

the

trident

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

Vol. 5, No. 2, August, 1978

OCT 31 1978

St. John's is the oldest and one of the most unique cities in North America, yet until 1978 there had never been an official celebration of St. John's Day.

This year the first of what is hoped will be an annual celebration marked the day. The idea for a city celebration was conceived by Shannie Duff and sponsored by the Information Committee of the St. John's Heritage Foundation of which she is a member. The focus of the celebration this year was on the launching of the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area and recognition of the significant role played by Heritage Canada, the City of St. John's the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Devonian Foundation in making this program possible.



The celebrations were launched on Friday evening June 23 with a Heritage Gala held at the Galley, Light and Anchor. This restaurant provided the ideal setting for such an event as it is in the Heritage Conservation Area and as a recycled building, represents the type of reconstruction and reuse of buildings which the Heritage Foundation is encouraging. Pierre Burton, Vice Chairman of Heritage Canada

St. John's Day — 1978



On Saturday morning following the Opening Ceremonies Jim Knight and Bob Phillips of Heritage Canada plaqued the house at 27 Victoria Street which was the first completed rehabilitation in the conservation area. Pierre Burton and the proud owners pose with the Heritage Canada representatives.



Lewis Ayre of the St. John's Heritage Foundation, Pierre Burton, and Beverly Miller, President of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, launch the Heritage Conservation Area by cutting a cake which is a replica of the Kimberley Row Houses. Shannie Duff, Chairperson of St. John's Day Festivities, and one of the prime movers in the Heritage Conservation Area, looks on.

was guest speaker for the celebrations and he presented the first Preservation awards on behalf of the Foundation. The ceremonies were then opened

by a lobster dinner and an evening of Newfoundland entertainment.

Saturday's activities were launched with a parade sponsored



sored by the St. John's Jaycees and Opening Ceremonies on the Court House steps. The lobby of the Newfoundland Museum was opened for the day and served as an exhibition center for the work being undertaken by the Foundation as well as the starting point for a walking tour of the Heritage Conservation Area. Other events included a fish splitting contest and various events staged by the Canadian Armed Forces as the day was also Armed Forces Day. The Downtown Development Corporation sponsored a "Museum in the Street" which saw many of the merchant establishments on Water Street displaying heritage themes in their windows. The celebrations concluded with a street dance sponsored by Radio OZ and a fireworks display staged by the city of St. John's.

(Cont'd on page 2)

PRESENT
PAST FUTURE

The trident

The Trident is the quarterly publication of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's.

Editor: Stephen Kelland

Contributors to this issue: Aly O'Brien, Aiden O'Hara, Beverly Miller, Katherine McManus, Stephen Kelland.

Printed by Creative Printers.

NEW EDITOR

As Maria Bradshaw has left this province, Stephen Kelland has now taken over as editor of the Trident. Mr. Kelland is 28 years of age and single. He has been a member of the Historic Trust for several years and has lived throughout the province. He attended High School in Springdale and Heart's Content and has received a Bachelor of Commerce from Memorial University. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the Trident, please write to Mr. Kelland at 32 Blackwood Place, St. John's.

(Cont'd from page 1)

St. John's Day '78

Members of the Historic Trust took an active part in the planning and preparation of the events. Sandra Huntley, Chair-



person of Hospitality, undertook the enormous task of organizing the Heritage Gala. A committee composed of Beverly Miller, Gert Crosbie and Paul O'Neil developed the walking tour. Helen Banfield, Mary Heeney, Mary Disher, Gert Crosbie, Emma Horwood

and Bette Anderson donated time at the museum to distribute tours and sell notecards, books and prints developed by the Trust.

Preservation Award Winners

This year the St. John's Heritage Foundation sponsored the first annual Preservation Awards. The awards, given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the preservation of the unique architectural heritage of the old city of St. John's were presented by Pierre Burton, Vice Chairman of Heritage Canada, at the Heritage Gala on June 23. All recipients were recognized for their contributions in the rehabilitation of old structures. Winners were: Dr. Walter Van Est for his work at 59 Gower St., Ted Rowe for the rehabilitation of "The Maples" at the corner of Patrick Street and Hamilton Ave., Stratford Canning for the recycling of a house which had been condemned at 60 Cochrane St., Affinities, a group which was formed to save a duplex in Masonic Terrace (Willcott's Lane) and Dr. David Gough for the work done on Devon Row. Also recognized was Geoffrey Hiscock for the heritage facelift at 197 Water St.

Members of the Historic Trust are encouraged to take note of significant contributions to the preservation of our architectural heritage and to make nominations next spring for the 1979 awards.

Letters Column

10 Forest Avenue
St. John's, Nfld.
May 4, 1978

Dear Mrs. Bradshaw,

In your issue of TRIDENT, Vol. 5, No. 1, I am attracted by your "Guess Where" set of pictures.

The property in your top right hand corner was the Llewellyn Playing Grounds, located between Forest Road, Forest Avenue and Empire Avenue. The land now belongs to us, and our house occupies part of it.

I read your paper with interest — good luck with its future publications.

Sincerely,
Mariam Renouf

A New Look

Skyrocketing costs have forced us to abandon the larger size TRIDENT. Publication costs for our March issue were \$1100. In the past year a concerted effort has been made to maintain publication on a quarterly basis. Publishing four times a year helps us keep members better informed and makes the publication eligible for exemption from federal taxes. It means, however, that on a yearly basis it would cost nearly \$4,500.00, at present prices, to produce the larger size TRIDENT.

For several years we have also discussed the possibility of selling advertising as a means of offsetting costs. It has been determined, however, that money derived from advertising would not offset the loss of our tax exemption which is not granted if a publication sells advertising.

After much discussion with various publishers it was determined that use of a standard 8½ x 11 sheet could reduce costs per issue by several hundred dollars.

"Ten Historic Towns" Exhibition Opens At Harbour Grace

On June 10, a travelling exhibition of approximately 20 drawings from the forthcoming Trust Publication, TEN HISTORIC TOWNS, opened at the Conception Bay Museum, Harbour Grace.

A group of approximately fifty members of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, the Conception Bay Museum Society, and the general public were welcomed by Judge Rupert Bartlett. Jean Ball, the artist, addressed the gathering and spoke about how the towns and buildings within the towns were chosen, problems faced in drawing the buildings within the towns, and most particularly, how she as an artist reacted to these buildings which constitute such an important part of our heritage. The ceremony was followed by a reception.

During the next year the exhibition will travel to many of the towns featured in the book as well as to the major exhibition centers in the province.

Many thanks to Mr. Bill Parsons, director of the Conception Bay Museum, for his cooperation in making space available for the exhibition and to Patricia Grattan, exhibition chairperson for the Historic Trust.

The Trust also thanks the Memorial University Art Gallery which is transporting the works to the various exhibition centers and the Historic Resources Division of the Department of Tourism for framing the works. Without the cooperation of these two groups the exhibition would not have been possible.

News from the Museums

The Bonavista North Regional Museum located in Wesleyville is open daily until September 4th. Exhibits include miscellaneous kitchen utensils, carpenter's tools and fishing equipment.

The Twillingate Museum will be open until Labour Day. The exhibits depict the life and history of the area through displays of antique furniture and artifacts. This year officials of the museum are attempting to install a display of Maritime Archaic Indian Artifacts which were discovered at Back Harbour.

The Greenspond Museum will be open until September 30th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. On display are a number of antiques and photographs.

The Salvage Museum will be entertaining visitors up to the middle of November. Exhibits include a variety of carpenter's tools, fishing equipment and furniture.

The Trinity Museum and Archives will be open to the public daily until September 10th, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. during the week, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. The permanent display includes items from the fishing, sealing, whaling and shipbuilding industries as well as a collection of photographs, maps and charts. The exhibit also includes the oldest fire engine in North America.

The Torbay Museum, located in Torbay Town Hall is open to visitors from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. The exhibit consists of various artifacts and tools of historic interest collected from the surrounding area.

Bonavista Museum is open from June 19th to October 6th. The articles on display describe outpost life and the fishing industry over the past 150 years.

Port Union Community Museum. As yet this museum is not open as the proposed

Museum Committee with their project.

The Conception Bay Museum will be open daily, 11 project.

The Conception Bay Museum will be open daily 11 p.m. to 8 p.m. until September 6th. On display are pictures of Harbour Grace before the fire of 1944, photographs of the early pioneers in aviation, models of old ships, antique furniture and the "Ten Historic Towns" exhibition.

The following letters were received as a result of our inquiries regarding the heritage movement within this province. If any member of the Trust can be of assistance, would he or she please contact the applicable organization.

Dear Mr. Kelland:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 9, 1978, concerning our Association's museum. I am sorry to report that at the moment we do not have a museum. We hope to have one and are making plans towards that end.

In the summers of '76 and '77 we were sponsors with the Stephenville Library Board, the West Newfoundland Folk Arts Council, and Stephenville Branch of the Humanities Association of Canada in carrying out a photographic and written history of artifacts in the Bay St. George and Codroy Valley area. We used professional museumologists, archivists and photographers to aid the students conducting the investigations - or if you like, the seek-and-find operation - so that the proper techniques and methods used by the national museums and the Newfoundland Museum would be followed. We submitted a two-volume report to the Department of the Secretary of State, who fi-

nanced the Project, on last summer's work.

We hope a continuation of the Project will be offered again this summer.

We are subscribers to The Trident and Debbie White, our Secretary-Treasurer, and myself, along with others, enjoy it very much.

With every good wish.

Yours truly,
Gilbert E. Higgins
Chairman.

Best wishes to the members of the Port au Port/Bay St. George Heritage Association in their future endeavours.

Dear Mr. Kelland:

Your letter requesting information about the Placentia Area Historical Society Museum has been received.

It is with regret I must advise you that there is to be no museum for the coming summer. The museum was never conceived as a permanent structure but rather as a demonstration that such a project was feasible. We operated for two years under non-recurring grants received: (1) Museums Canada, who would not repeat as it would put them in the category of an annual grant, which is not in accordance with their policy; (2) A Young Canada Works Project, furnished with the primary aim of providing jobs for students during the summer of 1977.

I think the feasibility of and the need for a museum in the Placentia Area has been clearly demonstrated and we can only hope that the powers-that-be will recognize that obvious fact and render the necessary assistance — We have been a long time awaiting our turn.

Yours very truly,
Katherine M. Murphy,
President.

Historic Trust To Publish New Book

In the Fall the Newfoundland Historic Trust will publish its second book, **Ten Historic Towns**. Subtitled "Town and Outport Architecture" it will be a companion volume to the Trust's first book **A Gift of Heritage** which featured the architecture of St. John's. **Ten Historic Towns** is designed to present a sample of the rich variety of architecture in the smaller communities of the province. The towns featured include Brigus, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Trinity, Bonavista, Fogo, Twillingate, Grand Bank, Placentia and Ferryland. A short history of each building will be included as well as an historical sketch and map of each community. The drawings are by well-known St. John's artist, Jean Ball.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

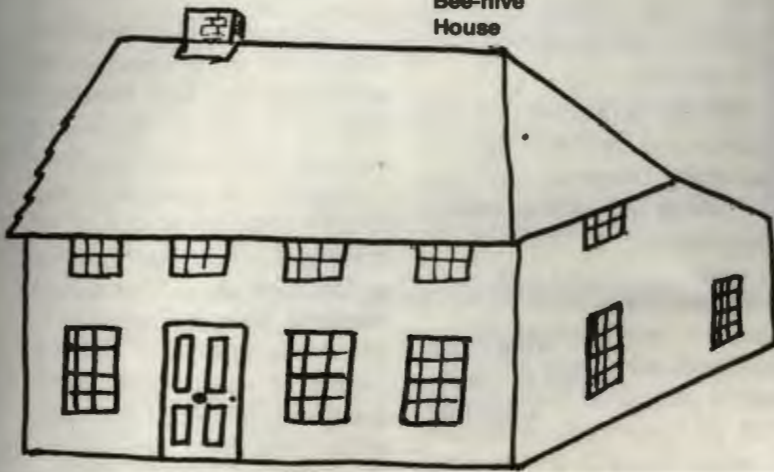
In the evening of June 1st the Commissariat House on King's Bridge Road came alive. The occasion was the Spring Programme, "A Little Night Music," an evening of music, wine and cheese. The music consisted of flute, violin and cello performed by Peter Gardner, Beverly Vivian Jane and Murray Charters.

The Historic Resources Division of the Department of Tourism allowed the Historic Trust to use the Commissariat House as the setting for the Spring Programme. Those who attended found the informal setting of candlelight, wine and music to be a pleasant and different way of enjoying an evening.

The Programme was the culmination of the efforts of Historic Trust members, Katherine McManus, Sandra Huntley, Betty Anderson, Kay McCallum, Beverly Miller and Martin Bowe, David Miles and Marilyn Dawe of Historic Resources.

Early House Co Freshwater Va Pa

Hip-roof or
Bee-hive
House



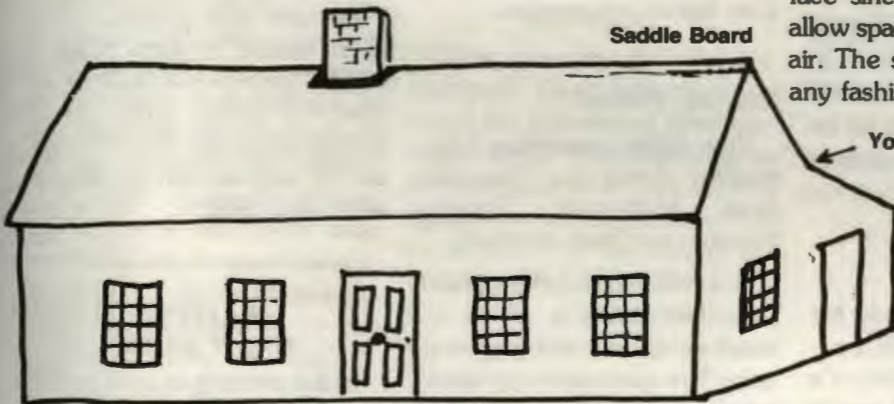
The Start in Building

The site chosen for the dwelling had to be dry and reasonably level. First, it had to be graded, and this was done using shovels, crowbars and picks (3 ft. span). Flagstones were laid at the corners to support the sill and at points under the sill where the timbers were ship-lapped. There was no need to have the sill flush with the surface since it was necessary to allow space for the circulation of air. The sill was not secured in any fashion to the ground.

Timbers for the building had to be "squared" or "squatted." This process was carried out on the "natch-block," timbers being held in place by the "iron dog". The sills were squatted on two adjacent sides, the outside and the top; studs on the opposite sides, and beams and rafters on the top side only. The only timber squared on all four sides was the wall-plate.

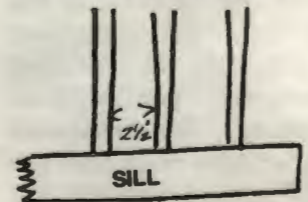
The stud was joined to the sill by means of a mortice and tenon. The tenon was usually about 3' x 3" square, and 4" long. Studs were inserted two feet apart. Where "full stud-ding" was used (in the older

Saddle Board

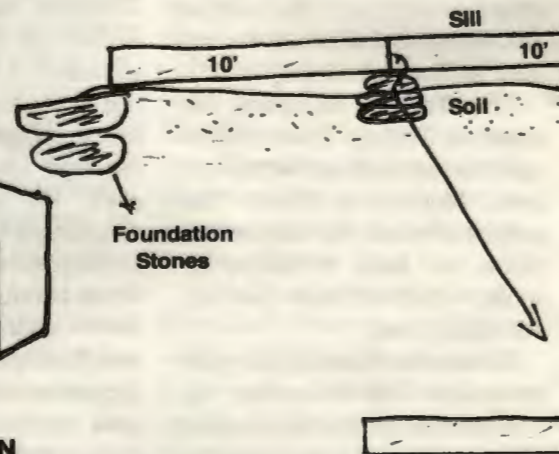


Yo-Hip

Studs or "Uprights"



ELEVATION
(FRONT AND SIDE)
3 BASIC TYPES
NOTE LARGE FRONT
DOOR



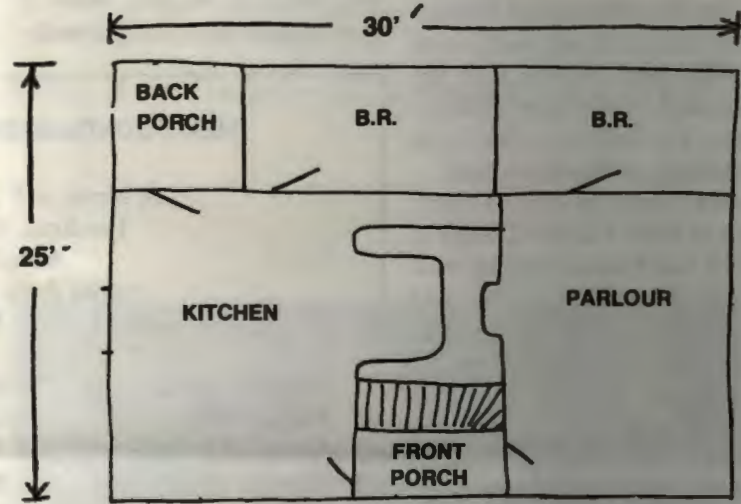
Construction of the Miley, St. John's Part II

buildings) the studs between the morticed studs were cut flush and secured by nailing ("toe-nailed" or "canted"). In the case of single-storey dwellings, the most common type, studs were 7' long, approximately. In two-storey dwellings, they were about 12' long.

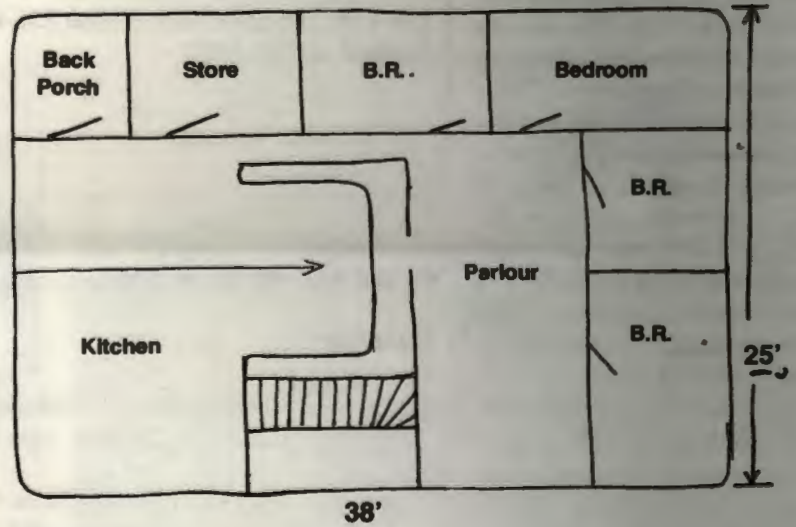
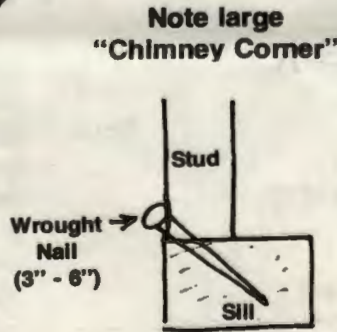
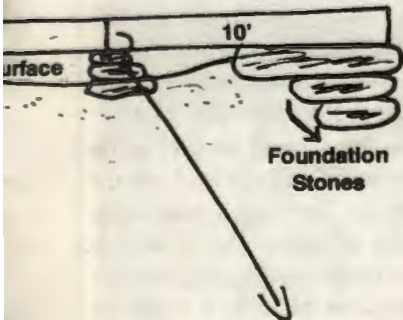
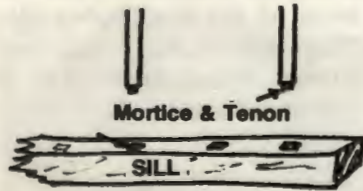
Concurrent with the erection of the dwelling, the building of the huge chimney went on. Chimney-block ranged in size from 9' x 9' to 12' x 12'. Stones used in the building of the chimney were native field rock quarried nearby. The site of one of these quarries, Tom's Gap, can still be seen. It is believed by

some that the chimney was the first part of the building to be erected, and that this was used as a dwelling in the first year or so, and that the building of the remainder of the house was carried on throughout this period. This was not so. The chimney was the "central mooring", as it were, for the whole structure as beams and joists were set into it, and therefore, construction of frame and chimney had to take place immediately. The frame itself acted as scaffolding for the hoisting of stones and timbers.

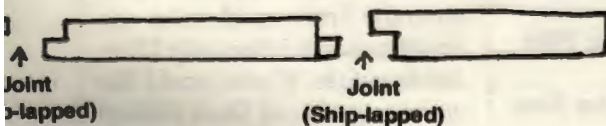
BASIC FLOOR PLANS



1 Usual Plan of 2-Storey House



One storey house, plus two small rooms in attic



“Newfoundland Wildflowers”

The Newfoundland Historic Trust has produced hasty notes of Nfld. Wild Flowers from the collection in the Agnes Marion Ayre Herbarium, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Mrs. Ayre was born in 1890. She married Harold C. Ayre in 1913, and had three children — Lewis, Fred & Janet. She died in 1960. She enjoyed painting and was a founding member of the Nfld. Art Society.

Her career as an amateur botanist was kindled by Mrs. Philip Knowling, who, interested in recording Newfoundland's wild flowers, asked Mrs. Ayre to paint her specimens. Eventually Mrs. Ayre also collected the flowers.

Her collection was verified by Dr. Fernard, the great botanist of North Eastern, North American flora at Harvard. Even though Mrs. Ayre had no formal education in botany, Dr. Fernard said she was a very competent botanist.

A part of the collection was published in 1935. The rest was donated to Memorial University of Newfoundland in the 1950's and is housed in the Agnes Marion Ayre Herbarium, in the Biology Dept. It consists of 1824 paintings, and with her dried pressed specimens, represents five sixths of the flora in Newfoundland, and has made a very significant contribution to Newfoundland Botany.

The Trust wishes to thank Dr. Peter Scott of the MUN Botany Department for his cooperation in making the production of these hasty notes possible.

Ayre's to Help With Sale of Hasty Notes

The Newfoundland Historic Trust has received tremendous co-operation from Ayre's Ltd. in the sale and advertising of the “Newfoundland Wildflowers” hasty notes. Ayre's has agreed

to allow the Trust to have a rotating stall at their department stores in St. John's during three weekends in August. Also in their regular weekend advertis-

ing they will include announcements concerning the stalls and information on the notes. We greatly appreciate this support.

Summer Tours

Over the past few years the Historic Trust has raised funds by supplying tour guides for groups of visitors to the city. We charge \$50.00 for a 3 hour tour of the city and \$100.00 for an all day trip to Conception Bay. The guides, members of the Trust, volunteer their services.

In the past the majority of tours were done for locally organized conventions. This year, however, tours have been done primarily for commercial tour companies and we are now finding that demand is greater than supply. Dave and Edwina Mallam, who book the tours and co-ordinate guides, report that their phone rang twenty-five times one day with calls requesting guide services. We have ceased booking tours for this year because we currently have only five active guides, Mary Heeney, Judi Somers, Diane Hogan, Beverly Miller and Gert Crosbie. All the guides have done a tremendous job and Gert, with Emma Horwood giving her a hand, has done almost all the Conception Bay Tours. By the end of the season a total of approximately 30 tours will have been completed and an additional \$2,000 will be added to the treasury.

Obviously, next year it will not be possible to lay such a tremendous burden on a small group of guides, and we, therefore, ask all members to seriously consider serving as tour guides. Most tours are given to a bus load of people and nearly all buses are equipped with speaker systems. The Research Committee gives training to prospective guides. If demand next summer approaches what we have experienced this year then the Trust could make several thousand dollars with 12 reliable guides. If you would like to be a guide call Dave Mallam at 754-0938, after September 1.

NEWFOUNDLAND WILDFLOWERS

A series of 8 Hasty Notes
Produced in Colour
from the

Agnes Ayre Collection
In Cooperation with Memorial University

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Northeastern Rose | 5. Bull Thistle |
| 2. Fragrant Waterlily | 6. Fireweed |
| 3. American Dogberry | 7. Common Juniper |
| 4. Smooth Blackberry | 8. Mountain Alder |

Also Available

A GIFT OF HERITAGE

A series of 8 note cards depicting well-known St. John's heritage buildings. These are line drawings by Jean Ball and are reproduced from the Trust publication “A Gift of Heritage.”

Both sets of cards are attractively boxed and make a lovely gift.

To phone in orders, call the Newfoundland Historic Trust at 754-1742, or either Jean Hallett 726-6301/834-5552 or Helen Banfield at 754-1267.

To order by mail:

Please send me the following:

Quantity		Total
_____	Newfoundland Wildflowers at \$3.50 (\$3.25 + .25 prov. tax)	_____
_____	A Gift of Heritage Note Cards at \$2.70 (\$2.50 + .20 tax)	_____

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to Nfld. Historic Trust, P.O. Box 5542, St. John's, Nfld.

Please note: Sales tax is figured at 8%. If ordering after September 30, please adjust taxes accordingly.

Do these pictures bring back memories to you? If they do, let us know by writing the editor of the Trident at 32 Blackwood Place, St. John's, Newfoundland.



Photographs, courtesy of Newfoundland Museum.

What's Coming Up in the Fall?

Concerts in Heritage Buildings (Part II)

The "A Little Night Music" evening held at the Commissariat House June 1 was so successful that many members suggested it be repeated. We hope to do just that. Plans are underway with Peter Gardner of the St. John's Symphony Orchestra for the Trust to sponsor a concert in the fall which would feature the premier of a Canadian composition for violin and guitar. Mr. Robert Stapells, President of Canterbury Investments of Halifax, the company which is restoring the former Commerce Bank building on Water St. has agreed to allow the concert to be held in that building. The building, which is to be completely restored, should be a perfect setting for another evening of music in a heritage structure. Any member who would like to help with the planning of this evening should contact Sandra Huntley at 753-5799.

Museum Gift Shop

Nearly two years ago the Newfoundland Historic Trust was approached by the Newfoundland Museum to operate the gift shop when the newly renovated museum is reopened to the public. A small committee has been working on ideas for developing products for sale in such a shop. The "Newfoundland Wildflowers" hasty notes project which was conceived by committee member Emma Horwood is one example of this planning. As the time for the re-opening of the Museum approaches, we need several more members for this committee. Also, Alberta Wood who has been serving as chairperson has asked that we replace her. Any member who might consider either chairing or serving

on this committee should contact Beverly Miller at 753-1710.

Christmas Exhibition

Instead of holding the traditional exhibition at the Arts and Culture Center this year, plans are underway to do a "Nineteenth Century Christmas" exhibition at the Commissariat House. Plans at this point are tentative but anyone who wishes to help with this project can call Patricia Grattan, Chairperson of Exhibitions at 754-1716, evenings. This should really be fun to work on.

(Cont'd from page 5)

Ground Floor Plan

In the lay-out of the farmhouse, there were two basic floor-plans. In the case of Plan No. 1, the front door gave access to a small porch which had two doors, left and right, leading to the two large rooms, the kitchen and the parlour (the "front room", or simply "the room"). The length of the porch depended on the depth of the chimney-block. The kitchen, the centre of all the domestic and social activities, was always the larger of the two rooms, and generally situated on the sunny side. The lincay at the rear of the house contained two bedrooms and a back porch. This porch which was situated at the gable end and nearest the road, was the entrance principally used. The Plan No. 2 lay-out differed only in that provision was made for two small bedrooms situated off the parlour. In Plan No. 2, the house was 8' or 9' longer.

Aly O'Brien &
Aidan O'Hara.

Quidi Vidi Church — Still a Problem

Since the founding of the Newfoundland Historic Trust in 1966 an overriding concern of the organization has been the maintenance of the Quidi Vidi Church.

It has been rented on various occasions to community groups but no continuing use or tenant for the building has ever been found. Last winter an extensive survey was made of all community service organizations in St. John's who might be interested in renting the church on a long-term, low cost basis.

It had been hoped for many years that eventually the church could become a community center for the village. On several occasions, committees of villagers had undertaken a series of dances and other social events in the church but these were never established on a permanent basis.

George Bodie, who has for several years taken care of church related matters for the Trust, met with an enthusiastic group of young people from Quidi Vidi who wanted to operate a youth center there. They were a very responsible group and throughout the late winter and spring conducted a series of

youth dances, dart games, etc. These activities not only put the church to good use but the group realized enough from the sale of soft drinks to meet electricity and repair costs on the building. George worked actively to get the Downtown Boys and Girls Club to take over the center and expand activities there, but this has not happened.

Unfortunately, the committee of young people felt that the responsibility of the center was too much and have returned the key to the Trust.

The means that we are back to "square one". The church is again standing empty and full financial responsibility is with the Trust.

The executive had thrashed the problem of the church over many times and now we would appreciate any suggestions from the general membership. One possibility is to put the building up for sale. Provincial legislation enacted for the Heritage Conservation area now enables a building to be sold with restrictive covenants on the facade. This would mean that future owners could not change the exterior of the building.

NFLD. HISTORIC TRUST GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thurs., Sept. 7, 1978

8:00 p.m.

Arts & Culture Centre Lecture Room

All Members of the Trust are invited. If you are interested in taking an active part in the programs of the Trust this year, please come to this meeting.