

1 Heart's Content Cable Station (see front)

Completed in 1876, this station, built by the Southcott firm of St. John's, replaced the 1866 wood frame building situated on the hill behind the present Royal Bank. The newer section was added in 1919 to accommodate the increase in cable traffic after WWI.

2 Cable staff houses

As the cable business mushroomed during WWI, the company needed more staff housing. These duplexes went up in 1918-19.



B Cable Terrace

Built in 1869 to accommodate the staff of the cable station, the building had eight apartments plus bachelor quarters, two mess halls, a billiard room and library. It was demolished in 1938.



5 Orangeman's/Masonic Hall

The original LOA Hall dates back to 1881. The building was redesigned and a second storey added to accommodate the Masonic Lodge, first established here in 1921. The LOA lodge in Heart's Content closed some years ago.



E St. Mary's Anglican Church

At the time of its opening in 1884, with seating for 900 this landmark building was one of the largest wood frame churches in Newfoundland. It was destroyed by fire in 1989.



7 SUF Hall, Lodge No. 1

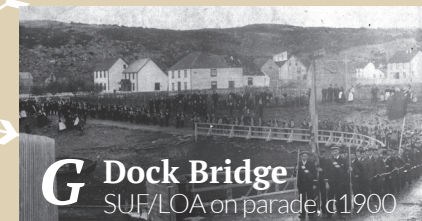
The Society of United Fishermen, successor to the Heart's Content Fishermen's Society, was founded by Rev. George Gardner in 1873. It spread throughout Newfoundland as a self-help fraternal organization.

9 Methodist Schoolhouse

Opened c1919, the Methodist congregation ran their own school before integrating with the Heart's Content School Board. The building served as the Masonic Lodge (1942-69), then the LOA Lodge until it was turned over to the Mizzen Heritage Society.

10 Heart's Content Regional Centre for the Arts

This 1878 building, formerly Heyfield Memorial United Church, was restored and repurposed by the Mizzen Heritage Society. It reopened in 2016.

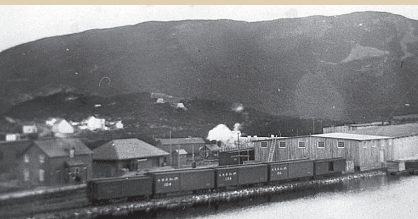


G Dock Bridge

SUF/LOA on parade, c1900

H Rail yard and paper sheds

The Heart's Content branch line of the Newfoundland Railway opened in 1915, and the Grand Falls paper mill used Heart's Content as a winter shipping port from 1916 to 1934. The railway closed in 1939.



13/14 Cable staff houses

The superintendent's house and two staff houses were built by St. John's builders J. and J.T. Southcott in 1882-83 along with three others which have since disappeared. They are fine examples of the popular Second Empire style.



J Lakeview School

In 1876, dissatisfied with the educational standard offered by the missionary school, the cable staff built a private school and operated it until 1892 when it was taken over by the Church of England Board of Education.



Sites

- A Cable/Municipal Park
- B Former site of Cable Terrace apartments
- C Site of 1866 cable landings
- D Anglican Cemetery
- E Former site of St. Mary's Anglican Church
- F Methodist Cemetery
- G Dock Hill / Dock Bridge
- H Former site of rail yard, paper sheds, and cricket field
- I United Church Cemetery
- J Former site of Lakeview School
- K Hopkins Plantation

Buildings

- 1 Heart's Content Cable Station, 1876/1919
- 2 Cable Staff Houses, 1919
- 3 Marcus and Gertrude Farnham House, 1921
- 4 Cable company coal shed, 1869
- 5 Orangemen's / Masonic Hall, 1921
- 6 William and Miriam Mallam House, 1900
- 7 Society of United Fishermen Lodge #1, 1869
- 8 Thomas and Isabella Oates House, 1921
- 9 Methodist School, 1919
- 10 Heart's Content Regional Centre for the Arts, 1878
- 11 William A. and Frederica Rabbitts House, 1908
- 12 Charles R. and Norah Rowe House, 1921
- 13 Cable Superintendent's House, 1882-83
- 14 Cable Staff Houses, 1882-83
- 15 George and Emma Moore House, 1880
- 16 Raymond and Elizabeth Hopkins House, 1921
- 17 William C. and Eliza Palmer House, 1921
- 18 Hopkins' Store/Jack's Shop, 1880
- 19 Cyril and Mary Farnham House, 1921

To Rendell Forge,
House of Commons,
Lighthouse, and
d'Iberville Trail

- * Start here
- > Suggested route
- ⊙ Home of cable worker



Suggested Tour Route

Starting at the cable station, go across the road to see the cables on the beach and take note of the staff houses on the side of the hill, then head down the Main Road (watch for traffic!). Take a short deviation to the left to the original landing site of the 1866 cables (across from the Royal Bank). The company built the first station on the hill behind the Royal Bank, moving to the present station in 1876.

Past the Masonic Hall take another deviation up Church Road past the cemetery to the site of the old St. Mary's Church. Back down to the Main Road, pass the SUF Hall and the Arts Centre to the bottom of Dock Hill, site of the 19th century Rowe dockyard, and take a right on Station Road. You're now on the railway spur that ran from the rail yard to the shipping pier. You can walk as far as the Wye (the old railway turnaround) if you want, even though it's outside the Heritage District, and you can take the Mizzen Trail for a pleasant stroll around the pond all the way back to School Road. (There's also a rough trail to the top of Mizzen Hill.)

Take School Road up past the cable houses to your right and the site of Lakeview School on your left. Then a few steps left on Backway Road and a right down the Long Lane (you'll know where the name comes from) to the site of the Hopkins Plantation. From here it's down Main Road back to the cable station. You can do the walk in 1 - 1 ½ hours, more if you add the Mizzen Trail.



1891

A Little Bit of History

Welcome to Heart's Content! You've landed in one of the most historic communities in Newfoundland & Labrador. Our story goes back to 1612 when John Guy of Cupids came this way, calling it an "excellent good place for fishing." Over the next 300 years Heart's Content grew into a thriving community, filling up with fishermen, plantation owners, businesses, churches, and schools, then became a major shipbuilding center, railway town and trans-shipping port. But what affected it most was the landing of the trans-Atlantic cable in 1866, an event that changed the world and gave Heart's Content international status as the first gateway of communication between Europe and North America.

The cable station workers reshaped Heart's Content into an industrial town with new layers of culture, lifestyle and social class. They brought new technology, but also art, literature, music and organized sports, producing a community unlike any other in Newfoundland. How an international cable station found a place in a traditional outport culture is an intriguing piece of our history.

The cable station gave way to new technology in 1965 but Heart's Content today preserves the landscape of a cable town, centered around the station, a Provincial Historic Site and candidate for consideration by UNESCO for World Heritage status. It's the focal point of the Registered Heritage District, which you'll find sprinkled with historical buildings dating from the 1860s, including company-built houses, fraternal lodges, the former Heyfield United Church (now a Regional Arts Centre) and the Methodist schoolhouse. Take a walk around and feel bits of history of a town as it was over a hundred years ago!



1930s

HEART'S CONTENT

Registered Heritage District

Walking Tour



Begin your walking tour at the Heart's Content Cable Station

Compliments of the Heart's Content
Community Development Corporation
heartcontentnl.ca

With support from



Heritage NL

Enjoy your tour!