

## South End Neighborhood District



The area is bounded to the north by Pine Avenue, south by the Niagara River, west by the Robert Moses Parkway, and east by Hyde Park Boulevard. The district contains an interesting composition of industry, residences, and commercial/retail structures, historic housing area, and tourist oriented attractions. The majority of the area is residential in character and lies east of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and south of Rainbow Boulevard. Tourist visiting the city, spend most of their time in “downtown,” the Central Tourist District (CTD). Also known as Rainbow Center, so called for its Urban Renewal Project Name from the 1960’s during which downtown was largely demolished and rebuilt (sic).

The Robert Moses Parkway isolates the CTD from the River, while at the same time providing the north/south access. Portage Road, dividing the neighborhood district in two, is residential in character with a few commercially converted 2- story Queen Anne Victorians. Pine Avenue and Hyde Park Boulevard are used extensively by the local population. Pine Avenue contains densely placed two and three story brick and wood commercial/retail structures, while Hyde Park Boulevard is more open and community oriented with schools and playing fields. Walnut and Ferry Avenues are residential in character, but same as the prime east/west arterials in the city and designated as Route 62.

Many historic districts are buried in the South End area with Manchester (later renamed Niagara Falls), Clarksvilles, and the Lower Milling or Canal Basin area. The CTD, including the Convention Center, Rainbow Mall, various motels, the Winter Garden, and the Falls Street Faire are new additions to the downtown following urban renewal efforts, which began in the 1970’s. Multi story commercial office buildings are also part of the downtown streetscape. Travel and wayfinding is somewhat confusing with an over abundance of signage.

Buffalo Avenue, located in the southern portion of the district, provides circulation for local population and tourists. The street is lined with 2 \_ story wood framed residences, many of which are historically significant. Buffalo Avenue and

Holley Place, just south of the CBD contains historic homes from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Splendid examples of Gothic, Victorian, and Italianate style architecture, which were built for executives of the early industries, can be found in this area. Many of the 2 \_ story, stone or wood constructed homes are quickly disappearing, while others are vacant. Some examples such as the Niagara Club at 24 Buffalo Avenue and the Whitney Mansion at 355 Buffalo Avenue are among the handful of extraordinary residences that were a part of the development of Niagara Falls. Additionally, a generous park like area is situated south of Buffalo Avenue and west of 8<sup>th</sup> Street but access is again limited by the presence of the Robert Moses Parkway.