

the

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

# trident



the Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

Southcott Awards 1996

## 1996 Southcott Awards

The 13th Annual Southcott Awards took place at the E. B. Foran Room, St. John's City Hall on Friday, June 21, 1996.

The Southcott Awards, named after the firm of J. & J.T. Southcott, is intended to recognize those who have undertaken restoration work and, through the illustration of these projects, show others what can be done with our architectural resource.

The Trust would like to thank this year's sponsors: Newtel Communications, Canadian Heritage Parks Canada, and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Recipients of this year's awards include:

**DUNLUCE** (Text: George Chalker)



The house situated at 139 Portugal Cove Road was built circa 1859 for Alexander Whiteford. Known as Dunluce this modified Cape Cod with its five sided Scotch dormers is the home of Andrea and Bill

Gillies and was designated a Registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation in May 1993. Disaster struck in December 1994 when fire gutted one room and caused severe smoke and water damage. The job of restoring the interior of the home was undertaken by Aiden Duff Contracting.

The family room where the fire began, had to be completely rebuilt from floor to ceiling. The room directly opposite the drawing room suffered water and smoke damage and required plastering and painting. Backing on the family room the kitchen also suffered water and smoke damage as did the dining room.

Once the interior restoration was completed Aiden Duff was called upon to show his carpentry skills as exterior work proceeded through the summer and fall of 1995. The clapboard was replaced when required. The decorative barge board complete with final was restored as were the French garden doors and the five sided dormers .

**GEORGE C. HARRIS HOUSE** (Text: George Chalker)

This Queen Anne Style home with classical details was built for George C. Harris and his wife Charlotte (Pratt) in 1908. George C. Harris was the son of Samuel Harris, Captain and Merchant, who pioneered the Bank Fishery after 1870. Following the death of George C. and Lottie, the house was purchased by Hazzen Russell and used as a staff house by Bonavista Cold Storage. In 1992 Fishery Products International transferred the property to the Town of Grand Bank who in turn donated the property to the Grand Bank Historical Society.



In May 1993, the house was designated a Registered Heritage Structure and work began that summer. Most of the windows required minor restoration, but three had to be replicated, as were the lights and transom around the new front door. The balcony, classical columns and the belvedere were replaced. Rotted corner boards, clapboard and roof shingles were replaced. The eaves were replaced and ornate eave brackets were restored.

The interior was mostly intact, requiring minor plastering and painting. In February 1995 work began on the restoration of the staircase which had been removed when the home was converted to a staff house in 1955. Angle lines on the floor, old paint lines and memories of people who had worked for the Harris's provided the details to reconstruct the staircase, which is somewhat unusual in that it uses two winders and two treads and has no landing as it turns 180 degrees.

#### **HULAN HOUSE** (Text: John FitzGerald)

The Hulan House is found in the agricultural community of Jeffrey's, Newfoundland, which is located halfway between Port-aux-Basques and Corner Brook. The lands of Jeffrey's were under cultivation in 1822, when the explorer William Epps Cormack walked across the island of Newfoundland. He was met by Ann Hulan, the great, great great grandmother of the present owner, Dr. Bud Hulan. Ms. Hulan, "the Queen of St. George's Bay", served as the fishing admiral of Bay St. George's between

1780 and 1815, and in the fields surrounding her house she cultivated three different varieties of potatoes. The Hulan House dates from about 1865, and is at least the second house on this site. In 1895, the Hulan House at Jeffrey's was remarkable because it served as the first Post Office for the community and the surrounding region, and housed the telegraph office and a telephone.



In November 1991, the Hulan House was designated a Registered Heritage Structure. With the financial assistance of the Heritage Foundation, restoration work began in May 1993. Dr. Hulan faced a daunting task. The structure had settled and its wooden foundation had disintegrated. The house was therefore jacked-up to enable the pouring of concrete foundation-blocks. When this was done, the original stone chimney was discovered to have been hitched into the rafters and lifted clear of the foundation, a testament to the strength of the building.

On the exterior, all the seams had originally been wrapped for insulation with birch-rind. These were restored, and new eleven-inch pine coin-boards and six-inch clapboards installed. The 1927 chimney was once again placed in perfect working order. The cedar shingle roof was also restored. The original six-over-six windows were stripped and repainted, but all the window glass was left intact.

The restoration of the interior proved more difficult. Dr. Hulan spent three months removing forty to

forty-five layers of lead-based paint, especially on the ceilings. Modern wood panelling was removed, a new electrical service with electric heating was installed, and all the inner ceilings, walls, mouldings, and window frames were restored to their original pine and given a coating of oil, the original treatment of the wood in the house. Despite the difficult work, and the dangers inherent in the restoration, it was a labour of love, and the result was the creation of a remarkable family heirloom.

#### THE POTTERY WORKSHOP (Text: Don Parsons)



The Pottery Workshop, located across from Bannerman Park, is an attached two storey building with a flat roof and an unsupported bay window on the second storey. While little is known of its early history, the house is believed to have been built between 1853 and 1880 and was one of the few houses in the east end of St. John's which survived the Great Fire of 1892. Over the years the original structure was enlarged with an extension at the back which was later raised to two storeys.

When John and Alexis Templeton acquired the property in 1992, it was with the intention of restoring it for joint use as a private dwelling with a pottery business on the first floor. The Templetons

set about a four year restoration project, drawing on Alexis' talents as an artist and John's background as the fourth generation in the paint and decoration business of R.A. Templeton Limited.

The house was found to be structurally sound but badly in need of repairs. A new roof surface was applied to correct leaking problems, and eaves and mouldings were repaired or replaced where necessary retaining the decorative brackets which were found to be in good shape. The vinyl siding on the front of the house was removed and the original clapboard repaired or replaced and given a fresh coat of paint,

A new electrical service was installed to bring the house up to code and to provide power for the pottery kilns. Hardwood floors in the downstairs hall and front room were cleaned up and a new slate floor installed in the front vestibule. A panelled door with bevelled glass found in the basement was restored and added a finishing touch to the entry.

The interior of the front of the house was stripped back to the studs and beams to allow for installation of new gyproc. In the process of this work beams were discovered which appeared to have been charred by fire before installation. This hints at a possible construction date for the additions of shortly after the Great Fire.

Wherever possible, original details were retained and restored such as the stairs, bannister, fireplaces and ornate cast iron radiators. The only exception was with the door frames in the back, which were replaced with the new frames consistent with those in the older section. With the application of paint, paper and trim the House has become both a comfortable and classic home and an inviting place of business.

#### WINTERHOLME (Text: John Fitzgerald)

Built in 1904 by Sir Marmaduke Winter, Winterholme was the largest and most opulent mansion in Newfoundland, a distinction it retains to this day. The history of the home is closely related to Sir Marmaduke Winter. He and his brother Thomas

founded T&M Winter Limited in 1879, and the Standard Manufacturing Company in 1903, the year before Winterholme was built. Sir Marmaduke Winter's grandson, Gordon Winter, was a signatory to the Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada, and later became Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.



Winterholme was designed by the architect William F. Butler, who in close co-operation with Sir Marmaduke, chose the massive proportions of the Queen Anne style. The exterior of the house features rare curved glass windows in both the first floor staterooms and the second floor bedrooms, and a magnificent bracketed pediment surmounting the front door, sporting an elaborate carved frieze.

At the time of its construction, Winterholme contained the most opulent interior of any home in the country of Newfoundland. The front entrance sparkles with leaded glass, suggesting the beauty to be found within. Upon entering the foyer the most striking features are the hand-carved English Oak panelled hall, replete with classical columns, Corinthian capitals, and pilasters; and the carved wooden pedimented entryways. The grand staircase is illuminated from the first landing by a three-panelled picture window. All the wood panelling and mouldings were made to order in England, shipped to Newfoundland, and assembled at Winterholme by the contractor M.J. Kennedy.

Other interior features of Winterholme which are without equal are the magnificent bracketed plastered cornices for the ceilings. Classical elements provide a striking architectural unity to all the spaces in this house, which boasts eleven working fireplaces, some with carefully-wrought mantelpieces with columns, Corinthian capitals and pilasters.

To Dick and Ruby Cook, the owners since 1979, we give credit for taking on the enormous task of preserving and enhancing the property. All the exterior clapboards, mouldings, brackets, and details of the home were scraped from ground level to the roof, and restored from a cream colour to its earlier green, with accent trim for the coin-boards, columns, and windows of white, with dusk rose brackets. Inside, the fine details of plaster ceilings were carefully repaired where necessary, and appropriate paint colours were carefully chosen to give a bright, airy atmosphere to the rooms. Original fixtures were retained wherever or augmented with new fixtures of a sympathetic style. In its present incarnation, Winterholme has been preserved as a heritage inn, one of the best of the grand homes of Newfoundland.

Because of the significance of the individuals associated with the property, Winterholme has been designated a Registered Heritage Structure and a National Historic Site. As an early twentieth century house in a neighbourhood built during the Victorian period, Winterholme is the crowning glory of Circular Road and Rennie's Mill Road, the first modern "suburb" of St. John's. Winterholme provides a very clear built example of the completion of Newfoundland's social, cultural, and political journey from a fishing station to a self-governing dominion in the British Empire.

#### YORKHOLME (Text: Don Parsons)

When the Great Fire of 1892 swept through St. John's it destroyed almost all of the downtown and east end of the city. In the aftermath the city was rebuilt fairly quickly, making great use of the Second Empire Style of architecture, with trademark mansard roofs and dormer. One such house was

built at number three York Street by Thomas Voisey.



The house is a two storey structure with mansard roof and bonneted dormer windows. Mr. Voisey and his neighbour in number five, Charlie Sage, were "cabmen" and both houses share a carriageway through which the horses and carriages were led to sheds in the back yards. The second storeys of both houses overhung this passage to meet in the middle. This "carriageway" is an uncommon feature adding interest to both homes. In the 1930s the carriageway was closed off to maintain privacy but the outline of its location is still visible. In 1982, the house was sold to its present owners, Penny Houlden and Ralph Clemens.

Three York Street was well maintained over the years. When Penny and Ralph took possession they began to remodel the home, removing the evidence of a two family dwelling and turning it into a single family home that has become a canvas on which Ralph's craftsmanship is demonstrated.

Ralph Clemens is a master cabinet-maker and a well known and respected expert in the field of furniture and building restoration. Since 1970 he has worked with the Provincial Department of Historic

Resources restoring the furniture that is representative of our heritage. His touch and talent is very evident in Yorkholme. Panelled wainscotting in the hall sets off the unusual pierced plaster moulding in the downstairs. The room which was the upstairs kitchen has been turned into a living room, tastefully furnished with restored antiques or reproductions. Downstairs, in a small sitting room, Ralph has made a set of beautifully crafted built in shelves to flank the central fireplace. The main kitchen was completely remodelled by Ralph, right down to the beautiful stencilled cabinets.

One of the most striking additions has been the wonderfully ornate front entrance frame adding a touch of grandeur to the whole building. The simple window box below the downstairs front window adds a finishing touch that speaks both of craftsmanship and a love of simple details.

Penny Houlden has taken on plastering and sanding as well as pitching in wherever needed. Her touch shows in every room as well as in the impeccable gardens in their yard. Between the two of them, they have made Yorkholme a house that speaks of a strong value for heritage and an inspiration for anyone who undertakes the restoration of an older home.

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