

C.D.P.

PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

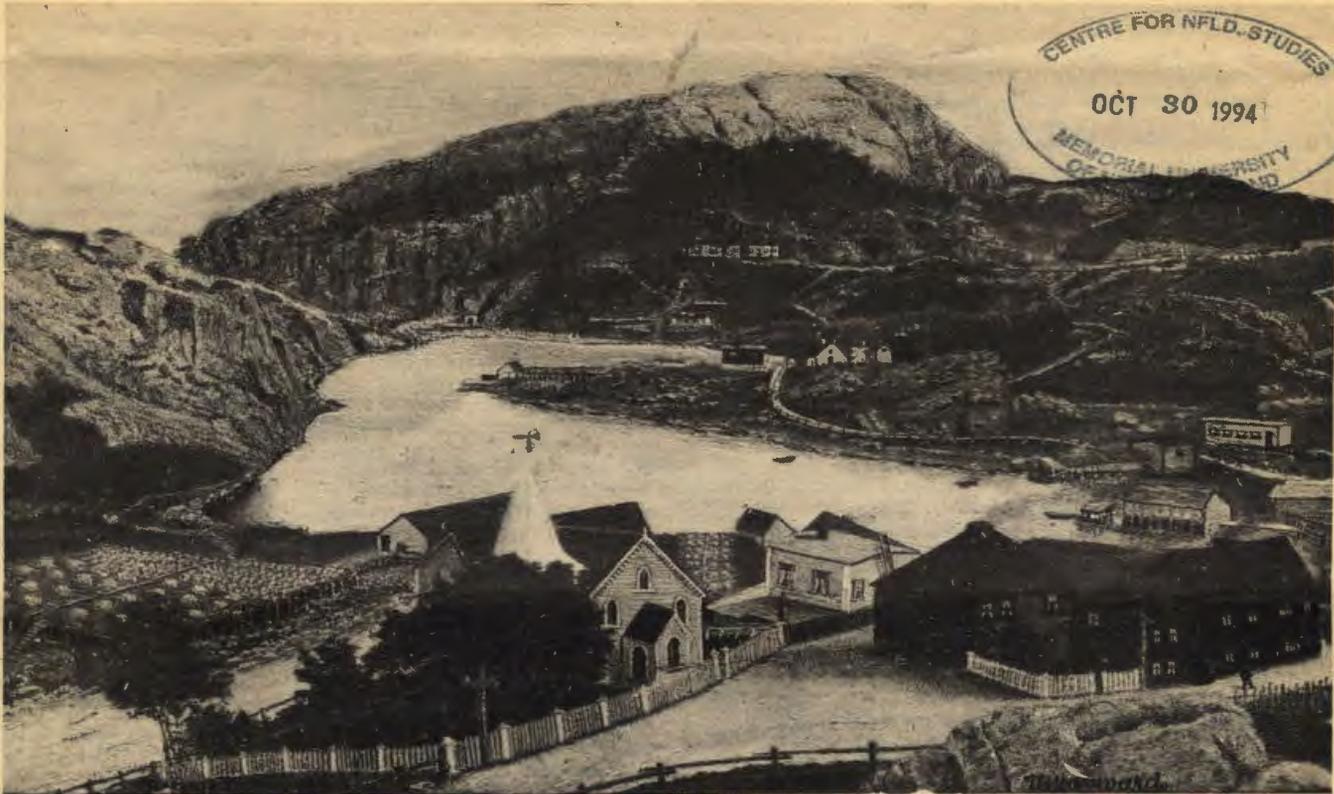


The trident

NEWFOUNDLAND
HISTORIC TRUST
NEWS BULLETIN

MARCH 1973

NUMBER FOUR



Quidi Vidi By J.H. Hayward, Lent By Mr. and Mrs. Chester Dawe

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of the Trident coincides with a milestone in the short but epic history of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. It has been prepared in conjunction with the Open House and official reopening of Quidi Vidi Church which means that the founding project of the Trust is all but completed. In fact, the only thing left to do for Quidi Vidi Church at the present time is to pay the bills for the work that has been performed.

I would like through this medium to pay a special tribute to the Church Renovation Committee who, despite the disaster of the summer, have persevered. In thanking the Committee, I must pay particular tribute to a number of people without whose help it would have been literally impossible to have the Church in use today: Mr. George Brody, Mr. William Guihan, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Provincial Affairs, Mr. Max Harding, Mr. Roy Layden, Mr. Wilfred Earle, Mr. Rupert Greene, Ashley Electric Limited, G.J. Cahill Co. Ltd., and many others who are too numerous to mention in the space that is available to me.

Your Quidi Vidi Church Committee has concluded a mutually satisfactory agreement with the Extension Service of Memorial University under which community programs are being carried out

in the Church for the particular benefit of the people of Quidi Vidi Village. Arrangements have also been made for an exhibition (during the summer months) of artifacts belonging to the Church, so that the building will meet both its community and historic responsibilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Frank O'Dea and Mr. Gerard Walsh and the other members of the Exhibition Committee who mounted our "best yet" antique exhibition during the Summer Festival in the Art Gallery of the Arts and Culture Centre. I am sure that the Committee would like me to express publicly their great appreciation to Mr. Martin Bowe, the Director of Historic Resources, and Mr. Shane O'Dea for their tremendous co-operation and assistance in helping to prepare, catalogue and display the exhibition. My appreciation to Mrs. Frank Duff and Mrs. Peter Gardiner, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Trust respectively without whose help I, as President, could not have functioned this past year.

In conclusion, may I remind you one and all that there is a large debt to be paid for materials used in the restoration of Quidi Vidi Church, and I hope you will do your best to help the Trust meet its obligations by your donations and hopefully those of your friends.

John C. Perlin.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust

and

Christ Church, Quidi Vidi

The realization of a dream

With this issue of the Trident the Executive of the Nfld. Historic Trust can say to its members, with great relief, "The Job is done—Christ Church Quidi Vidi is finished."

While the Trust was born out of concern for the preservation of Christ Church, more than once in the intervening years, the frustrations involved in trying to carry out the task of saving the church very nearly spelled its demise. However, both the Trust and the church have survived and this article is written to put the last six years on record and to answer two anticipated questions, from recent members, "How did it all begin?" and from old members who have been with the Trust from the beginning, "Why did it take so long?"

In 1966 the Anglican Synod made a decision to demolish Christ Church because it was no longer necessary as a mission church of St. Thomas's, and was, at the time, in need of extensive repairs, estimated by the Synod to cost about \$15,000.

This decision raised a storm of protest in the media and a group of interested citizens decided to try and save the church. Representations were made to the Anglican Synod and a number of meetings were held, spearheaded largely by Mrs.

Edythe Goodridge and members of the Art Association of Nfld. and Labrador.

The outcome of these meetings was the formation of the Nfld. Historic Trust whose purpose at that time was the single minded resolve to save Christ Church. Because of the condition of the structure, the Anglican Synod agreed to secularize the Church and hand it over to the Trust to be restored as a Museum of Church Life in Nfld., or some other suitable purpose of which the synod would approve." The ceremony of secularization and the handing over of Christ Church to the Trust took place in mid-July 1966.

It was the hope of those involved at the time, that with funds for material provided by public subscription and volunteer labor, the building could be restored as a museum and opened to the public by the following summer. With great enthusiasm, members of the Trust set to work to strip the interior of the church and carefully store the artifacts. A survey of the necessary repairs was made by Mr. Wm. Guihan and it soon became evident that the repairs needed on the church were far beyond the skills of volunteers, no matter how willing. The church was made weather proof for the winter and

meetings were held to plan a financial campaign which would raise enough money to have the major repairs done professionally.

The proceeds of the financial campaign enabled the Trust to carry out some major structural work but things then proceeded in a frustratingly slow manner as money became available or as emergencies such as the rebuilding of the dry stone foundation wall, became urgently necessary. In such cases money had to be raised from a bank. Because the work had to be done in bits and pieces, much of the financial and human resources of the Trust were drained simply to keep from going backwards.

The present executive is very anxious to broaden the base of the Trust to a truly province-wide organization and to devote its energies to the identification of historic sites, to acting as an effective pressure group in the interests of preservation, and education and the stimulation of public concern and interest through the holding of exhibitions and the publication of papers and photographs related to the topics of preservation and restoration.

Unfortunately, whenever the executive attempted to move in other directions there was always the ongoing and seemingly insoluble problem of "The Church."

The present philosophy of the Trust with regard to historic buildings could best be described as one of restoration for use. It is obvious that the need for museums in any city is limited and that the best way to preserve the bulk of our heritage of historic buildings is to find some ongoing use whereby they can retain their essential character yet continue to be an integral part of the life of the community.

With this in mind it was decided in the Spring of 1972 to abandon the idea of a restoration of the Church and to attempt a renovation of the interior for use as a community center. Accordingly, a L.I.P. grant was applied for but the application was unsuccessful.

Subsequently, the Trust was successful in obtaining the co-operation of the Technology students at the College of Trades and Technology, who under an

O.F.Y. grant agreed to complete the interior renovation and paint the exterior. The Trust acted as sponsoring agency which meant essentially that they assumed responsibility for the cost of materials and for providing consulting help when required by the students.

Fourteen students from the College of Trades and Technology were employed on the project during the months of July and August. The plans for the renovation were supplied by Mr. Wm. Guihan and the mechanical and electrical drawings by Mr. George Brody of Gorman Butler Associates. Both these men agreed to be available to the students should they run into difficulties but under the terms of reference of the O.F.Y. grants no direct interference or supervision is allowed by a sponsoring organization as the initiative must remain with the students.

Unfortunately, because of a number of factors including lack of supervision by O.F.Y. officials, technical difficulties beyond the skill of the students and the inability of the organizing students to organize and direct the efforts of their peers, the end of August saw the termination of the O.F.Y. grant with the Trust in debt for material costs and the church far from finished.

The frustrations of the past months in our attempts to finish the project and prepare the church for use need not be dwelt on here as the outcome is the only thing that matters.

At last—after six long years Christ Church has been renovated and is once more in use as part of the life of Quidi Vidi Village.

The Trust is in the final stages of negotiation with the Extension Service of Memorial University who will use the church to develop a community centered programme for Quidi Vidi Village.

What remains to the Trust are the remaining bills for the materials used in the project an ongoing responsibility to ensure that future use of the Church is in keeping with the aims of the Trust, the historical context of the building and the interest of the residents of the village.

Shannie Duff

What happened to the artifacts from

Quidi Vidi Church?

A good question and one that I am sure many people are asking. They are safely in storage and in the process of being organized for a sort of mobile exhibition to be mounted during the summer months when the tourists, hopefully, will be many and the children doing art and drama classes fewer. This exhibition will be placed in the church during July and August and the building open to visitors if a guide can be arranged and a number of technical problems solved. We are very grateful for the practical help and technical knowhow of the staff from the Historic Resources Division of the Dept. of Provincial Affairs in putting together this exhibition.



Photographs of Brigus by the late Dr. A.C. Hunter. Lent by Mrs. Hunter.



Brigus shows the way

A great deal of the charm of many Newfoundland coastal communities derives from their uniqueness, often the result of unplanned development largely dictated by topography and convenience. However, if the attractiveness of these settlements is not to be lost forever, we face the paradoxical situation that this attractiveness can only be preserved by careful planning!

Not only must the preservation of the quaintness, uniqueness and charm of our older villages and towns be carefully and intelligently planned, but there must also be a policy of providing the amenities of modern living. Brigus is a little town rich in

local history. It is picturesque and has a character all its own. The birthplace of Captain Bob Bartlett of Arctic fame, it was also the home of many worthy sea captains who successfully prosecuted the Labrador fishery and the seal hunt. These stalwart men were at home on the seven seas and their travels gave them inner resources and confidence beyond the usual.

Many of the older houses of Brigus harmonised remarkably well with their natural surroundings and enhanced them. However, in more recent times this harmonising effect has suffered from the building of modern structures which were erected without sufficient at-

tention to the overall effect on the general character and appearance of the Brigus which nature and former generations had created.

The Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Town Council of Brigus, aware of the uniqueness of Brigus, and acting under the provisions of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, engaged the services of Project Planning Associates to make a study of the Brigus townscape and to submit a report with recommendations calculated to ensure continued progress whilst at the same time preserving and even improving the character which exerts such

an appeal to all who visit the town.

Project Planning Associates' report, entitled "Brigus: Townscape," should prove helpful to other Newfoundland towns and villages. The TRIDENT is pleased to bring this study to the attention of its readers. We feel sure that Colonel John T. Allston, Director of Rural Planning, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, would be happy to co-operate with interested persons or guide them to further information and assistance. Colonel Allston may be contacted at Confederation Building, St. John's. The telephone number is 722-0711, extension 679. -

G. A. Frecker

Memberships

If you are not a member of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, please read the enclosed copy of the "Trident" and see what we are doing and what we hope to do.

We need your support to help identify our historic buildings and to awaken public interest in the need to preserve them.

We must press Government for protective legislation. We can only speak with an effective voice if we have a large and active membership. Family Membership - \$5.00....Single Membership - \$3.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO. _____

FAMILY _____

SINGLE _____

Newfoundland Historic Trust
P.O. Box 5542
St. John's.

Present use of Quidi Vidi church

Since the church at Quidi Vidi became available to the Extension Service about mid November, a number of programs have been in operation, all of which have related in some degree to the community of Quidi Vidi.

The church has been used mainly by the Theatre Resource Group led by Christopher Brooks of Maddox Cove. This group has conducted workshops and rehearsals five days a week and produced a Mummers' Play based on the traditional Newfoundland Mummers' Plays of years ago. This play was performed in many homes in the city and surrounding communities during the 'twelve days of Christmas.' From all

reports, the mummers were well received and interest in this historical tradition was renewed.

This group is about to begin a new project to develop dramatic material based on Newfoundland history.

Regular weekly workshops have been conducted for a month before Christmas and are beginning now for the winter term, as follows:-

Monday evening -
Creative drama for teenagers resident in Quidi Vidi village - attended by from 12 to 20 young people.

Wednesday evening -
Drama workshop for adults open to anyone interested from the city as

well as Quidi Vidi.

Saturday Art Workshop for Children of Quidi Vidi -

Attended by up to 35 children ages 5 to 15 years - working with a variety of art materials, painting, puppet-making, viewing films.

All the above workshops are free to the participants. Materials and staff are provided by the Extension Service and the Theatre Resource Group.

The Theatre Group has found the people of Quidi Vidi friendly, and anxious to help with the work at the church. Individual members of the group appear to have been accepted as a part of village life, in home, store and stage.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS TO BE AWARDED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Nfld. Historic Trust will present Honourary Life Memberships at its annual meeting this year to two persons whose contribution to the preservation of the visible historic heritage of this province has, in the opinion of the executive, been outstanding.

In awarding the Life Memberships to Mr. Martin Bowe and Mr. Shane O'Dea, the Trust not only recognizes their devotion to the cause of preservation and restoration of historic sites and artifacts and the knowledge and scholarship they have brought to this field, but gratefully acknowledges their interest and encouragement and the practical help they have given the Trust over the past number of years.

Mr. Bowe came to Nfld. as Curator of Furnishings for the Historic Resources division of the Dept. of Provincial Affairs. He has been involved with the restoration of St. Thomas's Rectory, the Bonavista Lighthouse and the Heart's Content Cable Museum and has recently been appointed Director of Historic Resources for the Province. He serves on the Executive committee of the Museum Directors of Canada, The Atlantic Advisory Board of the Regional Conservation Laboratory and the Canadian National Committee for I.C.O.M.A.S.

Mr. O'Dea is a lecturer in English at Memorial University and is co-ordinator of the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings. He has had a long-standing interest in antiques, particularly those made in Newfoundland or with some historic connection with the province. He is currently engaged in doing research on early Nfld. architecture and domestic life. To this end he has gathered a significant personal collection of early Nfld. furniture and related domestic artifacts.

Killing two birds with one stone

Members of the Trust found themselves in the tour guide business last summer when they were approached by the Association of Chartered Accountants to provide guides for the bus tours of St. John's arranged for the Ladies' programme during their convention.

From all reports the tours were well received and Mrs. Dixon, Dr. Story and Mr. O'Dea, who acted as guides, were enthusiastic about the experience. The Historic Trust received a generous contribution of \$200 from the Association for this service.

It occurred to the executive that here was a potential fund-raising idea with the fringe benefit of allowing us to get our point of view about the preservation of the historic aspects of St. John's across at the same time.

Preliminary approaches have been made to the tourist office and they have confirmed the need for such a service. What is needed now is a roster of about twenty-five volunteers who would be willing to act as tour guides for a limited number of tours during the summer months. An itinerary for the tour as well as information on the historical background of the city will be prepared and each volunteer will be given a briefing before doing a tour. If you are interested or know anyone who is interested please write to the Historic Trust P.O. Box 5542 or contact Mrs. Janet Gardiner, 726-5712 or Mrs. Shannie Duff, 722-6033.

Our original plan to hold an open house at the Quidi Vidi Church has had to be postponed because of delays in finishing the project. For the moment the uncertainty of the weather and difficulties with parking because of the snow would seem to make the idea of an open house impractical. The present plan is to open the church to visitors during a special weekend in early spring. In co-operation with the Extension Service of Memorial University an exhibition will be mounted demonstrating the type of programme being conducted in the building. We will look forward to meeting you at the building and hearing your views. The date will be advertised well in advance in the local press.

Finances

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Over two hundred people bought tickets for the Wine and Cheese Party which opened both our Exhibition and that of the Art Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, last June. Our profit from this venture was \$143.00. The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Gerard M. Walsh, wishes to thank all those who assisted.

CATALOGUES

Three public-spirited men and their corporations made possible the printing of the catalogue for the Exhibition: Bill MacPherson of Canadian Javelin Ltd.; Maurice Laperriere of the Electric Reduction Company of Canada Ltd., and Doug Pippy of the Newfoundland Tractor and Equipment Company, Ltd. Dicks and Co. Ltd. did the fine job of printing. Copies of this catalogue may be obtained from Mr. Gerard M. Walsh (Tel. 722-1657) at a cost of fifty cents a copy. All

libraries in the Province have already received a copy. The sale of the catalogues at the Exhibition realised a profit of \$581.00.

Mr. Walsh wishes to record his special thanks to Mrs. Raymonde O'Dea, Convener of the Exhibitions Committee, for her painstaking care and patience in seeing the catalogue through the press.

REGATTA BOOTH

As in previous years, two enthusiastic members of the Trust, Mr. John Carter and Mr. John

Murphy, headed a hard-working team to man a cotton-candy booth at the 1972 Annual Regatta at Quidi Vidi. As a result of their efforts the resources of the Trust were increased by \$321.09. The Trust is most grateful to all those who helped but especially to Mr. Carter and Mr. Murphy.

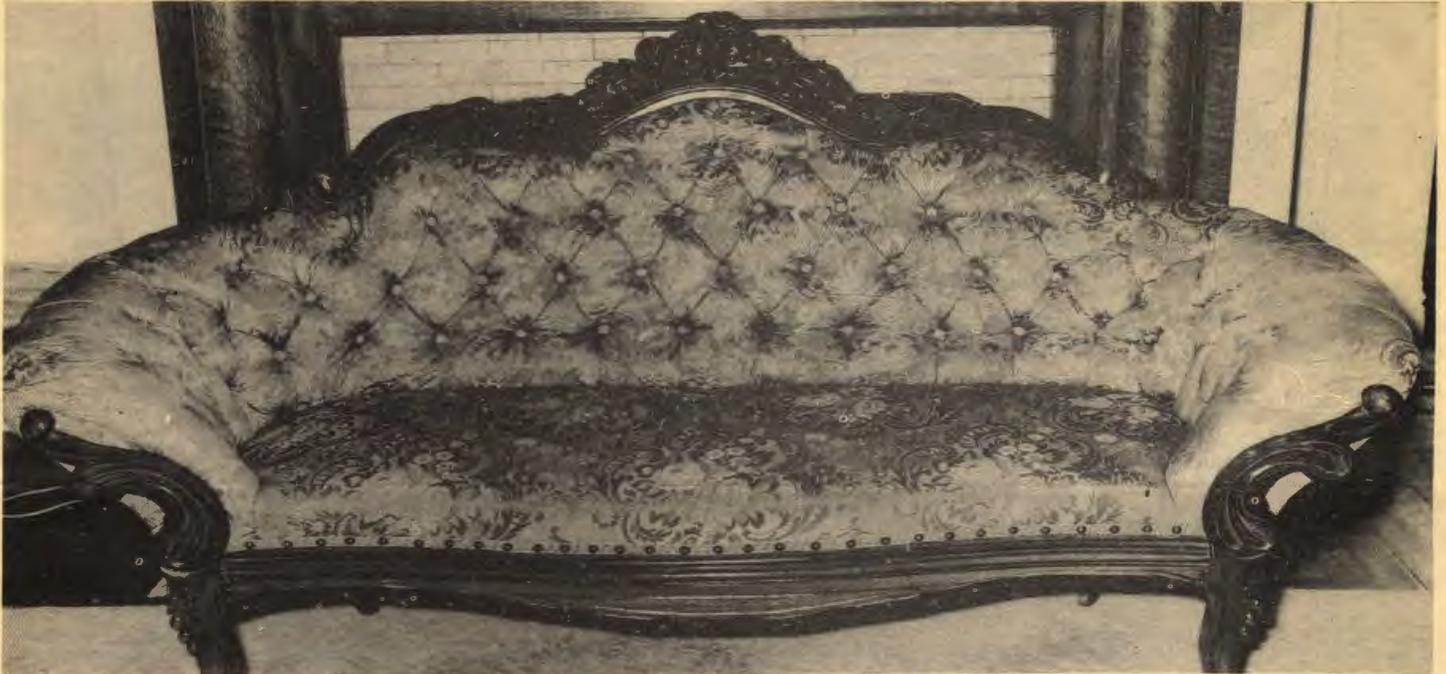
TO SUM UP

The Trust has \$1,831 in the bank. However, the Trust owes \$2,802 to creditors on long-term arrangements, for completion of the Quidi Vidi Church project. Further fund-raising efforts are clearly indicated.

Antique Exhibition 1972



Decanter and four goblets lent by Mrs. A. B. Perlin



Settee, lent by Mrs. W.K. Andrews

The Newfoundland Historic Trust's Third Antique Exhibition was held at the Arts and Culture Centre from June 28 to July 28.

The nearly three hundred exhibits comprised a selective representation of Victorian furniture, a large collection of coloured, art and clear glass, artistically displayed, and the first catalogued collection of Newfoundland paintings prior to 1910.

The success of each of our exhibitions depends largely on the response of the public. However, as it is impossible to know the full extent of available antiques, many fine items in private possession are never exhibited. There was a disappointing response to an appeal in the local press asking interested persons to furnish information or to lend exhibits.

Over nine thousand visitors came to the Arts and Culture Centre during the Exhibition. It is encouraging that so many people appreciate the efforts of the Trust. The Exhibitions Committee is proud that each

Exhibition has been a first of its kind here in Newfoundland.

Amongst the aims of the Trust are the identification, description and preservation of antiques and it is safe to assume that the Exhibitions have aroused an awareness and interest in our history. The printed catalogues of the Exhibitions have been requested by museums, libraries and archives across Canada.

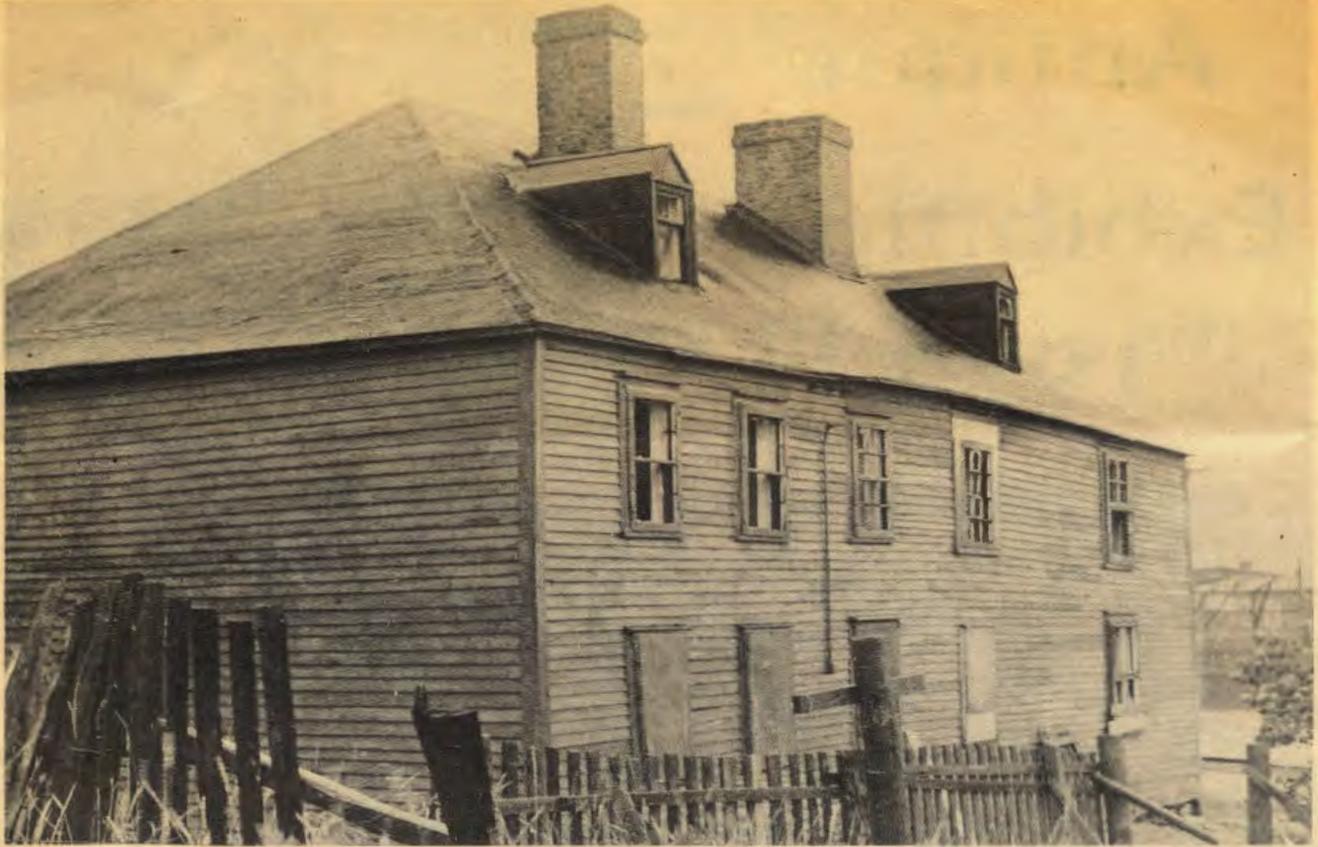
The Trust and especially the Exhibitions Committee are grateful to the many public-spirited people who make these exhibitions possible, through the loan of their possessions or the giving of their time and effort.

Last summer's Exhibition was opened by the Hon. A. Murphy, then Minister of Provincial Affairs. The formal opening was followed by a wine and cheese party for members of the Trust and their friends. The Art Association of Newfoundland and Labrador kindly co-operated with us on this occasion by mounting a handsome exhibition of paintings by local artists.

Raymonde O'Dea



Fire screen, lent by Mrs. Richard Crew



Powerscourt, Signal Hill, St. John's

It is likely that in the next six months St. John's will lose another significant building. Powerscourt on Signal Hill Road has been acquired by St. Joseph's Parish to be torn down and the land made into a playground. The Parish Council has indicated some concern about the building and would like to do anything possible to preserve it -- but on a different site. Unless some arrangement is made soon the building will be destroyed.

The importance of the building lies more in its form than its age. It is a hip-roofed semi-detached wooden dwelling built by James Anderson between 1806 and 1841. This type of house, as far as can be determined from early maps and illustrations, was common in St. John's throughout the eighteenth century and carried over into the nineteenth. While damaged by fire a number of years ago, most of the interior is intact. (Unfortunately, as it has been left unoccupied, vandals have done a great deal of superficial damage.) There is, in the western house, an attractive but simple spiral staircase, and in the kitchens of both houses are large open fireplaces. It would appear that except for the many layers of wallpaper both the interior and exterior have

changed very little since construction. Structurally the building seems fairly sound and restoration of the damaged interior could be carried out at no very great expense.

It would be difficult but no impossible to remove the house from its present site. Newfoundlanders have moved buildings from sites comparable to this. The chimneys might pose a particular problem but they might either be cased into the whole structure or taken down to be rebuilt later. The preferable solution of course would be to come to some arrangement with the Parish so that the restored house and garden could remain on the present site.

Appeals to the Federal Department of Northern Affairs have proved to be futile. Because the house has no ascertainable military association, the Department will not consider including it in the Signal Hill Park complex. It is rather ironic that Northern Affairs, whose task it is to preserve the material history of Canada, appears to have ready funds for monuments to those who were transient and those who destroyed - namely the military. Surely the restoration of domestic structures of historic value is equally important.

Early motion pictures of Newfoundland and Labrador

Keep Wednesday night, April 11th free—the Historic Trust is presenting "Early Motion Pictures of Newfoundland and Labrador." We have some marvellous old films dating from 1907 to 1928 which, through the courtesy of the Department of Education and the Newfoundland Archives, we are enabled to show to the public as a fund-raising project.

Three films come from the Archives. One, a moose hunting excursion in 1907, shows a group of hunters (very properly dressed in suits and ties!) travelling through the "bad lands" in a horse-drawn cart to a campsite from which they hunt the moose. Another film, shot in 1928, is of a magnificent canoe trip up the Hamilton River to Churchill Falls (then Grand Falls). These are perhaps the first films of this part of Labrador. The third movie in this group is of the 1928 seal hunt. Miss Toni Frissell, sister of Mr. Varrick

Frissell the American movie-maker who spent some years in Newfoundland working with Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, gave these as a gift to the Archives.

The other group were all taken in St. John's before 1918. They include a sports day and garden party at Mount Cashel (not to be missed!) and a golf game on the early "sheep-nibbled" greens of Bally Haly. We see our troops drilling on the Parade Grounds before sailing overseas and also the splendour of the Victory Parade after World War I. We could learn a lot from the gay decorations of those floats!

The Historic Trust would like to express its thanks to Mr. Pat Treacher and Mrs. Christine Penney of the Audio-Visual Dept. and Mr. Burnham Gill of the Archives for their cooperation in helping to locate these motion pictures and for all their kind assistance.

These movies will provide a wonderful evening's entertainment—remember the date: Wednesday, April 11th, at the Arts and Culture Centre. Tickets will be available soon from committee members and at the Arts and Culture Box Office.

If you wish any further information contact Mrs. William Rowe at 726-2597.