

Remembering Loyalist Philipsburg and St. Armand



Bronze plaque dedicated to the Loyalists in the park on rue Champlain (See No 1)

Imagine being told to take what personal possessions you could carry and leave the only home you have ever known. That's what happened to people called Loyalists, American colonists who supported the British King during the American Revolution (1777-1783). Thousands were forced to immigrate to Canada leaving all that they owned behind. They even had to live in refugee camps. Nearly 1,000 people settled in the seigneurie of St. Armand at Missisquoi Bay (Philipsburg). The majority were farmers, but also army officers and businessmen, women and children.

While the British government was not in favour of Loyalists living next to the American border, these Loyalist "squatters" petitioned the governor to stay. The Loyalists of Missisquoi Bay contributed in a significant way to the colonization of the Eastern Townships and to the region's social, economic and political development. They brought their languages, including German and Dutch, cultures, religions and politics with them and forever changed this region of Quebec, making it unique in its history and heritage.



1
Three signs in the community park on rue Champlain
Beginning your heritage tour at the interpretation panels about the Loyalists will help you understand who they were and why they came

here. They started their lives as trespassers and yet became prosperous citizens in their new home. These panels will provide you with useful background information; what better way to start your tour!
Notice the bronze plaque dedicated to the Loyalists in the park.



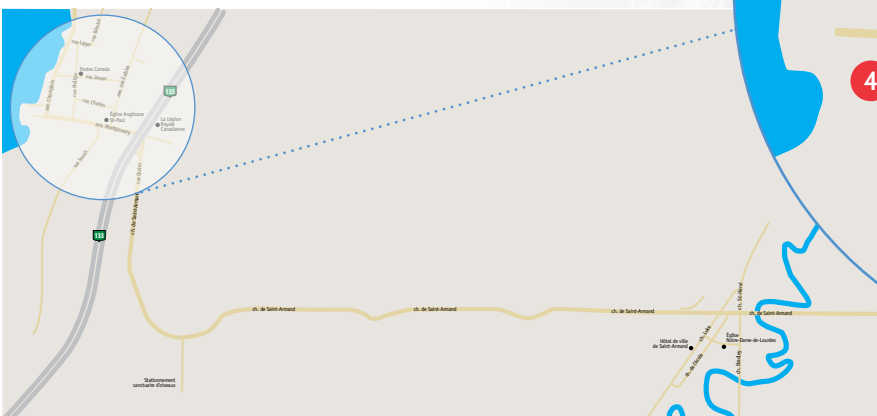
2
Simon Lyster's Cabin
226 ave. Champlain
The oldest log cabin in Quebec was built here in Philipsburg in 1784, the very year the first Loyalists came to Missisquoi Bay. It was the home of

blacksmith and Loyalist Simon Lyster. His role was crucial in the community as he was needed for shoeing horses and making the tools necessary for clearing forests.



3
Philip Henry Moore's Regency cottage
192 rue Philip
Farmer, merchant, soldier, politician and railroad buff, Philip Henry Moore (1799-1889) built this Regency cottage in 1849.

Son of Loyalists Nicholas Moore (1760-1833) and Catherine Streit (1768-1844), he was the first registrar of Missisquoi County, and, in the union of the provinces, he served on the Legislative Council. Moore was loathed by many in the community when he declared that pro-Patriote supporters could be compensated for damages incurred in the Rebellion.



4
The Montgomery House
123 ave. Montgomery
This house, with its original fanlight window above the door, dates to 1830. The Reverend Hugh Montgomery (1812-1893)

a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, lived here with his third wife Eliza Slack (1839-1928) and five children. Unusual for the time, this house was heated with stovepipes, not fireplaces. The current owner is the fourth generation of the Montgomery family to live here.



5
The Congregational Church
127 ave. Montgomery
It is hard to imagine now, but this house used to be a church that had a steeple, boxed pews and Gothic windows. Can you

see the point of the last window? Congregationalists first met in Philipsburg in 1826 and the Reverend Joel Fisk built the church in 1843. By 1854, however, the Congregationalists were gone and no records tell us why. The building was used by St. Paul's Anglican Church and was renamed Whitwell Hall.



6
The Merritt House
133 ave. Montgomery
In 1842, two young couples, descendants of Loyalists, built their twin red-brick Georgian houses side by side on what was originally called Day

Street. Wheelwright and carriage maker Nelson Merritt and his wife Hannah Eliza Shedler lived here from 1842 to about 1890. They welcomed their first child John in 1843, but in 1850 and 1855, they buried their baby daughters in the local cemetery.



7
The Crothers House
137 ave. Montgomery
This Georgian house was built in 1842 by Thomas Crothers (1823-1908) and Mary Stewart (1824-1895). Crothers was a "mechanic," a

specialized craftsman, and a tailor. The family were members of the neighbouring Congregational Church. Their son William was baptized by Joel Fisk in 1846. Sadly, their son David died in this house at age 4 in 1857.

Also visit: To see the gravestones of early Loyalists from Philipsburg, turn right onto rue South to the Philipsburg Protestant Cemetery. Here you will find the final resting place of Loyalists, including Loyalist leader Christian Wehr and Philip Ruiter, for whom the village was named in 1809.



8
The Hogle House and School House
160 ave. Montgomery
In 1827, John R. Hogle built this Gothic Revival house and, for nearly 100 years, it remained in the Hogle family. The back

end of the house served as a Protestant school. One disinterested teacher named Mr. Mitchell carved a mirror frame with his pocket knife while he listened to his students recite their lessons. His work of art is in the Missisquoi Museum.

Heritage Tour

Philipsburg and St. Armand

This Heritage Tour was created as part of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network's "Diversity and Achievement in Anglophone Quebec" project, which explores the history of social and cultural communities across the province. The project also features "Your Story, Our Story," which is both a bilingual travelling exhibition profiling several cultural groups and geographical regions and a lavishly illustrated companion book. "Diversity and Achievement" reflects QAHN's ongoing mandate to promote the history and heritage of people in Quebec who have identified with the English language as first official language spoken, regardless of place of origin, cultural background, or time spent in Quebec.

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9

The Methodist Church and parsonage

200 ave. Montgomery
In 1819, Loyalists built this church from Missisquoi marble. It was a refuge on the Underground Railroad for Black people

fleeing slavery and during the Rebellion of 1837, it was used to store muskets and feed hungry soldiers. It is said that ministers could see the arrival of trade ships from the pulpit and ended their sermons quickly so the community could help unload vessels.



10

The Whitwell House

156 rue Quinn
This 1823 house was the home of Anglican priest Reverend Richard Whitwell (1787-1864) and his daughters. For several years, they hired a local teenager named Eliza Joy (1837-1912) as their maid. Eliza became a circus performer and then married a Prussian prince. Princess Salm-Salm was a nurse during the Civil War and remained in contact with the Whitwells for the rest of her life.



11

The Hiram Moore House

854 che. St. Henri

Hiram Moore was outraged when invading Patriotes stormed and barricaded his new home on December 6, 1837.

Moore, captain of the local militia, was unable to defend his house at the centre of the Battle of Moore's Corner. Overzealous farmer Solomon Walbridge refused to wait for the militia and kicked in the front door and captured the intruders inside.

Also visit: Continue east on chemin St. Armand and visit the Protestant Krans Cemetery where early Loyalists, including the Miller family, are buried



12

The Sixby House

324 che. Bradley
This 1850s Georgian house was built by Loyalist Garrett Sixby Jr. (c. 1797-1881). The home was overrun by Patriotes just prior to the Battle

of Moore's Corners; they had stopped to drink milk from cooling pans in the milk house. The Sixby horses were also stolen, but unfortunately were then shot by local farmer Solomon Walbridge in his attempts to slow the Patriotes' progress.



13

The Miller House

122 che. Bradley
German-speaking Loyalist Peter Miller (1740-1819) and his wife Agnes Benor (1731-1832) settled this land in 1784. Miller was a weaver and one of his

woollen shirts is in the Missisquoi Museum. His son Charles Miller (1768-1852) built this fieldstone house, called "Millerholme," in 1827. On December 6, 1837, his barn was burned to the ground by Patriotes. To his sorrow, he lost eight horses and 17 cows in the blaze; he never forgave Patriote supporters.



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