



Suitor Residence (1908)  
Page 6

# HAUNTED INGLEWOOD

**Walking Tour**



**HERITAGE  
CALGARY**

# Table of Contents



## HAUNTED INGLEWOOD

4	The Deane House
5	New East Ward (Alexandra) School
6	Suitor Residence
7	Fire Hall No. 3
8	A.E. Cross Residence
9	Old Zoo Bridge (St. George's Bridge)
10	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

While the sites are organized in a rough line,  
there is no starting point on this tour.

Pick a building to start on the map and explore!

# INTRODUCTION



**Cover image of Suitor House :**  
 "Robert Suitor Residence, 1004  
 8th Avenue S.E.", 1965, by Allison  
 Jackson and the Allison Jackson  
 Photograph Collection. Courtesy  
 of the Calgary Public Library and  
 the William & Harris Shared History  
 Centre

Inglewood, established in 1875 as East Calgary, is Calgary's oldest neighbourhood. It was named after the homestead of Colonel James Walker, a nearby resident of the area.

With this distinction, there is a huge footprint of heritage and character buildings, from gorgeous Edwardian commercial buildings like the Burn Block, to community resource buildings like the Romanesque Revival East Calgary Telephone Exchange. The pedestrian-friendly neighbourhood has much to offer, from 220 local shops, restaurants and bars, combined with character homes off Ninth Avenue.

Just north of Inglewood is the Calgary Zoo and St. Patrick's Island, and just to

the west is Fort Calgary. Both Fort Calgary and St. Patrick's Island have great views of Calgary's downtown skyline, too. Most of Inglewood's businesses are on Ninth Avenue, formerly known as Atlantic Avenue. It was the first main street in Calgary and still possesses some of the best architecture of any main street in Calgary. The neighbourhood is also home to many nature reserves, including the

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, the Bow Habitat Station, Inglewood Wildlands Park and the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery.

In 2014, Inglewood was declared Canada's Greatest Community by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Given its age and status as the oldest neighbourhood in Calgary, there are bound to be a great deal of ghost stories. Most of

these stories are tragic; tales of heartbroken lovers to desperate people to a child taken away from the Earth too soon. Some believe that ghosts exist and are the spirits of those who left us too soon, and never found peace in life and are seeking it in death. Most ghosts, and all on this tour, are harmless and benevolent.

## Deane House 806 9 AV SE - Foursquare- 1906

The Deane House, built in 1906, is the only building to survive intact from the era when the North West Mounted Police occupied the Fort Calgary site. The Fort, established at confluence of Bow and Elbow Rivers in 1875, was the origin point for the town that became Calgary, soon attracting settlers and businesses nearby.

This house is closely associated with Richard Burton Deane, superintendent of Fort Calgary in 1906-14. Deane had a long and distinguished military career. Raised in England, he served in the Royal Marines, rising to the rank of captain. With further promotion blocked, in 1882 he moved with his wife and 5 children to Canada and joined the NWMP. He served in Regina as an inspector, drafting the NWMP's first set of regulations, and was soon promoted to superintendent.

In 1914, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway bought the Fort Calgary site and demolished all buildings with the exception of Deane House, which was moved to where the Fort Calgary Interpretative Centre now stands. In 1929, the house was moved again to its current location. This move, across the river, was clever enough that it had a featured article in Popular Mechanics. The house eventually became a rooming house, before being purchased by the City of Calgary in 1973, who restored it and converted it into a commercial space; the Dandelion Gallery.

The Deane House is a good example of a foursquare house. Typical features seen here include a square or rectangular plan with horizontal emphasis, symmetrical façade, low-pitched hip roof with dormers, and full-width front veranda. This is a large example, comparable in size to Calgary's biggest houses at that time.

In 1971, a murder-suicide occurred when a man murdered his wife before killing himself. Ever since, the ghost of a man with a tobacco pipe has been reported seen wandering the building, as has the ghost of a man. A disconnected phone has also been heard ringing.



## New East Ward (Alexandra) School 936 9 AV SE - Classic Revival - 1902

The New East Ward (Alexandra) School is a long, rectangular, three-storey school of solid sandstone construction. A 1956 one-storey, concrete-block gymnasium addition which adjoins the southeast corner is situated in front of the school.

The school possesses person value for its most renowned staff member, William Aberhart, long-term Calgary educator and evangelist, who was principal of the school when he first moved to Calgary in 1910. He later became the founder and leader of the Alberta Social Credit party and Premier of Alberta. The school is also valued for its picturesque yet dignified design by architect William Dodd. It displays Classical Revival Style details such as its axial plan with symmetrical façades and formal, linear fenestration. The formal design is balanced by the use of multi-pane, multi-assembly windows of varying sizes as well as its attractive roofline with overhanging eaves, cupolas, finial and flagstaff. The projecting north and south wings create an irregular plan as well as distinctive corner entrances, in which one-storey wooden enclosed porches originally nested.

The building served as a school from its foundation up until 1963, when the school-board decided to close the school and move the remaining 163 attendees to the nearby Ramsay School, which operates to this day. Throughout much of the latter half of the 20th century, Inglewood saw a decline in population and reputation before its eventual renewal. The school was converted into the Alexandra Centre in the '70s, and was an important part of that renewal. Jack Long, a nationally respected architect that championed participational planning, oversaw the design of the conversion from school to community centre.

At some point in this building's 100-year-plus life, it had a caretaker named Joe. Joe was evidently a troubled man and one day he was found in the building's stairwell, having hung himself. People working



in the building say they see things in the shadows, and have heard footsteps coming from empty hallways, as if someone is still working their rounds.

**Suitor Residence**

1004 8 AV SE - Queen Anne Revival - 1908

The Suitor Residence is an excellent, early example of the exuberant and fanciful Queen Anne Revival style. This style is exemplified in the Suitor Residence’s asymmetrical facades with augmented corners, the steeply pitched roof with its varied roof shapes, the large gables, overhanging eaves, the circular tower with turret, the curved glass windows following the shape of the tower, the octagonal corner tower, the curved wraparound verandah, and embellished detailed textures like the use of pressed metal at the gable ends and rusticated brick ends at the bay corners.

The Suitor Residence is valued as the home of Robert Suitor (1858–1938), a Quebec-born building contractor, businessman, and politician who lived in Calgary from 1902 to 1921 and again from 1933 to 1938. Suitor had been a successful building contractor in Montpelier, Vermont, where he lived between 1876 and 1902. In Calgary, he served as Alderman from 1907–09.

Victorian-era styles are often associated with haunted houses thanks to changing tastes which would often leave these homes abandoned, dilapidated and generally very creepy-looking. This was popularized by the Addams’ Family, who lived in a Queen Anne-style mansion. From there, the style and similar would become associated with haunted houses.

While not nearly as garish as some examples of Queen Anne Revival like Heritage Park’s Prince House, the much more subdued Suitor House in Inglewood is of the same style, and much like Prince House, is also haunted. Built in 1908, the Suitor House has served multiple purposes throughout the years: residence, hospital, care home, boarding house and now office space. When it was a boarding house, a young couple stayed for some time. The husband, a railroad worker, would jump onto moving train cars nearby until one day when he slipped off of a train and subsequently died. His distraught wife died shortly afterwards and her ghost is believed to still inhabit the Suitor House to this day.



**Fire Station No.3**

1030 9 AV SE - Edwardian Commercial - 1906

Fire Station No. 3 is historically significant as the home of fire-fighting operations in the Inglewood and surrounding communities (then called East Calgary) from the time it was completed in 1906, until its closure in 1952. As the name implies, it was the third station to be established in the city, and the first to be located both outside the centre city and east of the Elbow River. From this location, the fire station alone served the entire area east of the Elbow River, a vast expanse where much industrial activity was situated.

Fire Station No. 3 is architecturally important for its functional and Commercial-style attributes. The red-brick building is characterized by a distinctive, protruding, second-storey oriel window and by a thick metal roofline cornice inscribed with “FIRE STATION No 3” lettering. Large rounded doorways trimmed with sandstone serve to further identify the building’s historic function.

During his time in Calgary as the city’s first fire chief, James “Cappy” Smart operated part-time out of this fire hall. Cappy Smart was a colourful and eccentric person, often picking fights with his counterpart in the police. The ghosts in Fire Hall No. 3 don’t belong to Smart, nor any of his coworkers, for that matter. Part of Smart’s eccentric character was his appreciation for exotic pets, one of which was a monkey that had to be put down by Smart after it attacked and bit a child. Obviously unhappy with being put down after likely being antagonized by a curious child, the ghost of the monkey inhabits the fire hall and has been blamed for throwing cans off shelves, starting the dishwasher and messing around with the billiards table. The fire station is also home to the ghosts of some horses, including Lightning, Cappy Smart’s horse, who died in a fire. Some claim to be able to hear Lightning’s hooves outside on 9 Avenue during certain points of the day. Others says they have heard multiple horses inside the station



when it was still a fire hall, and they would neigh moments before a call would come in about a fire.

**Cross Residence**

1240 9 AV SE - Queen Anne Revival - 1891

The Cross Residence is a two-storey frame house with sandstone foundation, built in 1891 in the Queen Anne Revival Style. It is distinguished by its truncated hipped roof with widow’s walk, and two projecting bays capped with gables ornamented with finials and scrollwork. The residence is located on seven lots adjacent to the Bow River in the historic community of Inglewood. It comprises extensive lawns, gardens, mature vegetation, and outbuildings, including a 1937 garage.

The Cross Residence is significant as one of the earliest examples of the Queen Anne Revival style in Calgary. In 1973 the Cross family donated their home to the City of Calgary for use by the Parks & Recreation department, and by the Calgary Horticultural Society.

This residence is one the few estate homes that remains from Inglewood’s early development phase. “Brewery House,” as it was known, became a focal point for large dinner parties, polo matches, and other gatherings hosted by the Cross family. A.E. and Helen considered moving to the more exclusive Mount Royal neighbourhood, but they remained in Inglewood, instead enlarging the house and adding a garage to accommodate their changing needs. The prominence of the Cross Residence contrasted with the increasingly working-class character of the community.

Now a restaurant, this was the home of one of Calgary’s Big Four, this was the home of A.E. Cross and his family before they were struck with diphtheria. This killed two of his three children and nearly took his wife as they had to wait for medicine to be shipped to town. Some have reported the ghost of a woman can be seen floating down the stairs and then towards people. Others have claimed to hear distorted laughter coming from the house’s basement, while a young girl has been seen sitting in front of the fireplace. It’s believed that these are ghosts of some of the Cross family, specifically Helen Cross and her daughter, Nellie.



**Zoo Bridge (Demolished)**

12 ST SE - Parker Camelback Truss - 1908

The St. George’s Island Bridge, built in 1908, represents one of four historic Parker Camelback truss bridges in Calgary - the most frequent used design for bridges built in Calgary from 1905 to 1912. The design is distinguished by its sides, which comprise a framework of structural elements, in a triangular arrangement that are connected at the top. The other examples of this type of bridge in Calgary are the Reconciliation Bridge across the Bow River, and those across the Elbow River - the East Calgary (Ninth Avenue) Bridge and the Twelfth Avenue Bridge. The steel superstructures for such bridges were supplied by eastern Canadian-based bridge companies and were shipped to the site where they would be assembled using rivets. The St George’s Island Bridge superstructure was supplied by the Algoma Steel Company based upon the information supplied by the City of Calgary Engineer.

The original Zoo Bridge was a narrow, two-lane bridge with a narrow sidewalk that had viewpoints added to it in 2004. Up until 1974, it was the only bridge leading to the Calgary Zoo and St. George’s Island, when the Baines Bridge linked the island from the north side of the bank. The original bridge was over 100 years and had become too narrow to handle traffic effectively and was in need of significant repair. It was determined that it was best to demolish it and build a new, wider one with greater pedestrian space, this time facing towards the downtown core, and wider car lanes.

There was once a playground at this bridge, and in 1946, a six-year-old boy was murdered under the bridge after being lured away from the playground. Before the bridge was replaced, cries of a child in distress could be heard two or three times a week. There are claims that this voice can still be heard under the new bridge. A security booth stands where the playground once was, and occasion inhabitants would hear a gentle knock at the door. When they would open the door, no one would be there, but the story of the young boy is so well-known that the guards will throw a ball out the door for the boy to play with.



**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
 1403 8 AV SE - Gothic Revival - 1911

St. Andrew's Italian Parish Church is a Gothic Revival brick-clad and stone- and cast concrete-trimmed church featuring an octagonal tower with a tall open steeple located on the northeastern corner of the site. There are ornate exterior mosaics on the north and west facades and both entries on the north facade have hand-carved wooden doors. Rectangular in plan, the building is divided into two main portions: the north portion is the square nave with transepts on four sides, one of which opens into a large open two-storey space in the south portion. The interior retains the stained-glass windows and some original woodwork (such as interior doors, stairs, and balustrades).

Initially a Presbyterian church, it remained one while most other Presbyterian churches joined the United Church of Canada. The congregation would eventually move to Haysboro in 1961. Four years later it became an Italian Catholic parish, La Parrocchia di Sant'Andrea, which was the first ethnic-Italian congregation. By 1985, it then became a Vietnamese Catholic church due to the diaspora stemming from the Vietnam War's outcome. The church changed names to St. Vincent Liem Catholic Church. Today, it is the All Nations Full Gospel Church.

A tragic story unfolded here. In the 1910s, a single young woman was studying to become a teacher. Her teacher's college had a strict morality clause which forbade any funny business. The young woman then met a man whom she fell in love with. The romance was interrupted by the beginning of World War I, and he was sent to fight in France, where he died weeks into the war. She learned that she had become pregnant and was subsequently thrown out of teacher's college. Her family did the same, so she sought help from the church.

Sadly the church also declined to help, leading her to climb to the top of the bell tower and jump. Churchgoers and neighbours still hear the bells ringing, even though the bells were removed in the '70s.





## **About us:**

Heritage Calgary is a charitable Civic Partner of the City of Calgary that identifies, preserves, and promotes Calgary's diverse heritage for future generations. We believe heritage is a dynamic process by which identity is experienced, interpreted, and represented and we take pride in working with Calgarians to honour the fabric that we are all a part of.

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