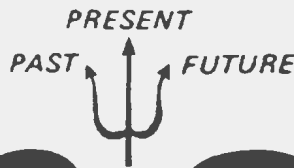
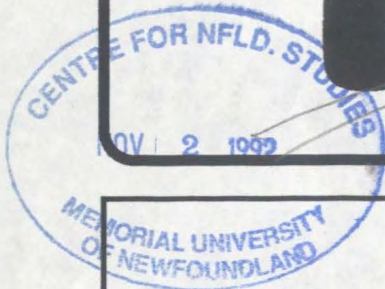


the



# trident



## BANNERMAN HOUSE ON THE BLOCK



As a result of the concerted efforts of concerned citizens, neighbourhood residents, and the local heritage community, St. John's City Council voted in March, 1992 to refuse an application to demolish Bannerman House (54 Circular Road). The house is now offered for sale by its current owners, Dr. Stephen and Veronica Walker.

This historic property, which engineering reports confirm is in good condition, is one of the three oldest houses on Circular Road, and among the oldest in the city. It is a significant element of the Historic District of Rennie's Mill Road. While the construction date of the house is unclear, it is generally accepted that the dwelling was constructed in the first part of the 19th century. A date inscribed on a chimney suggests that it was erected in 1849. It has been suggested by historians that a portion of the structure may have existed on the site in 1790 - 1800.

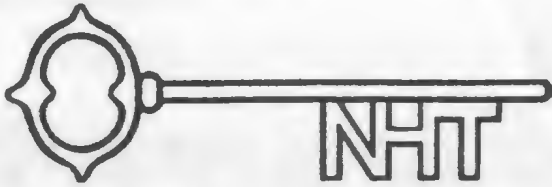
The name "Bannerman House" is thought to be a result of the proximity of the dwelling to

Bannerman Park, named after Governor Bannerman. In 1927-29 the house was owned by William Angus Reid of the Reid Newfoundland Company, which constructed the Newfoundland Railway. Sir Marmaduke Winter and Don Snowden are also known to have occupied the home during its colourful history.

The Trust has prepared a detailed history of the house which is available to all interested individuals. Anyone interested in the possible purchase of the property is invited to make direct contact with the home owner.

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Newfoundland Historic Trust

A LETTER  
FROM THE TRUST  
PRESIDENT:

ANDREW NOSEWORTHY

As the first year of my term as Trust President draws to a close, I am forced to conclude that we are indeed facing difficult and challenging times. Unlike the past, however, today's problems are not a result of the greed or intransigence of developers who wish to demolish older streetscapes or erect new properties. Rather, they stem from the limited will of governments to regulate to preserve heritage, or to enforce their own regulations.

Guided by what was perhaps a false sense of security, over the past decade we assumed that the motives and concerns of the heritage community were becoming understood and accepted. It appeared as if governments and industry had come to, at least begrudgingly, accept the social and economic importance of preservation. The days of carrying placards appeared to be over; heritage activists were successful in achieving public office in some areas, and local governments had begun establishing heritage by-laws.

It is nevertheless a sad fact that politicians may not always act responsibly, and there are no guarantees that municipal governments will always take effective action to ensure the sound stewardship of the valuable heritage resources which fall

within their domain.

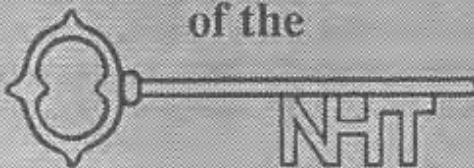
Over the past year we have made representations to the St. John's City Council on Bannerman House and Cramp House; we have managed to (at least temporarily) save one property from destruction, while the other has been tragically lost. Perhaps more significant than either of these challenges has been Council's decision to relax its regulations on the use of vinyl siding and other building materials in heritage areas. Also concerning are planned changes to the City Plan. These changes, if adopted, will further reduce the City's obligation to carry out its current responsibilities.

Over the next year we must continue to point out the inadequacy of Council decisions, and to press at the local, provincial and national level to ensure that our built culture is preserved.

Also, we must not forget that municipal elections are but a year away. Now is the time to assess the commitment of our municipal representatives to the preservation of heritage. We must be ready to judge those running for office, not only on the basis of their support for heritage, but on their ability to act effectively and decisively in preserving our history and our culture.

**NOW IS THE TIME!**

Become a member  
of the



Newfoundland Historic Trust

**Membership fees:**

Single \$10

Family \$15

Group \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **The Newfoundland Historic Trust**  
**P.O. Box 9092**  
**St. John's, Newfoundland**

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## HISTORIC CRAMP HOUSE IS DESTROYED!

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It is with considerable regret that we must report of the demolition of Cramp's Farmhouse, which was located at 255 Freshwater Road, St. John's. This house, which was the best surviving example of the Irish-Newfoundland farmhouse in the city, was built sometime about the middle of the nineteenth century. The "full studded" form of construction and the open fireplace were particularly rare in the St. John's area.

The house was also one of the very last of the original farmhouses which were once common to the Freshwater and Kenmount Valleys; the only other remaining example being O'Brien's Farm on Oxen Pond Road. Occupied until mid-summer of 1992, Cramp's Farmhouse is believed to have been kept in good condition.

Among its tenants over the years were the Grandmother of former Premier J.R. Smallwood, Sarah Cramp. Mr. Smallwood makes reference to visiting the house during his early childhood as part of recollections in *I Chose Canada*.

While the house was not a designated heritage property or located in a heritage area, Council was advised of its historic value by a wide range of concerned citizens and considered its historical merit. The Trust also prepared a short history and architectural assessment of the property which was circulated to both the homeowner and the City. While some consideration was given to moving the structure, this did not prove feasible. Despite the intervention of the Trust and other interested individuals, Council voted to allow for the demolition of the building. The property was subsequently destroyed by the homeowner in August and a new, modern house is being built on the site.

## Organizational Review Nearing Completion.

As noted in the last issue of the Trident, the Trust commenced an review of its organization and structure in late 1991. The purpose of the review is to clarify the roles, functions and mandate of the Trust as it enters its 26th year of activity.

In March, 1992, the Trust Board of Directors conducted a day long review of the programs of the Trust, its organizational structure and its basic operation as a province-wide interest group. The basic conclusions of the review are as follows:

- . While the Trust is a province-wide organization, recent developments suggest the built culture and historic architecture of the St. John's area must remain a principal focus for the immediate future.

- . The Trust must develop a pro-active approach on heritage policy issues; we must press governments and other organizations to adopt effective heritage regulations/policies as well as fight to protect specific structures and buildings.

- . The Trust must maintain an effective working relationship with other groups and organizations interested in built culture. We must also establish effective working relationships with government.

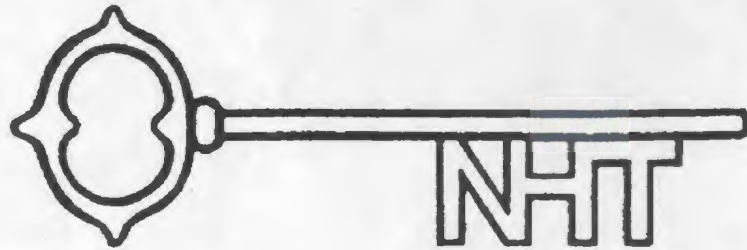
- . The current structure and operation of the Trust's Board of Directors and Executive is satisfactory, but minor restructuring is required to improve the effectiveness of the board and to clarify the specific roles of each member of the Executive.

- . Renewed emphasis should be placed on expanding Trust membership.

In addition to these observations, a draft statement of purpose has been developed which confirms that the Trust's mandate must continue to focus on the preservation of Newfoundland's architectural heritage through research, education, and action.

The results of this review are now being collected into a working document which will be circulated to all Trust members in the near future. All members of the Trust are encouraged to review this document and to provide their views and comments to the President and the Executive Committee.





Newfoundland Historic Trust

*Annual General Meeting*

Monday, November 2, 1992

at the

Interpretation Centre

Signal Hill National Historic Site

Annual Reports and Trust Business

7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker's Presentation

8:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

**Dr. Nat Alcock**

President of the

**Vernacular Architecture Group  
of Great Britain**

on

**" The Social Status of Houses."**

demonstrating the relationship between the form of a building  
and the social standing of its occupants.

All are welcome.

Refreshments will be served

For reservations call: 772-5367

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# Trust Representatives meet with Catholic Church Officials

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Churches and other religious institutions constitute an important element of Newfoundland's architectural heritage. In recognition of this fact, the Newfoundland Historic Trust has embarked on a program designed to encourage church groups to protect and conserve the historic properties, and to ensure that the important relationship between religious heritage and Newfoundland's built culture is fully recognized.

As a start to this effort, on September 25, 1992 a delegation of Trust representatives met with the Most Reverend James MacDonald, the R.C. Archbishop of St. John's, to discuss the preservation and conservation of properties under the responsibility of Newfoundland's Roman Catholic community.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's is the trustee of a number of churches and associated buildings of great value and importance, both in terms of their architecture, their interior decoration, and their furnishing. Many of the most significant properties in the possession of the Archdiocese can be found in or near Cathedral Square. These include the Basilica of St. John the Baptist (1855), Bishop's Library (1856), St. Bonaventure's Monastery (1856), and the St. John Arch (1857). Together with Presentation Convent (1853), the College of Our Lady of Mercy (1857), the Benevolent Irish Society (1880 & 1906) and other adjacent properties, these structures form an integral part of the street-scape of one of the oldest and most historically important precincts of St. John's. In addition to their contribution to Newfoundland's built culture, the historically important linkages between Newfoundland's R.C. community and that of Ireland add national and international significance to many of these heritage properties.

During the September 25 meeting, the Trust requested that the Archbishop create a diocesan heritage committee, which would assist the Archdiocese and its sister institutions in protecting and preserving the rich architectural resources of the R.C. community. This organization would provide important guidance to Church leaders on the preservation and adaptive re-use of Church properties. It would also serve as a repository for information on religious architecture, and it would assist in developing programs to improve interpretation and public education related to the architectural history and heritage of religious properties. Similar commissions have been established by the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City. Commissions of this type are also active in the R.C. dioceses of Valleyfield, St. Hyacinthe, and St. Jean de Longueuil, Quebec.

In early October, at the request of the Archbishop, the Trust prepared a detailed paper which outlines a possible structure and mission statement for a new R.C. heritage commission. This paper is now under review by the Archbishop. The President of the Trust, Andrew Noseworthy, noted that this proposal has been made out of the Trust's interest in cooperating with the Roman Catholic Church other religious institutions on the preservation of our religious architecture, and out of a growing concern over the abandonment and possible future of important Church properties. "Through efforts like this, we hope to work with Church officials and to assist them in the effective preservation and conservation of historic properties" he noted. Initial reports indicate that the Trust's proposal has been received positively by R.C. officials.

## Province Restructures Heritage Responsibilities.

As part of its efforts to implement the new provincial Strategic Economic Plan, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has restructured a number of departments and created a new Department of Culture and Tourism which will be responsible for heritage policy. The Hon. James Walsh has been appointed as Minister of the new department, while Mr. Robert Jenkins has been appointed Deputy Minister. Mr. Bill Frost provides continuity as Assistant Deputy Minister with responsibility for Culture and Heritage.

The members of the Trust extend their best wishes to Minister Walsh and Mr. Jenkins on their respective appointments.

## Parking Garage Proposal Raises Concerns for Downtown Area

St. John's City Council is currently considering several proposals for a parking garage to be constructed in the Hill of Chips area between Duckworth and Water Streets. While parking in the downtown area is a problem to which a new parking garage would be a welcome solution there are also serious concerns surrounding the design of such a building. Most prevalent of these is the potential for a high building to block the view of St. John's harbour from Duckworth St. and the residential area above.

The Trust has sent a letter to Council outlining its concerns about this project and requesting that existing height and setback restrictions for the area be respected in any design for this site.

This issue will bear watching as it unfolds in the coming months.

the  **trident**

The trident is a regular publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 9092, St. John's

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