



# WALKING THE DEBRIS FIELD

Public Geographies of the Halifax Explosion

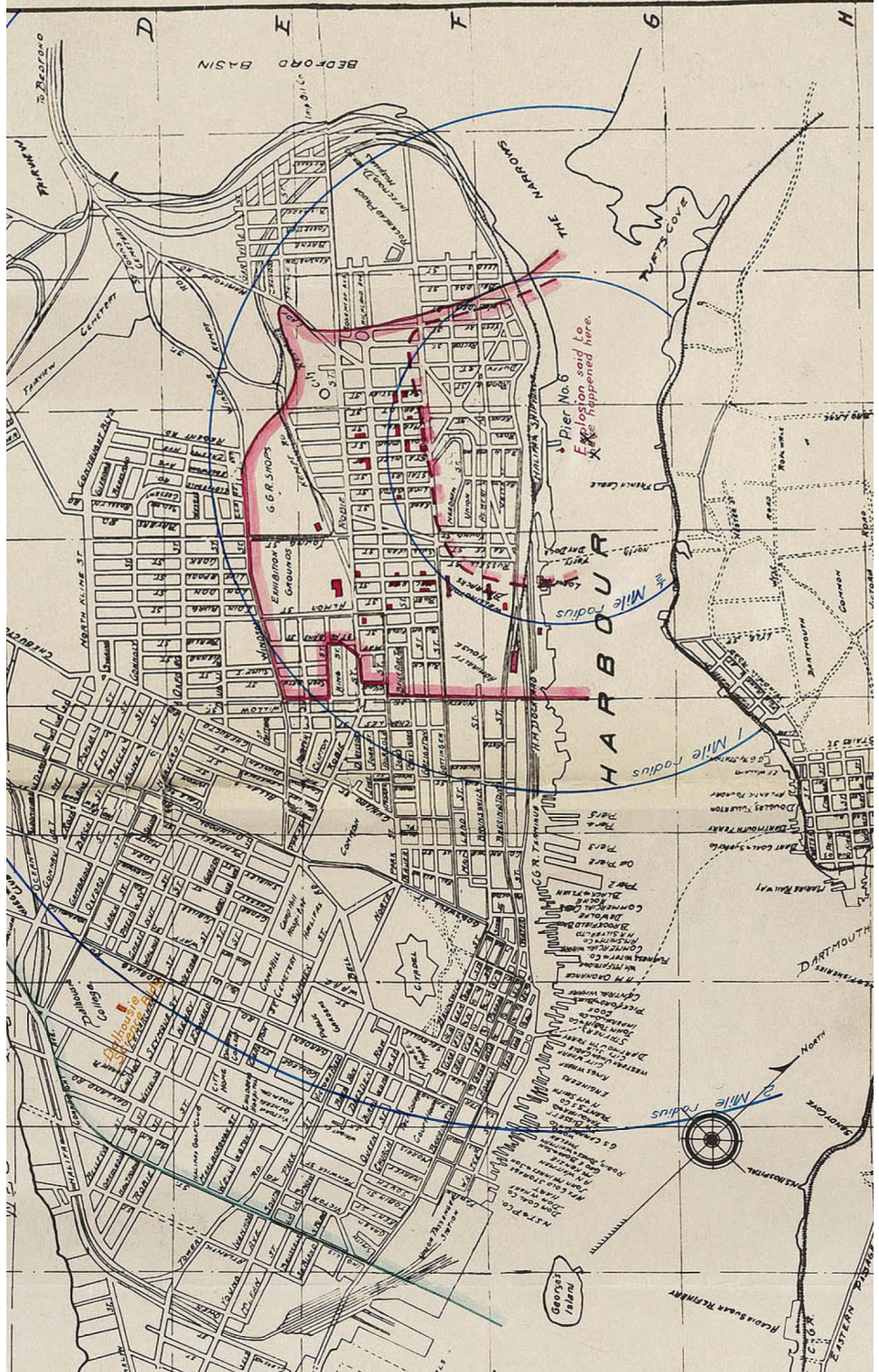
Towards Pier 6

December 4, 2016



Presented by Narratives in Space + Time Society





BEDFORD BASIN

HARBOUR

Pier No. 6  
Explosion said to  
have happened here.

1/2 Mile Radius

1 Mile Radius



George's Tavern

George's Tavern

Map labels include: THE NARROWS, DARTMOUTH, EASTERN AVENUE, NORTH ALINE ST, GGR SHOPS, Emigrant's Grounds, PIER NO. 6, and various street names like WASHINGTON ST, QUEEN ST, and BRADLEY ST.

## Walking the Debris Field: Public Geographies of the Halifax Explosion Towards Pier 6

This public art event marks the 99th anniversary of the Explosion in Halifax Harbour. We will walk down the Richmond hillside (the Halifax neighbourhood destroyed by the explosion), into the Halifax Shipyard area close to Ground Zero, and back up through Mulgrave Park.

If you have a smartphone with a GPS tracking app, please turn the app on now, and make a track of this walk. After the walk, you may send your recorded track to us at: [nistyh@gmail.com](mailto:nistyh@gmail.com)



Mural brought to you by the Blackbook Collective

We begin in the “house hole”, a depression in the grass on the west side of Veith Street. NiS+TS has prepared “pennies from hell” as keepsakes for you. Please take them out of the bag and carry them in your hand while we walk.

Helping keep us safe along the route today are youth from Future Roots. They can give you a hand at the crosswalks and corners.

The historic marker outside Veith House tells the story of what happened here on the morning of December 6, 1917. This fence beside Veith House is being painted with a mural designed by artist Bria Cherise Miller, with assistance from Future Roots and other members of the community.

We will cross Barrington Street at Niobe Gate Bridge and walk down to view the Halifax Graving Dock. Photos are not allowed here, so please keep your camera in your bag or pocket.



Our route takes us behind the Irving Assembly Hall and along the concrete retaining wall. Pier 6, where the Mont-Blanc exploded, was located here, approximately where the two sections of the Hall meet. We will have a quiet pause here, and members of NiS+TS will do a reading.

The north end of the wall is close to the original location of the Richmond train station, where Vince Coleman worked and made his final and heroic message. From here we will walk up to Barrington Street, and cross to go up the Richmond Street hill. At 3252 Veith Street, Architect Peter Henry will host us in the backyard of a Hydrostone house, and we will listen to an audio piece by Evan Cameron and Matt Harrison.

We will go back along Veith Street, and cross into Mulgrave Park by the basketball court. Notice the many new murals, created by the Blackbook Collective and other artists during the Paint the Park festival held in October.



Retaining Wall Halifax Shipyard

Our walk concludes on Jarvis Lane, where we will be hosted by the Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre. Crystal John will tell us more about this neighbourhood.

Feel how warm the pennies in your hands have become.  
Now it's time to wrap them back up and put them away.  
Thank you for walking with us today.

**NiS+TS acknowledges the generous contributions of our collaborators and contributors:**

Crystal John and the Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre; Ashley Linden and youth from Future Roots; Bria Cherise Miller, mural artist; Brian Riley (stiltwalker); Toban Ralston, fashion designer; Leesa Hamilton, costume designer; the Blackbook Collective; Architect Peter Henry and Heather Chandler; Evan Cameron and Matt Harrison, audio artists; Ren Thomas from the Dalhousie University School of Planning; Artists Caitlin McGuire, Colleen MacIsaac and Sam Hall; Angela Henderson, artist and modelmaker; Ray Dubé, technician; and Amanda Noiles, Registered Sign Language Interpreter.



We are planning more events in the debris field during the coming year; please see the contact information below to keep in touch.

<https://www.facebook.com/narrativesinspaceandtimesociety>

[www.narrativesinspaceandtime.ca](http://www.narrativesinspaceandtime.ca)

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<https://twitter.com/NiSTSNS#halifaxexplosion>



Richmond Piers by Gauvin and Gentzel, ca. 1898

**NiS+TS** (Narratives in Space+Time Society) is an interdisciplinary creative research group working on art projects involving mobile media and walking.

Founded in 2012 and based in Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, NiS+TS promotes the use of mobile media by artists and members of the public. NiS+TS projects are sited in spaces that are often overlooked, disused or vacant. Participants use mobile media such as GPS, smartphones and mobility tracking devices, in combination with other modes (such as walking, talking and making objects) in interactive explorations of locations and subjects. The members of NiS+T are Robert Bean, Renée Gruszecki, Brian Lilley, Barbara Louder and Mary Elizabeth Luka.

*Please note that this event is being videotaped for documentation and promotional purposes, and by participating, you are consenting to our use of the material. If you don't wish to be recorded, please stay behind the camera operator.*