

Notable figures in the history of the Nova Scotia Legislature

F. Wayne Adams, CM, ONS In 1993, Adams became the first African Nova Scotian to be elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly and appointed to the Executive Council of Nova Scotia. His portrait is on display in the Legislative Chamber. *(2nd floor, room 5)*

Delmore (Buddy) Daye In 1990, Daye became the first African Nova Scotian to serve as the House of Assembly's Sergeant-at-Arms. Daye's portrait is on display on the second floor. *(2nd floor, room 6)*

Elder Noel Knockwood Born in the Sipekne'katik First Nation, Knockwood was a residential school survivor, and a veteran of the Korean War. In 2000, he became the first Mi'kmaq person to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Gerald (Jerry) Lawrence At the age of 12, Lawrence became a paraplegic due to polio. In 1978, Lawrence, a radio broadcaster, was elected to the House of Assembly. Among his efforts on behalf of persons with disabilities, he oversaw the installation of the elevator at Province House during his service as a cabinet minister, in order to make the building more accessible for everyone.

Alexa McDonough, OC, ONS In 1980, McDonough became the first woman to lead a major and recognized party in Nova Scotia and went on to serve in Canada's House of Commons, and as leader of a federal political party.

George Henry Murray Murray served as Premier of Nova Scotia from 1896 to 1923, holding onto the reins of government for almost 27 years. He holds the record for the longest unbroken tenure for a head of government in the British Empire and Commonwealth. A portrait of Murray by Wyly Grier is located on the second floor. *(2nd floor, room 6)*

Gladys Porter, MBE In 1960, Porter became the first woman elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. Her portrait is on display in the Legislative Chamber. *(2nd floor, room 5)*

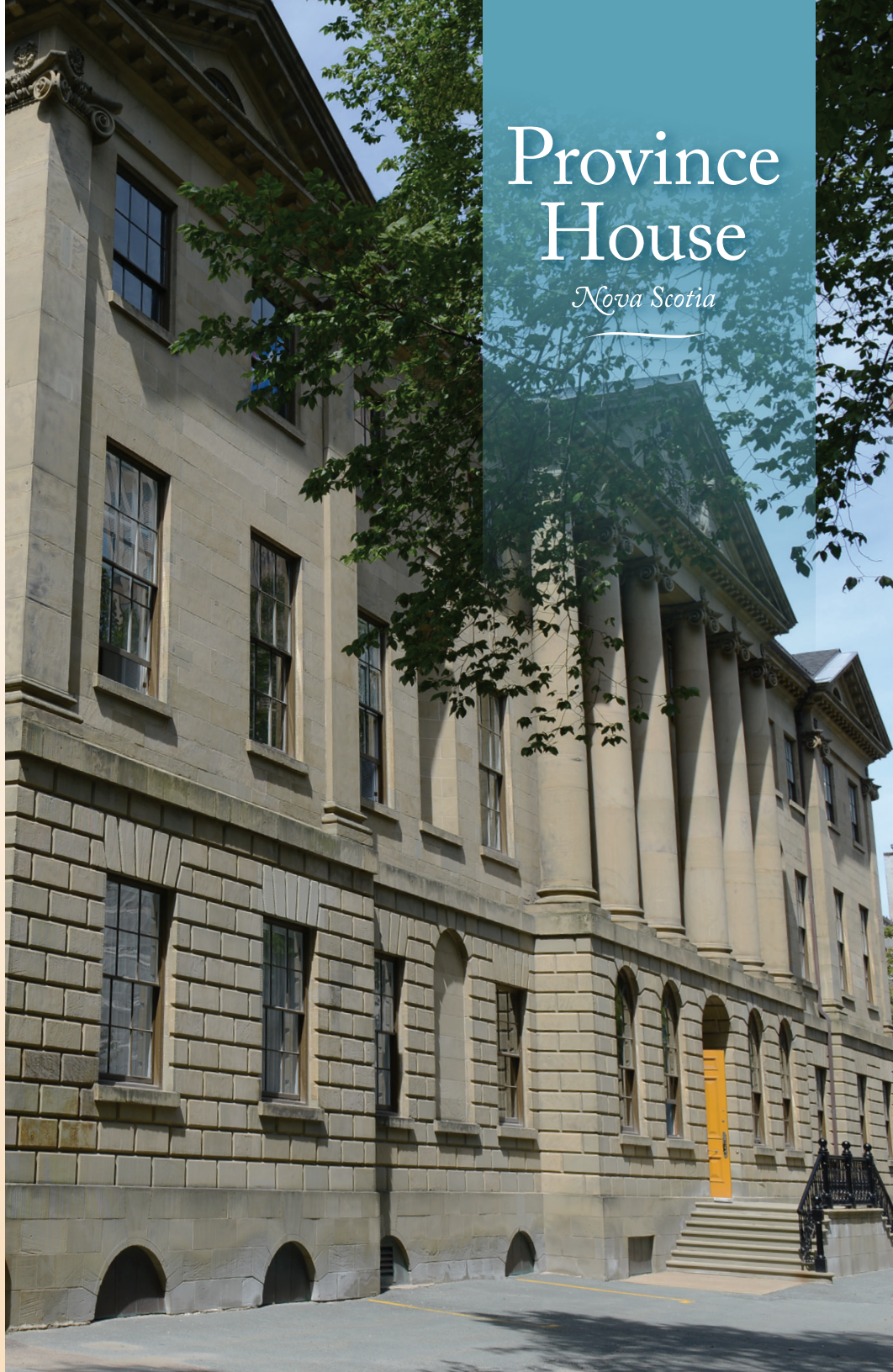
Interesting Facts

- In 1811 a sum of 20,000 British pounds was allocated for the building of Province House, but the actual cost of construction was 52,000 British pounds.
- Intriguing door handles in the form of fish can be seen at the Hollis and Granville entrances, craftsmanship that reflects our Maritime location.
- Province House was initially heated with 38 fireplaces and stoves. Seven fireplaces remain today showcasing original stucco detail on their mantelpieces.
- Next to the portrait of Queen Victoria in the hall on the second floor is a framed handkerchief that once belonged to Her Majesty. The portrait was painted by Nova Scotian Alfred Barrett.
- In the Red Chamber, two throne chairs sit upon the dais under portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte. The chair on the left was crafted for the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860, and on the right, a chair for King George VI's consort, Queen Elizabeth, was crafted for the 1939 Royal Tour of Canada.



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Our past, our future, our Province House



Province House

Nova Scotia



An architectural gem

“... this splendid building stands, and will stand, I hope, to the latest posterity, a proud record of the public spirit of this period of our history.”

—Lord Dalhousie, 1819

The design of Province House is one of the finest examples of British Palladian architectural style in North America. The cornerstone was laid by Lieutenant Governor Sir George Prevost on August 12, 1811 and the 9th Earl of Dalhousie presided over the official opening on February 11, 1819.

The three-storey building is constructed of sandstone from Wallace, Nova Scotia. The elegant structure features Palladian design principles such as symmetry and uniformity and reflects the predominant architectural style of the Georgian period.

Today, the main hallway on the first floor at Province House is commonly known as



the Foyer, divided into three parts, the Main Foyer with the Grand Staircase in the center, flanked by the South and North wings. Look down as you walk upon the original white marble and black limestone tiles; you may see a few fossils. Traditionally, this area was known as the ceremonial processional route.

Throughout the first-floor level you will view a variety of portraiture and artwork reflecting Nova Scotia's diverse history including representation of Nova Scotia's first people, the Mi'kmaq, and African Nova Scotians such as William Hall, the first Black person in the British Empire and the first Nova Scotian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

The second floor includes three key spaces that connect our parliamentary traditions: the Legislative Chamber where the House of Assembly meets, the Red Chamber where, until 1928, the provincial upper house known as the Legislative Council met, and the Legislative Library which had previously been occupied by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

A landmark in the constitutional evolution of Canada

Province House is Canada's oldest seat of government. The Nova Scotia House of Assembly has met in this building every year since February 1819.

1811 Cornerstone laid on August 12.

1819 The official opening takes place in the Legislative Council Chamber (Red Chamber) on February 11 (*2nd floor, room 1*).

1835 The famous trial of Joseph Howe on a charge of criminal libel was held in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia's chamber, now the Legislative Library. Howe's masterly speech in his own defence paved the way for freedom of the press in Canada (*2nd floor, room 3*).

1848 Nova Scotia became the first dominion in the British Empire to achieve responsible government; a plaque is located in the Legislative Chamber to commemorate this historic event (*2nd floor, room 5*).

1860 The visit by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII was a grand affair. Annexes were constructed in the north and south yards to accommodate the one-thousand guests who attended the ceremony and ball.

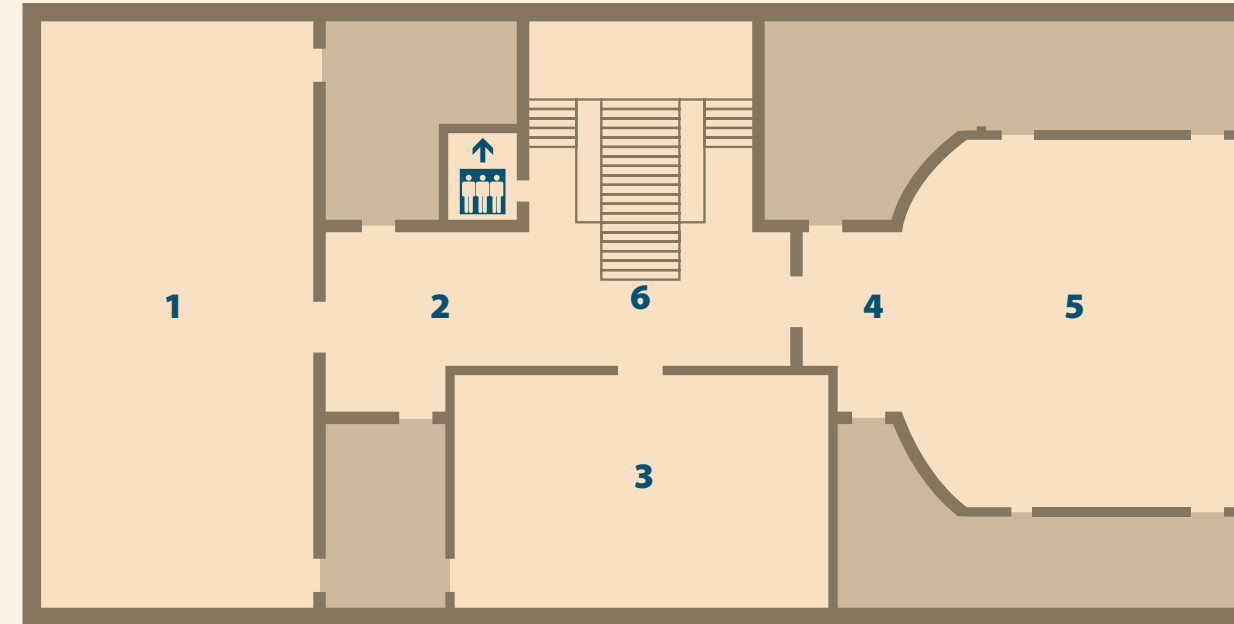
1862 When the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia moved to Spring Garden Road, its space was renovated to house the Legislative Library. Alterations display the emergence of Victorian taste while respecting the original work (*2nd floor, room 3*).

1878 Four Governors General have been installed in office at Province House. Among them, John Campbell then Marquess of Lorne (and later 9th Duke of Argyll), who was husband of Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise. A composite photograph of the installation is seen in the hallway on the second floor (*2nd floor, room 2*).



2nd FLOOR

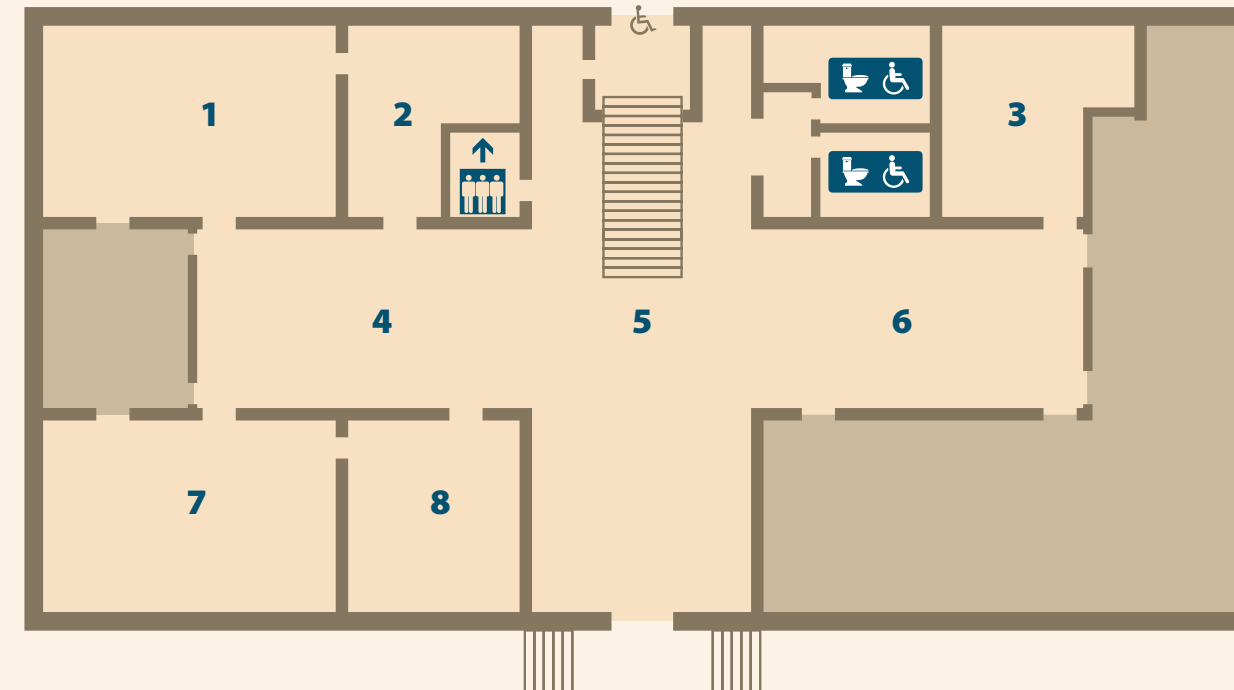
Floor Plan of Province House



Second Floor

1. Red Chamber
2. Central Hall/
Processional Route
3. Legislative Library
4. Hallway
5. Legislative Chamber
6. Grand Staircase

1st FLOOR



First Floor

1. Veterans Room
2. Johnston Room
3. Uniacke Room
4. South Foyer
5. Central Hallway/
Processional Route
(Main Foyer)
6. North Foyer
7. Nova Scotia Reception
Room
8. Exhibit Room

1928 Nova Scotia's Legislature previously included an upper house, known as the Legislative Council. The council deliberated in the Red Chamber until the body was abolished in 1928 (*2nd floor, room 1*).

1993 The room now called the Nova Scotia Reception Room was formerly the Premier's Office. After the Premier's Office moved out of Province House, the interior was refurbished and decorated to be in keeping with the Georgian period and is chiefly used to host visiting dignitaries (*1st floor, room 7*).

1994 Province House was declared a National Historic Site and designated by Queen Elizabeth II in a special ceremony to recognize its historic and architectural importance to the country.

2005 In the Year of the Veteran, the meeting space previously used by cabinet members was formally renamed the Veterans Room to honour the sacrifice of veterans (*1st floor, room 1*).

2010 The Province of Nova Scotia issued an official apology and free pardon to the late Viola Desmond. An African Canadian, Desmond was wrongfully jailed and fined in 1946 for sitting in the white peoples' section of a New Glasgow movie theatre. In 2018, the Canadian \$10 bill was also redesigned to feature Desmond. The pardon is on display in the first floor hallway (*1st floor, room 6*).

2018 On Treaty Day, the official pardon granted to Grand Chief Gabriel Sylliboy, a former Grand Chief of the Mi'kmaq, was installed in Province House. Sylliboy unsuccessfully appealed his 1927 conviction for hunting out of season, citing treaty rights. In 2017, the conviction was overturned, and the free pardon was granted posthumously (*1st floor, room 6*).

2019 Restyled gardens officially opened to celebrate Province House's 200th anniversary.