The historic lime quarry at Green Head, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada

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The Green Head lime quarry in Saint John, New Brunswick, includes remains of built structures and quarries preserving one of the last historic lime kiln operations in southern New Brunswick. The site on Green Head Island is owned by the City of Saint John and includes remains of the quarry, kiln foundations, wharf timbers, and foundation walls of homes. During the 1800s the lime business was booming in the region. Abraham Gesner reported as many as nineteen kiln sites in operation in the early 1800s. Quarries are located in the Neoproterozoic Ashburn Formation marble of the Green Head Group. Quarry workings are found at numerous locations, the most prominent are at Green Head Island, near the Reversing Falls Suspension Bridge, at the Pokiok and Snowflake quarries in north Saint John, and east at Torryburn.

The Green Head quarry was operated for many years by Joseph and Frank Armstrong whose lime product was known throughout the Maritimes for its quality. Much of the lime produced at the Armstrong Quarry was used locally. Buildings constructed in Uptown Saint John after the Great Fire of 1877 were mortared using Green Head lime. Joseph Armstrong is noted in newspaper stories of the day as a pioneer in the development of the lime industry which was worth almost $100,000 in export trade by 1889. The quarry operation is a historic reminder of a mining industry that supported southern New Brunswick’s economy throughout much of the nineteenth century.