

▼ 11

PINKSTON'S FORGE, established in 1889, was first located on the shore of Harbour Pond near the mouth of North Brook and relocated to its present site in the 1920s. The forge presently boasts all of the necessary tools of the blacksmith trade including racks of homemade tools, a hob under a huge metal smoke canopy, and enormous hand-pumped bellows. Douglas Pinkston said, 'We'd make everything from a boxcart axle to a grapnel.'

▼ 12

CENTRAL SQUARE/CENTRAL HOTEL

The Antle residence on the corner of South Street and Forge Road used to have a wide glass front porch and kitchen annex. The Gushues operated the small "Central Hotel" here for a number of years, and consequently the area in front of the residence is known as Central Square.

▼ 13

HAWTHORNE COTTAGE, built in 1830 for the Leamon family near Cottage Pond 10 km from Brigus, was moved to its present site in the winter of 1834. It was the home of renowned Arctic explorer Captain Bob Bartlett who took Robert Peary to the North Pole in 1909. The building was designated a National Historic Site in 1982 and opened to the public in 1995.



photo: K. Comerford

Stone Barn Walks

- 1 The Inner Harbour and Rattley Row
- 2 Irishtown, South Street, and Hawthorne
- 3 Churches, Around The Boilers, and Vindicator Lane

©Brigus Historical and Conservation Society, Inc.
PO Box 232, Brigus, NL, A0A 1K0

The Society acknowledges funding from the Cultural Economic Development Program of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.



For further reading, see John N. Leamon, *Brigus—Past Glory, Present Splendour* (Cuff Publishing, 1998).

View of the town of Brigus (Memorial University Libraries)



Graphic design: Vis-a-Vis Graphics

Brigus



Stone Barn Walks

2

Irishtown, South Street, and Hawthorne

Time: 45 min

Grade: Easy

* **Start: War Memorial in Hawthorne Square**

*

HAWTHORNE SQUARE is the public square to the east of Hawthorne Cottage. In former years traffic passed on both sides of a large tree which was in the middle of the square. Early businesses near this spot often used Hawthorne Square as their address in ads appearing in *The Vindicator* newspaper. To the left is the War Memorial.

▼ 1

BENVILLE TEA ROOMS was a popular spot for fine dining in the 1930s and 40s. Now a private home, it was built in 1929 by Captain Bob Bartlett for his two sisters who operated it until the mid 1950s. It boasted three dining rooms and a large open fireplace.



(Maritime History Archives)

▼ 2

IRISHTOWN is balanced by Englishtown, on the other side of the community. Off Irishtown Road is **THUNDERBOLT LANE** which was the site of the first Wesleyan-Methodist Church in Brigus, and the first Salvation Army Church barracks. It leads to Thunderbolt Hill.



3 HEARN HOUSE, the long 2 ½ storied building opposite Thunderbolt Hill, is one of the oldest in Brigus, dating back to the first decade of the 1800s or before. It was originally a tavern known as “Ye Fisherman and Cooper”. Roman Catholic masses were celebrated here prior to the first church being built next door in 1825.



(V-à-V)

4 The ROMAN CATHOLIC BURIAL GROUND alongside Hearn House has grave markers which date from 1819 to 1872.

5 FLYNN HOUSE, further up the street, was moved from Mills’ Corner c. 1906, and for some years housed the Avalon Telephone Company Exchange. Mrs. Flynn operated the plug-in telephone system for more than twenty years.

6 Back and down **CHAPEL LANE**, one arrives at the former **ST JOSEPH’S MERCY CONVENT**. Established by four Irish Sisters of Mercy in 1861, the sisters taught the local Catholic children at the convent, thus playing a significant role in the development of the town. From 1904 and across from the convent stood St. Patrick’s Hall, which was used as a boys’ school and clubroom until its demolition in 1966.



St Patrick’s Hall

(BHCS)

7 ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH was built by master craftsman Percy Roberts in 1935 to replace an earlier structure destroyed by fire in 1934. Although the priest was in the church, he was unaware



photo: V. Taylor-Hood



of the fire raging in the roof until so informed by a passerby. The statue of the Sacred Heart before the church was erected in 1926.

8 DUNMOVIN’, originally the residence of Charles Cozens, a landowner and politician, is still largely in its original form, and is among the oldest of Brigus houses with a large open fireplace and other original features intact. Reverend Ezra Broughton bought the estate for use as a retirement home in 1940, restored it, and gave it the name Dunmovin’. An avid gardener, and organizer of the annual Brigus Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, he contributed a record 58 varieties, one more than Heinz!



(BHCS)

9 On **SOUTH STREET**, the current Brigus Public Library was originally constructed in 1899 as **THE JUBILEE CLUB**, a gentleman’s club founded in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. Until the late 1930s, the “merchant princes of Brigus” met here to play cards and billiards.

10 The **COURT HOUSE** once occupied half of the Brigus Public Building which today houses only the Post Office. This building was built in 1884 to replace one destroyed by fire in 1876. The Constable and High Constable lived in the building until 1949, and until the early 1990s it housed a Supreme Court Trial Division and Judge’s Chambers as well as the Post Office.