




## St.Thomas Railway Walking Tour

Now you can back track through St.Thomas' rich railway history with its first railway walking tour. Take a relaxing walk through the many historic sites and see why we are proud to call ourselves **"The Railway Capital of Canada."**

Being the mid-point between Chicago and New York, St.Thomas became the favorite stop over for some 86 trains a day during its railway prime. So treat yourself, whether you plan to cover a lot of ground or prefer to concentrate on a few choice sites, you'll be delighted with what the St.Thomas Railway Walking Tour has in store for you!

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16	Site of 1887 Accident	31	Site of Jumbo's Accident
17	BX Tower	32	Site of former Pere Marquette Yard

1. Jumbo Monument	
<p>In September 1885 Jumbo traveled with the Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus to St.Thomas. After the performance, while loading back onto the train, a Grand Trunk locomotive hit and killed Jumbo. This life-size monument was erected in 1985 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragic event.</p>	
2. King Street Bridge	
<p>Originally made of wood, this stone and steel trestle was constructed in the 1880's by the Michigan Central Railway Co.</p>	Picture not available
3. Talbot Trail Tea Room & Miniature Circus	
<p>Built in 1855, this building houses the Ryckman Brothers Miniature Circus. The large 1920's ! scale model represents the type of circus that once traveled by train to St.Thomas.</p>	Picture not available

4. St.Thomas Street Railway Car Barns (Demolished)

From 1878 to 1926 a street railway operated in St.Thomas. For many, the "Trolley" served as a mode of transportation between the hotel and various railway stations within the city.

Picture not available

5. The "Canada Southern" Wall Mural

This mural commemorates the Canada Southern Railway which solidified St. Thomas' title as a railway capital of Canada. The station shown in the mural was the CSR's passenger depot and company headquarters for many years. Painted in 1995 by Dan Sawatzky and his son, Peter, this mural depicts a train pulling away from the historic Canada Southern Railway Station.



6. "Talbot Street 1964" Wall Mural

Painted by Muralist Fred Harrison

Created from an original artwork by the late Clark McDougall, this mural showcases downtown St. Thomas in the early 1960's. The original Clark McDougall painting can be viewed at the St. Thomas - Elgin Public Art Centre.



7. "Memories of the Marquette Yards" Wall Mural

Painted by Muralist Fred Harrison

The Pere Marquette Railway was once an important member of St. Thomas' rail industry, and helped St. Thomas become known as the "Railway City".



8. "Foundation of Town and Rail" Wall Mural

Painted by muralist Paul Membourquette

Painted in 1994, this was the first mural within the city.

The artist designed the mural to depict the economic boom and social impact of the railway in St.Thomas.



9. "Harvest" Wall Mural

**Painted by muralist Denis Arsenaualt**

With the development of the railway in Elgin County came the opportunity for the farming community to get their goods to the national and international markets. The railway helped to make Canada a connected agricultural force.



10. "Elgin's Finest" Wall Mural

**Painted by Muralist Rick Johnston**

This mural honours the many men from Elgin Regiment's 91st Battalion, and the railways which were used to transport soldiers, weapons, and food during the World Wars.



11. "St.Thomas Street Railway: 1906" Wall Mural

**Painted by Muralist Nickolas Wilkinson**

The St. Thomas street railway opened in 1879 and spanned a 10 mile line through downtown St. Thomas. Many of the buildings seen in this mural are still standing today and can be seen along Talbot Street.



12. City Hall

On the second floor of City Hall, parallel to the Mayor's office, hangs the E. Howard Regulating Clock. From 1880 - 1991 this clock proudly hung in the Canada Southern Railway Station. This was the original clock used to regulate all scheduling between stations on the line.

Also take a look at the 4 railway related historical photographs displayed along the corridor walls within the building.



13. Engineer's Building

Located half way up the face of the building is a relief carving of a locomotive designed in 1909. A controversy arose over this carving as it portrays the firemen's side of the engine rather than the engineer's side.

Picture not available

14. "Magic Carpet: A View from Above" Wall Mural

Painted by Muralist Jennifer Desorcy

This painting depicts many significant features of St. Thomas, including City Hall, the Jumbo Monument, the Street Railway, and the Old St. Thomas Church. All of these featured locations are within walking distance of this mural.



15. Site of former London and Port Stanley Railway Station (Now Station Park)

In 1856, the L&PS Railway was the first railway to run through St.Thomas. This station was opened by Sir Adam Beck on April 23, 1920. A watchman's shanty sat by Talbot Street until 1932 at which time automatic signals were built. The station was demolished by CN in 1966.



16. Site of 1887 Accident (Railway tracks crossing each other)

On July 15, 1887 the worst railway accident in the history of St.Thomas occurred. A north bound London and Port Stanley Railway (L&PS) excursion loaded with passengers collided into the side of two oil cars. Upon impact the first oil car exploded sending debris into the air. Within minutes the second car ruptured. The wreck claimed a total of 14 lives and injured another 68.

Picture not available

17. Bx Tower

Once a very busy place, this structure housed the switches for the New York Central and L & PS railway crossing. It was built in the early 1900's, and was given the arbitrary communication label BX.



18. Ross Street Subway

This underpass was built in 1908 by the Michigan Central Railway Company. The west side of this structure was narrow to allow the St.Thomas Street Railway to pass through while bi-directional traffic passed on the wider side.

Picture not available

19. "When I'm Big" Wall Mural & Currah Parkette

This large mural was created in 1995 by Dan Sawatzky and his son, Peter. It depicts two children watching a steam engine pull out of the Canada Southern Railway Station.

After the mural was completed, the City of St.Thomas redesigned the Currah Parkette, incorporating a distinctive railway theme. The bench located in the parkette was built by the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society. The cast iron wheels were removed from the Essex Terminal Rail Engine #9 which operates out of the Elgin County Railway Museum.



20. Canada Southern Railway Station

The arrival of the Canada Southern Railway to St.Thomas in 1871 was one of the most historically significant events for the city. An architectural gem, this building was designed in the Italianate Style and opened in 1873. Currently owned by the On Track Group, with plans to restore the Station to its original historic charm.



July 1943 - MCRR Photo

21. "Parade" Wall Mural

Painted by Muralist Paul Austin

In the early 1900's it was a large event when the PT Barnum & Bailey's circus would visit St. Thomas. With every visit came a parade to showcase what audiences could look forward to when attending this amazing circus.



22. Trans Canada Trail Pavillion & Parkette

Picture not available

23. Michigan Central Railway Shops

In 1882, Michigan Central Railway Company purchased the controlling stocks of the Canada Southern Railway. In 1913, shops covering 51,548 square feet were built at a cost of \$250,000.



24. Elgin County Railway Museum

Currently housed in the historic Michigan Central Railway Shops, many railway artifacts are on display. Some items include: CN5700 Steam Locomotive and Baggage Car. Wabash 51 Diesel ("Tillie"), and L&PS Electric L1.



25. New York Central Ball Park

In 1901, The Michigan Central Railway Co. made use of excess land and built this ball park. It was leased to the city for one dollar a year. With the takeover of the New York Central in 1930, the park respectively changed names.

Picture not available

26. "The First Car" Wall Mural

Painted by Muralist Rick Johnston

In 1902, St. Thomas saw the arrival of its first car. The car was made in Cleveland, purchased in Toronto, and shipped to St. Thomas in a railway boxcar. The mural shows the vehicle's owner and his wife along with the barrels of gasoline that were shipped with the car.



27. Michigan Central Railway Trestle

Originally constructed of wood in 1871-72, this double tracked structure was later replaced by a steel bridge in 1883. In 1929, New York Central built the present concrete bridge. Amazingly trains were never interrupted as a result of construction.



28. Athletic Park Trestle

Originally a wooden structure, the Athletic Park Trestle was built by the Great Western Railway in 1871-1872. This trestle once expanded over a pond for a flax mill. In the 1890's it was replaced by the present steel trestle.



29. Site of former London and Port Stanley Freight Shed (Clear Land)

This white and green shingled roofed building was referred to as the Kains Street Depot. Prior to 1920, a passenger station was located at the south end of this building.

Picture not available

30. Site of former Wabash Railway Station (Clear Land)

Built in 1897, the Wabash Station was located on the north end of Station Street where the Wabash and the L & PS railway lines intersected. The station was demolished in 1967.



31. Site of Jumbo's Accident (Heritage Plaque)

Many accounts of Jumbo's death have been published all around the world. Favoured for its romantic element, one legend has it that on September 15, 1885, Jumbo was killed while trying to rescue his friend "Tom Thumb" from the oncoming Grand Trunk locomotive.



32. Site of former Pere Marquette Rail Yard & Shops (Partial Foundations only)

The Pere Marquette came into St.Thomas in 1904. At this time shops were built east of the L&PS tracks. In 1947 the Pere Marquette was taken over by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. All the buildings were demolished in 1989 and subsequent tracks removed.

Picture not available