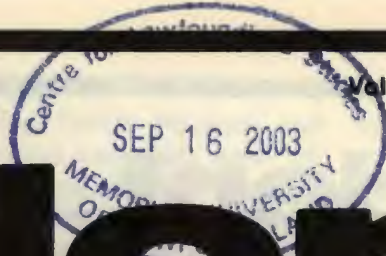


the

PAST PRESENT FUTURE



trident

Michael Harrington

Recipient of Communications Award



Michael Harrington

Michael Harrington has always been in the forefront of civic thinking in St. John's. A man whose sense of municipal problems and of their potential solutions was always in advance of city council's, he has been quite appropriately given Heritage Canada's Communications Award for his work. In his editorials and his "Editor's Column" he has for years pursued what was frequently a solitary battle for the use of wisdom and against the practise of stupidity and corruption in St. John's.

Long ago he saw the economic as well as the cultural

value of preservation and, had it not been for his support, organizations like the Trust might not have been able to maintain their pressures or to achieve what has been achieved. His attitudes permeated the paper and other reporters followed preservation matters until preservation became a general part of the news - to the great advantage of the cause.

But Heritage Canada, in recognizing Michael Harrington, does not limit its recognition to his support of preservation, but also for his other contributions. His awareness of Newfoundlanders as a distinct people with a distinctive culture goes back quite far - at least as far as the National Convention when he stood for Responsible Government. When he became Editor of the Evening Telegram he brought to the paper his own high standard of journalism as well as a sense of patriotism and, in so doing, made the paper a powerful vehicle in convincing Newfoundlanders of their own value - a factor which has greatly influenced the Newfoundland consciousness in the last decade.

Shane O'Dea

The St. John's Heritage Foundation

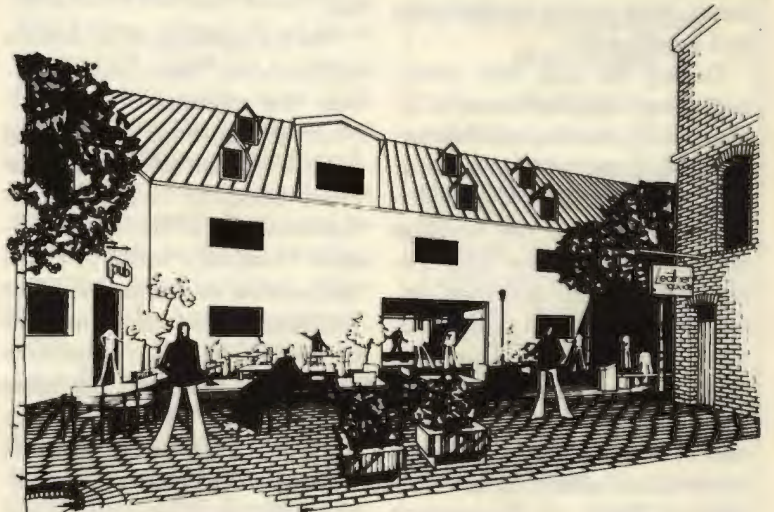
This great labour of love, the conservation of the heritage of the old city of St. John's which began in 1966 with the determination of a small group of people to save Christ Church at Quidi Vidi, has achieved, as readers of **The Trident** know, remarkable results. Over the years, we have read of the almost bewildering evolution of committees, studies, boards, grants, agreements, proposals, publications, legislation and festivities, all traceable to the original energies and good planning of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. One of the Trust's most significant achievements was the establishment in 1976 of the St. John's Heritage Foundation, a separate body with its own board, offices and staff to oversee the revitalization of the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area.



David Webber

'The Area', sixty-four acres of residential, commercial and institutional properties in downtown St. John's, is now the day to day concern of David Webber, the general manager of the St. John's Heritage Foundation. Recruited by the Foundation in 1977, he came to St. John's from Fredericton where,

(Continued on page 2)



The A.H. Murray Property - The Courtyard.

The PAST PRESENT FUTURE
trident

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The St. John's Heritage Foundation
(Continued)

for the previous nine years, he had been in charge of the development and operation of King's Landing, a pioneer village re-created by New Brunswick Historical Resources.

'The Foundation's best publicity is the quality of the buildings we rehabilitate,' says David Webber. 'The St. John's Conservation Area is certainly one of the largest and best planned in Canada. Everything is going extremely well and everyone involved - the Foundation, the Historic Trust, the architects, the contractors, City Hall, the residents of the Area itself - all work well together. I am especially impressed with the sympathy and support given to our efforts by the Provincial Government. I find this whole undertaking, the conservation and rehabilitation of an area of interesting buildings of much the same date, very challenging and worthwhile.'

During the past two years, beginning with the house at 27 Victoria St., the Foundation has been pursuing an ongoing programme of purchasing buildings important to the heritage conservation of the city, rehabilitating them and then selling or renting them under protective covenant. The proceeds are then used to purchase and rehabilitate other properties. Just completed and ready for retail and office occupancy is the old Bank of Commerce Building at 203 Water St., the gift to the Foundation of the City of St. John's. Nearing

completion is the building at 136 Water St. Its first floor will be rented for use as a restaurant or store; the second and third floors will contain the offices of the Foundation itself.

By far the most ambitious undertaking of the Foundation to date has been the rehabilitation and development of the A.H. Murray property at Beck's Cove. This fine collection of mid-nineteenth century waterfront mercantile buildings is nearing conversion to commercial and public use under heritage guidelines. In 1977 the Foundation, with the assistance of Parks Canada, purchased the property, called for tenders for its rehabilitation and development and awarded this enterprise to Atlantic Leasing Co. of St. John's. As well as owning the buildings, the Foundation will continue to exercise control in matters of quality and character.

'As the residents of St. John's will soon see,' says David Webber, 'the interiors of the A.H. Murray buildings are being completely transformed. The main building facing Beck's Cove will house the Newfoundland Museum's military, naval and marine museum; the other buildings will contain a mixture of shops, offices, restaurants and pubs. Probably the most outstanding visual feature throughout will be the beautiful stone and brickwork of the Murray Buildings, now exposed and carefully cleaned. This, combined with the original massive timbers of local pine and spruce

and the architects' imaginative use of modern glass will create a remarkably interesting, satisfying and exciting place to be.'

As well as its own specific enterprises, the Foundation is also deeply involved in the day to day progress of the rehabilitation of the Heritage Area, offering free advice and consultation to residents and owners interested in renovating their homes or store fronts and working closely with the city on such matters as sidewalks, lanes, curbs and lighting. All of it, the most important and the most incidental, is gradually adding up to the realization of the Heritage Area's original concept: 'To preserve our heritage streetscapes and environments through which a person can walk and get a sense of the past.'

Anne Hart

Nfld's First School?

According to Prowse's History of Newfoundland, the first school was opened in St. John's in September of 1824. The second school was opened in Trinity in June of 1825. The first schoolmaster in Trinity was

Benjamin Fleet, who was assisted by his sister, Widow Simmonds. This is very likely to be another first for Trinity - if there was no female teacher in St. John's, then Widow Simmonds was the first female school teacher in Newfoundland.

However, our Society, while researching the Trinity Court Records of 1757 came upon the following entry:

"Henry Bennett, late of Trinity Harbour, schoolmaster, complained at the last Michaelmas Sessions that Robert Archer and his wife Elizabeth had not paid the sum of 1-6-0 for schooling and Robert Hutchings, Constable, was ordered to seize goods sufficient to satisfy".

This is proof that there was a school in Trinity in 1757, that there was a schoolmaster, that school fees were being charged, that this was the first school in Newfoundland, that it was in operation some 33 years before the first recognized school in St. John's and, even at that early date, there was a constable or policeman in Trinity.

S. Rupert Morris,
President,

Trinity Historical Society.

Announcement

The Regional History Committee of the Canadian Historical Association wishes to announce that it is soliciting nominations for its 'Certificate of Merit' Awards. These annual awards are given for meritorious publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional or local history. Nominations should be sent before November 15, 1979, to:

Dr. William B. Hamilton
Director
Atlantic Institute of Education
5244 South Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1A4

News From The Museums

Placentia

The 1941 takeover of Argentina as a United States Military Base was the subject of a Young Canada Works project during the months of July and August of this year. Five college students, under the sponsorship of the Placentia Area Historical Society, were engaged on the project.

The Placentia area during its history has been subjected to two military evacuations - the evacuation of the French, 1713, and the evacuation of Argentina, 1941. The Society recognized the importance of having this project completed whilst former residents of Argentina were still available; and the resultant document is an important addition to its historical files.

The Society wishes at this time to express its gratitude to the Young Canada Works Programme, the U.S. Navy Base, Argentina, and former residents of Argentina whose co-operation made this project possible.

Katherine M. Murphy.

Port au Port/Bay St. George

When the Port au Port/Bay St. George Heritage Association was founded in January 1973, its main purpose was to provide a museum to collect and preserve at least some of the historic and cultural artifacts of the region before they disappeared forever.

Due to the great interest in establishing a Heritage Village on historic Sandy Point, the once commercial capital of Bay St. George, the Port au Port/Bay St. George Heritage Association kept a low profile and did not press for a regional museum in Stephenville.

The Association's interest in capturing a record of historic items that still exist was made

possible through grants from the Department of the Secretary of State during the summers of 1976, 1977 and 1978.

These Student Community Service Programmes bore the title CARPE DIEM: TEMPUS FUGIT (Seize the opportunity: Time is flying). Pictures were taken of items of historical and social significance, were processed, acquisitioned and catalogued according to the system used by the National Museums of Canada and the Newfoundland Museums. At the beginning of each summer, experts from the Newfoundland Museums visited and instructed the students. Close liaison was maintained with Newfoundland Museums, Newfoundland Archives, Newfoundland Historical Society, Provincial Reference Library, Newfoundland Division, Newfoundland Studies Centre MUN, Department of Folklore MUN, Maritime History Group MUN, and the Newfoundland Sports Archives.

The pictures are deposited in Kindale Public Library, Stephenville and are available to the public.

In compiling a report at the end of the project in 1977 and 1978, a four volume history of the area from Gallants in the North to the Codroy Valley in the South and including the Port au Port Peninsula, was written. It is hoped that this work can be edited and published.

An attempt has been made to collect archival material from the area and to make it available to the public.

During the summer of 1979, thanks again to the Department of the Secretary of the State, students were engaged in setting up a workable archives.

The sponsors of CARPE DIEM: TEMPUS FUGIT are Port au Port/Bay St. George Heritage Association, Stephenville Library Board and the West Newfoundland Folk Arts Council.

Trinity

The Trinity Museum and Archives were open again this year from mid-June to mid-September, under the capable supervision of Mr. Cal Goldsworthy assisted by Mr. Arthur Hayter. These attendants have been with us for several years. The museum is different from many in that it is open during this period seven days a week from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. There is no admission fee but there is a collection box just inside the door. The Society is incorporated under the laws of Newfoundland and is recognized as a charitable organization by Revenue Canada. Any donation of \$5.00 and over warrants a receipt for income tax purposes.

The Museum Building is an artifact itself as it was an old residence of Salt Box style built in the 1880's. It was purchased by the Society in 1967 and converted into a museum. It has four rooms on the ground floor and three rooms on the second floor which contain a permanent display of some 2000 artifacts of the history of Trinity and vicinity. In addition to the rooms there are two small hallways and even here every inch of wall space is taken up - this means that we have no space at all for travelling displays. Adjacent to the Museum building is a Fire Engine House, in which is located the oldest fire engine in North America. It is dated 1811 and was used in Trinity by the old Garland firm of that period.

The permanent display is made up of items from local industry such as fishing, sealing, whaling, boat building, shipping, trade and commerce, while from the tradesman we have the tools and crafts of the carpenter, cooper, sail maker, blacksmith, shoemaker, surveyor, doctor, sea captain, housewife - even the Waterloo stove!

By 1976 the Society had completely run out of display

space, and purchased the unused three-room elementary school in the community, hoping eventually to use one of the rooms to display items too large for the present museum (e.g. sleigh, carts, boat, catamaran, etc.), another for our archives which are not now on display and books, and the remaining room for a workshop and office. In this building we have a further 1000 artifacts in storage. To date we have been unable to obtain funding to get their building operational, and this year we are looking for help from the National Museum in Ottawa.

The Society archives are at present in a private home as there is no where else to keep them, and only the odd pages from this file and that file are on display in the Museum in vinyl protectors. The Society has some very valuable files and records, most of which were collected by the late Mr. Walter White, who was our Historian and Corresponding Secretary for some 10 years. The late Mrs. White was his assistant, and both were deeply interested in the Society and the Museum. It is through their great effort that we have such a large collection today.

S. Rupert Morris,
President,

Trinity Historical Society.

New Hastinotes Available

Recently the Trust has published a new set of Hastinotes taken from **A Gift of Heritage** by Jean Ball. This set includes Quidi Vidi Church, Devon Row, The Fishermen's Hall, Mount St. Francis Monastery, Winterholme, Quidi Vidi Battery, Sutherland Place and the Patrick Keough Stone Cottage. Anyone wishing to order the above should write to Helen Banfield, 14 Winnipeg St., St. John's, A1A 2R2 enclosing \$3.40 to cover Hastinotes, tax and handling.

Twillingate

The Twillingate Museum was opened this past year from the 23 June to 3 September. It was opened seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Approximately 5,000 people went through the museum during that time.

Admission is 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children, with a maximum family rate of \$1.50. For this past season, admission fees amounted to approximately \$3700 which was sufficient to cover the salaries of 4 Grade Eleven students who were hired for one month periods; two during the month of July, two during August. This amount also covered the heat and light bill for the season.

The displays include the following:-

1. Three rooms (kitchen, parlour and bedroom) are furnished in a mixture of antique furniture from the local area.
2. One room houses articles associated with fishing and hunting (guns, etc.)
3. Curios from other lands as well as those of a more local nature.
4. A small display of natural history (seashore life).
5. A display of old instruments used at the Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital here in Twillingate, some of which were handmade by Dr. J.M. Olds.
6. A display of Maritime Archaic Indian relics (actually epoxy replicas) which were unearthed here at Back Harbour, Twillingate (the Curtis Site). This display is on permanent loan from the Museum of Man. In addition to this, there is a display of arrow heads and hide scrapers of the Dorset Eskimo culture (collected and owned by a local resident).

During the summer the museum displayed the New-

foundland Museum's Postal Greeting Card Exhibit which was well received.

The museum also operates a craftshop in one of the rooms of the museum building. Local craftspersons have been producing a variety of craft items of excellent quality. This summer has seen the best season yet, with approximately \$21,000 worth of crafts being sold. Of this amount, approximately \$14,000 went to the craftspeople. One of the aims of our association is to encourage the traditional crafts and to foster the growth of the craft industry in our area. Profits from the craft shop pay the salaries of the two adults that look after the craft shop and manage the museum during the summer.

Newfoundland Historic Trust Tour Committee Reports Another Successful Year

Approximately 50 tours were conducted in St. John's and the Conception Bay area by the Trust this summer. The guides were Mrs. Gert Crosbie and Miss Donna Butt.

At a meeting of Trust members early in the spring, it was decided that working solely with volunteer tour guides was impossible. It was decided to hire one guide, Miss Donna Butt, on a 50/50 basis, whereby half the money collected for each tour would go to the Trust and half to Miss Butt. Mrs. Crosbie volunteered to do tours whenever there was overlapping. This was a great help as Mrs. Crosbie proved to be indispensable not only as a guide, but also a great moral supporter when the tours were hectic.

The St. John's tour was the most frequently requested and there were few problems. The

"Bay Tour", as the Conception Bay tour was called, did have problems, the main one being the lack of restaurants that could easily accommodate 40 or more people for a light meal. Church groups were approached and some prepared homemade soup, sandwiches and desserts, but again problems existed because of the seating facilities. The Committee would greatly appreciate any feasible alternatives that can be suggested.

The Bay Tour dilemma has resulted in Mrs. Crosbie developing a combination City-Bay Tour. This tour concentrates on the major in the city and bay, but meals can be obtained in the city. This tour is about six hours long and the group still has time to shop.

In spite of these problems, the season was good. Some tour escorts called after their tour to express their satisfaction. Each year the number of tours increases which has obvious advantages, both monetary and in terms of public relations. Next year also appears to be promising. Already 22 tours are booked with Trentway Tours, proof of at least one satisfied customer.

David Mallam

Gift Shops Begin Operation

The Trust's venture into the Gift Shop operation began this summer with the opening of the Gift Counter at Signal Hill Interpretation Centre on June 24th as a joint venture with Parks Canada.

The Counter stocked books and other publications illustrating the military history of St. John's and the Signal Hill area. Other publications relevant to Parks Canada sites across the province were also carried. A

limited number of crafts were sold to demonstrate some aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage in addition to items of a general nature such as post cards, coloured slides and film.

Two students were hired by the manager to run the counter which closed on Sept. 4th. with a net profit.

Our other operation, the Newfoundland Museum Gift Shop opened concurrently with the Museum on August 10th. This Shop deals in traditional crafts, museum reproductions, items relating to the ethnology and natural history of our province and with museum displays.

A number of items have been exclusively developed for sale in the Museum Shop. Examples of these are "Quatrefoil" design textiles made into aprons, tote bags, cushion covers, tablecloths and napkins, designed by Chander Chopra of Sea Urchins. Gaye Lanning, well-known embroiderer has designed embroidery kits of Newfoundland birds. Jean Ball, known to the Trust through her work on **A Gift of Heritage** and **Ten Historic Towns** once again was busy developing a paper doll series, beginning with the Outport Boy and Girl. Jean was also responsible for a Colouring Book developed for the Signal Hill Shop.

The staff in September is busy looking for new stock to complement the various travelling exhibits that rotate through the Museum. From November 9th-January 4th, the Museum will host an exhibit of toys from the Museum of Man in Ottawa. The Gift Shop will stock traditional and unusual toy items in time for Christmas shopping.

Although the Gift Shop is operated by a full time manager and a part-time student, staffing is heavily dependent on volunteers and your help in this major Trust project is solicited.

Bette Anderson

Early House Construction of the Freshwater Valley, St. John's Part III

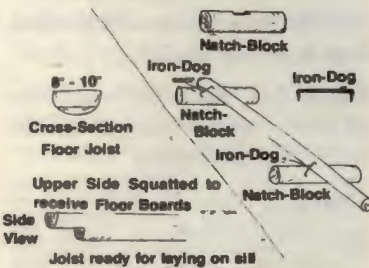
(Parts I and II of this Article appeared in earlier Editions of the Trident)

Second Floor

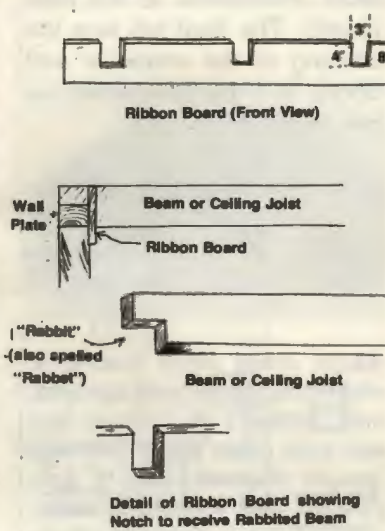
All of the houses had staircases. In the case of the single-storey dwelling the stairs led to an attic containing two small bedrooms, each of which had a gable-end window. The two-storey dwelling differed slightly in that the two bedrooms were slightly larger, not being constricted by the slope of the roof, and were lighted by front and gable-end windows. The space above the ceiling of the upstairs bedrooms was referred to as the "Cock-loft".

Floor-Joists and Sheathing

Floor-joists were squatted on the top side, notched at both ends, and laid on the sill. They were secured by spikes (or



"trunnels"). Joists were laid, approximately two and a half feet apart. The floor-boards, or "sheathing" consisted of very wide boards (hemlock from Nova Scotia or local spruce) laid at right-angles to the joists and nailed by 3" "wrought nails". These boards were grooved to a depth of 3/4" and 1/4" wide. To make a tight joint, thus making the floor draft-proof, a "lath" was inserted in the grooves. This was the fore-runner of the



T and G (tongue and groove sheathing).

Wall-Plate

When the studs had been raised and sawn to a uniform height, the wall-plate was put in place. It was laid on top of the studs and was a very important timber (4" x 6" approx.), as it held the studs in place, and was a bearing plate for the rafters.

Sheathing (Inside & Out)

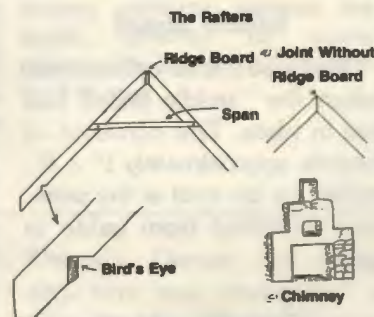
The same type of material was used for inside and outside wall-sheathing as was used for sheathing the floor. On the inside wall, the top board of the sheathing was nailed to the wall-plate and was notched at intervals of 2 1/2' - 3'. These notches were made to accommodate the beams (or ceiling joists) which were notched to depth of two inches and spiked to the wall-plate. The sheathing used for the ceiling was the same as the other sheathing ex-

cept that the board was dressed on one side.

Rafters

The rafters were prepared on the ground by squatting on one side to provide a flat side to receive the roof sheathing. A triangular notch called a "bird's eye" was cut approximately one foot from the lower end of the rafter to fit into the wall-plate, and secured by spikes. The "bird's eye" notch was the means of keeping the rafter firm and secure. The protruding section of the rafter provided for the eave. The rafters were similar in number to the beams to which they were spiked, also.

There were two methods of securing the rafters to one another at the top. One was to cut them at equal angles, depending on the pitch of the roof, and nail them together; and the other, a modification of this, required a "ridge-board" placed between them, to which the rafters were nailed.



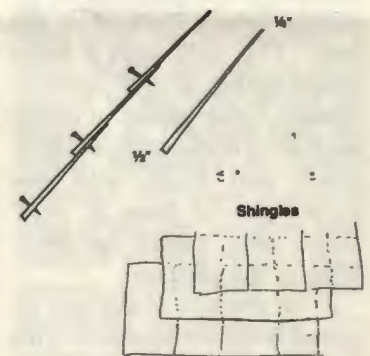
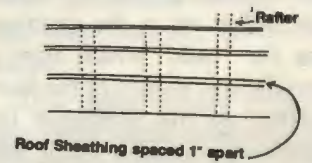
Linhay

The linhay is an adjunct attached to the rear of the main building and, as a rule, was built

at the same time. However, there is evidence that some were built at a later date. The same procedure and materials used in the dwelling were applied also in the construction of the linhay, except that the pitch of the roof was not as steep as that of the main building. The line of juncture of the two roofs was called the "yo-hip".

Sheathing the Roof

The roof sheathing was either plain-edged boards or grooved boards (without the lath), nailed to the rafters and spaced 1" apart. This spacing provided for circulation to the wooden shingles which made up the final covering of the roof.



Eave

A feature of the early house was the long over-hanging eave which provided good drainage from the roof as well as being ornamental. The eave was constructed by "blocking in" the rafters. This was done by securing short blocks to the end of the over-hanging rafters and the wall sheathing. The eave was completed by nailing a board the depth of the rafter, sheathing, and "soffat". The soffat was a wide board, approximately 12" wide, which was nailed underneath the blocks.

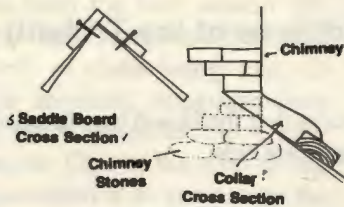
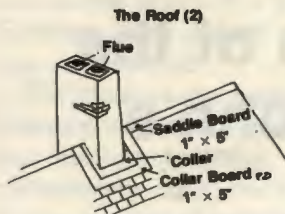
Shingling

Shingles were made locally of spruce. They were rectangular 6" - 8" x 12", ¼" thick at one end, and ½" thick at the other. They were laid in rows from the eave upwards, with each row over-lapping the one underneath, and the joints broken to prevent leaking.

Chimney

As was noted earlier, the construction of the chimney went on with the building of the house. As we have mentioned, certain timbers were set into the stonework. These were the beams and joists of the kitchen and "room", and the beams of the front porch. The rear sill of the main building rested on the chimney-block. Another important timber set in the chimney was the "balk" which bore a considerable weight of the front portion of the fireplace (or "chimney-corner"). To it was fastened the ornamental mantelpiece which concealed the balk. The balk was a large square timber, 8" x 8", approximately. Other pieces of timber were set in horizontally about 3' apart and flush with the stonework. To these 2" x 4" pieces were nailed the sheathing of the staircase.

A fair amount of skill was required in the construction of the



chimney since one or two extra flues were included to serve fireplaces in the parlour and one of the upstairs bedrooms. The only portion of the chimney not made from local stone was the portion above the roof and one foot below which consisted of red clay brick.

Chimney Collar

When a chimney was completed and the shingles on, a frame called a "collar" was constructed around the chimney to prevent any leakage. This frame was made from boards, 1" x 5" and laid around the chimney at a distance of approximately 8". The area enclosed by the frame was filled with cement to a depth of about 2". A portion of the cement was trowelled out over the wooden frame to make a complete seal.

Saddle Board

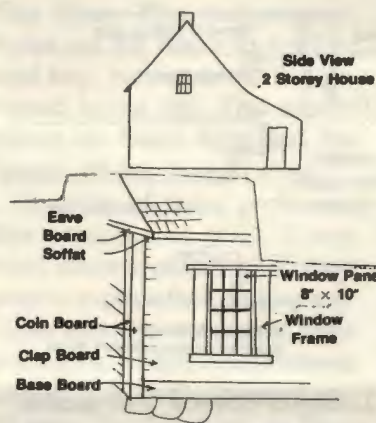
The roof was completed when the "saddle board" was put in place. This consisted of boards, approximately 1" x 5", nailed on the roof at the peak, and extended from gable to gable.

Coin Board and Clapboards; Framing

The first operation in the completion of the house was the nailing on of the coin boards. These were 1" x 8"

boards nailed vertically and extending from eave to baseboard. Their function was to make a tight seal at the corners. The baseboard was laid horizontally the length of the wall at the very base, and was a couple of inches wider than the coin boards. It was put there for aesthetic purposes, only.

The clapboards were nailed on next, and these were of the same dimensions as the coin boards. The final job was the framing of the windows and doors, and this completed the building of the house.



Glossary

Balk (also BAULK): the heavy timber over the fireplace supporting the chimney at the front, and enclosed by the mantelpiece.

Bee-Hive: the name applied locally to the "hip-roof".

Bird's Eye: a triangular notch cut in the rafter to fit the angle of the wall-plate.

Cock-Loft: the space below the saddle enclosed by the roof and the ceiling.

Collar: a cement coating placed on the roof around the chimney to act as seal and held in place by collar boards. This cement was a mixture of lime and sand mixed some months prior to using and frequently turned and kept dry.

Hip-Roof: a roof whose ends slope like the sides and forms a projecting angle with the latter.

Iron-Dog: an iron bar 2" long, with ends bent at right-angles to a length of 4" - 6" and pointed to hold logs on "natch-block" for "squatting".

Jamb Wall: the sheathed chimney wall in the front porch facing the main entrance.

Knee: the angle formed by the low wall and the roof in the upstairs.

Lath: a strip of board placed in the grooves of boards to make a tight joint (forerunner of the tongue and groove).

Linhay (also Spelled Linney, Linny): an appendage to the main building and running the length of the house.

Natch-Block: a large block of wood on which timbers rested while being prepared for the building.

Ribbon-Board: a wide board nailed to the studs and notched to receive the end of the beams.

Ship-Lapped: a cut made on the edge of a piece of timber to receive by lapping the edge of another cut in the same manner.

Slide (also Catamaran): a type of sleigh used for carrying logs and other materials.

Snaking: a process of hauling logs from the woods.

Squat (or Square): a process of flattening the sides of timber to receive sheathing.

Swing & Traces: that part of the horse's harness used for "snaking" logs out of the woods.

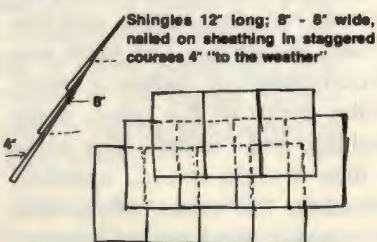
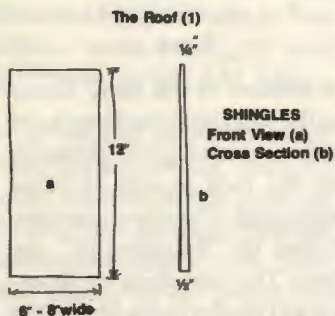
Trunnel: through-nail; a long spike (6" - 10") driven completely through large timbers.

Upright: stud.

Wrought-Nail: iron nails (2" - 6") made locally, squared or rectangular in shape.

Yo-Hip: the line of juncture between the roof of the linhay and the house roof.

Aly O'Brien & Aiden O'Hara



A Preliminary Survey of the West Country Antecedents of Newfoundland Vernacular Architecture

The study of any New World architectural tradition must begin with a thorough examination of the antecedents of that tradition. Such antecedental research hopefully points to the diversity of the Old World backgrounds, and is not merely an exercise in tracing architectural "roots". The study of the European backgrounds is concerned at a fundamental level with the dynamics of human choice by recognizing both what was carried to the area of settlement, and what was left behind. The study of Newfoundland vernacular architecture often has been marked by the simple tracing of English or Irish ancestry, without an understanding of the broad architectural tradition in the homeland actually known to the immigrant. In preparation for an extensive study of the formal and technological dynamics of the architectural traditions of the island, two weeks during August were spent in Devon and Dorset in an attempt at isolating the major West Country architectural forms which gave rise to Newfoundland vernacular building. During this fieldwork, traverses through areas of both counties were made in order to take into account any regional technological or formal variations. Approximately 150 structures were investigated during this initial research.

This preliminary investigation indicates that during the period of Newfoundland migrations from the region, the longhouse, hall and parlour, and cabin house types were widespread, both found in village and farm settlement patterns. Although the longhouse tradition characterized the less-fertile farming areas, such as structures like Sanders at Lettaford on Dartmoor, the same house-type was also built in the village context

— a fine example still existing today at Charity Farm, Osmington, Dorset. Hall and parlour cottages, similar to many Newfoundland structures, also abound, with literally dozens of examples recorded. The medieval three room cross-

Besides these larger structures, the cabin-type, although now less widespread because of its fragility and the later need for larger spatial domains, was common in the seventeenth, eighteenth and even nineteenth centuries, and a surprising number of examples still can be documented today. Two excellent structures still survive across from the church at Bishop's

number of central chimney two room structures were located, some with a shed addition across the back. Spring Cottages at Upcerne in Dorset provide an example of a central chimney two room house, built in the mid 17th century of flint, cob and clunch. The presence of this particular house-type casts doubt on the theory that this Newfoundland form was strictly an Irish form. Likewise, throughout the surveyed regions, examples of what is often referred to as the salt-box type, as well as the two room house with two storey outshut were documented. The presence of these two forms indicates that their counterparts in Newfoundland did not necessarily evolve from smaller types built on the island, but could have as easily been transferred directly from the West Country as discrete types.

This initial survey indicates that many of the preliminary assumptions concerning vernacular building types in Newfoundland must be reevaluated in terms of the diversity of styles known to the New World immigrant. As the data from this initial fieldwork is further analyzed, the complexities of what in the past has often been asserted to be a simple architectural development in Newfoundland becomes clear. This survey, coupled with future research in the West Country and southeast Ireland will then form a basis for the intensive investigation of the Newfoundland vernacular architecture tradition. Such future studies will hopefully begin to examine the dynamics of architectural innovation and composition in an attempt to arrive at the more fundamental concerns of the 18th and 19th century Newfoundland to which these structures so eloquently speak.



A typical three room cross-passage plan house with a central chimney in Chideok, Dorset. This three room plan was one of the common house-types built in the West Country during the early phases of Newfoundland migration.

A panel and post or plank and muntin wall in a farmhouse near Dorchester. Some writers have argued that the building technology used in such walls is the antecedent for the vertical studding used in early Newfoundland structures.



A two room central hallway plan in Chideok, Dorset, with an outshut across the back of the house. Such outshuts are common in the West Country and may provide one explanation for the origin of the Newfoundland linhay.

A one room deep house in Chideok, Dorset, with a one storey addition across the back, similar to some nineteenth century Newfoundland forms.

passage plan seems to have dominated the medieval landscape, especially among middle-class yeoman, and quite a spatial alteration must have been deemed necessary with the adoption of the two-room plan in the New World.

Caundle, Dorset, and a fine structure was measured at Cruyton, near Maiden Newton in Dorset. This type is characterized by a one-room plan, with an end chimney.

Although it is rarely mentioned in the printed literature, a

Gerald L. Pocius
Dept. of Folklore
Memorial University

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Newfoundland Museum Re-opens to Public

The Newfoundland Museum opened its newly restored exhibit halls after a closure of three years on August 10. The Museum's new exhibits, chosen to represent every aspect of Newfoundland's human history, portray the province's continuing saga, commencing as far back in time as 5000 years B.C. The Dorset, Inuit, Naskapi and Montagnais, Maritime Archaic, Beothuk and MicMac peoples are represented in the Native People's exhibit hall through their burial traditions, religious artifacts, tools and weapons of the hunt set in dioramas and displays that illustrate an interpretation of their lifestyles. Visitors to the Museum will learn how archaeologists employ their science to ascertain the lifestyles of long dead cultures, through excavations, oral traditions and historical documentation.

As in most similar institutions, collections at the Museum are growing constantly; for the Dorset culture alone the Museum's collection numbers better than 70,000 specimens, and is considered one of the definitive collections in the world today. To expand limited display areas, the Museum has provided space for temporary and travelling exhibitions which ensures that the Museum's collection can be presented in a variety of ways and in greater detail than can be illustrated in permanent exhibit halls.



The traditions for which Newfoundland's settlers became so well known evolved during 400 years of constant struggle. Withstanding starvation, bitter cold and terrible loneliness, the first settlers were able to overcome these enormous difficulties enthusiastically, and with unusual imagination. How they accomplished these tasks is illustrated by the exhibit hall portraying the "New Found Lande". Nineteenth century Newfoundland is depicted after the battle to survive as a settlement is over and recognizable lifestyles have evolved. For some, pioneer life is no longer a hardship, for most prosperity will always prove illusive. These two decidedly different lifestyles are made painfully apparent through the Museum's 19th century collection.

The Museum will also have a continuing Lecture and Film series that focuses on a variety of topics relevant to Newfoundland's history. School classes especially, will be invited to participate in specially designed educational programmes, and for the individual or group, public programmes have been created to inform, educate and entertain. For in-depth information on exhibits, the **Museum Notes Series** will detail interesting aspects of Newfoundland's history and will be available through the Museum shop, a specialty store operated by the Newfoundland Historic Trust which stocks items related to the Museum's collections and our provincial heritage.