.

Address: Telephone: Email: Website: 189 Yonge Street 416-314-2874 ewg@heritagetrust.on.ca http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_2374_1.html