



The present St. John's Church and most agree that it is the second church on the site, was built in 1829. The first building burned down in 1828. One story goes that the Church caught fire because hot coals were carried in from the sexton's home to start a fire in the church stove (a common practice of the day). A stray coal fell from the shovel and smoldered, thus causing the fire.

A new church building was constructed mainly due to the efforts of William Fultz (who ran the Twelve Mile House in Sackville), Francis Robinson (whose father originally brought building materials with him to Sackville to build a church), and Thomas Hamilton. These three men worked diligently so the new church was finished enough to hold services within a year of when the previous building had burned down. Bishop John Inglis, who was the son of Bishop Charles Inglis, consecrated the new building on November 30, 1830.

The design of St. John's is considered to be Georgian. It is similar in style to St. Paul's Church in Halifax. It has a square steeple and most of its windows have gothic arches. There is a debate as to the reason for the positioning of St. John's Church, which faced away from the Old Sackville Road. It is possible that the Old Sackville Road used to run in front of the church, on the west side, though old maps of Sackville refute this idea. However, a more likely explanation is that the St. John's Church is faced away from the road because many early Christians positioned their churches so that the congregation, altar and chancel faced the east towards the Holy Land.



AN EPICENTER OF ACTIVITY

In 1866, a deed for church land in Bedford was filed and registered in Halifax. Soon after this the town of Bedford was having its own church services separate from Sackville. Church services started in Hammonds Plains in 1839 and a small church, named St. John's, was consecrated on May 28, 1843. This church burned and was replaced by St. Nicholas Church in 1890. In Beaver Bank the Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1886. Another need for an additional church arose in Sackville as the population started to rapidly increase, and a new Parish (St. Francis) was established in 1975 in the First Lake area.

In the Church's cemetery there can be found the early family names of Sackville, including ones such as Fultz, Robinson, Fenerty, Patton, Peverill and Hamilton to name a few. The hard work of some of Sackville's founding families helped make Sackville the community it is today.

On May 3, 1998, St. John's Church was honoured and recognized as a designated municipal registered heritage building as it is now the oldest standing building in the Sackville district.

Just as St. John's served as an epicenter of activity relevant to the development and history of Sackville in the past, it remains a vibrant and active participant in the happenings of many contemporary Sackville lives.

The History of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church




**FULTZ
HOUSE
MUSEUM**

A COMMUNITY LEGACY

Governor Edward Cornwallis founded Fort Sackville in 1749. The fort was named after Lionel Cranfield Sackville, the first Duke of Dorset. The fort's purpose was to guard the backdoor of Halifax (which was founded in the same year) from the French and their native allies. The fort was constructed at the head of the Bedford Basin, and the land surrounding the barracks became known as the community of Sackville.

The boundaries for the township and Parish of Sackville were first established in 1804 after its separation from St. Paul's Church in Halifax. The evidence that's available would indicate that St. John's was built around 1805. It was and is located on one of the highest points in the Sackville area known as "Churchyard Hill." On a clear day the church can be seen from Magazine Hill and some claim that it can be seen from the more elevated parts of Halifax.



The photo above (dated 1905) was originally printed as a postcard.

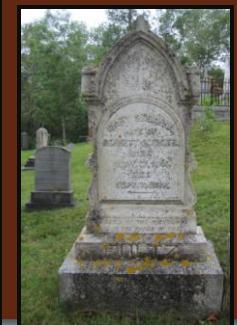
Some Sackville historians believe that there may have been a church built on that location as early as 1790 and the present church is the third church on the site. A record from an old vestry book indicated that the Church land had been deeded to the parish forty years prior to the St. John's Church being built. Some members of the Robinson family (one of Sackville's oldest founding families) had already settled in Sackville in 1785 and had brought with them materials and intentions to build a church. Yet Bishop Charles Inglis (who was the first Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia) kept a detailed journal throughout his travels in his diocese, but he never mentioned a church in the Sackville area before 1807, even though he did travel to Sackville often. Another reason why a church building in the Sackville area before 1805 is debatable is because of the Sackville Road assessment roll for 1792. The assessment roll counted 13 households for that area, which was not an extremely high number of people to support a church.



Pictured above is the Alter in the sanctuary



A picture of the St. John's Cemetery and Church



Located in the St. John's Cemetery, are the gravestones of Bennett and Mary Fultz, as seen above. They were the original owners of the home known today as the Fultz House Museum.

The coloured photos that have appeared in this brochure have been provided by Darryl Spidell, the archivist for St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church.