An early Industrial Revolution site, Biddeford was settled in 1630 by proprietors John Oldham and Richard Vines. They received their land grant as payment for services to the Plymouth Company in 1629. John Oldham was killed on a trading voyage leaving Richard Vines principally connected with the early development of the town. He had spent a winter here in 1616-1617 as a physician investigating a plague among the Natives. English settlers named the area Saco, a contraction of the river name thought to be Sawcotuck. Saco was destroyed in 1688 by Indians and was renamed Biddeford after Bideford, England, in 1719. In the 18th century, Biddeford was a small village. The land was agriculturally poor; shipbuilding, lumbering, and fishing became the major industries. A few merchant mills utilized tributaries of the Saco but not the river itself. Seth Spring and Moses Bradbury were Revolutionary War veterans who had first utilized the river for power around 1775. They built mills on Spring's Island and dams in the river itself. The Saco River falls 47 feet at Biddeford and has a dependable flow from large wetlands in the White Mountains. The 19th century brought vast changes in size and wealth. In 1830, Samuel Batchelder was brought to the area as a consultant on mills being built on Factory Island. He realized the river valley land in Biddeford held the potential to become a huge industrial site. He organized the Saco Water Power Company in 1837. Capital poured into Biddeford from investors enraptured by the "New England Mill Fever" and the village was dramatically changed into a city.

From the late 1800's through the early 1950's Biddeford maintained a strong identity as a productive mill city where thousands of immigrants seeking work came to establish themselves and their extended families. Failure to diversify and to deal with the loss of its mills to southern competitors forced the city to reevaluate its resources and establish new guidelines for growth and development.

Today Biddeford has joined with entrepreneurs to plan for the revitalization of the City's sprawling downtown mill district. The adaptive re-use of the historic mills into a unique mix of commercial and residential uses is expected to stimulate new vitality into the City's urban center and its historic mill complex.

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Biddeford, Maine fut fondé en 1630 par les propriétaires John Oldham et Richard Vines qui avaient reçu leur concession pour services rendus à la Compagnie de Plymouth en 1629. Dans les années dix-huit cent Biddeford devint un village. La culture du poisson, l'entreprise forestière, et la construction navale y furent les industries majeures. Vers 1775, Seth Spring et Moses Bradbury furent les premiers à utiliser la rivière Saco afin de générer de la puissance électrique. En 1830, on embaucha Samuel Batchelder comme consultant pour la construction des fabriques sur Factory Island. Plus tard en

1837, il organisa la compagnie "Saco Water Power Company." Et c'est ainsi que Biddeford émergea comme une ville industrielle.

Des années dix-huit cent jusqu'au milieu du dix-neuvième siècle, Biddeford a maintenu son identité de ville de "moulins" tout en accueillant des milliers d' immigrants surtout de l'Irlande et du Canada français. Faute de diversification dans son industrie, Biddeford perdit à la longue ses industries. C'est alors que la ville a dû réévaluer ses ressources et adopter des mesures qui favoriseraient la croissance. Aujourd'hui Biddeford prend conscience de plus en plus de son ensemble industriel d'anciennes filatures dans son programme de revitalisation. Avec l'entrain des entrepreneurs qui y apportent une planification énergique, le futur s'annonce bien pour une utilisation à la fois résidentielle et industrielle.

THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS®™ is designed as a bilingual history and culture walking tour created by the Biddeford Historical Society. The Society has chosen French as the second language in recognition of the substantial population of Franco-Americans as well as the many francophone tourists who visit our area. The immediate roots of the Franco-Americans go back to Canada in the 17th century.

LE MUSÉE DANS LA RUE®™ conçu pour une promenade historique et culturelle fut créé par la Société Historique de Biddeford. La Société a choisi le français comme seconde langue en reconnaissance de la forte population franco-américaine de Biddeford ainsi que les maints touristes francophones qui viennent parmi nous chaque année. Les racines immédiates de ces Franco-Américains remontent au Canada du 17ᵐᵉ siècle.

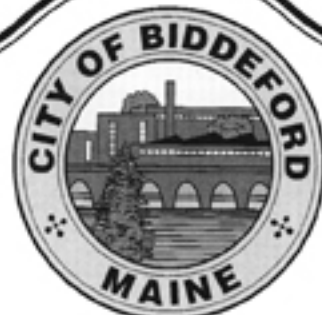# THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS®™
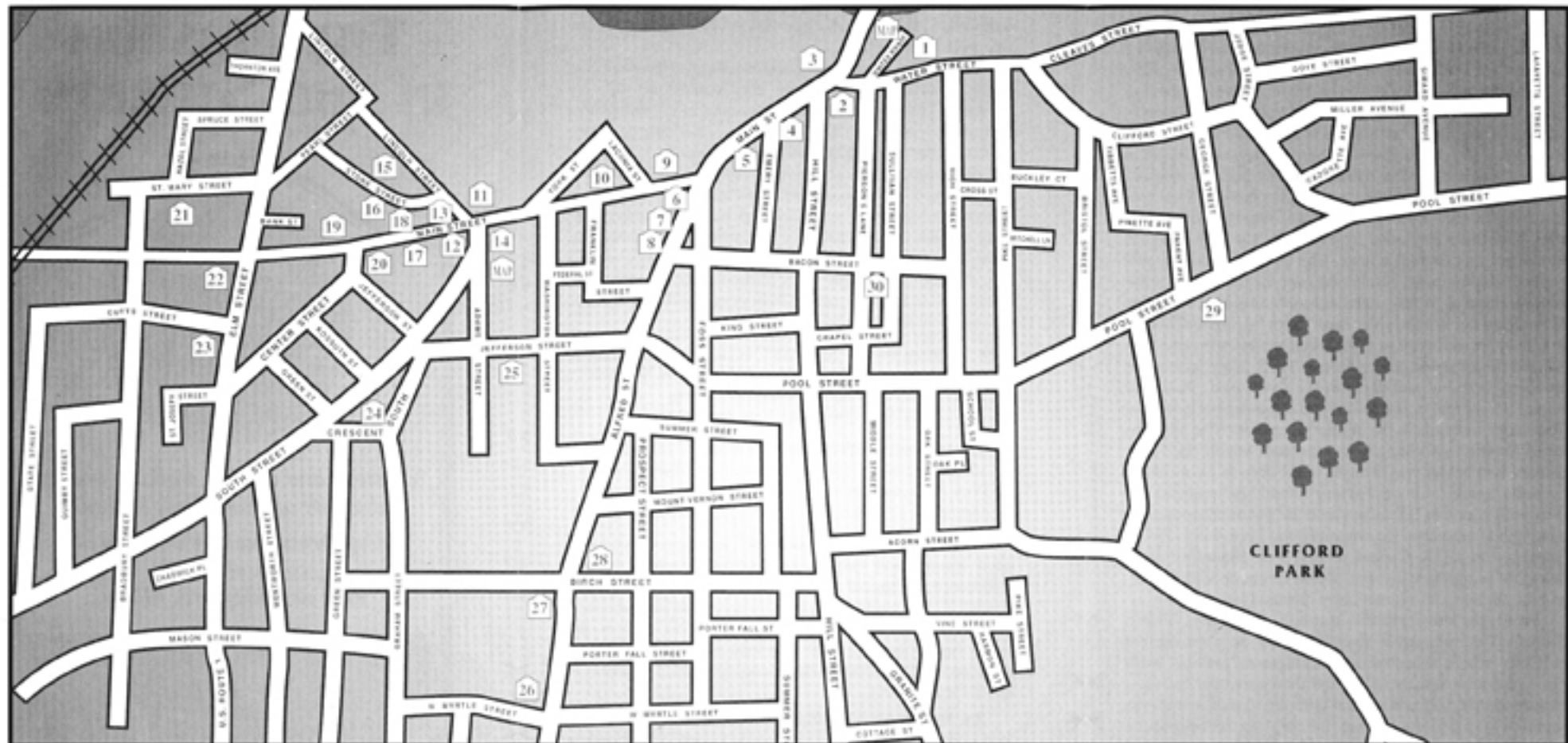

A history and culture walking tour of the City of Biddeford, Maine.

Une promenade historique et culturelle de la Ville de Biddeford, Maine.

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Welcome to BIDDEFORD
Bienvenue à BIDDEFORD

1 THE BIDDEFORD SHIPYARDS / LES CHANTIERS NAVALS	

1 THE BIDDEFORD SHIPYARDS
LES CHANTIERS NAVALS

2 SAMUEL PEIRSON'S HOUSE
LA MAISON SAMUEL PEIRSON

3 THE JAMES SULLIVAN HOME
LA RÉSIDENCE DE JAMES SULLIVAN

4 FORT SACO IN 1693
LE FORT SACO EN 1693

5 THE LACONIA CO.
LA COMPAGNIE LACONIA

6 ALFRED STREET
LA RUE ALFRED

7 BIDDEFORD'S *LA JUSTICE*
LA JUSTICE DE BIDDEFORD

8 THE I. O. O. F. BLOCK
LE BLOC I. O. O. F.

9 LOWER MAIN STREET IN 1870
LA RUE MAIN EN 1870

10 MARBLE HALL
LE BLOC MARBLE

11 THE THACHER HOTEL
L'HÔTEL THACHER

12 JOURNAL BUILDING IN 1916
LE BÂTIMENT DU JOURNAL QUOTIDIEN EN 1916

13 PAINCHAUD BAND
LA FANFARE PAINCHAUD

14 PEPPERELL MFG. CO.
LA FILATURE PEPPERELL

15 THE LINCOLN STREET MILL AND CLOCK TOWER
LA FILATURE ET SA TOUR SUR LA RUE LINCOLN

16 TRACY HOUSE
LA MAISON TRACY

17 BIDDEFORD CITY HALL
L'HÔTEL DE VILLE

18 THE OPERA HOUSE
LA SALLE DE L'OPÉRA

19 UPPER MAIN STREET
LE HAUT DE LA RUE MAIN

20 McARTHUR LIBRARY
LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE McARTHUR

21 ST. MARY'S CHURCH
L'ÉGLISE ST. MARY

22 THE SOCIETY SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE DE BIENFAISANCE
LA SOCIÉTÉ SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE DE BIENFAISANCE

23 ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
L'ÉGLISE ST. JOSEPH

24 THE SECONDCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
L'ÉGLISE SECONDE CONGRÉGATIONALISTE

25 THE McARTHUR HOME
LE FOYER McARTHUR

26 BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL
L'ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE DE BIDDEFORD

27 SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
L'ÉCOLE SAINT JOSEPH

28 THE GOULD HOUSE
LA MAISON GOULD

29 WEBBER HOSPITAL, POOL ST.
L'HÔPITAL WEBBER

30 ST. ANDRÉ'S CHURCH
L'ÉGLISE SAINT ANDRÉ