



ST ANDREWS
PRESERVATION TRUST

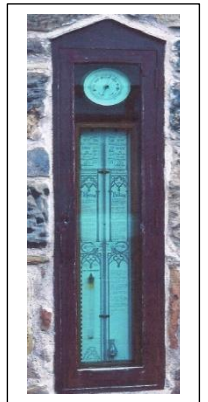
A tour of “The Ladyhead”

St Andrews’ fishing quarter

At its peak in the mid-19th century, the St Andrews fishing community was home to about 200 families. They lived in the area known as the ‘Ladyhead’ - a community in its own right at the Cathedral end of North Street and in the immediate surrounding streets.

Starting at the Trust Museum this guide will take you on a journey around the Ladyhead, where you will get an insight into the lives of the fisherfolk of St Andrews who lived here over one hundred years ago.

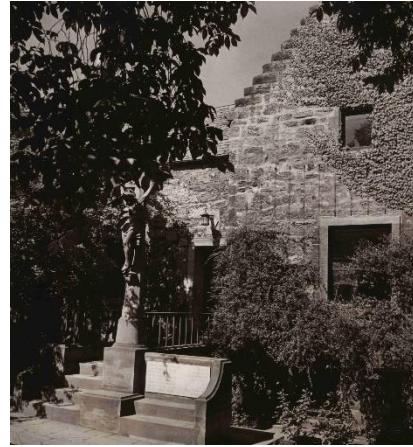
Starting at the **Museum at 12 North Street**, cross the road at the traffic lights and approach the west corner of North Street and **North Castle Street**. You will see the **Fitzroy Barometer** (pictured right) which is set into the wall. It measures changes in the weather and was placed there around 1890 to benefit the fishermen. It was fully restored by The St Andrews Preservation Trust in 1988.



The fishermen gathered at this corner to socialise (pictured below). Looking at the windowsill **to the left of the barometer** you can still see the indentations from where the fishermen sharpened their knives.



Walking down North Castle Street, All Saints Church is on the left. In 1902 a corrugated iron building was erected here -The Mission Church- to reach out to the poor and the local fishing community. It was known as the "Bundle Kirk" because it distributed parcels of clothes to the needy.



On the other side of North Castle Street, **opposite All Saints Church**, there is a gateway which went through to homes built for fisher folk in 1895. They were three storey tenements round a courtyard/drying green with outhouses and outside toilets. The community called it "Society Square".

Continue down North Castle Street and at the castle turn right along East Scores. The fisherwomen who lived in this area dried their washing on the railings (pictured below).



On the **right hand side is Gregory Lane** and St Gregory's. These homes were built in the 1920s for the fisher folk whose homes were demolished to make way for the Younger Hall and All Saints Rectory. Sheds for storage and tiled stairways that allowed easy dragging of nets were included in the build; the fisher folk were delighted with their modern homes.

At the **corner of Gregory Lane and East Scores**, stands a house called "Gregory Green". This is where the Fishermen's Mission once stood. It was a tin structure that served as a social hub for the fishermen. St Gregory's is on the left up the lane; inside you can still see the sheds built in the 1920s.

Moving along East Scores we come to the Kirkhill sheltered housing complex. The East Infant School once stood here. It was commonly known as "The Fisher School" (established 1856—1957) as it was originally built for the children of the fisher folk.

Walking round Kirkhill and up Gregory Place, we come to North Street again. Walking back towards the Museum, on the north side at **number 19** there is the traditional outside stair typical of fisher housing (pictured below). Here you can also see evidence that there was a well where the families would draw water.



Walk towards the café, opposite the barometer. The café was once a home (pictured right) to fisher families. They lived in one or two rooms (a double or a single end). Overcrowding and poor sanitation was common - mending nets and baiting lines was carried on outside on the street.



To the immediate left of the café, at **the corner of South Castle Street (number 22)**, this home was once the Old Castle Tavern, the local pub.

Walk back towards the **Museum at 12 North Street** where you started. Before the Museum and the home next door were renovated in the 1930s, 12-20 North Street was one building housing up to eight families. Take a closer look at the windows either side of the museum's front door – they were once front doors!

The tour of the Ladyhead has now ended.

More information about the east end of St Andrews and the history of 12-20 North Street can be found at: www.standrewsmuseum.com