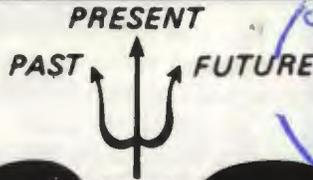


the

trident



Vol. 6, No. 5, November, 1981

Price: 50 cents

DEC 14 1999

New Facade For Gower United

Gower Street United Church congregation was established in 1815 as part of the Methodist church and became part of the United Church of Canada with church union in 1925. Adversity and difficulty is not new to the people of Gower, looked upon as the mother congregation of the United Church in Newfoundland. The present sanctuary, built in 1894 is the third for the congregation; the previous buildings being the victims of the St. John's fires.

The building is designed from a combination of basic architectural styles prevalent in the United Kingdom in the mid 1800's with the original brick being brought to St. John's from the United Kingdom. During recent years it became obvious that the outer layer of bricks was deteriorating, and in fact, pieces were breaking off and falling to the ground causing the congregation to be concerned for the safety of those passing by. The services of E. K. Jerrett & Associates Limited of Bay Roberts, an engineering firm with experience in buildings was retained and confirmed that because of the porous nature of the bricks and the number of freeze-thaw cycles in the typical St. John's winter, the bricks were failing by absorbing water which would freeze, causing it to expand and break off pieces of the brick. A number

of engineering alternatives were presented; the most viable of which over the longer term was adding a metal or wood cladding over the existing brick or removing and replacing the outside layers of brick. Obviously the metal or wood cladding would be far less expensive. A further option was to abandon the building and have it demolished and re-establish congregation(s) in one or two of the many new subdivisions growing in the St. John's area.

It was a difficult decision. The easy solution is not always the correct one. There were many reasons why new congregations should be established in other parts of the city but Gower has a long history of being a downtown church with community outreach — the ecumenical Gower Youth Band is one of many such outreach programs. So, while realizing that the suburban congregations will have to establish as the city grows, the people of Gower also decided that there would remain a need to provide a service in the downtown urban core. A need which they should fulfill.

With that decision made the next one was how to solve the problem of the deteriorated bricks. While cladding was less expensive and would technically do the job, it would not preserve the history and



Picture to left shows section completely stripped of the old brick. To the right — The same section with the newly replaced brick.

character of the edifice. The brick was a jumbo size (not compatible with modern materials), some had fancy designs with many mouldings and architectural features. Jerrett investigated the availability of the various components through the Historic Trust Architects in Ottawa and through other sources and found that if similar material was available in North American it would be in the deep south of the U.S. or the far western part of the Continent. Apart from the prohibitive cost, the question of weathering was still a concern so a decision was made to use local brick and to attempt to duplicate as many of the basic features as possible using these bricks. Also, an attempt would be made to save some of the original ornamental works.

The estimated cost of replacing the brick was \$300,000 which was more than double the cost of bricking the same area on a new building. Tenders were called in May and when received it was found, disappointingly, that the lowest bid was over 2.5 times the estimate probably because of the fear of the unknown by the bidders as there was no way to determine with certainty what existed behind the brick and what the condition of it was. It was known that raising \$300,000 was going to be difficult; 2.5 times that looked impossible. After rejecting the tenders, an attempt was made to negotiate a contract to do a portion of the work with a local contractor. Eventually, an agreement was reached with the firm of Jack Green Limited to do the small center section of

PRESENT
PAST FUTURE

The trident

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

Editor: Ruth Saturley

Printed by Creative Printers.



Close-up showing extent of renovation

the north elevation. This has now been finished and the northwest tower started. The firm has a supervisor on site keenly interested in preserving the character of the building and doing a good quality job. While the building will not be completed for \$300,000 it is hoped to complete both the north and south elevations (approximately 70% of the project) for approximately this amount by the end of 1982 if sufficient money can be raised. So far only 50% of the financing is in place which is a further reason for the piece-meal approach.

The portion of the building completed is aesthetically pleasing and technically sound. The decision to restore and preserve the character was not one based on the least cost alternative but rather one based on the commitment "to preserve some of the past for tomorrow's children and to remain in and serve the downtown core."

Hopefully it is appreciated!
John Evans



Detail of completed work

The History of Signalling and Signal Hill

St. John's has one of the finest natural harbours in North America. To the south and east, hills rise straight out of the water to a height of 400 feet, and shelter the harbour from the fury of Atlantic gales. The easternmost hill is Signal Hill. The commanding position has obvious military advantages and from the end of the 18th century fortification were built on it. But this site has been more important historically as a signal and communications station than as a military post. From the 17th century to 1958 the promontory served as a station from which military or commercial information was transmitted to the port authorities. The methods evolved from simple visual messages to electronic signals.

Signals had been sent from the hill to the fort for many years but the methods were not described until the 1704 code:

When the Lookout from either of the hills discovers any saile, they shall give notice by Firing a Small Cannon or Paterero, and hoisting the colours, if weather permits, and discharging as many musketts as saile shall be discovered, which shall be observed at the fort by hoisting the colours, and returning as many small shoot.

The following year, another code clearly defined the signals to be used in communications between the promontory, the fort and ships in the area:

1. When the Lookout from the Fort discover the enemy notice shall be given by firing a cannon and two musketts with a light on the top of the flagstaff that all inhabitants at the harbour, that are able, do give immediate assistance to the fort to be answered by the ships firing four musketts and the harbour four.

2. When the lookouts from

the ship discover the enemy they are to give notice to the fort by firing two great guns, and to be answered by the lookouts on shore, by firing two musketts.

3. When the lookouts on shore discover the enemy they are to give notice to the fort by firing three musketts which shall be answered from the fort by firing three musketts.

In the 18th century during the wars between England and France, the hill was fought over, before the French were finally defeated in 1762 by a British force under the command of Colonel Amherst. He recognized the strategic importance of the hill and named it Signal Hill around 1762.

One illustration one in 1751 shows that there was a signal mast and yard on the hill.

During the American Revolution flags were used to send signals. In 1776, Capt. John Montague, who was governor of Newfoundland, gave instructions on which flag should be used on different occasions, as did Captain Richard Edwards, who was also a governor of Newfoundland, in 1780.

The first military building constructed in 1796 on Signal Hill, was the blockhouse. It was equipped with a signal mast and a yard arm. An artilleryman with a telescope was stationed on the roof day and night to transmit signals.

During the War of 1812, this building was still in use. The Duckworth code had come into use by this time, named after its inventor, Sir J. T. Duckworth, Governor of Newfoundland. However, in 1814, the blockhouse was demolished and replaced with a new building near or on the site of the Cabot Tower. On top of this building there was a platform used exclusively for military or commercial communications.



By the middle of the 19th century communications between the hill and the port were exclusively commercial as opposed to military. The blockhouse erected in 1814 had fallen into ruins, so in 1859 a new signal station was built on the same site. Operating costs were defrayed by the St. John's businessmen who paid an average of forty pounds a year. Every merchant in St. John's had his own house flag and code number which he used in communicating with his ships via Signal Hill. On certain occasions during the year, Signal Hill was the scene of tremendous excitement as for example when the return of the sealing fleets from the spring seal-catching was expected.

The communication system of the mid-19th century is described: As soon as a ship hoves in sight at Cape Spear, she is telegraphed to the principal station on Signal Hill and as soon as she approached the south entrance of the Narrows, an artilleryman on duty, with trumpet in hand, used to walk to the edge of the rocky precipice and hail: From whence came you.

The blockhouse on the summit of Signal Hill lasted until 1897. It was replaced by a new signal tower, the Cabot Tower, built to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot. From June 20, 1900 until November 1958, part of this tower was used to send visual signals to the port. This was done by means of 2 sixty-five foot masts with yards pointing northsouth. When a ship approached from the north, the north mast was used

and vice versa. One of the yards served to indicate the name of the company that owned the vessel and the other, the type of ship. These visual signals occupied the top floor of the tower and above them, on the roof, there was an observation post. Guglielmo Marconi received the first message to be sent by wireless telegraphy across the Atlantic. He chose Newfoundland because it is the nearest point to Europe on the North American continent.

It was also in this building in July 1920, that three engineers from the Canadian Marconi Company installed a wireless radio - telephone station in order to make contact with a ship called the **Victorian**. On July 23, two days after the vessel left England, the engineers succeeded in transmitting the human voice distinctly from the Cabot Tower to the **Victorian**, which was still 1250 miles from Newfoundland. A week later, the post picked up a signal from the powerful Chelmsford station in England. Following these experiments, on August 12, 1933 the Canadian Marconi Company officially opened its wireless communications station on the second floor of the Tower. From here, communications service was provided to the Eastern coast, northeastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 1949, after Newfoundland entered Confederation, the federal Ministry of Transport took over the Tower. A system of visual signals was maintained there until 1958 to keep the port authorities informed of ship arrivals and departures, to locate vessels in distress, to guide ships on their way to St. John's and to report on ice conditions and icebergs. The Cabot Tower fulfilled these functions until 1958, when it became an integral part of Signal Hill historic park.

Judith Tulloch
Project Historian
Parks Canada
ARO

St. John's Heritage Foundation

Since last October's report on the Foundation's work we have all witnessed a rapid cooling of the real estate market from the fever pitch of Hibernia euphoria experienced in 1979 and 1980.

The current high interest rates and the protracted squabble over offshore resources have thrown a sizeable bucket of cold water on the market and the Foundation has not escaped its effects.

Because of the poor market the Foundation has reduced its effort in the rehabilitation of dwellings to six units, three of which will be for sale in the very near future.

The slowness of the market has not however cooled the Foundation's optimism for the future of the Heritage Area or its own work and the acquisition of properties for rehabilitation has not been reduced. There are now five properties awaiting restoration and negotiations for a sixth are underway.

Perhaps the most interesting development during the year is the infill project at 122 Gower Street where the original dwelling was demolished to be replaced with a totally new structure behind a 1890's facade. This is the first of its type in the City and the Foundation is considering a similar project on Bond Street for next spring.

Program II, the rehabilitation of facades, finally got underway on City Terrace a year late due in large part to the awful weather experienced during the summer of 1980. Coupled with the facade work on the Terrace



122 Gower St.

the Foundation is undertaking the restoration of 350 Duckworth Street which is at the extreme east end of the row. The contract is projected for completion in the new year.

The free technical assistance program has proved popular after people got over the initial shock of "something for nothing", really being at no cost to them. The Foundation has provided assistance to over 25 owners of commercial and domestic property and has worked closely with the Heritage Advisory Committee of Council when they have asked for solutions to inappropriate development problems.

The Foundation's request for consultation with Council before public works are undertaken in the Heritage Area has born fruit, and there have been two meetings between the staff and the City Engineer's office which we hope will result in a maintenance program for downtown which will include the adoption of a standard cast iron railing and other street furniture suitable for a heritage area.

David A. Webber



City Terrace

People In Heritage:

Bobbie Robertson

Heritage organizations, like any others, survive (if they do survive) when those who belong to them discover the ways in which a perennial concern — historical enquiry and its values — continues to be made available and presented to changing generations. The Newfoundland Historical Society, now in its 100th year, has the singular good fortune to have, in Bobbie Robertson, an Office Secretary who has been largely responsible for extending the role of the institution, traditionally concerned with the reading and publication of lectures, papers, and pamphlets on Newfoundland and Labrador history, and making it an important resource

centre for all students of the subject.

Born in Birkhill, Scotland, Bobbie emigrated to Newfoundland where her husband had an office in the Crosbie Hotel, and where she still lives all these years later. For fifteen years she was with the Commercial Office of the Canadian High Commission in Newfoundland, and after that she ran the regional office of the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, retiring in 1966 with a matchless experience in handling assorted questions on a wide variety of matters, and in establishing the files upon which information could be provided for all who

needed it. Then, in 1967, she became the first full-time Office Secretary of the Historical Society, and created the rich and comprehensive files on Newfoundland history which serve as an index to the subject of equal value and use to professional historians, students, or simply curious members of the public.

Each year, hundreds of visitors use the collection, housed in Room 15 of the basement of the Colonial Building in St. John's, and in any average twelve-month period more than a thousand pieces of correspondence go out to members of the Society or in answer to queries from all over the world.



Open five days a week, in season and out, the Office has become an indispensable starting-point for anyone interested in shipwrecks or family history, community background or historical events, all equally within the purview of the Society's files and the remarkable and tireless woman who, the winner of the Society's first Heritage Award in 1976, is herself a beloved and very human Newfoundland institution.

George Story

New Gift Shop for Signal Hill

The Cooperating Association agreement between the Trust and Parks Canada signed last fall provided for an expanded sales outlet at Signal Hill this summer. Trust manager Pam Murphy coordinated the expansion of both the retail space and the product line available at the Interpretation Center. All of the items sold at the sales outlet are approved by a Selection Committee made up of representatives from the Trust and Parks Canada, and must be site-related and have an interpretative value for visitors to the site.

Several new items were approved for sale at the outlet this year. Among these are a reproduction of a pierced tin lantern and an interesting assortment of clay pipes. For the children there are semaphore flags with an accompanying poster and a colouring book by Jean Ball depicting scenes around Signal Hill. We have also developed a line of quality posters and postcards, and have available a large selection of new publications. T-shirts of Cabot Tower and the Cape Spear lighthouse designed by local artist Donna

Rammo were popular with the tourists. Those who visited Cape Spear could purchase a special certificate stating that they have turned their backs to the Atlantic and thus have had the privilege of "facing every other person in North America."

Some products to be developed this fall are a pewter spoon, a children's activity book, a tin candle stick and tin cup, and an extended line of publications and military prints. The Trust hopes to get local crafts people involved in providing reproductions of items on display in the exhibits at the various National Historic Parks in the province, in preparation for the setting up of gift shops at these locations.

Although we had a very short lead time in establishing the expanded outlet at Signal Hill this summer (many of the new products did not arrive until the season was nearly over), our sales were ahead of last year and there were many favorable comments on the shop, and on the fine job done by Pam and her staff.

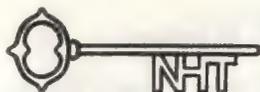
Tours — 1981

On a gray and chilly Saturday morning in May, thirty members of the Trust met at Hotel Newfoundland for the first bus tour of 1981. Trust president Ted Rowe greeted everyone and Manager Pam Murphy introduced our newly-hired and smartly-uniformed guides Debbie Power, Millie Kearns, Catherine Pike and Joan Penny.

As in past years, the tour began with the climb up Signal Hill to Cabot Tower and a brief stop overlooking the city. Then it was on to a circuit of Quidi Vidi village, the lake and historic points of interest in the central part of town, including Commissariat House, Government House, the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, and a general look at the architecture of Rennie's Mill Rd. and Circular Rd. Next came the new addition to the tour — the trip up the Southside Hills and on to Cape Spear, where the group braved the chilly winds and toured the old lighthouse, currently under restoration by Parks Canada.



Official opening of the Signal Hill Gift Shop by Roger Simmons. Trust Manager Pam Murphy, President Ted Rowe and staff look on.



Tours (cont'd)

The tour continued back to St. John's and a run through the downtown, ending at the Newfoundland Museum on Duckworth St., where coffee and sandwiches were waiting, thanks to Nancy Cook and members of the Program Committee. All agreed that the tour was most enjoyable and should be offered to the Trust membership at the beginning of each tour season.

Following this initial tour for the membership, the Trust arranged over 70 tours during the summer and extending well into the fall.

Some of the tours provided this year were for the meeting of New England Governors and Atlantic Premiers, the Children's Hospital Executive Council, the Canadian Association of Optometrists and the Association of Cartographers. Of course we continued to provide guide service for the large tour companies arriving in St. John's. One of our guides spent a fantastic week travelling with a group of tourists to St. Pierre and (via coastal boat) to Labrador.

This summer we also reinstated a walking tour of old St. John's, which proved to be very popular. This three-hour tour is still available for groups of up to 15 at \$4.00 per person. A morning or afternoon tour can be arranged by calling Pam Murphy at the Trust office (753-9262) or at home (753-9295). Pam would welcome any comments or suggestions and would appreciate knowing of Trust members who can volunteer their services to the Association.

St. John's Day 1981

The Trust undertook three activities for St. John's Day this year. These were a treasure hunt for the children, guided tours of three historic buildings, and an antique auction.

In the Treasure Hunt the children walked around a set route in an older part of St. John's, matching drawing with architectural details of buildings along the way. The drawings, which were done by Judy Gibson, showed details of twelve buildings along the route. The four winners were each presented with a prize of ten dollars.

The guided tours were of the Court House, the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. They were very popular and their success was largely due to the assistance provided by the clergy of the Basilica parish, the Guild of St. Elizabeth, the staff of the Supreme Court, and the Department of Public Works.

The antique auction was held in the hall of Gower St. United Church.

Over 200 items, ranging from



Treasure Hunt winners receiving their prizes from Trust President Ted Rowe. Shown back row are Vivian Hutcheson, Andrew Furlong, Maureen Richards and in front Bodra Van Toorn and Dr. Rowe.

and old wicker laundry hamper to sterling silver candlesticks, were offered. Some of the items were donated to the trust; others were given on consignment both by individuals and by antique dealers.

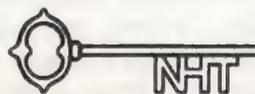
Auctioneer John Fitzpatrick, who generously donated his services, raised over \$3000 from the good-sized crowd that turned out, of which \$1300 went to the trust.

The many trust members involved, Ruth Saturley, Ted

Rowe, Baxter Morgan, George Courage, Mary Chalker, David Kelland, Paul Thorburn, Kay McCullum, Carol Giovannini, Bev Burnett and others, all agreed that it was a pleasant way to raise money.

It is hoped that the auction will become a permanent part of St. John's Day activities and trust members are urged to keep it in mind when disposing of surplus treasures.

Mary Chalker
George Courage



Newfoundland Historic Trust

Annual General Meeting

November 18

8:00 p.m.

Colonial Building
Military Rd.

Agenda: Brief Committee Reports
Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships
Election of Officers
Surprise Guest Speaker
Refreshments

Flying Carpets

An Update on The Fabric of Their Lives and Most Mat Events

The flurry of attention generated by Memorial University Art Gallery's hooked mat exhibition last year has abated and the province's mat makers are reaping a small financial benefit from the attention they thus received. It is gratifying to talk to matters and hear them expressly acknowledge that the work they do is worthy of note.

Although the local attention has diminished, the exhibition of mats is continuing its journeys. After a successful tour of five cities in England, the exhibition is now well into a Canadian tour which will last until the fall of 1983. The mats have been seen in New Brunswick and in London and Windsor, Ontario, and will be at the Glenbow-Alberta and the National Museum of Man in Ottawa before they return to the province.

As a spinoff of the English tour, the High Commission in London requested a smaller exhibition of contemporary mats and this was organized by Colleen Lynch for the Department of Cultural Affairs and the High Commission. The Placentia West Mat Makers, a co-operative venture of 21 women in Baine Harbour and Boat Harbour West, supplied the works and then received an unexpected invitation for two of their members to take part in the Canada celebrations in Birmingham, England. Debbie Saunders and Madeline Walters of Boat Harbour West spent eight days there in May demonstrat-



The travelling matters
Madeline Walters and Debbie
Saunders.

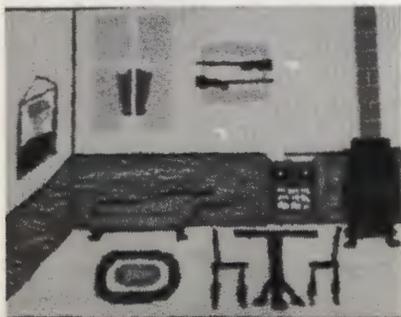


Annie Lockyer former man-
ager of P.W.M.M.

ing their skills and answering questions about their group.

This little exhibition has itself generated more travel for both the mats and the makers as the Canadian Consulates in West Germany, the Hague, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria requested that a tour be arranged and Mannheim, West Germany has recently invited two other members of the group to demonstrate mat making techniques there in October. Sandra Matterface and Diane Lockyer will represent the Placentia West Mat Makers on this occasion. The group also had an exhibition and sale at the Wells Gallery in Ottawa in July and will be part of the Wells' special craft presentation during the Christmas season.

Hooked Mat by
the Placentia
West Mat Makers.



Museum Gift Shop

Good news for the Museum Gift Shop — the Historic Resources Division of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Youth has recently given the Shop a "Heritage Grant" of \$900.00 to be used to pay design fees for new Museum Gift Shop products. The Shop Board has discussed possible ways to spend this money, but I won't spoil the surprises by telling you more — watch for new products in the Shop during the coming year. Thank you, Historic Resources Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Meanwhile, Christmas is getting closer. Our picture here shows some of the things that have proved popular choices for gift giving over the last months. They include an embroidered bookmark by Jean Ball, a teddy bear by Linda Smith, a seagrass basket from

Other new things to look for will be a photographic print of Quidi Vidi circa 1900 taken from a glass negative belonging to the Museum, and a dramatic tea-towel designed by Charlotte MacNee based on Dorset Eskimo arrowheads. Kay MacCallum and Jean Ball have produced some attractive notepaper decorated with Naskapi and Beothuck designs, just right for thank-you notes after Christmas.

But that's getting a little ahead of the season — first, remember that several different types of Christmas cards will be featured in the Shop this year. Eskimo prints from Canadian Arctic Producers, the Grenfell Mission's cards, reproductions of Victorian cards from England and of course, our own **Captain Cartwright**. At ten cards for \$2.95, check this one out.



Some of the new articles for sale at the Shop.

Labrador, a scented sachet and duffle booties with a Naskapi motif. Hand-coloured etchings of the province's wildflowers and our sets of Newfoundland folksong placemats have also appealed to visitors during the summer.

Christmas at the Museum this year will have the theme of "Festivals" here in Newfoundland and in other countries around the world. Some special tree decorations have been ordered for the Shop with this in mind. Come in and see our selection early in November.

So, the holidays are fast approaching. Please do visit your fellow Trust members who volunteer in the Shop. Thanks to them the Shop has just completed its second year of operation. There is space in the volunteer schedule if you would like to join us. Come on down and say hello!

Caroline Stone
Co-Manager
Nfld. Historic Trust Museum
Gift Shop
Mon.-Fri. 10-5
Sat. & Sun 10-5

Around The Province

Green Bay

The Green Bay Museum Committee under the Chairmanship of Rev. A. R. Brett has just cause for high spirits. On Canada Day, July 1, 1981 the H. C. Grant Heritage Centre was officially opened.

The Museum was the residence of the first Mayor of Springdale, Mr. Harvey C. Grant. The construction period was that of 1917-1920, and was

going to sell the property for \$12,000.00. Here was the golden opportunity for a building so long desired. The Chairman after a short while was able to procure the residence as an outright gift to the town. Having secured the property, a committee was formed to further the ideal of a Heritage Centre and proceed with the necessary repairs and restoration.



The Museum building before and after renovations.

typical of the outport style — two and one-half stories.

When Mr. Grant moved to his new residence in the early 1970's his sister and sister-in-law lived in the former residence until they were admitted to the local Senior Citizens Home, Valley Vista. Mr. Grant was then

Some local financial help enabled the committee to make some urgent repairs, advertise their intentions and thereby protect the property from vandalism. A tribute to the youth of the town must here be given. Each high school appointed students to serve on the com-

mittee; and there was not one pane of glass broken during the four year vacancy.

The provincial government also provided two small grants in 1980 and 1981 from the Heritage Fund, which was much appreciated. But the "golden egg" was the Community Development Grant of \$42,000.00 which enabled the committee to completely renovate, restore and enclose the property, as befits its purpose.

The Town Council through a student work program staffed the Museum daily from June 24 to August 31, and continues to maintain the heating, lighting and general maintenance.

Throughout the summer many visitors toured the old homestead and were favourably impressed. The kitchen,

pantry, sitting room, master bedroom and servants' rooms have been restored to the period of the '20s to '30s, while other rooms were utilized as display areas for all kinds of items relating to our culture and heritage.

For a month we also displayed the Inuit Jewellery collection, supplied through the Newfoundland Museum. We hope to have various displays of specific items on a yearly basis, and also to rotate our local collection so there can be greater incentive for visitors and thus keep their interest.

The committee is hopeful for a bright future.

(Rev.) A. R. Brett
Chairman

Green bay Museum Committee

L'Anse au Loup

When the Ferry started to cross the Straits many of our artifacts disappeared. Tourists carried away some of the finest artifacts that ever existed on Labrador. After seeing so many things disappear, I thought there must be some way to preserve what was left; a Museum was the only answer.

In the fall of 1978 while I was still District Representative for the Women's Institutes of this coast I thought we should apply for a Canada Works Project to build a Museum. Our project was approved for \$81,000 and we built a Museum as well as a parking and camping area for travel trailers. The area also has a sewer disposal, outdoor toilets, picnic tables, fire places and an outlook so visitors can view the ocean liners passing through the Straits of Belle Isle.

The Museum is situated between the communities of Forteau and L'Anse Au Loup and about eight tenths of a mile west of the road leading to the Indian Burial site at L'Anse Amour.

After the Museum was built, the District Board sent a person

to attend seminars at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and that person worked at the Museum for part of the first summer. When the Museum was completed we scammed around to all of the communities collecting artifacts. Many people were reluctant at first to part with some of their belongings, but people are beginning to realize that their contribution is a valuable way to share the past and prevent the disappearance of more artifacts across the Straits.

Some of our artifacts include Fishing and Farming tools and equipment, hunting and household equipment, along with a set of pictures of the first TransAtlantic flight East to West, also a set of pictures of Labrador birds, and a display of some of the things found at L'Anse Amour burial site, some of the remains of the Raleigh, a British warship, and a wreck near the site of the Museum.

Approximately eight or nine hundred people visit our museum each year and visitors

have always been very impressed with our display.

The District Board of the Women's Institute have been responsible for the Museum's operation, but it is becoming too much of a struggle to raise funds for the operation, to pay wages, heat and lights etc. Unless funding is made available to us through the Department of Tourism we will not be able to function properly. We are very

much in need of show cases to display our artifacts, right now all artifacts are open and people hesitate to put their artifacts at the Museum without having some protection.

Our periods of operation are from July 1 - Sept. 30, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Monday - Friday and from 2 - 5 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. Why not pay us a visit some time?

Margaret Buckle

Bonavista North Regional Museum Wesleyville

This Museum represents the communities in the area from valleyfield to Newtown, inclusive.

The building which is now used as a Museum, is the former three-room Memorial Day School, built in the early thirties. In the early seventies, when it was no longer considered adequate for a school, it was left vacant for several years.

The Town Council of Wesleyville now owns the building, and made it available, rent free, to a group of interested citizens who had for some time been discussing the necessity of setting up a Museum. They felt that a great many items pertaining to the early way of life were still to be found in the area, and should be preserved for future generations. The old school provided the room. This solved one problem. Although the building is old, the structure is basically sound.

Only the two front rooms of the school are being used, and by means of the sliding doors they are converted into one large room which constitutes the Museum.

In 1975 a group of students from Lester Pearson High School, with the aid of a Young Canada Works Program grant, canvassed the area from Valleyfield to Newtown and collected about 450 artifacts.

Today they number more than five hundred.

These artifacts consist of household goods, kitchen utensils, dishes, bedroom furniture — a variety of carpenters tools, fishing equipment and a number of miscellaneous articles.

The museum was officially opened in May, 1976. During the summer artifacts were numbered and donor cards signed.

The Museum is open seven days a week from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. from June 24 till Labor Day and receives a large number of visitors during the season. Up until the present the museum has been kept open by voluntary work, but owing to changing circumstances it is doubtful in this method of operation will be possible in future.

In the summer of 1979 the Canadian Conservation Institute Mobile Laboratory spent six days at the museum where repairs were made to some of the artifacts and instruction given as to the care and treatment of others.

During the past summer a number of students, with the aid of a Federal Grant, labelled and documented the artifacts.

The Museum has its problems but they are mainly operational and should be overcome without too much difficulty.

Alice L. Lacey

Bye the Bay, Lewisport

The Museum Bye the Bay located in the Women's Institute Building in Lewisport opened its doors to the public on August 9, 1980. This opening coincided with a visit from the Travelling Museum for Toddlers. For the duration of that summer the museum was operated six days a week on a volunteer basis by members of the Lewisport Women's Institute. During the winter of 1980 the museum was made available to schools for class visitations and was open to the public on the first and third Sundays of every month.

Displays consist mainly of household items and tools of many trades. The main attraction is a 28 foot rug, hooked and designed by local residents, depicting the history of the town from 1876 to 1976.

This summer the Lewisport

Women's Institute received a \$7056.00 Young Canada Works grant to employ three students to operate the Museum Bye the Bay and the Spinning Wheel Craft Shop. The Museum also received a \$100.00 Heritage grant for operating expenses.

One of the main problems encountered by the museum has been the difficulty in obtaining donated artifacts. Most of the artifacts on display are on loan and this creates a problem in that these items could be taken back by their owners at any time thus disrupting displays.

Although the museum is not open on a regular basis at present, interested persons may visit the museum by contacting any Women's Institute member.

Alice Wells



Some of the artifacts on display at Bye the Bay Museum.



The students who worked in the Museum and Craft Shop this past summer.

19th Century Signalling at Cape Spear

Throughout history, the primary role of a lighthouse establishment has been one of communication. The light is a beacon to mariners, warning of danger and providing direction to enable seamen to reach their intended port. The audible fog alarm provides similar guidance when the light itself is obscured. During its long history, Cape Spear light has ably fulfilled three vital functions.

In the 19th century, Cape Spear also formed a link with Signal Hill in a flag signal system initiated by the St. John's Chamber of Commerce. This system provided city merchants with advance notice of the approach of their ships. A signal station had been established on Signal Hill in the 18th century to transmit both military and commercial information to the town but with the construction of the lighthouse at Cape Spear in 1836, much earlier news of the approach of ships could be obtained. In May 1839, Joseph Templeman, a Newfoundland civil servant, proposed to the Chamber of Commerce that a signal station be built at the new lighthouse. Templeman advocated that each ship from the merchant houses be equipped with flags indicating the firm with which it was associated as well as its own identity. These flags would be shown when nearing Cape Spear. The light-keeper then raised the same flag to relay the sighting to the signal station at Signal Hill where it could be seen from the city. In this way, notice of an approaching ship would be received long before the ship herself reached harbour, particularly since contrary winds or sudden fog could keep a vessel outside the port for days.

The signal station at Cape Spear was put into operation in mid October 1839 and the new

service was announced in the local newspapers.

"The Committee appointed to erect the Flag Staff at Cape Spear beg to inform the Commercial Society that all the arrangements are now made, and the TELEGRAPH will be put into operation forthwith. The private Signals belonging to the different Establishments, if left at the office of Mr. Shea, Secretary for the Light-Houses, will be forwarded without delay; and Owners or Agents of vessels belonging to the Port will only have to inform the Masters to hoist their distinguishing flag on appearing in sight, so that any particular vessel may be known long before any other communication can be had with her." (*Newfoundlander*, 10 October 1839)

Despite the simplicity and utility of the scheme, it did not meet with immediate success. In August 1840, the Chamber of Commerce report lamented the fact that so few merchants had provided their ships with signal flags and urged that more do so to enable the system to function more effectively.

Subsequent references indicate that the signal station continued to operate throughout the 19th century although not on the scale originally envisaged by Templeman and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1864, for example, Newfoundland Governor Musgrave informed the British Secretary of State that Cape Spear had been provided with a new set of signals, apparently for a recently adopted commercial code. Later in the century, the International Code of Signals still in use today was adopted by many governments. These signals seem to have been flown at Cape Spear since in 1888 a new



set of international code flags was ordered for the station.

The original appearance and location of the signal staff at Cape Spear was unknown. Photographs of the lighthouse early in the 20th century show a single flagstaff near the west end of the building and clearly visible both at sea and from Signal Hill. This seems a likely location for the original installation. Pictures of the signal station at Signal Hill in the 1840s and 1850s show a tall staff with a crosstree flanked by two shorter single staffs. Since signal staffs had to be similar in order to transmit messages correctly, the pole at Cape Spear probably also had a

crosstree — a configuration which was in fact common to most signal staffs in the 19th century.

The old lighthouse at Cape Spear will be refurbished to represent the period 1839-40. As part of this work, it was decided to reconstruct the signal mast just west of the building and to store appropriate signal flags in the lighthouse as they would have been at that time. Hence another aspect of the lighthouse's historic role in communications will be presented at Cape Spear National Historic Park.

Judith Tulloch
Parks Canada



Water St., 1909 showing Garlands book store to the right. (photo property Canon George Earle)

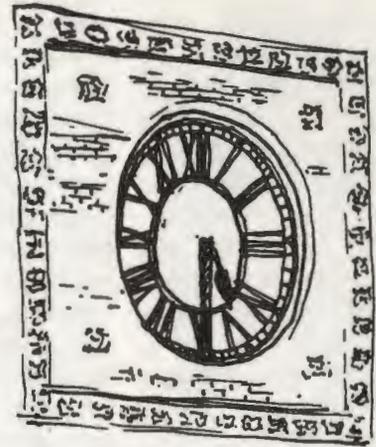


Laying the corner stone for Cabot Tower on top of Signal Hill. (photo property of Canon George Earle)

Can you identify these landmarks in downtown St. John's?



1. _____



4. _____



2. _____



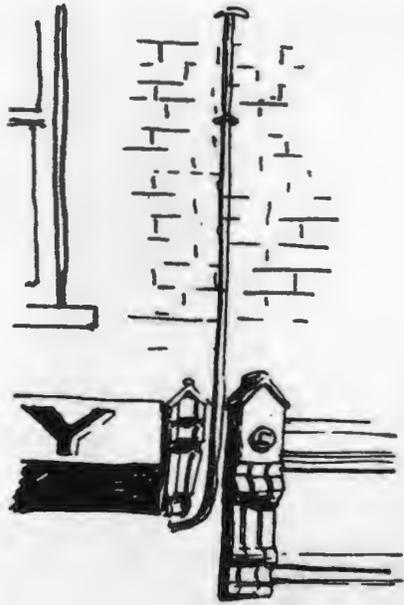
5. _____



3. _____



6. _____



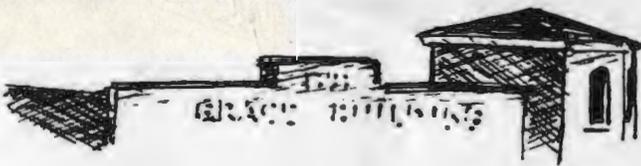
7. _____



10. _____



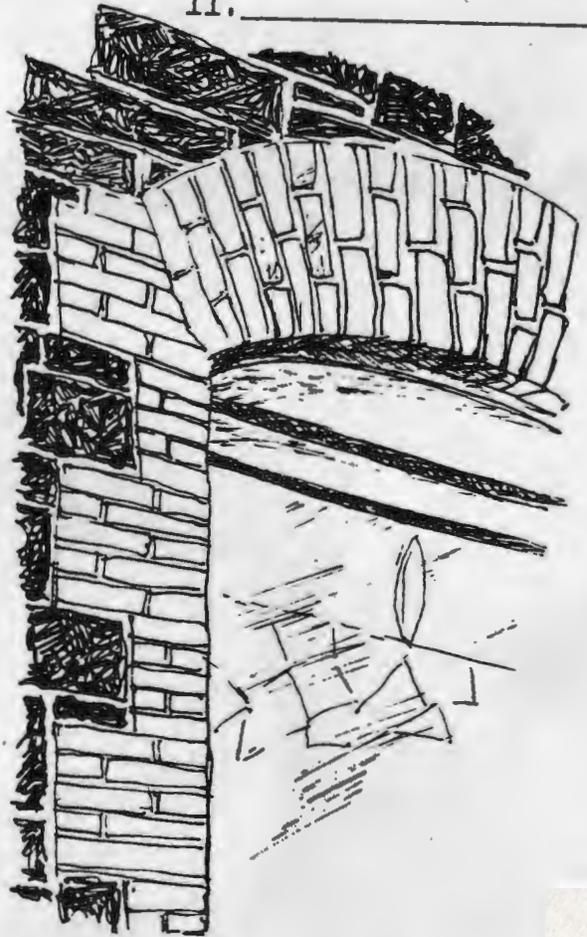
11. _____



8. _____

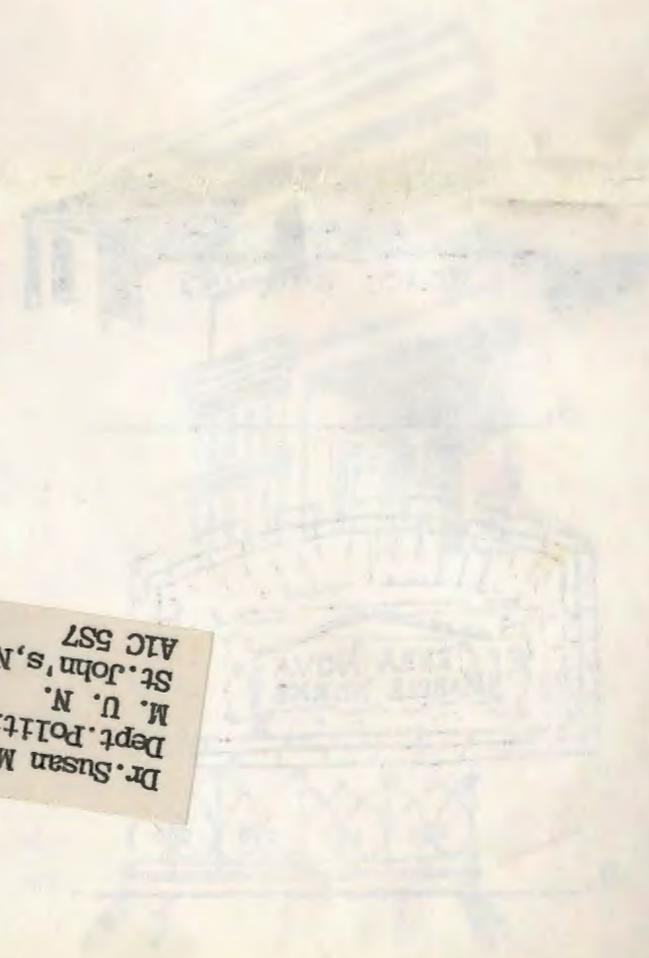
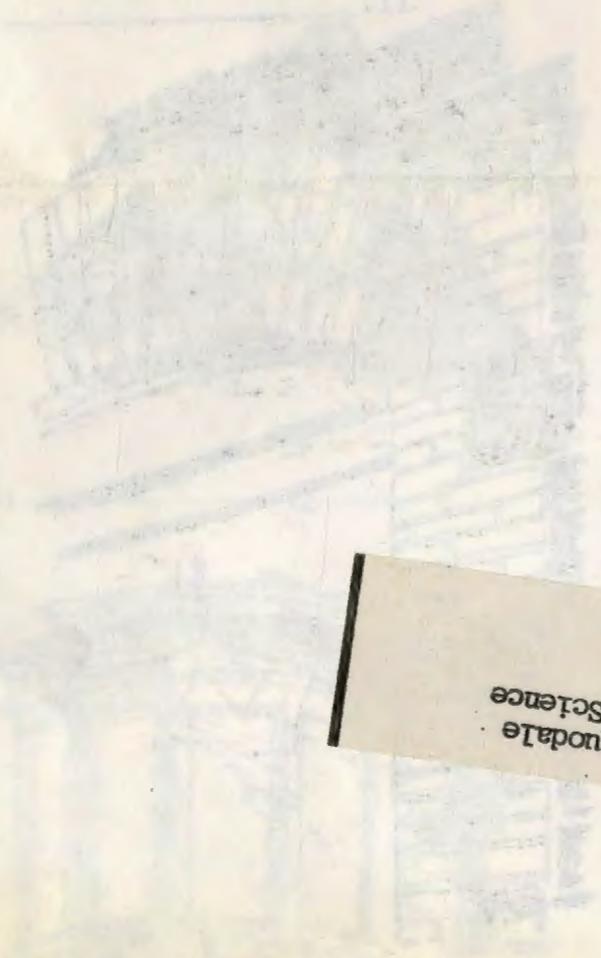


9. _____



12. _____

St. John's University



Dr. Susan McCorquodale
Dept. Political Science
M. U. N.
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 5S7



ST. JOH