


# 160 MONTAGUE STREET

A fixture on Lunenburg's working waterfront since 1873.

PRINCE STREET (extended)


MONTAGUE STREET

#152 1879-90




Until 1977, when it was sold to Deep Sea Trawlers Ltd. this building was the main store and warehouse for Zwicker and Company, the oldest fish company in Canada. Founded in 1789 when John Zwicker took over the former Rudolf business, the company was passed on to Edmund and Nicolas Zwicker in 1841, then to William N. Zwicker in 1859. In 1856, the company pioneered by sending the schooner "Union" on a deep sea trip to the Grand Banks; until that time the furthest limit of fishing expeditions had been to the coast of Labrador. Even so, it was not until 20 years later that deep sea trawlfishing from dories became standard procedure (see #180/182 Montague). In the 1896 publication "Historic Lunenburg" by W.A. Letson, the business is described as follows:  
 "W.N. Zwicker is a leading West India merchant whose business dates back through his father to a time when Lunenburg was the chief port of entry in the Province, Mr. Zwicker being then the chief importer of West India produce which was shipped from this port to Halifax. He (W.N. Zwicker) succeeded his father in the business which he has successfully carried on ever since having a few years ago taken his sons into partnership with him. The firm is now known as Zwicker and Company and is doing one of the largest West India businesses in the Town." The business remained in the Zwicker family until 1977.  
 The main building was erected in the late 1880's and well represents the prosperity that the company was enjoying at the time. With 3½ storeys and a bell cast gambrel roof it is notable for its main facade. On the upper storeys, windows with segmental moulded hoods and ornamental spade shaped

#160 c1873



In 1873, Lewis Anderson left the firm of James Eisenhauer and Co. (see #138 Montague) and started his own business at this location. Letson's 1896 biographical profile in "Historic Lunenburg" reads as follows (see also #163 Pelham):  
 "Lewis Anderson for many years occupied a prominent place among the businessmen of Lunenburg and it was mainly through his enterprise that Lunenburg entered upon the career of business prosperity which she today enjoys. It was through his energy that the West India trade which had almost entirely ceased was revived. Withdrawing from the firm of J.D. Eisenhauer and Co. he took as a partner, James R. Rudolf esq., who still continues the business under the name of Lewis Anderson & Co. Mr. Anderson died in 1888 respected and esteemed for his sterling qualities of mind and heart."  
 The straightforward 1½ storey building still presents an intact 19th century face to Montague Street. It has an interesting round-headed label window set into its gable, and the details of trim, door panels, and pilasters, etc. on the storefront are tastefully accented in contrasting colors.  
 About 1910, the Anderson premises were acquired by Zwicker and Company and were in turn sold off by that company in 1977. The main building is now occupied by an electronic navigation aid company.

#170 1897



The firm of Adams & Knickle was founded in 1897 by Henry Adams (a former employee of Lewis Anderson), Alexander Knickle, and William Arenburg (who retired shortly afterwards). Their store and office was built that same year by Solomon and Joseph Morash, master carpenters, and still remains substantially intact. A 2½ storey building with a bell cast gambrel roof, it has several interesting architectural features. Like the former Zwicker buildings down the street, its symmetrical main facade is clad in ashlar imitation wood siding and the storefront windows, too, have drop shutters which can slide down from above. Wide corner boards, painted white in contrast to the red wall surface, culminate in eaves returns which are decorated by paired fan-wheel shaped brackets. Side and rear wall surfaces are all shingled. The small 2 storey ell was added between 1939-47.  
 In 1943, the company acquired the assets of the Lunenburg Outfitting Company (formerly James Eisenhauer & Co. - see #132-138 Montague) and consolidated its position on the waterfront. It has successfully survived the change from the salt cod export business to the modern scallop fishery and maintains an active fleet of 6 vessels. Also, the company is still managed by descendants of its founders and as such, is the only waterfront fish company which maintains a direct historic link with its 19th century origins.

BLUENOSE DRIVE

