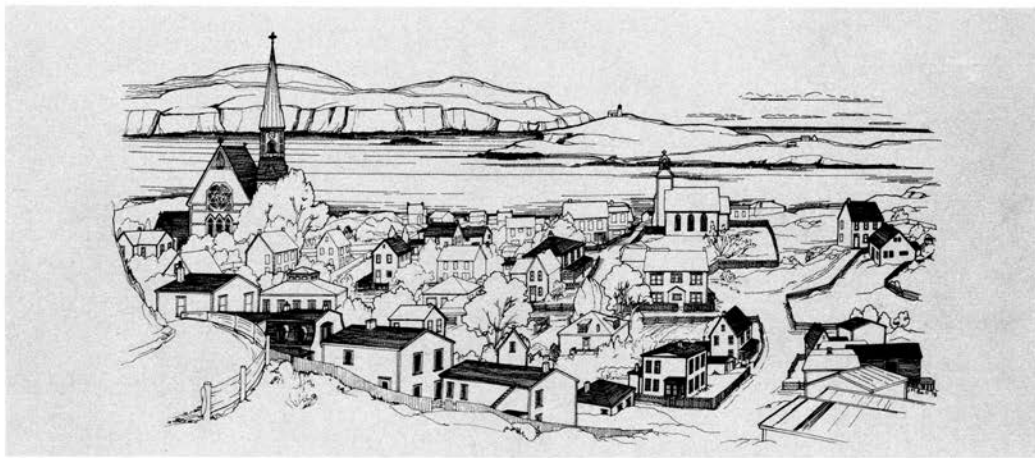


# TEN HISTORIC TOWNS



HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE <sup>N</sup> NEWFOUNDLAND

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST

This book is dedicated to the memory of three deceased members and supporters of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, Walter White of Trinity, Gordon Simmons of Harbour Grace and Mac Lee of Placentia and Harbour Grace, who did much to preserve the history and structures of their towns.



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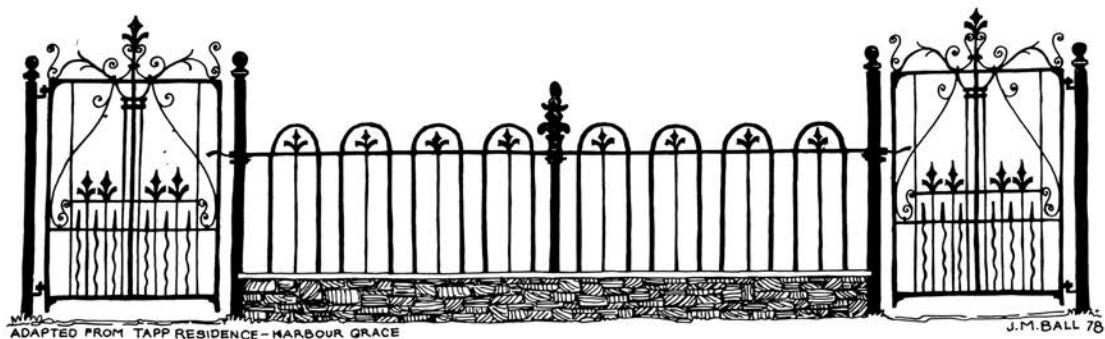


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# TEN HISTORIC TOWNS

DRAWINGS BY JEAN M. BALL



ADAPTED FROM TAPP RESIDENCE - HARBOUR GRACE

J.M. BALL 78

NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST PUBLICATIONS VOLUME II

## PREFACE

In 1975 the Newfoundland Historic Trust published "A Gift of Heritage," Volume I of a projected series of books dealing with the historic architecture of Newfoundland. "A Gift of Heritage" contained drawings and information on 45 properties in St. John's. With the publication of "Ten Historic Towns," Volume II in the series, the Trust is attempting to focus attention on other communities throughout the province. Some of the structures in this book are in a state of excellent preservation while others are badly neglected. All of them are unique and fascinating in themselves.

The towns and outports here depicted have a history as old as any in North America. So as to inform the reader of the historic perspective in which each structure or mercantile premises is located we have included a historic background sketch of each community. It is interesting to know for example that Bonavista is reputed to be the landfall of John Cabot when he was the first man to discover the mainland of North America in 1497. Trinity was discovered by Gaspar Corte Real of Portugal on Trinity Sunday 1500 and was named by him for the holy day. Placentia was fortified in 1662 as the French capital of Newfoundland under orders of Louis XIV. These and other facts are contained in the volume.

The numbers on the maps correspond to the numbers on the structure drawings and will enable the visitor to locate any house, church, shop or warehouse illustrated with comparative ease. The map at the back of the book will serve to give the location of the ten towns in Newfoundland.

It has been said we will not always be as we are but what we are to become depends on what we dream. If that is so then the Newfoundland of today has become what our ancestors dreamed and their hopes and aspirations are reflected in the homes and churches they built for themselves and their children as well as in the shops and warehouses where they conducted their business affairs. Many of the great families of the past have disappeared and most of the great business firms have long since gone bankrupt and closed their doors forever. Empty structures stand in mute testimony to a time that is past.

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF TOWN AND OUTPORT

Shane O'Dea

The architecture of the towns covered in this book is representative of the finest architecture in Newfoundland. All styles are encountered as they are in the city but, because of the different nature of the setting, there is frequently a difference in the interpretation of the style. Only in major towns (i.e. those with a substantial population) does one find the clustering of houses and shops that is common in the capital. The demands on space were not as great in the outport with the exception of the demand that one produce one's own vegetables and thus have a garden near the house. The contrasting situation in St. John's where such things could be supplied, and there was a greater division of labour, encouraged attached housing. Equally important to this was the outport's economic base: the fishery. For most outports fishing was done by all and secondary industries or crafts were few. Fishery premises then (in the case of a fisherman a loft or store, in the case of the merchant a range of these) were immediately beside the house. Comparatively unrestricted by space the outport house could and did grow in every direction producing structures like Fogo's Bleak House. The semi-detached house is rare in the Newfoundland outport except in cases where two members of the same family wished to co-operate in the occupancy of the same piece of ground.

Outport houses generally have a center-hall plan although the main door is seldom used. The principal entry is through the back porch into the kitchen which, in most cases, was the most used room of the house. Among the significant factors in house plan is the size and situation of the chimney. Early houses tended to have massive central chimneys with open fireplaces large enough to sit in. By the beginning of the Nineteenth Century these had disappeared from houses built by people of English origin but remained in the houses of the Irish until at least 1850. The Nineteenth Century English house tends to use separate chimneys set at the gable ends of the house.

Roof-form also varies with race, the Irish tending to build with the hipped-roof, the English using the gabled-roof. This is not, of course, an absolute statement as examples can be found of gabled Irish houses and of hipped English (e.g. Abbott's in Bonavista). It is possible that the hipped-roof may have come from the thatched roof which was frequently hipped for better protection against the weather.

Structurally most Newfoundland houses and buildings are timber-framed. However, a very common mode of construction was full-studded or tilt construction. This involved the setting of vertical logs, placed side-by-side, into an earth trench (in the case of

rough buildings) or into a wooden sill (in the case of houses). While extremely wasteful of timber it did produce a strong, warm house. Full-studded construction survived well into the Twentieth Century and is, in fact, a remarkable survival of an early medieval building practice. It was used in all forms of buildings — houses, stores, cabins, military structures — and by every class and nationality in Newfoundland.

The decoration of Newfoundland houses varies from community to community and depends on the skills and interests of local craftspeople. It is fairly clear that in Grand Bank a degree of wealth allowed people to make use of designs taken from architectural pattern books and, in some cases, to import ready-made detail. In Bonavista there were a number of local people who were skilled in housebuilding and enhanced their structures with fanciful decoration. The window treatments of Bonavista are well worth observation for their variety and form. In other places another feature will be emphasized. To use an example not covered in this book one would look at Branch on the Cape Shore where elaborate overdoor detail distinguishes most houses in the community and is a remarkable example of folk-decoration.

The churches of Newfoundland, like the houses, tend to be simple in form and decoration. Until about 1850 it was not really possible to distinguish between the buildings of the different denominations. After 1850 there appears (although this is a somewhat tenta-

tive conclusion) to be a tendency for Anglican churches to use a Gothic Revival style, Catholic churches to use a Renaissance Revival style. The presumed cause of this is the style chosen by the cathedrals of the two denominations in St. John's where the Anglican was designed by George Gilbert Scott in an Early English form of the Gothic Revival, and the Catholic was designed by John Jones in a Renaissance form. From the major structures the styles spread through the country.

Of the early churches little is known. The late Eighteenth Century Anglican Church at Placentia was, like its Catholic counterpart, a small, low building with a hipped roof and tower. Essentially this church was no more than an ordinary cottage with tower attached. The use of galleries was acceptable in Anglican churches until the 1850's when Bishop Feild, in his ardent Gothic Revivalism, "encouraged" their removal. Such furniture was not, however, anathema in Catholic or Methodist churches. And, while Georgian classicism required the use of segmental-arched windows, pilasters and columns, the pointed arch of the Gothic form never really died out.

The expense of building a tower made many churches indistinguishable from other buildings in the community except for the fact that they had gable-end entries. In some cases it is only possible to tell an Orange Lodge from a Catholic church by the colour each is painted.

Public and institutional buildings were rare before 1830. Public buildings were limited to the occasional gaol of which little style was expected. Schools varied in size according to the community but generally occupied church halls or lodges of the fraternal orders. Two major schools were built at Harbour Grace and Carbonear prior to 1850 and were essentially large hipped-roof houses. The most obvious institutional buildings in any community were the lodges of the Masons, the Orange Order and the Society of United Fishermen. These were generally large buildings rivalling the churches in size. Their decoration varied from simply painted emblems and signs to the elaborate carved details found on halls like that at Twillingate. One of the most unusual is that of the S.U.F. in the abandoned community of Pass Island, Fortune Bay where the dormer windows are triangular to accommodate the shape of the society emblem.

Towards the end of the Nineteenth Century the major towns of Newfoundland were given public buildings. These generally contained a court house, jail and other governmental offices. They all took a similar form: a structure of three storeys (with the third storey in the mansard roof) and a mansard roofed tower set off-centre on the facade.

Commercial buildings tended to be functional and to be distinguishable from houses only in the expanse of their main-floor windows. There is a strong persistence of classicism in commercial buildings — a

classicism manifested in the use of pilasters about the doors and windows. They may be the product of a desire on the part of the entrepreneur to impress his customers and creditors with his financial and moral stability which classical forms, because of their noble and ancient ancestry, had come to suggest. The brick commercial architecture erected in St. John's after the 1892 fire had no outport counterpart. The next development there was to move to the use of low-pitch roof and boom-town front (found on buildings whose facade has been carried up over the roof line to suggest a higher, more impressive structure). Grand Bank has the most complete streetscape in this fashion.

The great change in styles at the end of the Nineteenth Century did not come to many of the towns and outports because most of them had stabilized (in terms of development) by about 1850. Having built substantial structures then there was little need and, in the economic Newfoundlander's view, no need to replace them for the sake of fashion. Hence the Second Empire and Queen Anne styles which came into St. John's at the end of the Century were slow to appear in the outports. This has meant that when outport buildings survive they are generally older than those in the capital. In fact, if one is to find the roots of Newfoundland architecture one must go to the outports where a more stable pattern of existence has permitted the survival of its heritage.

## FERRYLAND

By 1616 the Newfoundland Company which sponsored John Guy's colony at Cupids was in need of more finances if its attempt at colonization was to succeed. Following the lead of the Virginia Company it decided to dispose of land to private individuals who would develop it at their own expense. One of the independent patentees in Newfoundland was Sir William Vaughan, a Welsh gentleman, scholar, poet and romantic who dreamed of establishing a new Wales, in the New World. He gave the colony which he never saw the glorious name of Cambrioll Colchos or Cambriola.

In 1617 Vaughan sent out his first colonists to Glamorgan, a site which was probably around Renews. The colony was idealized in his book "The Golden Fleece". By 1619 it was reported that "the Welch Fooles" had abandoned the colony and left the island.

Sir William Vaughan disposed of part of his territory to Lord Falkland and at the instigation of his brother the Earl of Carberry he turned over a further portion to Sir George Calvert. This small tract of land which included the harbours of Caplin Bay (now Calvert) and Ferryland stretched south to Aquaforte, where Falkland's patent began.

George Calvert was born in the Yorkshire town of Rippling in 1582 and was educated at Trinity College,

Oxford. He entered public service as secretary to Robert Cecil, Lord High Treasurer, and chief minister to Queen Elizabeth. In 1617 Calvert was knighted by King James I and in 1619 was made one of the principal Secretaries of State. In an age of Militant Protestantism he converted privately to Catholicism but the action does not seem to have blighted his esteem or career. At court he was in a position to be informed about the new plantations such as John Guy's Cupids Colony of 1610 and it was probably the speculation which he heard about courtiers that prompted him to purchase part of Vaughan's patent and turn to colonization.

In 1621 Calvert sent out his first group of colonists to settle at Ferryland, a place name corrupted from the Portuguese word "fortillon" meaning a cape or point of land. He called his colony Avalonia.

These settlers were much more industrious than Vaughan's and between their arrival on September 5th and Halloween they erected a substantial home for the Governor 44 feet by 15 feet, comprising a hall, a cellar, and four other chambers. By Christmas they had completed a stone kitchen with a room above it. Captain Winne, the man in charge, was able to report to Sir George Calvert 28 July 1622 "the good tydings of all our healths, safety and good success in our proceed-



ings." He said they had passed the winter in fortifying the harbour against pirate raids, planting wheat, and preparing the ground for sowing barley, oats and vegetables in the spring. It was hoped to finish work on a "prittie street," paved with cobblestones and lined with cottages.

A second group of settlers which included the wives of some of the men was sent out in the spring of 1622. The Ferryland colony now had a population of seven women and 25 men. On the 17 August 1622 Captain Winne wrote to Master Secretary Calvert that they had a kitchen garden as plentiful as any seen in England and a meadow of about three acres for the cows and horses. The news from Newfoundland was so encouraging that Calvert, who held his plantation from a patentee of the Newfoundland Company, decided to put his tenure on a more secure footing. The original grant he received from the Crown in December 1622 was for "the whole country of Newfoundland." Obviously the Newfoundland Company objected and this was amended three months later and the charter of Avalon was granted in April 1623. It extended Calvert's claim beyond the territory he acquired from Vaughan as far north as Petty Harbour and west to Conception and Placentia Bays. The Monarch granted to his state Secretary, "Civil rights as full as the Bishop of Durham . . . That the region may be eminent above all other parts of Newfoundland and graced with larger titles, we have thought fit to erect

the same into a Province to be called the Province of Avalon." Calvert was able to proclaim complete religious liberty in his colony.

In 1625 Sir George Calvert resigned as Secretary of State and declared himself privately to be a Roman Catholic. He was given the Irish title of Baron Baltimore of Longford, a pension of 2,000 pounds per annum, and was now free to devote himself to the flourishing little colony of 100 settlers at Ferryland. It was not until 23 July 1627 that Lord Baltimore, accompanied by two Catholic priests, Fathers Anthony Smith and Longville, finally set eyes on his Avalonia. He was encouraged by what he saw to return the following year with his wife, Lady Joan, and all his children except his eldest son, Cecil, who remained behind to look after family affairs in England. He was also accompanied by his sons-in-law Sir R. Talbot and William Peasley and a third priest, Father Hackett.

Besides problems with French privateers who raided the colony Lord Baltimore was soon involved in a religious dispute. On his arrival in Newfoundland in 1627 the two Roman Catholic priests he brought with him offered the first mass in British North America at Ferryland in thanksgiving for a safe voyage. Rev. Erasmus Stourton, the first Church of England Clergyman in Newfoundland, made it his business to check out the rumors of Popish practices at Ferryland. When his worst fears were realized Stourton had an acrimonious meeting with Lord Baltimore which re-

sulted in his Lordship using the powers of his charter to have the clergyman banished from the island. Back in England Stourton lost no time in pouring into Puritan ears the frightful news that His Lordship was encouraging Popery among English subjects at Ferryland. Perhaps because of George Calvert's reputation for liberality and enlightenment no one apparently took any action about the complaint.

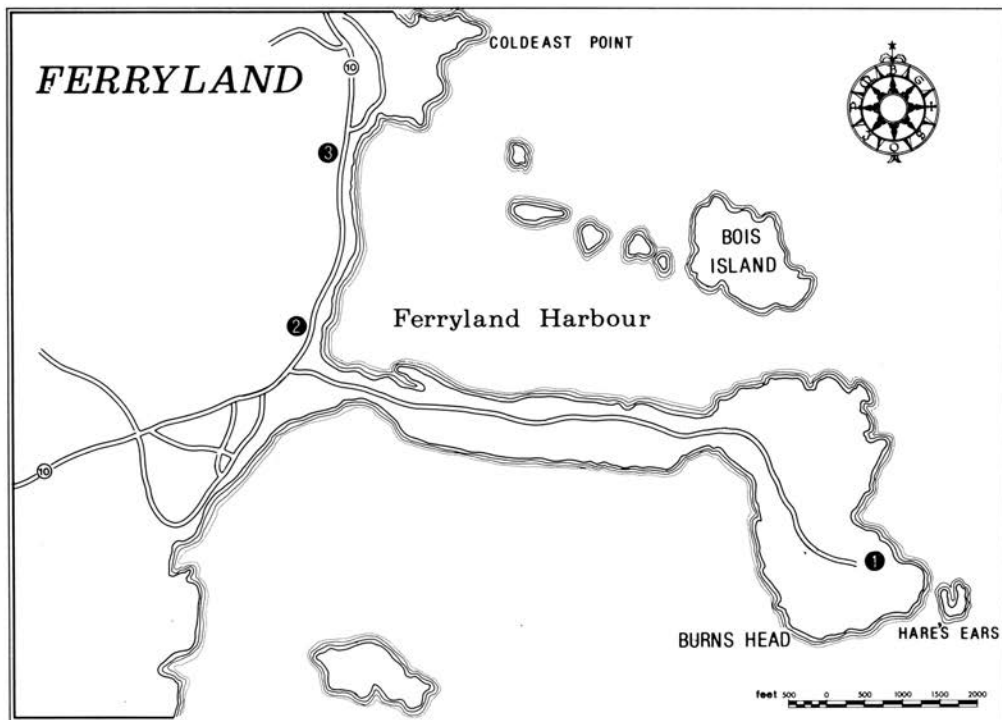
In November 1628 the mild winters of the previous half dozen years came to an abrupt end and one of the most bitterly cold winters imaginable began with high winds and snow. For six months frost, snow, sleet and storms battered the colonists. Lady Baltimore suffered agonies from the cold and there was a shortage of food. With the coming of spring she begged her husband to send her to a kindlier climate so she was embarked with the younger children for Jamestown, Virginia.

An investment of between 20,000 pounds and 30,000 pounds, was lost when plans for the province of Avalon were given up. King Charles I advised his father's former State Secretary to abandon his colonial plans altogether. Baltimore did not take the advice but sailed from Ferryland to Jamestown where he was rudely received because of being a Roman Catholic. Before being deported to England he noted the amenities of the Chesapeake Bay area and decided to seek a grant of land in the vicinity. His wife and children followed him in another ship which was tragically lost at sea with all hands.

This great personal tragedy did not stop him from appealing again for a new grant. The charter for Terra Mariae, or St. Mary's, as it was called, was similar to the one by which he governed Avalon. However, Lord Baltimore was never to see his new colony. Ill and worn out from his tribulations George Calvert died in England 15 April 1632. He was 53 years of age. Two months later the charter for St. Mary's, or Maryland, was granted to his son Cecil on June 20.

In 1638 Sir David Kirke, who had captured Quebec from the French, took over Ferryland and the province of Avalon on a patent from his close friend, Charles I. The Calverts brought a suit against Kirke who was recalled to England during the Interregnum of Oliver Cromwell to answer charges. Sir David died in prison but Lady Kirke continued to occupy Ferryland with her sons. She is said to have died in St. John's and was buried in the Church of England cemetery on Duckworth Street.

Avalonia, Baltimore's haven for Roman Catholics and religious dissenters, can claim to be the first place in the new World where freedom of religion was proclaimed by law. It failed because its idealistic proprietor was unprepared for coping with its sometimes severe climate, poor soil and few readily available resources, but the colony did not die. In 1652 in evidence taken by commissioners sent from Maryland to Ferryland there were still settlers living there who had come out with Lord Baltimore. Their descendants such as the Carter family are still living in Newfoundland today.



## LIGHTHOUSE

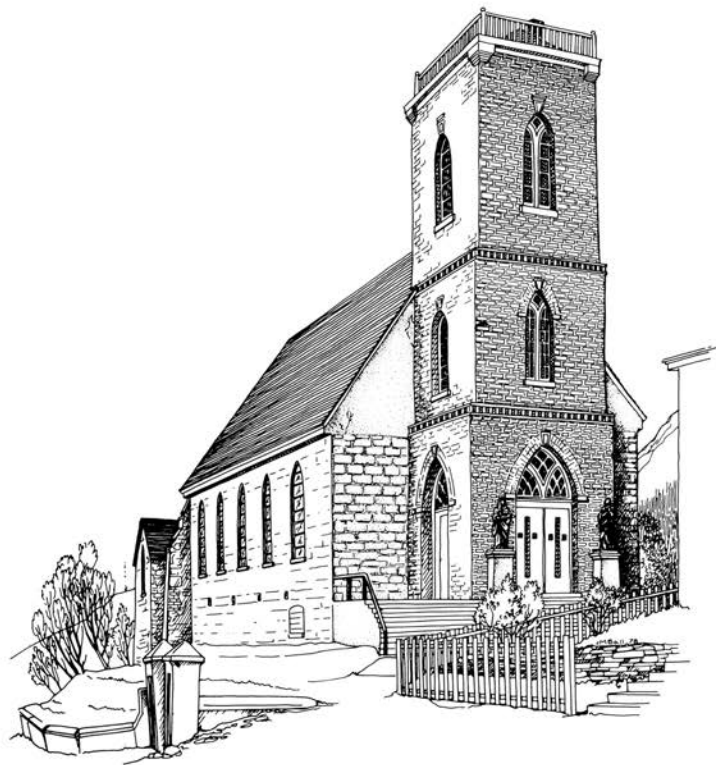
Opened in September of 1871 this lighthouse is the work of William Campbell, a St. John's contractor, and Thomas Burr ridge, a St. John's mason. A two-storey, double dwelling it was designed to accommodate the lightkeeper, his assistant and their families. The tower is a masonry structure sheathed in iron and holds a fixed dioptric light supplied by Stevenson's of Edinburgh.



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Originally called the Holy Family Church, the name was changed in the 1920's. The Church's cornerstone was laid in 1863 and the finished structure consecrated in 1865. It is the last surviving one of a group of five stone churches that were erected during the episcopacy of Bishop Mullock. A very simple example of rural Gothic, the Church's style (despite its late date) is more likely to be, like the Anglican Church in Harbour Grace, an example of the survival of the Gothic forms rather than their revival.

The Church was constructed with the assistance of the local people and from stone quarried at Stone Island at the mouth of Calvert Harbour. The incongruous brick tower is a later addition to the structure. The iron statues, which make the Church's entrance so impressive, were salvaged from a ship bound for Trois Rivières which ran aground at Ferryland in 1926.



## FREEBAIRN/COFFEY HOUSE

This is a somewhat unusual house in Newfoundland being built half of stone and half of timber. Its date of construction is undetermined but it is erected on what was once the Tessier property. Peter and Lewis Tessier came to Newfoundland from Newton Abbot, Devonshire, and conducted a large mercantile business in St. John's at the end of the 19th century. They were descendants of Baron de Tessier who fled the excesses of the French Revolution to settle in England. Peter Tessier married a daughter of Robert Carter of Ferryland. Their son, Charles, built an elaborate estate, Germondale, on Waterford Bridge Road. It was demolished in the early 1970s. Peter Tessier may have constructed a stone house on the Ferryland property as a country retreat. It is thought the timbered upper section was added around the turn of the century, possibly by Dr. R. Jardine Freebairn who owned and occupied the place until his death 8 September 1934 at the age of 71 years. A native of Bronhill, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, Freebairn spent much of his life as a medical doctor in Ferryland where he also acted as magistrate. A daughter, Jessie, married Hedley Bret of St. John's.





## PLACENTIA

In 1541 the Placentia area appeared on a map as "Insulance Cortrealis" suggesting that it may have been discovered by Corte Real on his ill-fated voyage in 1500. By 1547 it was being mapped as "Isle de Plaziencia," a name obviously given it by some Spaniard. By the beginning of the 17th century Frenchmen were fishing in Placentia Bay and in 1624 France laid claim to the south coast of Newfoundland.

Sieur de Keron was appointed Governor of Placentia in 1655. Louis XIV sent out Nicholas Gargot in 1660 to seize and fortify Grand and Little Placentia with the title of "Count of Placentia, Chevalier of the Order of Saint Michael, Marshal of Armies, Captain of

Ships." He found 23 Spanish and Basque ships in the harbour at Placentia. When the fishermen discovered Gargot intended to levy taxes they appealed to the British at St. John's. A naval skirmish followed and the count was forced to retreat to Quebec.

Gargot sent a 20 man French garrison and 50 Basque and Malouin colonists to settle Placentia in 1662. That winter the colony was torn by riots and drunken brawls which left 13 people dead including the leader of the colonists, Sieur de Perron, and their priest. The King encouraged the growth of the Placentia colony in 1667 by offering ships masters 100 dollars for every man and 60 dollars for every woman they

brought out. By December Sieur de la Palme was in charge of a community of 60 settlers and 150 soldiers.

The 1670 census reveals a population of 128 residents included a Governor, chaplin, locksmith, armourer, carpenter and surgeon. In 1689 the Recollect Fathers from Quebec opened Our Lady Of Angels Monastery at Placentia on the site of the present Anglican Church. The town was attacked and sacked in 1690 by 45 pirates and the revolt of some Basque fishermen later that fall threatened to repeat the incident. A new Governor was sent out, St. Ovide de Brouillon, and he began the construction of Fort Louis on the small beach north of the gut.

Five English ships under Commodore Williams attacked Placentia 15 September 1692. Between 600

and 700 soldiers attempted an invasion of the community. The bombardment lasted five hours. The English soldiers set out to shore but when Baron de Lahontan and 60 Basque fishermen came out of cover prematurely the English fled fearing up to 1500 French were waiting in ambush. Six of their men were killed. The only French casualty reported was Lahontan who lost an arm.

During the engagement with Commodore Williams the importance of Castle Hill in any defence of the town was recognized. A small redout was immediately constructed there. Known as Le Gaillardin it was built of logs and drywall masonry and surrounded by outworks capable of housing 100 men. This eventually became Fort Royal.

Fort Louis and Fort Royal protected the French colony from sea-borne attack and effectively eliminated any English raid on the place Frenchmen called Plaisance. The British tried a naval blockade and reduced the settlement to starvation but the colony did not surrender. Instead the French government used it to launch a series of attacks on British settlements in Newfoundland in 1696, 1705 and 1707.

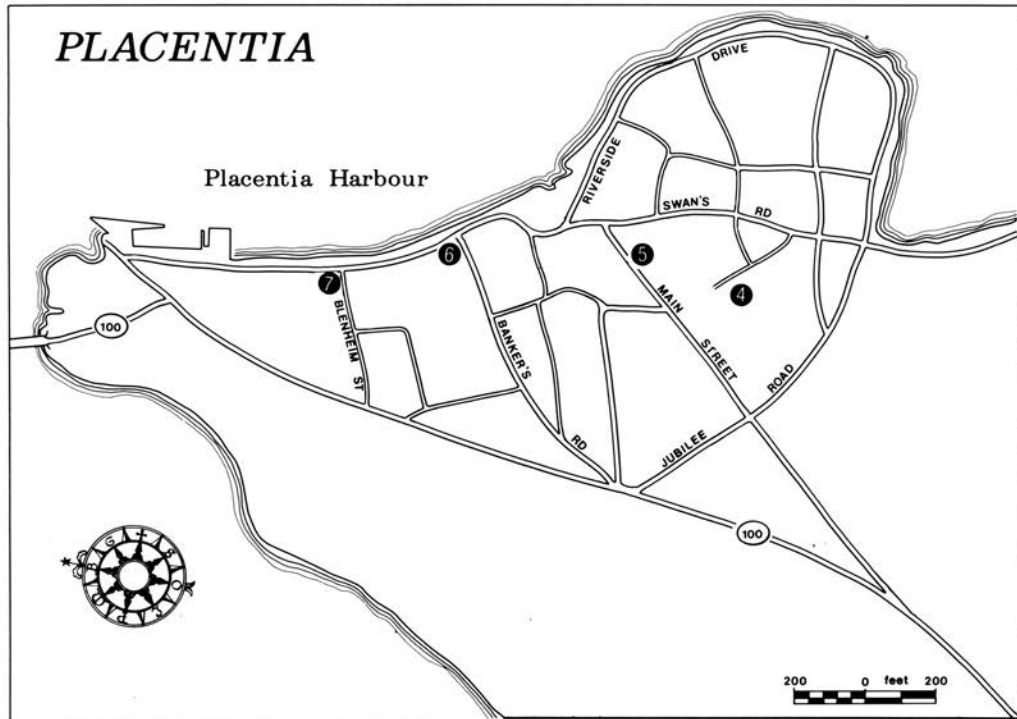
With the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 the French were forced to abandon Placentia. Governor De Costabelle sent the garrison and settlers to Cape Breton. English officers bought the property of the departing Frenchmen. Fort Royal, atop Castle Hill, was renamed Castle Graves after the English

Governor of Newfoundland. A major fortification, Fort Frederick, called after the Prince of Wales, was constructed near the Gut in 1721 but it was never properly maintained.

In 1786 Prince William Henry, who was to become King William IV, spent the summer at Placentia. The Prince provided funds for the construction of a Church of England. His Royal Highness presented the congregation of the little Anglican chapel with a silver communion service which is now held in trust by the Anglican Cathedral in St. John's. By 1905 Prince William's chapel was thought to be beyond repair. It was torn down and the present church erected on the site.

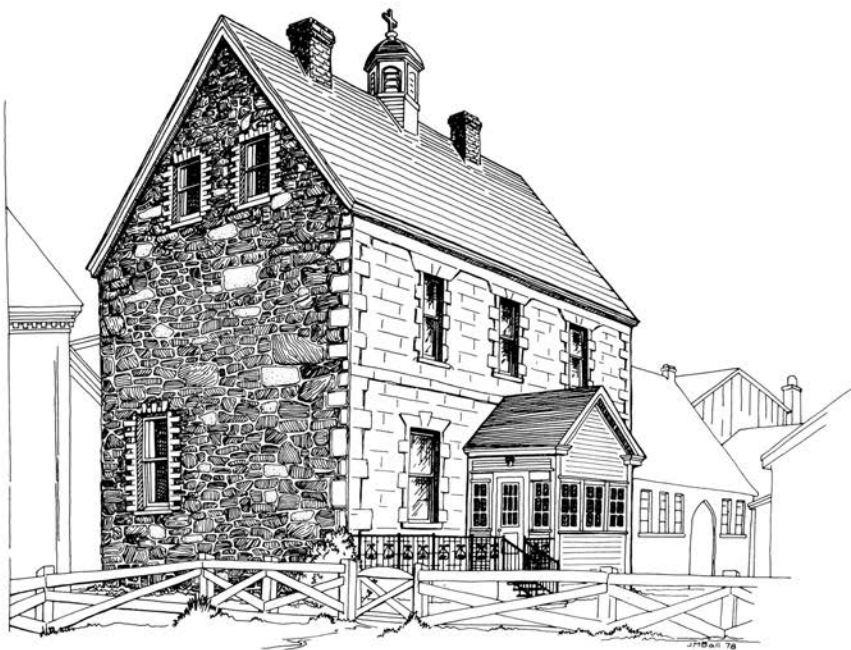
# PLACENTIA

Placentia Harbour



## PRESENTATION CONVENT

The Presentation Sisters under Sister Mary de Sales Condren opened their convent in Placentia 4 August 1864. They had been encouraged to come by the then Parish Priest, Rev. Edward Condon. The convent's name, Our Lady of the Angels, is a reminder of Newfoundland's first religious house, a monastery opened at Placentia in 1689 by Franciscan friars from Quebec. The convent is the only stone building left standing in Placentia today. The limestone used in the construction is said to have come from the Fort Frederick redoubt and there is a local oral tradition that other stone used in the structure was taken from the ruins of Governor de Brouillon's house. The majority of the stone is local having been obtained from an old quarry in Placentia probably used by the French.



## CROUCHER/BONIER HOUSE

Aemus Croucher built this two-storey mansard-roofed dwelling in 1902 on another site and it was later moved to its present site. The addition to the right was used at one time as a shoemaker's shop. With its bay windows running through two storeys it is an interesting variation on the Second Empire style of architecture.





## VERRAN HOUSE

The Verran House was built for Henry Verran in 1893. Verran, a Cornish mining engineer who had come out to LaMarche in 1857 for Cyrus Field, was in charge of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company in Placentia at the time of the house's construction. In the Second Empire or Southcott style, the house is a good demonstration of the way in which this style — then very popular in the capital — was being interpreted outside St. John's. The house remained in the Verran family until four years ago. It has been recently restored by an excellent job that has preserved the character of the property.



## CABLE OFFICE

The original Placentia office of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company was in Blenheim House, the large Sweetman residence (constructed c. 1786), but moved to these premises after Roger Sweetman's widow sold the company the land in about 1873. The connection between the Sweetman's and the Cable Co. was made closer by the marriage of Henry Verran (in charge of the Placentia office) to Mary Josephine Sweetman. The present owners of this property have done an excellent job of preserving some of the original features of the house such as the office wicket, desk, fireplace and light fixtures.



## BRIGUS

With its substantial houses, its full gardens, its trees and remarkable dry-stone walls Brigus is one town in Conception Bay that has a strong sense of the past, a past which at one time was very prosperous. It is uncertain when the place was first colonized but there were plantations there soon after John Guy settled Cupids in 1610. The name has been spelled Brigue, Breackhouse and Brighouse. The place was burned by Bois-Briand, one of d'Iberville's lieutenants, in 1695. It is a tradition that when the enemy were leaving Brigus the barking of a dog led them back to Frog Marsh where they found an additional seven houses which were destroyed.

In the early decades of the 19th century the building of sailing ships and the Labrador fishery made the community one of the most prosperous in Conception Bay. By 1839 the population reached two thousand. The wealth of Brigus was also based in part on sealing and for years Brigus seal hunters were among the foremost in Newfoundland. The introduction of steam was a staggering blow that brought about the decline of the place after the prosperous years that began in the 1830s and lasted until the 1870s. The historian Rev. Philip Toque wrote of Brigus, "the Mundens, Normans, Perceys, Whelans, Bartletts, Roberts' and Wilcoxs reside here, who are some of the richest planters in Newfoundland . . . Brigus is well cultivated and for the extent of the population has a

large number of good residences."

Though set in somewhat bleak hills, Brigus has been a favored spot of artists in the Twentieth Century because of the Nature of its houses and their gardens. It is one of the few towns on the Avalon Peninsula which has retained and preserved many of its older houses although some are irretrievably lost. Rockwell Kent, the American author, artist and illustrator, and A.E. Harris, artist, both lived in the cottage out on the cliffs now known as "Kent Cottage".

The name of Brigus is forever linked with the many arctic explorers of the Bartlett family. Captain John Bartlett was with the American explorer Hayes. Captain Robert Bartlett led Admiral Peary to the discovery of the North Pole. Captain Abram Bartlett was one of those who rescued the Greeley expedition when it was lost and at death's door. Captain Isaac Bartlett saved Captain Tyson and his crew after they were shipwrecked and drifted 1500 miles on an ice-berg.

In 1972 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada erected a monument on Bishop's Beach to honour Captain Bob Bartlett. It consists of three stylized steel sails representing a ship and is in the area of a historic tunnel built around 1880 by Captain Abram Bartlett to provide a deep water berth for his ocean-going vessels because Brigus harbour was too crowded with ships at the time.

*BRIGUS*

SEAL LOOKOUT

Brigus Bay

GREAT HEAD

MOLLYS  
IS

8

12

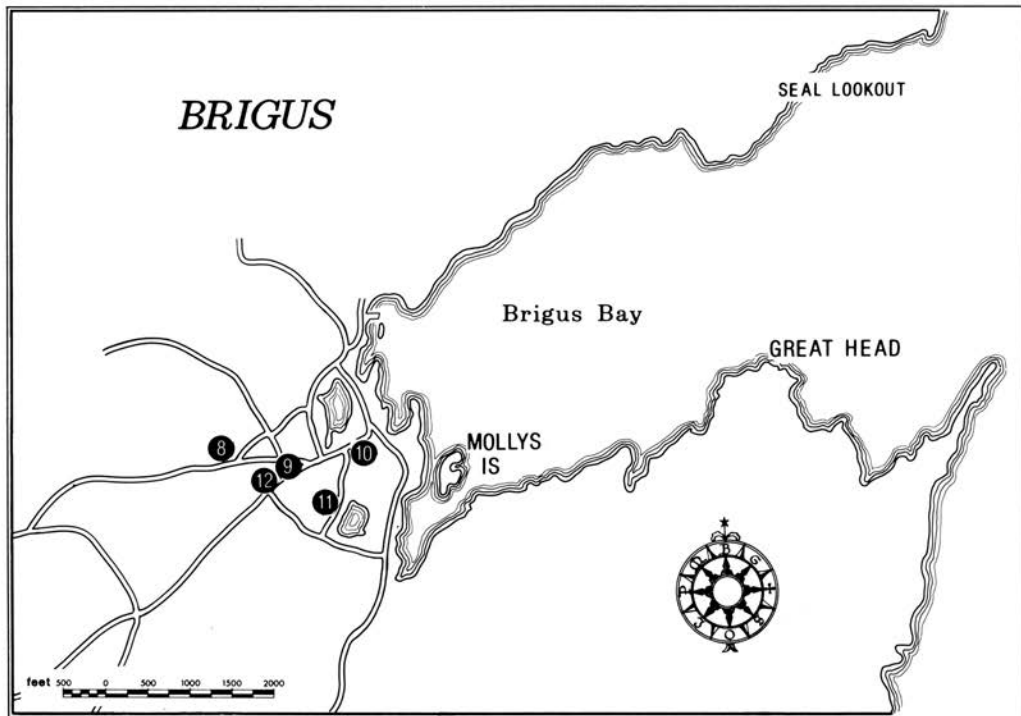
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## MERCY CONVENT

The Convent of Mercy at Brigus was built about 1860 by an Irishman named Roy Lane. This date is partially confirmed by the date on the bell (made by Murphy's of Dublin, Ireland) which is also 1860.

Until 1976 the Brigus convent was one of the few that survived intact. However, in that year, the bell cote and two chimneys were taken down which somewhat diminished the effect of the building. The facade with its interesting window arrangement has not been altered and the whole structure is well set-off by its combination of red, white and green paint.





## HAWTHORNE COTTAGE

Unquestionably the most important house in Brigus is Hawthorne, the home of Captain Robert A. Bartlett, famous for his work as Peary's navigator in the journeys to the North Pole. Bartlett came from a long line of Brigus sealing captains and was himself a noted sealer. He came to his Arctic work through a relative and accompanied Peary on the Polar treks including the one which saw the discovery of the North Pole. In addition he went with Peary on an unsuccessful expedition to the South Pole. Hawthorne contains, in the Arctic Room (the Drawing Room), numerous mementoes of Bob Bartlett's journeys of exploration and these are kept with the house as a Bartlett memorial.

The history of the house itself is as interesting as that of its most famous occupant. Originally constructed in Cochrandale, further inland, it was moved

on rollers to its present site in the winter of 1834. While such house-movings are and were not unusual in Newfoundland, this one must have had something extra as it inspired a ballad, "Squire Leamon's House Warming". Originally called "Whitehorn Cottage" the house remained the property of the Leamon's until 1886 when Mary Leamon left it to her daughter, the mother of Bob Bartlett. It was the Bartlett's who changed the name to "Hawthorne".

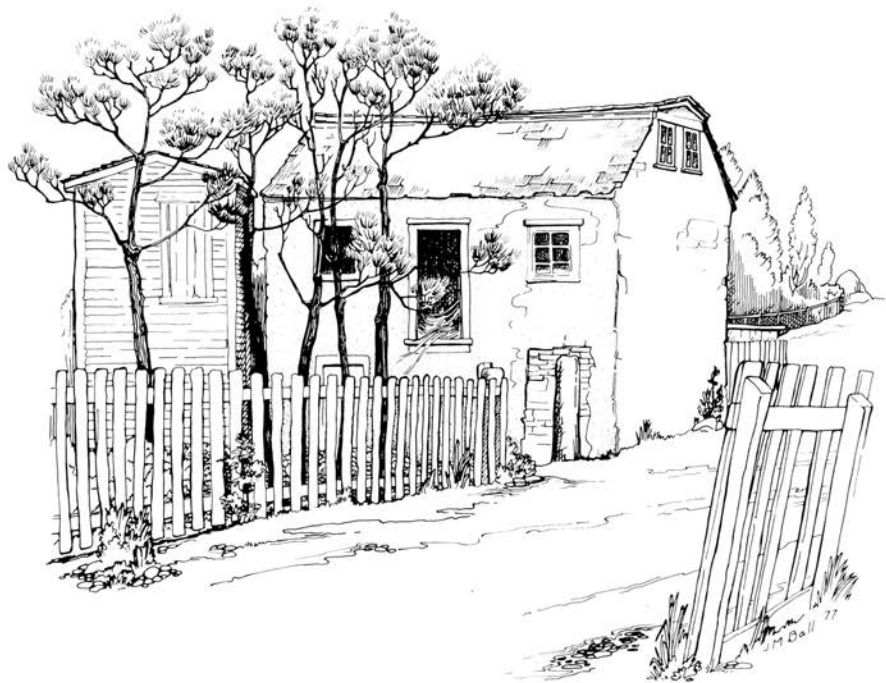
Now somewhat invisible because of the trees which surround it, Hawthorne is a one-and-a-half storey house with an elaborately trellised porch on three sides. The upper storey is lit by dormer windows and the whole house is set on a substantial rock foundation so that one ascends a fine set of steps with iron railings to the main door.



## STONE BARN

The structure, which is now a barn, was originally a house. Its previous use and form can be seen on the interior where the remnants of floor joists and of roof framing indicate that the building was two-and-a-half storeys high with a gable roof.

Its date of building and its history have been difficult to determine. It is possible that it is one of a group of stone buildings on the various properties of Charles Cozens which were sold when he went bankrupt in 1833. A date as early as 1820 has been suggested for the structure and that would seem possible. It is said that a Mr. Nuttall, who came out from England to build the Anglican Church, occupied the house sometime after 1850.



## THOMPSON HOUSE

Set high on the edge of a rock overlooking the pond, the Thompson House is the most striking house in Brigus. But for all that it is also a very typical house. The saltbox shape of the roof, the two-and-a-half storeys, the centre hall plan all make it a fairly standard Nineteenth Century Newfoundland house. The chimneys are unusual in that they are set within the house, behind the roofridge and have wickets (small, roofed structures designed to prevent leaks). The rounded roof form found on the front porch was once usual in Newfoundland (it is found on the 1819 Commissariat in St. John's) and is seen on at least one other Brigus house.

It is said that James Whelan built the house for himself about 1872. After Whelan it was occupied by a Dr. Duncan and acquired by the Thompson family sometime before the turn of the century.



## HEARN HOUSE

Bounded on the west by the old Catholic Burying Ground, the Hearn House is one of the oldest in Brigus. A long building of two-and-a-half storeys with gable roof, the house once had a large open fireplace. At its eastern end is a small shop which fronts directly on the road. The house was supposed to have been built by James Hearn, an ancestor of the family which presently occupies it. In 1830 one James Hearn of Brigus, Cooper, was given a grant of thirty-one perches of land "bounded on the north by the Southern Brook . . . on the east by Charles Cozens ground . . . on the west by the Catholic Burying Ground." Whether Hearn had previously built his house on the site is uncertain but that grant would appear to provide some basis for dating the house.





## HARBOUR GRACE

The modern history of Harbour Grace dates from the 16th century. The name, from the French *Havre de Grace*, may have been in use as early as 1505. There are records of fishing merchants from Jersey in the area in the 1560's and Robert Tossey settled in Mosquito, very close to Harbour Grace, in 1583.

One of her earliest and most colorful residents was Peter Easton. Originally a privateer in the navy of Queen Elizabeth I, he became a famous pirate and established fortifications in Harbour Grace about 1610. There are indications of early contact with the Guy colony which was established at Cupids as the first "official" colony in Newfoundland in 1610. Later in the 17th century Harbour Grace was captured and looted by the French, a victim of the constant warring between Britain and France.

In 1765, the Reverend Lawrence Coughlan arrived in Harbour Grace. He lived in the area for eight years and during that time laid the foundation for Methodism in Newfoundland and British North America.

The 19th century was a period of great prosperity for the town. Flourishing seal and cod fisheries and the resultant wealthy business houses, made Harbour Grace second only to St. John's in size and importance. As early as 1807 seventy-seven sealing ships sailed from Harbour Grace, returning with nearly 50,000 seals. In 1833 the population was approximately 4,500. In the latter part of the century it was the

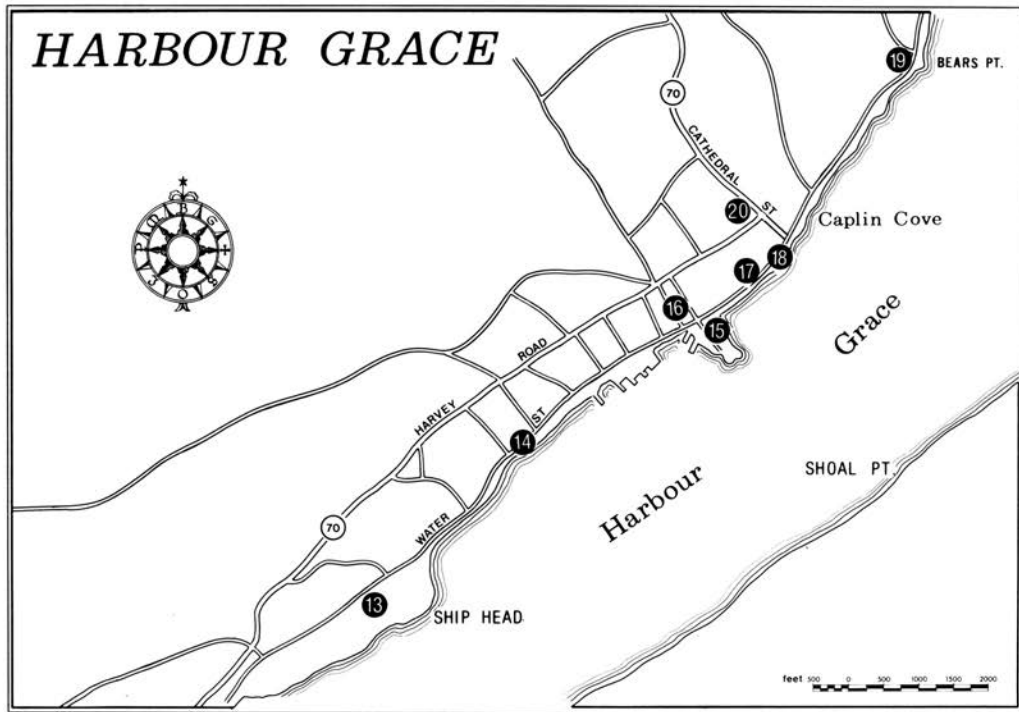
terminus of the first railroad from St. John's to Conception Bay.

In the opening years of this century a remarkable pamphlet was published by William A. Munn, a member of the well known Harbour Grace merchant family. Called "Wine land Voyages, Location of Helluland-Markland and Vinland," it pinpointed the location of the early Viking settlements in North America as having been located near L'Anse aux Meadows, on the Great Northern Peninsula. Sixty years later archaeologists working under the direction of the Norwegian, Helge Ingstad, established the truth of Munn's proposals.

Because of its proximity to Europe, Newfoundland has played a very significant role in the history of modern communication. Harbour Grace figured especially prominently in the history of Transatlantic flight. The Harbour Grace airstrip was built in 1927 to be used for the flight of William Brock and Edward Schlee who were attempting an around the world flight. From 1927-1936 more than twenty flights, some of them piloted by such famous aviators as Amelia Earhart and Cap't Eddie Rickenbacker, took off from Harbour Grace to fly the Atlantic. During the Second World War a direction-finding station was maintained at the airstrip by the Royal Canadian Navy.

Like the city of St. John's, Harbour Grace has been profoundly affected by fire. Large portions of the waterfront were destroyed in August 1832 and again in August 1944.

# HARBOUR GRACE



## STEVENSON HOUSE

There seems to be little or no documentation on this place. It is necessary, therefore, to depend on Stevenson family history to piece together the story of the house.

It is said to be the structure erected to house the first Atlantic Cable which was landed in Bay Bulls Arm (now Sunnyside), Trinity Bay, in August 1859. It served as a cable and telegraph office but the cable soon failed and the building was abandoned. It was later purchased by Captain William Stevenson who had it shipped to Harbour Grace on his schooner "Rose". It is thought to have been rebuilt in Harbour Grace in basically the original manner but over the years a porch and bay windows in the front, a sloped roof, and an addition to the rear have changed the building. The house has been insulated with birch rind.



## WEST END MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT

Harbour Grace Town Council has set the construction date of these buildings as 1856, but recent research indicates they may be older.

An advertisement in the *Harbour Grace Weekly Herald* and *Conception Bay General Advertiser* for Wednesday, 5 January 1853 reads as follows: "To be let: Those well known Waterside premises in the West End near Noad Street, measuring about 130 feet frontage bounded by Water St. on the North. The same being admirably adapted for an extensive mercantile business combining great depth of water with perfect security against fire. For further particulars apply to

W. C. St. John, Harbour Grace."

Two factors support the argument that the buildings at 111 Water St. are those mentioned in the 1853 advertisement. Records show that the land was owned before 1850 by a Charles St. John, possibly the W.C. St. John referred to in the advert., and the buildings, which were all brick lined, enjoyed a reputation in Harbour Grace for being greatly fire resistant.

The buildings were apparently built by a Mr. Clement Noel, a fish merchant, and records indicate that the Hennessey and Andrews families lived there as well as a merchant named Eli Frost.



## RIDLEY OFFICES

A counterpart to the large Ridley Hall on Water Street, Ridley's offices were probably built in or by 1838. Like the Hall (built by 1834) the offices are of stone with brick window trim. The use of stone is unusual in Newfoundland and may, in this case, have been occasioned by the demands of insurance or a desire for a display of wealth.

Thomas Ridley was originally a partner in the Carbonear firm of Bennett and Ridley but, in 1828, established his own firm at Harbour Grace. The family remained there until 1870 when they were ruined by a bank crash. The offices then passed to a Grover family who were involved in glue-making at Point-of-Beach, then to the Munn's, Harbour Grace's principal merchants in the latter half of the last century.

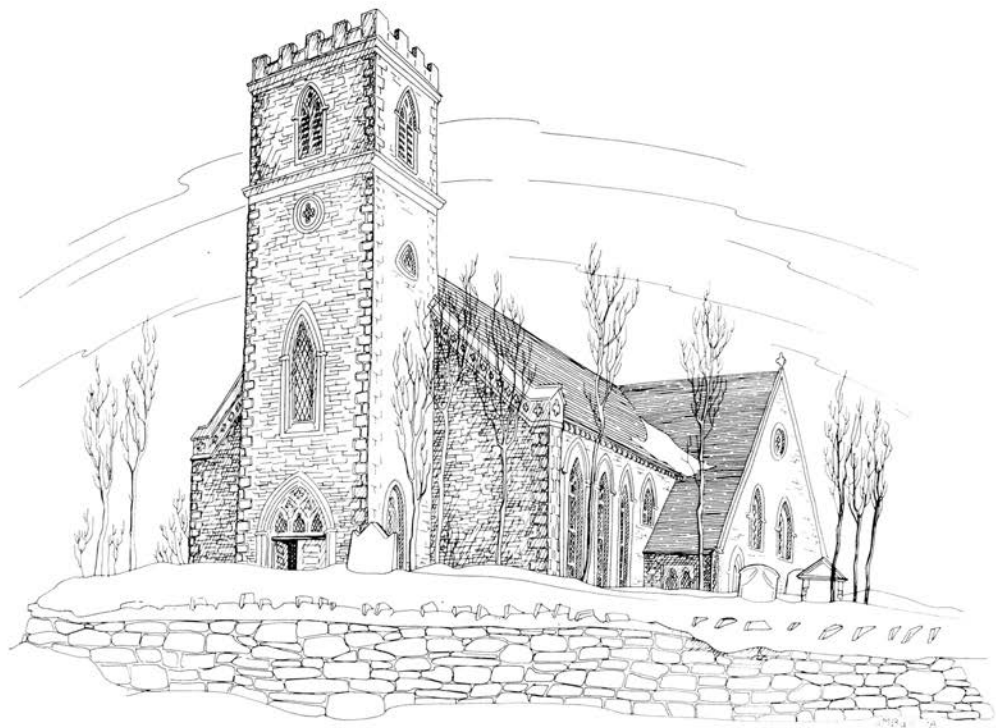




## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The first Church of England was built in Harbour Grace in 1764 with the establishment of a mission to the community. Ten years later the clergyman in charge, Rev. J. Balfour, opened a school which was taught by W. Lampen. Rev. Balfour gave the population of the place in 1778 as 5768 including 4462 Protestants, many of them Methodists. Rev. John Clinch, who was the first person in the New World to use the smallpox vaccine discovered in England by his friend Dr. Jenner, was a Church of England clergyman in Harbour Grace for a short period. He was followed in 1798 by Rev. George Jenner, a nephew of the noted doctor, who returned to England to help his uncle popularize his discovery. Jenner's successor was

the noted historian Rev. Lewis Amadeus Anspach whose "History of Newfoundland" is today a classic work. The church of 1764 was destroyed by a fire, believed to have been incendiary in origin, 29 August 1816. The new church was burned in another fire which devastated the town, 18 August 1832. The cornerstone of the present St. Paul's Church was laid by Governor Prescott 28 August 1835 on the same site as the 1764 church. The place was consecrated by Bishop Spencer 4 July 1840. Of interest is the fact that the music for the services from 1835 to 1877 was provided by clarionet, violins and a bass viol. In 1877 a pipe organ was installed. During 1977-78 a massive restoration of the exterior stone work was carried out.



## HAMPSHIRE COTTAGE

Harbour Grace folk history places the date of construction of the cottage as 1811. It has been impossible, however, to document this date. It is also believed that it housed British officers during the War of 1812 and the long windows at the rear of the house enabled the officers to keep watch on the enlisted men who lived in the barracks on a hill behind the house.

The first official recorded date for the building seems to be 1845 when the cottage appears on Joseph Noad's map of Harbour Grace for that year. At that time it was occupied by a Mr. Bailey. According to Frederick Rowden Page's map it was occupied in 1857 by a Mr. E. E. Brow who was an MHA for Harbour Grace.

Exactly when the house came into the possession of the Godden family is not known since there are no records in the Registry of Deeds indicating when the purchase was made. There is record of Thomas Godden purchasing a house from Thomas Ash in March 1858 but it is not known if this was Hampshire Cottage. Newspaper advertisements, however, indicate the Godden family tried to sell the house in 1859, 1872, 1873, and 1891. Since there is no record of Bailey or Brow selling land to the Goddens it is possible that the earliest known occupants of the house were tenants of Godden, or perhaps Ash, if he was indeed a former owner.



## CUSTOMS HOUSE

This building, which now houses the Conception Bay Museum, was built in 1870. The first recorded structure on the site was the pirate fort of Peter Easton which was constructed in 1610.

The earliest customs house in Harbour Grace is reported to have been located in the vicinity of the Two Sisters rock formation. The Water St. location, however, served as the site of the customs house at least from the turn of the 19th century. Reports indicate the present building replaced a wooden, cottage-roofed building built on the site in 1800 which also served as customs house. The following letter which appeared in the Harbour Grace *Standard* on 29 July 1867 would indicate that by the late 1860's replacement of that building was a matter of some urgency.

Dear Sir:

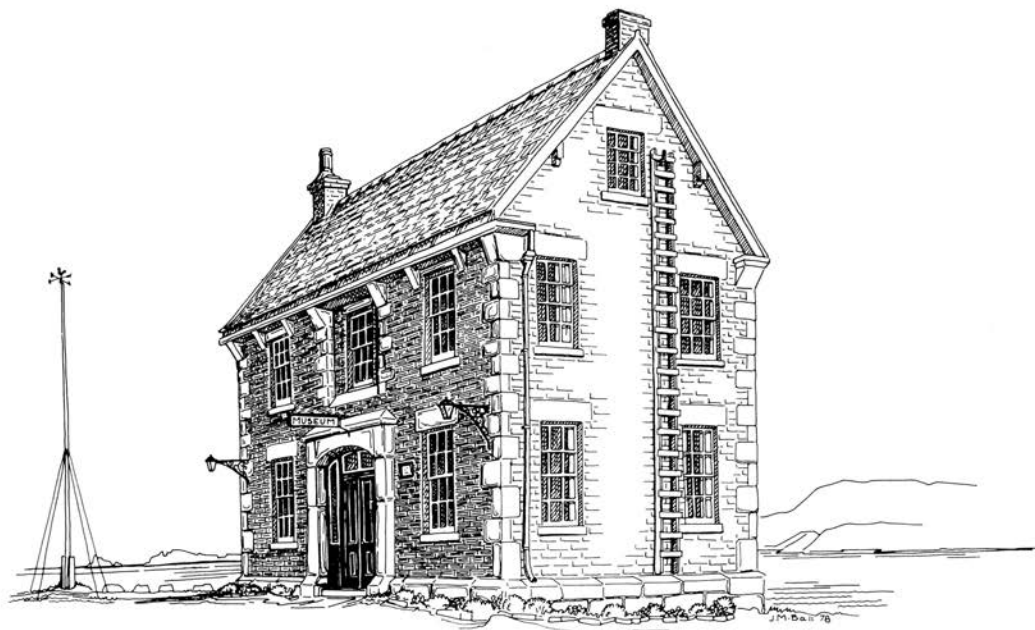
I see by the "Supply" Act of 1867 that the Legislature granted the sum of \$6,000 for the erection of a Custom House in Harbour Grace. It is high time that the said building be commenced - even supposing a piece of land for the site thereof had to be purchased, the above handsome grant

would be quite sufficient therefor, and for the erection of the building. If this be not done, we may well fear that the present contracted old crumbling apology for a Custom House will, before long, fall down . . .

Yours,  
Beta

The place was presumably built by George Tapp who was sent to Harbour Grace in the 1860's for the purpose of constructing such a building. The first inhabitants of the slate roofed brick structure seem to have been the Gordon family who were reported to be living upstairs in the building immediately after its completion.

On the grounds there is a monument to the role of Harbour Grace in the history of transatlantic flight. In the summer months when the museum is open the flags of prominent 19th century Harbour Grace merchant firms as well as the solid black pirate flag of Peter Easton are flown from the poles next to the building. The skull and crossbones flag was adopted by later pirates.



## CRON HOUSE

This century old home located on Water St. East is actually two houses. The contract for the building of the front house was let in September 1878. An agreement drawn up at that time between Thomas R. Bennett and Edward Comer, master carpenter, specified that Bennett would supply materials and that Comer was to be paid £85 in three installments for the labour. The work was completed in 1879.

The back of the house was a pre-existing structure which craftsmanship indicates may predate the 1879 house by forty or fifty years. There is the possibility that it was moved a short distance to the present site to be joined to the newer house.

Thomas R. Bennett was elected to the legislature

about 1870 as a member from Hermitage and subsequently served as Speaker of the House of Assembly. He was appointed to the bench in January 1874 and held the post of Judge of the Northern District Court at the time he built the house in Harbour Grace.

In 1902, Bennett's widow sold the unit to James Cron, a prominent merchant of Harbour Grace, and he occupied the place until his death in 1935. It is still owned by members of his family.

Details in the contract drawn up between Bennett and Comer provide evidence that the interior of the house is essentially unchanged from what it was like at the time of construction.





## COURT HOUSE AND JAIL

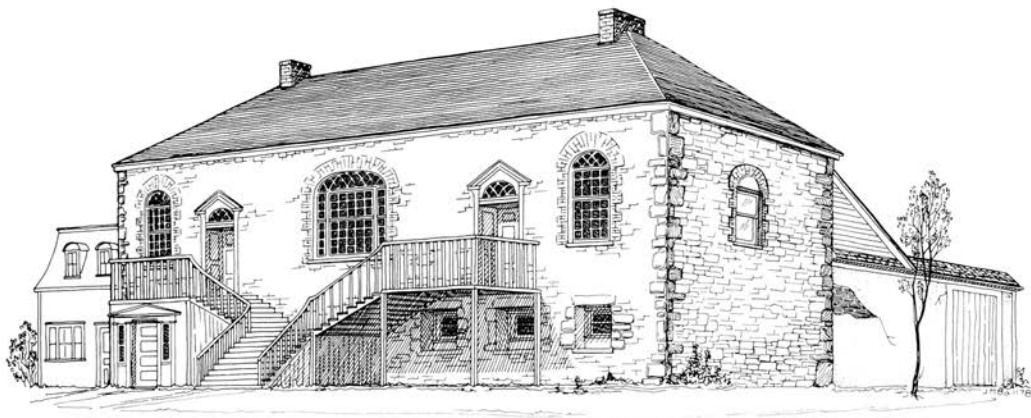
This is one of the oldest institutional buildings in the province having been in continuous use as a Court House from the time of its construction in 1830. Only in recent years has the use of the prisoner's cells in the jail portion been discontinued.

The first Court House in Harbour Grace was built in the year 1808 and was situated where Gordon Lodge later stood. The present structure was financed on the pledge of every firm doing business in Conception Bay of one pound each (cash) for every 1000 quintals of fish shipped annually. The Carbonear firm of George and James Kemp, for example, sent a cheque in the amount of £45 to represent 45,000 quintals of fish shipped.

Tenders were called for construction of the new court house by David Buchan, High Sheriff, on 11 May 1830. The foundation stone was laid amid colourful and elaborate ceremonies on July 26th of that year. Taking part in the Monday ceremonies were Thomas Danson, Esq., Chief Magistrate of the Northern District who laid the stone, Patrick Kough, architect and builder who deposited in the cornerstone "the vari-

ous coins of the realm, corn, wine, and oil, with a bottle containing the latest publications of the Island, and a scroll of parchment having an inscription descriptive of the event . . ." as well as " . . . the Clergymen of the Town, Magistrates, Merchants, and other respectable inhabitants, the members of the Benevolent Irish Society of Conception Bay, and of the Association of Fishermen and Shoremens, (and) the children of the public schools, to the number of about 350 . . ."

*The Newfoundlander* of Thursday, July 29, 1830 which carried the record of the event noted in conclusion that " . . . the parties retired to their respective homes, much pleased and gratified with the very novel and interesting proceedings of the day. The excellent arrangements and regularity observed on the occasion — the large respectable attendance of the inhabitants of Harbour Grace and its vicinity — the neat cleanly appearance and orderly deportment of the children — had a most imposing and exhilarating effect, and was altogether such a creditable exhibition as much wealthier and larger towns might have very justly been proud of."

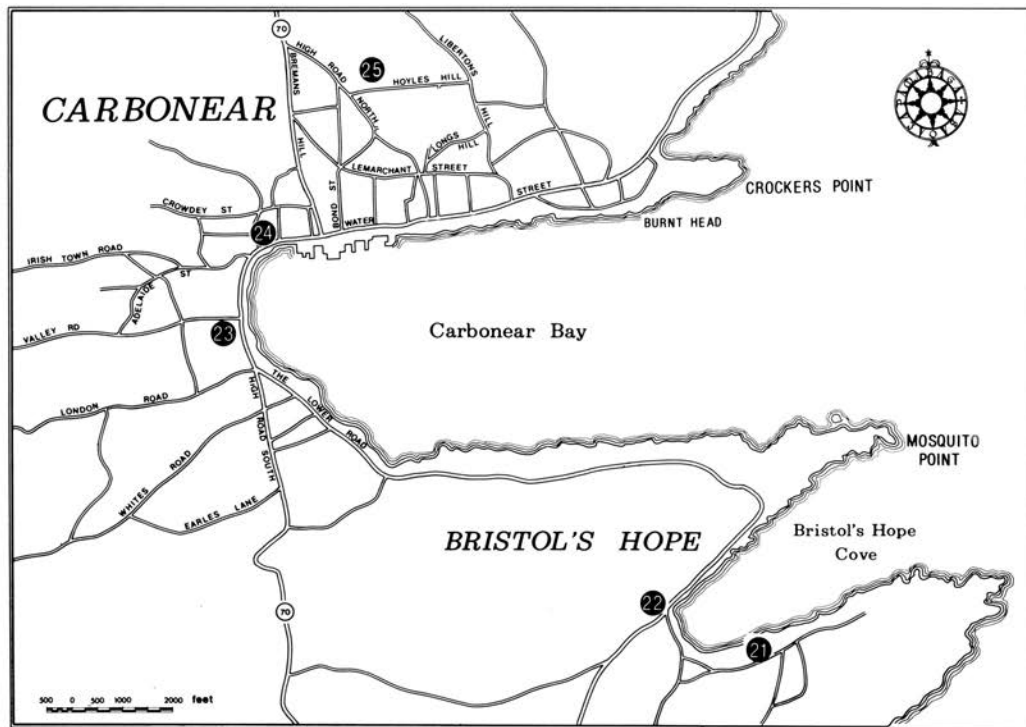


## BRISTOL'S HOPE

The picturesque fishing village of Bristol's Hope is located between Harbour Grace and Carbonear. Formerly named Mosquito, it was actually the birthplace of Harbour Grace; the site where Robert Tossey settled in 1583 and where later the legendary Irish Princess, Sheila Na Geira, landed in 1603. John Guy landed some settlers there in 1610.

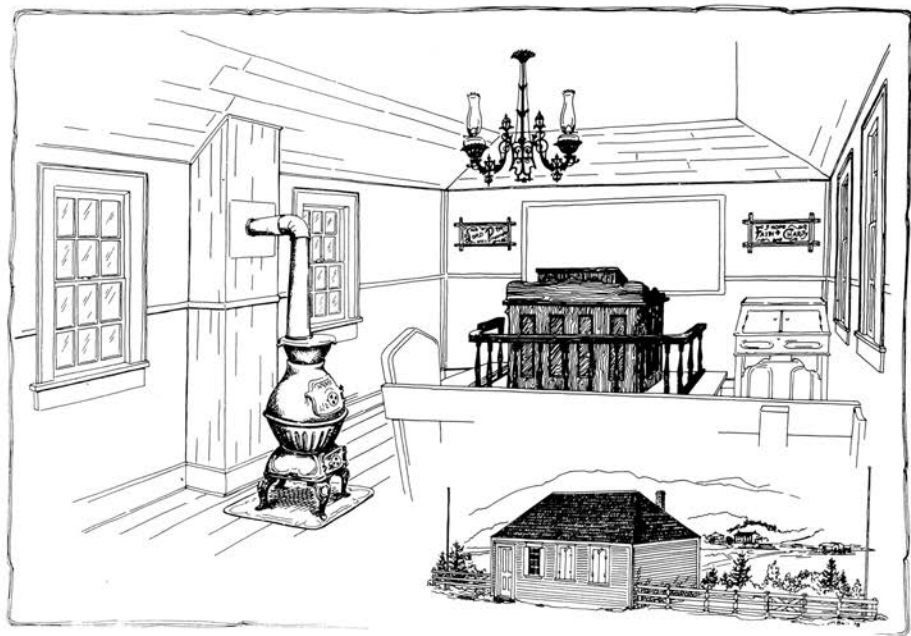
In the earliest years of the colony the name Bristol's Hope referred to the colony of Capt. John Mason who succeeded John Guy as governor. It comprised the peninsula between the north side of Conception Bay and the southside of Trinity Bay. The largest settlement was Harbour Grace.

In 1910 during the celebrations of the John Guy Tercentenary the name "Bristol's Hope" was officially designated as the name for Mosquito.



## MOSQUITO SCHOOL HOUSE

This structure, which was built sometime between 1818 and 1828, is now owned by the Historical Society of Bristol's Hope and Harbour Grace. This school was originally constructed by the Rev. Kingwell when there were about 360 people living in Bristol's Hope. In the latter half of the 1800's (1850 - 70) the school house was moved from its original location to a position further down the valley, where it is located today. As yet there are no specific plans for the building but it has been suggested that it be used as a social hall for ladies teas, etc. The school house was lately used as a community chapel, which accounts for the communion rail and pews.



## THOMEY HOUSE

Records of the Thomey family in the Bristol's Hope area go back as far as 1799 when there was a John Thomey, merchant, living in Harbour Grace.

In 1828 a Roger Thomey, Sr. retired to Poole from Mosquito and left a large plantation to his sons, Dennis and Kennedy. Roger Thomey had apparently assembled the property partly through purchase from Charles Garland and partly through a grant from Governor Pickmore, indicating the family was in Mosquito in the first two decades of the 19th century.

Also in 1828 another Thomey, Arthur, borrowed money using his plantation in Mosquito as security. In 1838 he also purchased another plantation from the Innott estate.

Kennedy Thomey was still alive in 1910 and references to the house and property in the early years of the 20th century are to "Kennedy Thomey's Farm". This would seem to indicate that this was the property left by Roger to Dennis and Kennedy in 1828. The question remains, however, whether the house was on the property in 1828 when Dennis and Kennedy in-

herited the farm from their father or whether it was built later. There is the tantalizing possibility that since there were "improvements, buildings, and erections" on the land when it was granted to Roger Thomey by Gov. Pickmore that the building could date to the very early 19th century. Residents of the area feel the house is at least 150 years old.

The other possibility is that it may have been the property of Arthur Thomey although this would still make it possible for the building to be very old since the plantation he purchased in 1838 had a "Dwelling House" on it.

The house seems to have played a large role in the life of the community. At one time there was a ballroom in the house where the R.C. priest celebrated Mass and at one time it also served as a post office. Older people in the community remember the roof as having dormer windows at one time. Since the present roof is relatively flat it is assumed to be of recent vintage.





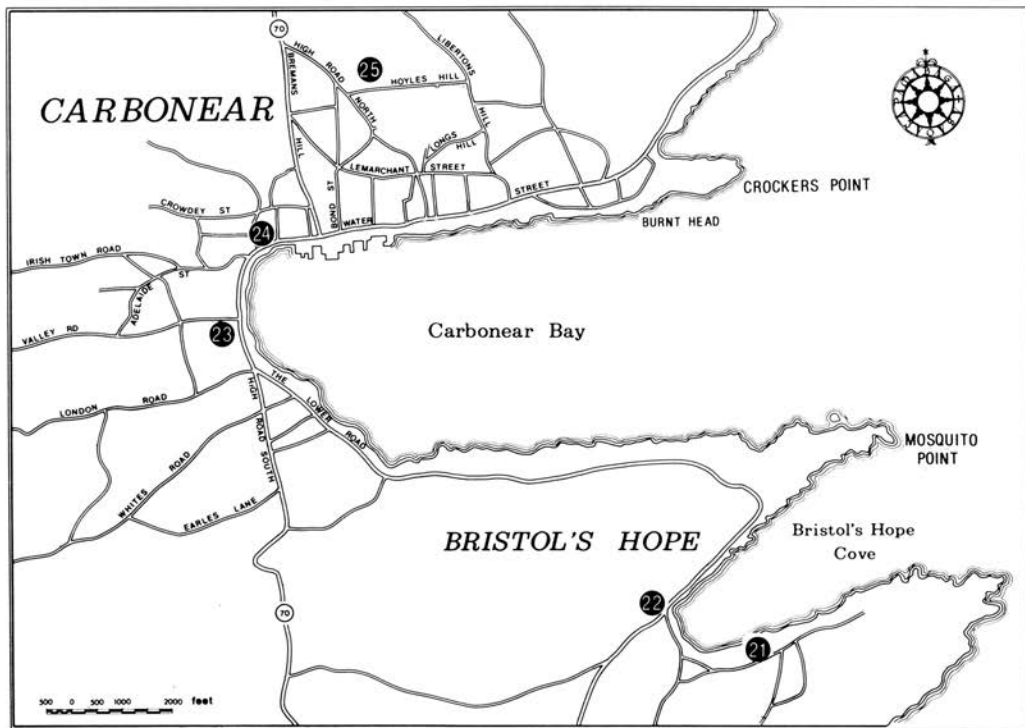
## CARBONEAR

Like neighboring communities on the north side of Conception Bay the early history of Carbonear indicates that it was already a center of the fishing trade in the 1500's.

The origin of the name Carbonear is generally considered to be French, originating from "charbonniere", French for charcoal pot. However, it also appears on very old maps as Cape Carveiro and it is possible the name is a corruption of this designation.

One of the earliest residents of the town was believed to be the legendary Irish princess, Sheila Na Geira. The princess was captured by Gilbert Pike, a pirate who had originally been under the command of Peter Easton. They fell in love and settled in Carbonear where they had a child which is believed to have been the first white child born in Newfoundland.

In 1696 Carbonear fell victim to the marauding French who destroyed and looted the town. The 200 or so residents, however, escaped to Carbonear Island and so fiercely resisted the French that they were unable to take the island. In the 19th century Carbonear was a flourishing mercantile center servicing a prosperous seal and cod fishery.



## PIKE HOUSE

The folk history of Carbonear associates this house with the legendary Irish princess, Sheila Na Geira who was captured by and fell in love with the pirate, Gilbert Pike. They later settled in Carbonear and many feel the old stone in the back garden of this house marks the graves of Pike and the princess.

Residents of the area feel that the house is well over 200 years old and this could very well be the case. The old plantation book for Conception Bay indicates that the Pike family had extensive holdings in the area in the late 18th and early 19th century. The plantation of Francis Pike recorded in 1783 comprised 5 houses, a stage, 2 flakes, one beach, 4 gardens and a meadow. Other Pike plantations listed in 1795 and 1800 indicated four more plantations including ten houses and various other buildings and facilities. It is possible that the Pike house illustrated was one of these. The large number of Pikes listed in the Registry of Deeds, however, makes it difficult to trace any one piece of property and place a definite date on the construction of this particular house.



## RORKE PREMISES

John Rorke, a native of Athlone, County Caven, Ireland came to Newfoundland as a clerk in the firm of Bennett and Ridley, a business on the north shore of Conception Bay. In 1835 he started a fish business in Adams Cove. Three years later he moved to Carbonear and bought out the premises of an existing business. Sometime in the 1840's the spelling of the family name changed to Rorke.

Members of the family say the present structure, which was known as the "Stone Jug", was built in 1863 and that the slabs of stone were cut at Kelly's Island. The first official documentary record of the building is the 1880 map of the town of Carbonear where it was clearly indicated as "a stone store, slate roof." Like many mercantile buildings of that era in St. John's and in Rorke's native Ireland there were living quarters above the ground floor.

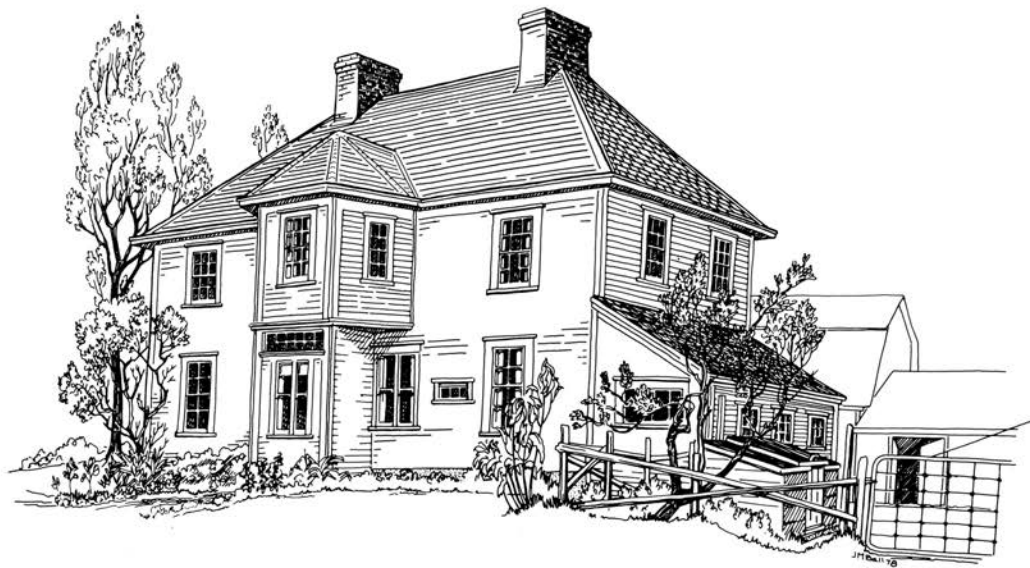


## PEACH'S FARM

The property on which this structure was built was granted by the Crown to Gosse, Pack and Fryer in November of 1830. The house was evidently built between that time and September of 1833 when the *Carbonear Star* carried a notice of a Sunday School picnic to be held at "Rural Retreat" (the name by which the property was known) farm of R. Pack, Esq.

The property remained in the Pack family until 1867 when an advertisement in the *Harbour Grace Standard* indicates it was offered for sale by a Samuel Pack. The land then passed into the hands of James Peach and later into the Soper family. The structure is in good condition and has been well cared for over the years.





## TRINITY

Discovered by the Portuguese explorer Gaspar Corte Real on Trinity Sunday 1500 the town of Trinity has had a long and distinguished history. A magnificent harbour set near good fishing grounds, it was one of the earliest places frequented by the migratory fishermen. It was the site where Sir Richard Whitbourne held the first Court of the Admiralty in 1615. It appears to have been permanently settled by the end of the Seventeenth Century and had its first church by 1730.

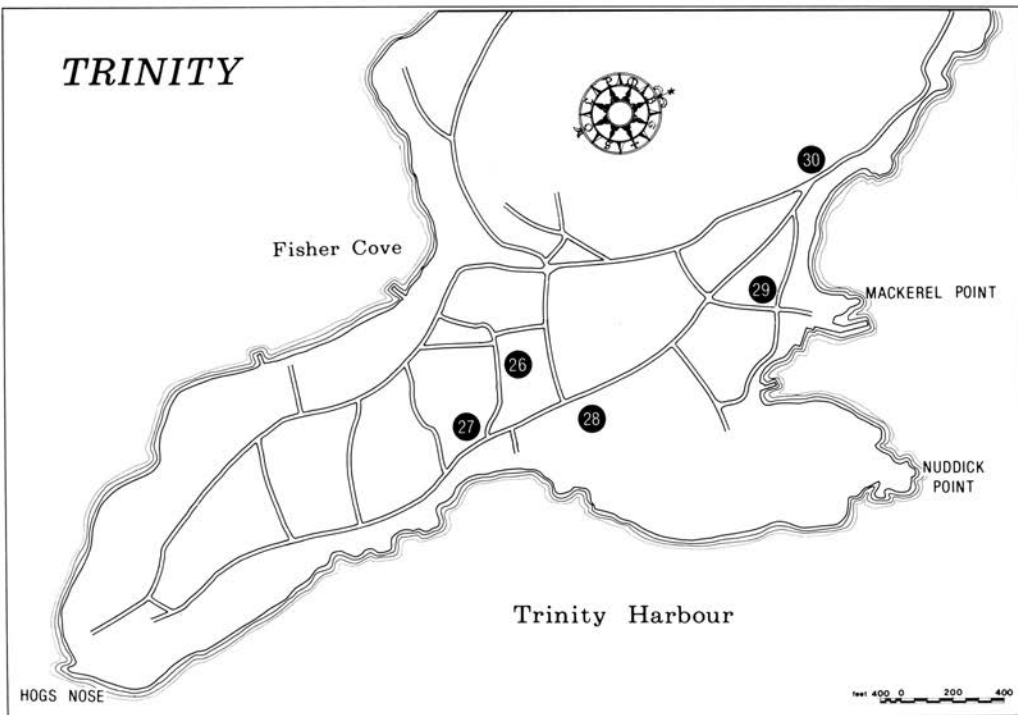
The principal historical connection is with Poole, Dorset from which most of the merchants came bringing with them their own servants and families. Noted Poole names such as White, Street, Slade, Jeffrey, Lester and Garland all made their wealth out of Trinity. The Lesters and their in-laws, the Garlands, were the most influential of the mercantile group. Benjamin Lester had a fishery operation as well as a substantial shipbuilding yard in the area of Ryan/Garland store in 1761. The story is told that Lester avoided having his premises destroyed by the French under de Terney by persuading the Admiral that he was a pleasant friend

and no foe. He invited de Terney to dinner and with the assistance of his liquor and ability to speak French persuaded the Admiral not to destroy his premises. When, on the following day the French sent to enquire which were Lester's premises, Lester instructed his man to include in the number to be saved the premises of his friends. He did not, however, include those of his rivals.

Trinity also had some contact with the Beothucks as the last male captured, John August, lived and worked in Trinity, dying there in 1788. The Rev. John Clinch, a friend of Jenner's, made use of smallpox vaccination for the first time in North America at Trinity. He also collected one of the earliest Beothuck vocabularies from John August.

Throughout the Nineteenth Century Trinity was a thriving and prosperous town with a self-consciousness of its place in Newfoundland's past and present history. Such a self-consciousness is apparent in its designation of one of its streets as High Street — a name which occurs in no other Newfoundland community.

# TRINITY



## ASH-McGRATH HOUSE

"Anchorage", as this property was later named, was purchased by Richard Ash, Sr., from Thomas Dampier, a Trinity merchant, in 1831. According to the deed of sale there was a house on the property which Dampier had occupied until the time of his death. It is difficult to tell whether or not the present house is the Dampier house because many of the internal features that might provide some clue have been altered in this century. While its basic form — a central-chimneyed structure with high hip roof — has counterparts in St. John's dating from the period 1830-1850, one cannot be certain that this house would have been built by Dampier at the end of his life. It is more likely that Captain Ash or his son (also

Richard and also a Master Mariner) took down the Dampier house and built the present structure. Despite the doubt, it would appear to be one of Trinity's oldest houses and about the same age as the Catholic Church.

Richard Ash, Jr., was succeeded as owner by his son Francis, a successful sea captain who owned considerable property in St. John's. In 1937 the property was purchased by Samuel Hefferton who sold it in 1941 to E.J. Ryan, one of the principals in the Ryan firm. The McGraths, who currently occupy the house, bought it from Mr. Ryan at about the time of Confederation.



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

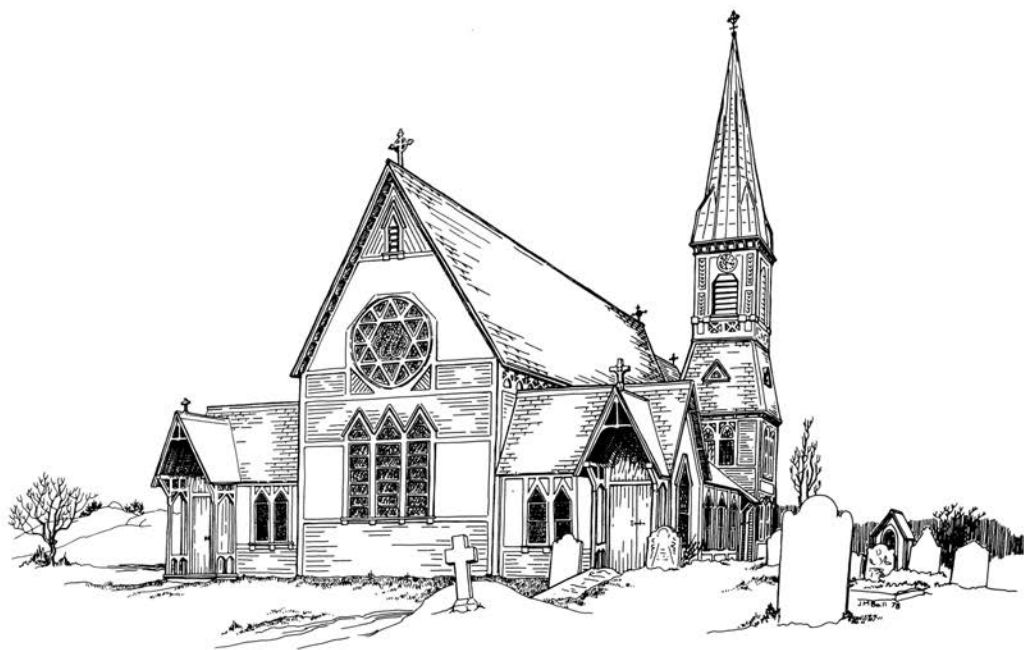
The oldest standing church in the Island, Holy Trinity was constructed as early as 1833. Built as a simple gabled building, it had its tower added sometime toward the end of the Nineteenth Century possibly to house the bell donated to the church in 1880. The Regency Gothic tracery of the windows is more likely an example of the continued use of Gothic detail rather than any conscious attempt at Gothic Revival. The galleries of the interior are very much in keeping with church architecture of the time as is the classical detailing of woodwork. The date of the primitive but elaborate Gothic altar is uncertain but possibly is somewhat later than 1833.



## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Among the older established communities of Newfoundland, Trinity had its first Anglican Church in 1730. A second church was constructed in 1820. The present church — the most striking wooden Anglican Church in Newfoundland — was begun in 1892 and finished two years later. Its internal framework, including an aisle arcade of pointed arches, can be found in a number of outport Anglican Churches of the same period and may be the work of one architect. Unlike many of those other churches St. Paul's interior has never been painted. Its exterior, with its offset tower, constructivist detail in the clapboard and an entry which is merely a frame, but a very finely worked frame, is a most impressive sight from any vantage point in or off Trinity. It was clearly the work of a town where wealth and a sense of style combined. And one becomes immediately aware of this on entering the porch where a window has been erected by the carpenters and builders — men clearly proud of what they had wrought.





## DOCK ROAD PREMISES

The three buildings in this sketch all date from the last two decades of the Nineteenth Century. If anything constitutes a village square in the Newfoundland outport — and both the concept and the term are alien to Newfoundland — this section of Dock Road would be it. The Parish Hall, the Government Building, the hotel and, most importantly, the dock bring together a number of important public functions on one site.

The first building, the Parish Hall, is the youngest of the group. Begun in 1898 and essentially completed by 1905, it was not until 1908 that the parish took possession of it. With the exception of its curious tower the Parish Hall is a functional structure with a stage in the main hall upstairs and several rooms, serving various purposes, below. William Lockyer of Trinity was the master builder and material was obtained locally as well as from St. John's.

The public building is in the tradition of a number of such structures that were built in the principal towns of Newfoundland at the end of the Nineteenth Century. Each has three storeys, a mansard roof and an

offset tower. While in the Second Empire Style it is unclear which, if any, architect was responsible for the design.

Jenkins Hostelry, as the house on the edge of the dock was known in the first part of this century, was built in the late 1880's for Mrs. Mary Louisa Jenkins. Under her management it was known as the Hiscock Property.

An interesting gathering of buildings is found not far from St. Paul's on the Hiscock property. Consisting of a house, shop, outhouse and several sheds, it is still owned by the children of Richard Hiscock for whom it was built. David Grant built the house for Mr. Hiscock and his bride, Emma Catherine Pittman, in 1881. When Mr. Hiscock drowned at sea in 1893 his widow and children continued to occupy the house. For a time the portion that is now the shop served as a Post Office. Alterations to the house have been few: the dormer windows and part of the front-door detail were removed several years ago.



## RYAN/GARLAND PROPERTY

The bricks here are all that remain of a fine and substantial Georgian residence built about 1818 by John Bingley Garland. A simple stuccoed house of two-and-a-half storeys with saltbox roof it was not so simple on the interior where mouldings, fireplaces and doors were all finely executed. The ruin now stands as a reminder of the significant structures that Newfoundland has lost through neglect or destruction. The house was preceded by another equally large house, the residence of Benjamin Lester, Garland's father-in-law. The earlier house, because it had an "M" instead of an inverted "V"-shaped roof, leaked continuously. Built about 1761 it was torn down in 1818 to make way for the brick house.

The store was built about 1819 and must have always been one of the highest outport stores in Newfoundland. Set on a brick foundation it is a timber-frame construction with the retail and office section on the main floor, storage and other retail sections on the other floors. The gambrel roof used is characteristic of many of the Newfoundland fishery premises. The interior finish of the store and offices match that of the Garland house. This building is currently being restored by the Provincial Government as part of a plan to develop the historic resources of Trinity.



## BONAVISTA

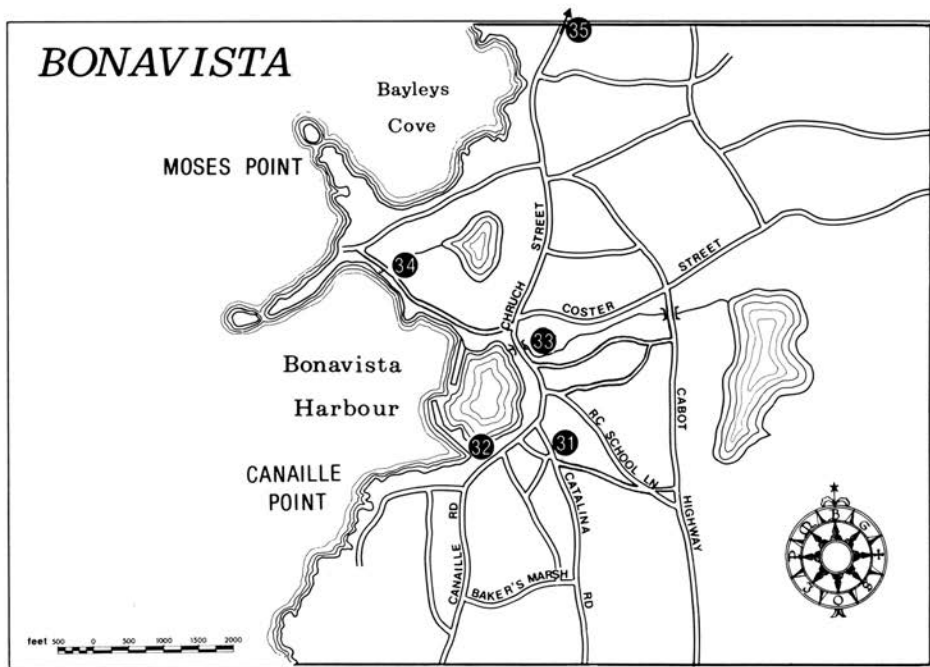
Bonavista was an important place in Newfoundland from its sighting by Cabot in 1497 through the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Until the first quarter of the Eighteenth Century it was the most northerly point of English settlement. By 1677 it was the second most populous town in the island having eighteen houses to St. John's forty-five. With a good inshore fishery as a foundation it was used as a departure point for both the more northerly fishery grounds as well as for the seal fishery.

Bonavista's early importance can also be gauged from the fact that the town had three small forts in 1696 and that in 1725 an aisle to accommodate a hundred people was added to the existing church. In 1730 the town was prosperous enough to build a new church and to bring out both workmen and materials from England.

This importance made Bonavista a prominent target for the French who attacked it a number of times. In 1704 it was ably defended by the New England trader Captain Michael Gill whose courageous resistance encouraged the local populace, who had fled to the woods, to come to his assistance and save the town from being burnt.

A feature of Bonavista which sets it apart from most early Newfoundland communities is that it is laid out on fairly flat ground, not in a steep cove. This produces a different street pattern from the kind normally encountered and lanes and fences meander and intersect all over the town face. Of interest too are the old district names that survive from the beginning of the Eighteenth Century; names such as Mockbeggar, Canaille and Bayley's Cove.

# BONAVISTA



## R. C. RECTORY

One of the most attractive and interesting buildings in Bonavista is the Roman Catholic Rectory built in 1901 for Fr. James Brown. It was erected by Ronald Strathie whose work, along with that of his father and grandfather, may be seen all over Bonavista.

In some senses the building is a Gothic Cottage with its asymmetric plan, its porch, its dormers. A very finely balanced piece of architecture it has been well preserved throughout the years. An interesting feature is the metal cresting detail on the roof gables which resembles the kind of elaboration found in English thatchwork. Whether or not thatchwork is the source of the detail is unclear but it is worthwhile noting that the general style of the house is somewhat in keeping with the vernacular tradition of which thatching is a part.





## RYAN PREMISES

The Ryan's were principal merchants on the Bonavista-Trinity Peninsula from about 1850 onwards. James Ryan, for whom the business is named, was probably born in Ireland and came out to Newfoundland with his father as a child. He began his business as supplier for the inshore fishery and eventually expanded, with his Newfoundland-born brothers, into Trinity, King's Cove, Elliston and Catalina. Surviving the bank crash of 1895 the Ryans built a very prosperous trade which lasted into the Twentieth Century.

The shop shown here is part of a large group of Ryan buildings which includes the main house, a company house, several barns and outbuildings as well as the waterside premises. The store itself is a very fine working example of a Nineteenth Century Newfoundland store. The old ledger and tally desks can still be found in the offices, the windows retain their large panelled wooden shutters.



## BRIDGE HOUSE

Bridge House is the oldest surviving residential structure in Newfoundland. This is not to say that there may not be older houses in the province but Bridge House is the one to which the oldest date now known can be assigned. On the basis of a fairly substantial folk tradition, the house is said to have been built in 1814 by Alexander Strathie of Greenoch in Scotland. It was built for Strathie's fellow countryman, William Alexander, a prominent merchant of Bonavista.

The house is a fairly straightforward gable roof house with gable end chimneys and a central hall. A photograph taken by Herbert Swyers sometime in the 1920's shows single storey gable bays at either end. The one on the left side is now missing but both were built around 1912-1916 when the house was used as a boarding house for commercial travellers. The in-

terior may also have been remodelled but interestingly enough, in keeping with its original style, at the same time as the bays were added. It is also possible that the porch may date from the same period.

Because of the way records were kept in Newfoundland, it is unusual to find a house which it is possible to accurately date as early as Bridge House and to know the name of both the builder and the original owner.

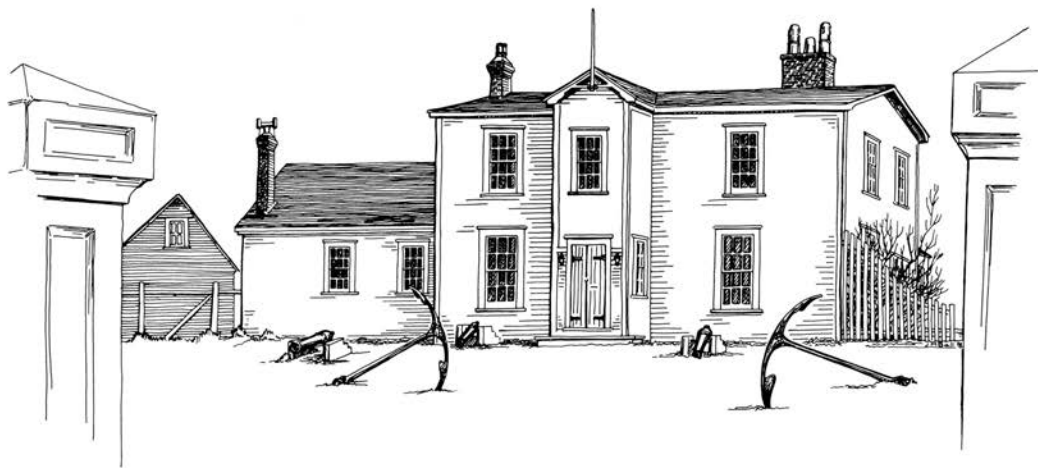
The age of the house, its state of preservation and its architectural character make it one of the most significant Newfoundland structures. In addition, it is presumably the first work by the Strathie family in Bonavista, the first of the many buildings built by Alexander Strathie and his descendants which still stands in Bonavista.



## BRADLEY HOUSE

Jabez Saint constructed what is now known as the Bradley House in 1871. He was left the property by his father who had acquired it from John H. Warren. To build his house Saint removed and, it is said, re-used lumber from an older house that stood on the site. He may well have had the house built by, or have been assisted in the building by, his in-laws, the Strathies. When Saint, indebted to Baine, Johnston and Co., went bankrupt in 1879 the company seized his property but allowed him to continue to occupy the house. Similarly, on the bankruptcy of Baine, Johnston in 1878 and the acquisition of the property by John Roper, Saint was allowed to remain until his death at a nominal rent. On Saint's death in 1903 the Ropers took possession of the property and through them it passed to their son-in-law Senator Gordon Bradley who played a prominent part in the confederation battle.

It was Senator Bradley who made the most notable addition to the house in the form of a quasi — Gothic library with an open timberwork ceiling.



## ABBOT HOUSE

The solitary example in this book of the earliest Newfoundland mode of construction is Heber John Abbot's house at Bayley's Cove, Bonavista. The house is a full-studded or tilt construction — a mode in which logs are set vertically, side-by-side and fitted into a sill so that a solid wall of vertical logs is formed.

Details on the genealogy of the house are uncertain but the house may have been built by James Way (1823-1903), a Bonavista fisherman. Way was given a grant of land near the house site in 1869 which may suggest a date for construction. On the other hand, it was not unusual for Newfoundlanders to build first and get a grant later. If this was the case it is possible that the house was built before 1869 and, on the basis of style, it is likely to have been built between 1840 and 1860. The use of a gable-end chimney with a hip roof is unusual. The very pronounced drip mouldings above the windows are a feature of Bonavista vernacular houses.





## FOGO

A series of bad fisheries in the Trinity and Avalon area about 1719 drove merchants and fishermen to seek other grounds. One of the better of these grounds was Notre Dame Bay and it was the fishery there that resulted in the settlement of Fogo. But also of importance was the developing seal fishery initially prosecuted by landmen as an inshore resource, later prosecuted offshore at the Labrador Front. These factors produced the first permanent settlement at Fogo in 1728 when 143 people wintered there.

Principally developed by Poole merchants, notably Benjamin Lester who had his headquarters at Trinity, it became one of the two important northern towns in the Eighteenth Century. The trade was dominated, although not exclusively, by the Lesters and their successors the Garlands, John Owen and the Earles. In the Nineteenth Century it attained a greater impor-

tance and a greater wealth with the opening of the lucrative and bountiful Labrador fishery.

The town is set in a low ring of hills which protect the harbour from the weather but not always from other problems. Adventurous American privateers managed to travel far enough north to harass the inhabitants in 1780.

Of romantic interest, though possibly legend, is the story of Pamela Simms. Born in Fogo in 1773, the daughter of a Fogo girl and a visiting naval officer, she moved with her mother to England where she caught the attention of the playwright Sheridan. She also met, and later married, Lord Edward Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was to achieve fame as one of the Irish patriots when he died in jail for his part in the 1798 Rebellion. Pamela herself lived until 1830 but never did return to the place of her birth.

# FOGO

BARNES IS.

SIMMS IS.

Fogo  
Harbour

NORTHSIDE  
RD

39

40

41

MAIN

RD

38

37

36

333

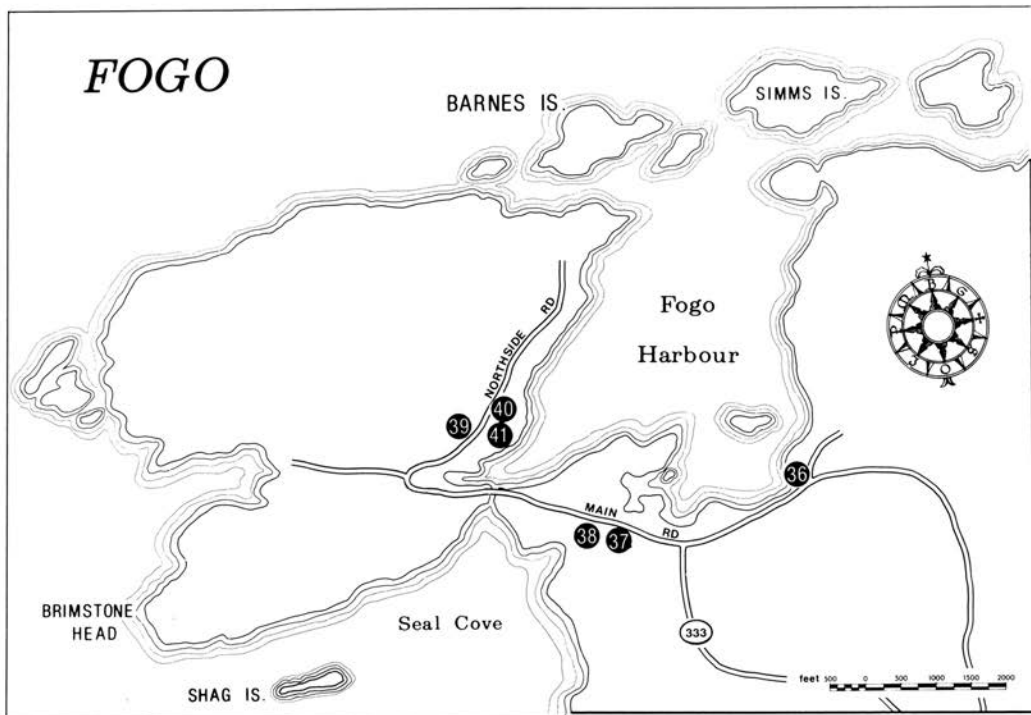
BRIMSTONE  
HEAD

Seal Cove

SHAG IS.



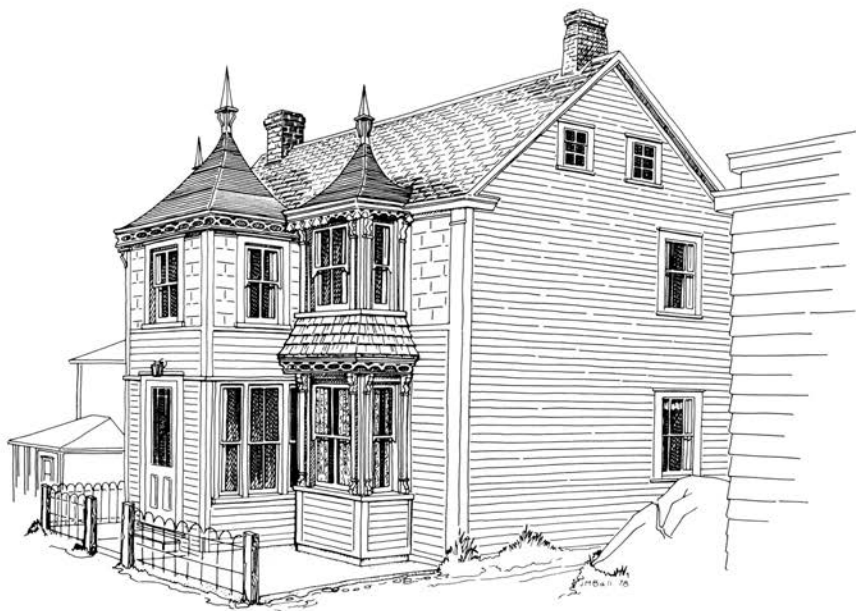
feet 500 0 500 1000 1500 2000



## MILLER HOUSE

This two-and-a-half storey residence was built in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. It is presumed to have been constructed for the Miller family who, at one time, had a shop attached to the right side of the house. (The shop is now apart from the house in a comparatively new structure.)

What makes this house distinctive is the degree of elaboration in its decoration. The pagoda-shaped roofs of the square bays and the porch are trimmed with heavy fretwork of inverted tulips and interlacing. There is a structural oddity in the cladding of the house as well. While the lower half of the walls are clad in ordinary clapboard, the upper storey is clad in clapboard in imitation of masonry. The ceilings of the interior halls are panelled — a feature found in no other Newfoundland house of the period.



## S.U.F. HALL

The massive hall of the Society of United Fishermen in Fogo may have been constructed in 1874, the year in which the lodge at Fogo was given a charter. It is gambrel-roofed structure and, like its neighbour the Orange Lodge, was built in the manner of the great fish stores. The gambrel roof is, in fact, generally only used on such buildings in Newfoundland. It was very rarely used on houses because, while it provided greater headroom, it was somewhat more difficult to construct.

The S.U.F. came into being in 1873 and was an offspring of the Heart's Content Fisherman's Society started by Rev. George Gardiner in 1862. Intended to be a fraternal benefit society it developed on that basis to become an important social organization in most Newfoundland outports. Its peak of development was in the years 1873 - 1883 when forty-two lodges were constructed. By 1921 it had even managed to invade Canada with the establishment of a lodge in Nova Scotia.



## UNITED CHURCH

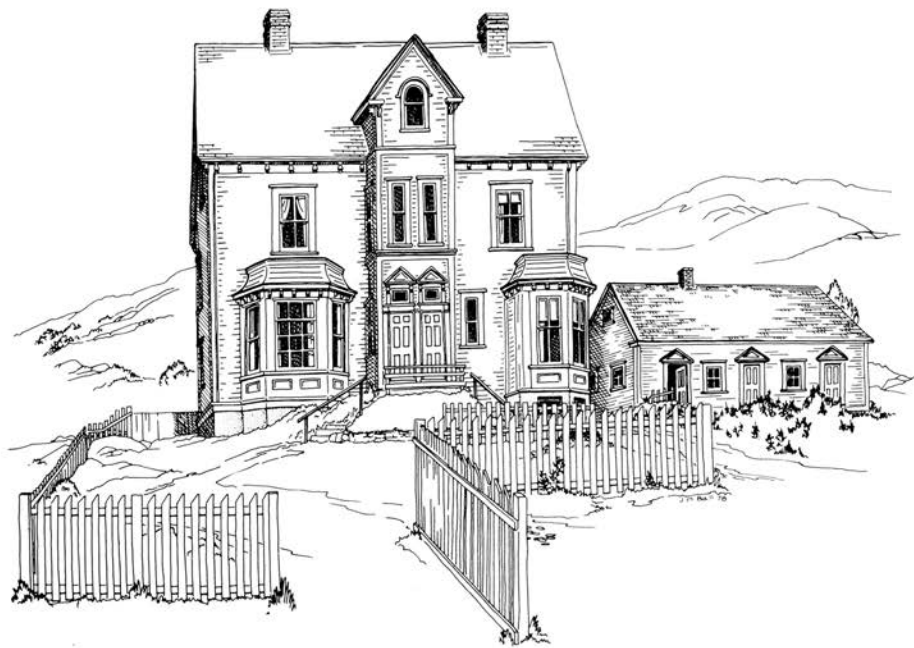
This small church was built in 1877, a fact which the simple wooden crocket proudly proclaims. Like many outport churches it was built towerless — a gable-roofed structure with its entrance in the gable end. A tower was added in 1949 which bears a remarkable resemblance to that on the Anglican Church of St. Andrews built in 1916. With its bargeboard and pointed arch windows it is fairly clearly in the Gothic Revival manner. It sits beside the Catholic Church on the south side of Fogo Harbour and to the east of it lies the Anglican Church as well as the Lodges of the Masons and the Society of United Fishermen.





## HILLSIDE

"Hillside" was built by Henry Earle as his own residence in 1907. Later it was made over into a double house for the accommodation of two of the family working in the firm. The addition of the narrow but attractive pair of pedimented doorways as well as internal partitions effected the change. "Hillside" served as the farm to the Earles of Fogo, the east field being the cow pasture, the west field the vegetable garden. The small building with three entrances at the back of the east field once held a wash house, cook house and hen house.



## BLEAK HOUSE

Possibly the oldest house on Fogo and certainly one of the most important in a historical sense is Bleak House, the principal Earle residence. Accurate dating of the house has not been possible but it is presumed that the structure was built after 1816 when John Slade took over the business from the Garlands. About mid-century the house and business were acquired by John Owens, previously Slade's bookkeeper but who, because of an advantageous marriage, became a wealthy man. Henry J. Earle, who worked with Owen, purchased house and business in 1897. The house was occupied by various members of the Earle family until 1967 when the business was closed.

The nature of the additions and the clapboard suggests that the original house was probably a large centre-hall plan dwelling with saltbox roof. It is unclear just when the additions were made but, as an old photograph suggests, it was probably in Owen's time. The Earles removed a Victorian porch and a galley with balustrade in Chinese fashion. Other additions were made at the rear of the house at the beginning of the Twentieth Century.



## EARLE PREMISES

The Earle Premises on the north side of Fogo Harbour, more than any other in the country, represent the range and development of the Newfoundland fishery. Apart from Bleak House and Hillside, the premises include a bookkeeper's house, an office, retail store, cannery, cooperage and seal-oil factory. Nowhere else in Newfoundland can such an impressive group of fishery buildings be found which covers the period from about 1815 to 1970.

The premises were originally owned by Jeffrey and Street of Poole, Dorset. Benjamin Lester of Poole next acquired the business and it passed from him to his son-in-law George Garland. It was Garland who gave it to John Slade the person who, one presumes, erected the earlier buildings including the office, bookkeeper's house, salt store, coal store and cooper shops. These buildings, with Bleak House, are presumed to date from the period 1816-1860. About 1860 John Owen acquired the business and brought in Henry J. Earle to work with him. When Owen retired

to England in 1897 the Earles began their seventy-year running of the trade. Under the Earles the operation expanded to the canning and the freezing of fish. The collapse of the Labrador fishery as well as the depletion of fish stocks in Notre Dame Bay brought about the end of the Earle business in Fogo.

Of the buildings themselves the oldest is probably the office with its gambrel roof and hipped porch. In the west wall of the porch is a fanlit window which, with the other features, suggests that the building could date from about 1820. Its gambrel roof and those on the other buildings are fairly typical of Nineteenth Century fish premises. The 1913 retail store has one of the most extraordinary commercial facades in Newfoundland. A composition of various fretwork details, brackets, cornices and diagonal boarding, it is the work of a carpenter happy with his saw.

Those buildings now stand abandoned and Newfoundland is in danger of losing a significant part of its architectural heritage.



## TWILLINGATE

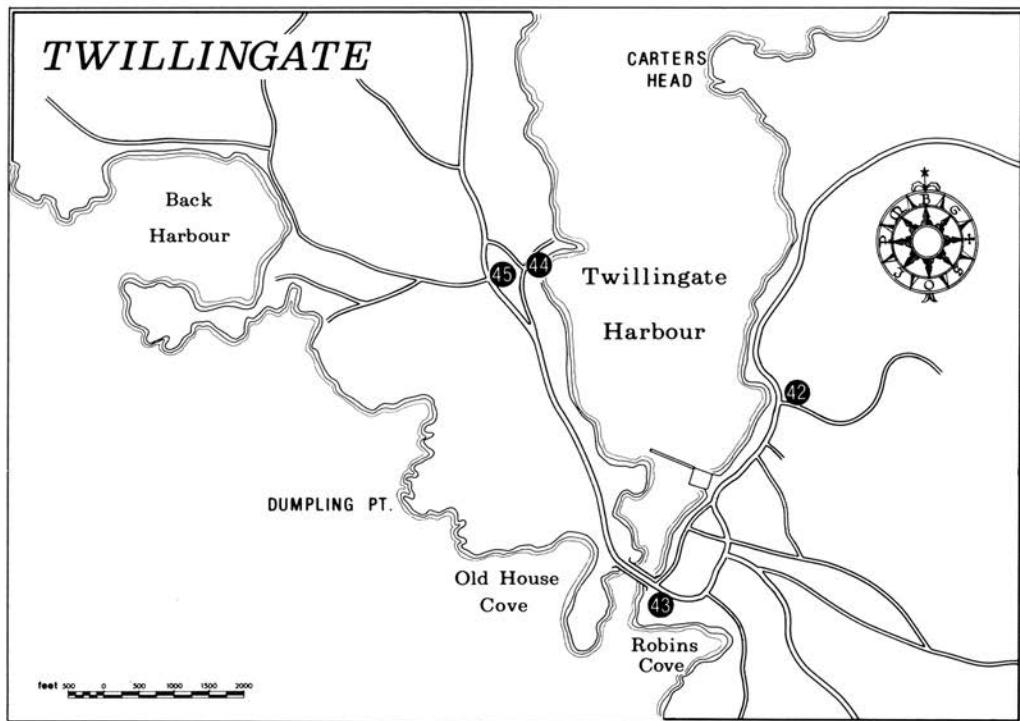
Less bound to one merchant than Fogo, Twillingate had a number. Like Fogo it benefitted from the inshore fishery of Notre Dame Bay and the Labrador fishery in summer, the seal fishery in winter. Its economy was also augmented by trapping in the interior along the Exploits River.

Throughout the Eighteenth Century the population of Twillingate, then the furthest settlement on the English shore, was less stable than that of Fogo. While in 1738 their populations were the same, in 1786, after a bad fishery, Twillingate's population fell to one-third of Fogo's. That bad year broke the migratory fishery and saw the establishment of a local fishery requiring locally-based merchants to supply the fishermen and export their catch.

Again it was principally an operation of English

merchants out of Poole in Dorset. The most substantial of these was John Slade who made a great contribution to the community but who, like many of the merchants, eventually returned to England. It was the planters rather than the merchants who stayed and gave a personal continuity to the town. Among the important planters were the Peytons. John Peyton served as Justice of the Peace for Twillingate and is famous for his part in the capture of the Beothuck Desmasduit (Mary March) during which her husband Nonosbausut was murdered. Twillingate was one of the northern islands to which the Beothuck would venture in summer in their search for fish and sea-birds. It was also the haunt of earlier aboriginal peoples among them the Dorsets whose remains have been found at Back Harbour.





## ASHBOURNE HOUSE

Built on land sold by Edwin Duder to Dr. J. Stafford this house replaces an earlier one which burnt in 1911. Apparently the house was originally built with two storeys, the third storey and the turret-cum-bay being added at a later date. The structure is essentially a large mercantile outport house with Queen Anne modifications in the form of an elaborate porch and turret. The house was purchased by the Ashbournes in 1947. The present owners have an extensive and interesting collection of period antiques and Newfoundland artifacts.



## MASONIC HALL

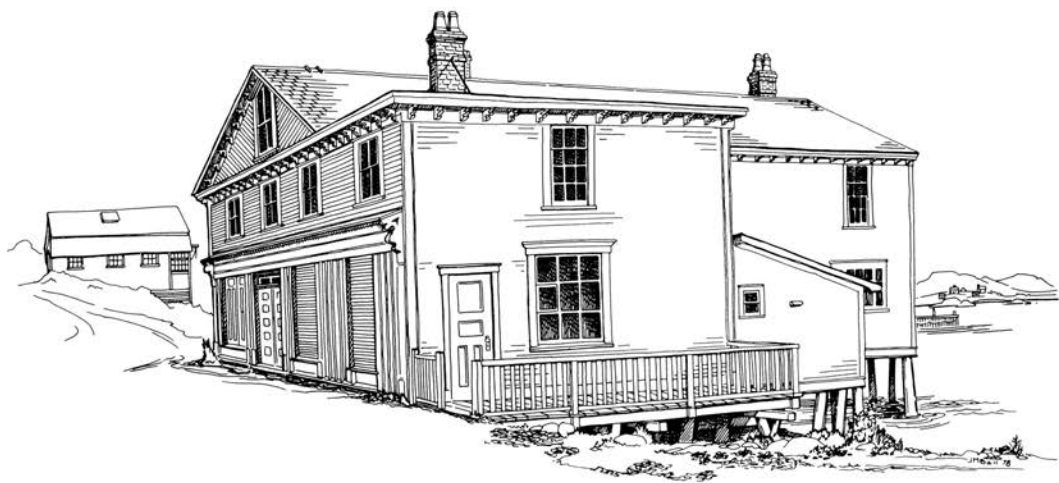
Built in 1906 this masonic hall is in the tradition of all Newfoundland masonic halls in the elaborate detailing of its exterior. The offset tower gives it something of the character of a church but this impression is disturbed by the ovoid dome which tops the tower. Beneath the heavily bracketed eaves is set a large panel with finely carved masonic emblems. The main doorway, the windows and corner boards are decorated with pilasters. A renaissance touch is added with the differing window treatments on the first and second storeys. The first storey windows are surmounted by pediments, while the second storey windows are surmounted by segmental arches containing windows with simple tracery. Above the main door is a pointed segmental arch.



## HODGE PREMISES

It has not been possible to date these premises but, on the basis of style, it is reasonable to suggest that they were built about the turn of the century. Their degree of preservation extends to the paint colours — a fine victorian combination of maroon, ochre and white. The premises are presently being restored for use as a yacht club.

Hodges were active in Twillingate for almost a century (1871-1960) and they survived the financial disasters of the 1890's which left many Newfoundland merchants destitute.



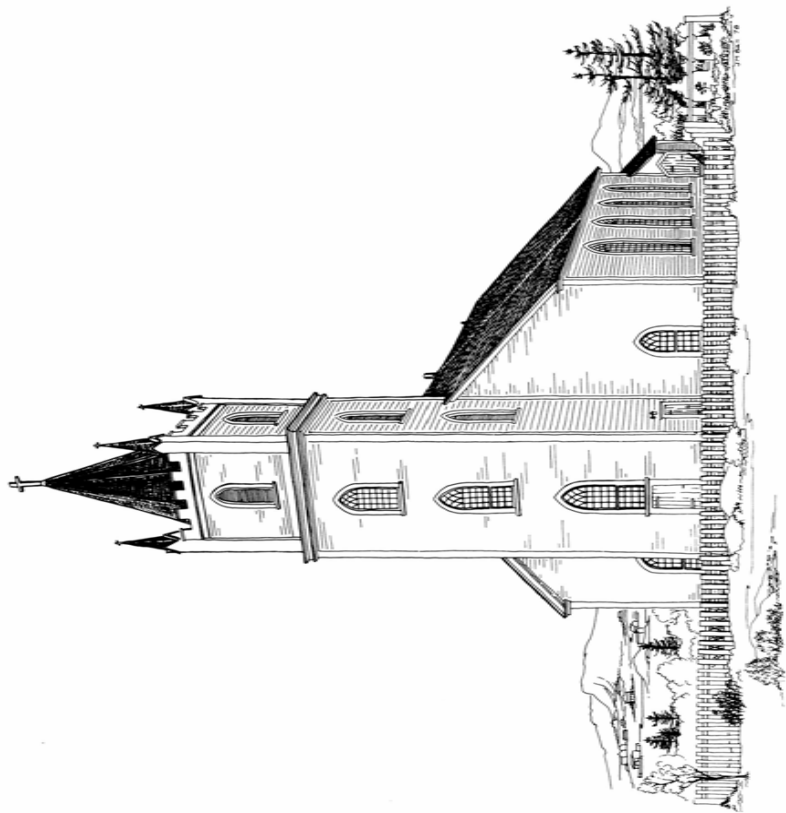
## ST. PETER'S CHURCH

St. Peter's Anglican Church was consecrated by Bishop Feild on July 3, 1845 and replaced an earlier church which had been built in 1827. The nave of the church had, in fact, been completed by 1842 and the tower in 1844. In 1884 a chancel was added by Titus Manuel and built in memory of Edwin Duder.

The church has a strong connection with St. James in Poole, Dorset, the home port of many of the Newfoundland merchants and in particular of John Slade. Slade contributed timbers to the building of St. James Church and acquired from the old church the brass candle sconces. Those sconces which he gave to St. Peter's still decorate the walls.

The galleries in the church take its interior back to an earlier period of church design. It is interesting to note that Bishop Feild consecrated the church for he, as an ardent Gothic Revivalist, was strongly opposed to the use of galleries and had them removed from as many Newfoundland churches as he could. One further note of interest is the bell which was given by the congregation in 1862 as thanks for the great crop of seals taken in that year.





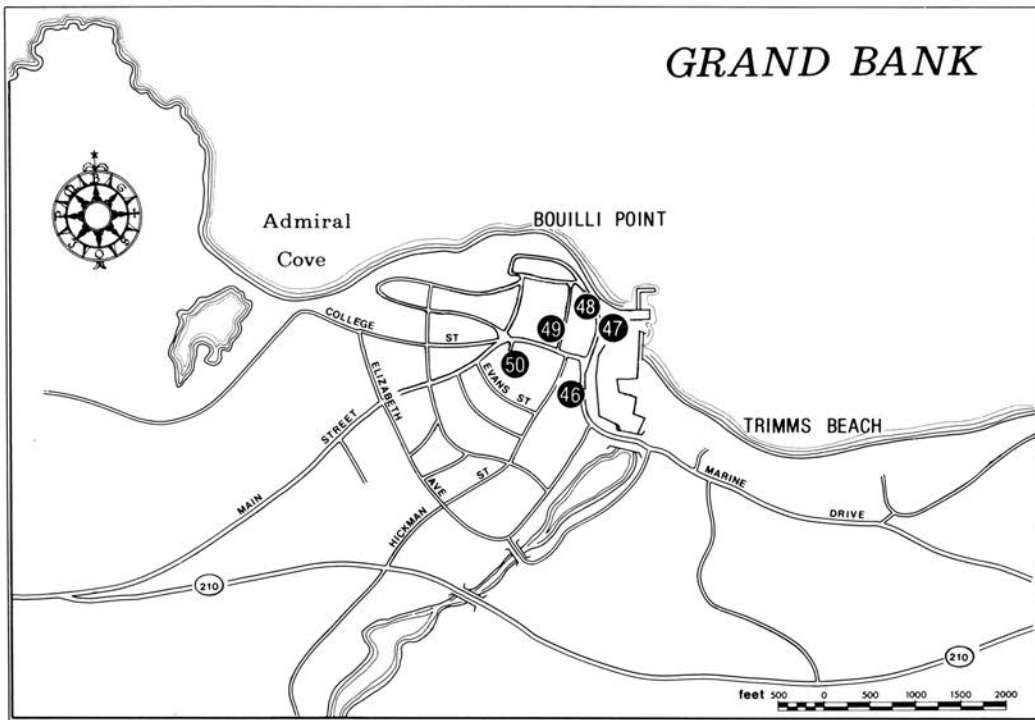
## GRAND BANK

Grand Bank was an important point in the Seventeenth Century French fishery. When, in 1765, Captain James Cook made his Newfoundland survey Grand Bank had the most inhabitants and greatest fishery in Fortune Bay. It was also from Grand Bank that Cook took as his pilot Jonathan Hickman (1747-1847).

An important part of the Nineteenth Century economy was the supplying of bait to the French. This came to an abrupt halt with the Bait Act of 1888 but it only altered the town's economic base. The Bank fishery, which began in the 1880's, was now prosecuted in earnest and accounted for the great prosperity of Grand Bank at the turn of the Twentieth Century.

Architecturally Grand Bank is interesting because it has a far heavier concentration of a single style of architecture than any town in Newfoundland with the possible exception of St. John's. Most of Grand Bank's earlier houses are built in a variety of forms of the Queen Anne style which was popular in England and America from 1870 to 1890. Most of these houses survived unaltered — a tribute to the prosperity as well as the sense of heritage of Grand Bank residents.

# GRAND BANK



## HARRIS/RUSSELL HOUSE

This house is a fairly typical Queen Anne structure and, in its own way, demonstrative of the variety of the Grand Bank houses in this style. With somewhat repressed ionic capitals on the pilasters it demonstrates that aspect of the Queen Anne which involves a revival of eighteenth century details.

The house was built by George Harris, a Grand Bank merchant, about the time of his marriage to Lottie Pratt in 1908. In 1953 it was purchased by Bonavista Cold Storage as a residence for the fish plant staff and converted into a two-apartment dwelling. The Russell's, owners of the company, occupied the house from 1961 until 1976. The house has been sadly altered by the installation of a horizontal sliding window in the facade.



## FOOTE PREMISES

This store is part of a somewhat remarkable group which gives an architectural uniformity to Grand Bank's main street. The other stores include Forward and Tibbo's, and Patten's. Built about 1910, on property that was once Newman's, Foote's store is an interesting example of simplified boom-town front architecture and more interesting for the asymmetric placement of the main door. The doorway with its converging reveals is also unusual.



## THORNDYKE HOTEL

The Thorndyke Hotel is another Queen Anne example of a somewhat different idiom from the Harris-Russell house but nonetheless very much in keeping with the tradition. With its "widow's walk" or belvedere on the roof, it is, in part, a recreation of certain New England houses and is named after one of Captain John Thornhill's schooners which was built in New England.

The house was constructed in 1917-18 by Capt. Thornhill on the site of the old Hickman premises. The sunporch was added in 1919. Well maintained and preserved, it, with eleven bedrooms, is admirably suited for its current use as a hotel.





## BUFFETT HOUSE

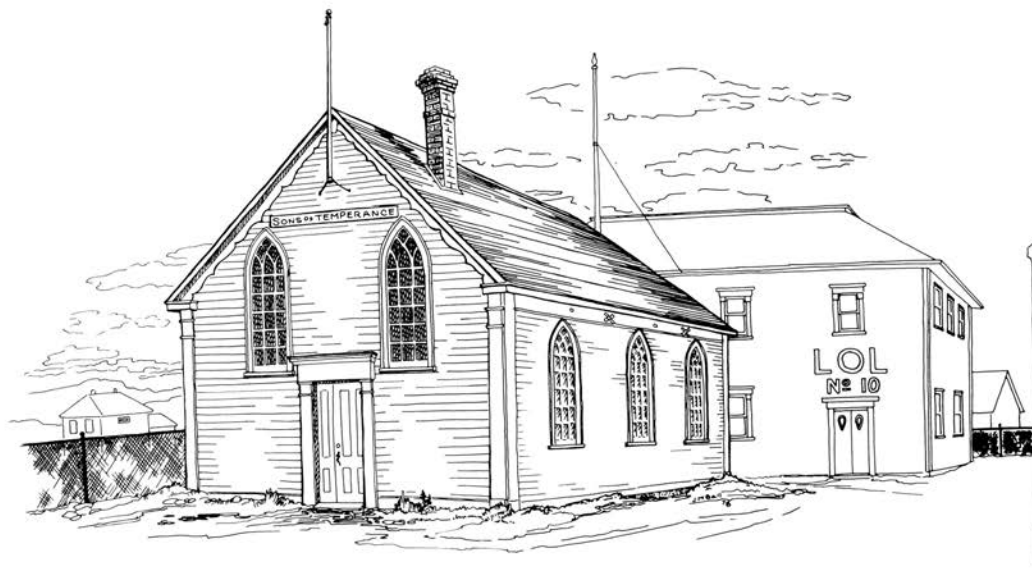
In a town filled with fine houses, this is one of the finest, its major rival being the Thorndyke Hotel. Built about 1905 by a local builder, Harry Camp, it is somewhat difficult to categorize stylistically in that its pronounced use of overhanging eaves, heavy brackets and projecting dormer window suggesting a form of the bracketed villa that was popular in North America half a century before the Buffett house was built. What does bring it somewhat closer to its own era is the sense of great size — a size which would not be in keeping with the mid-Nineteenth Century cottages and villas.

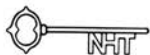


## TEMPERANCE HALL

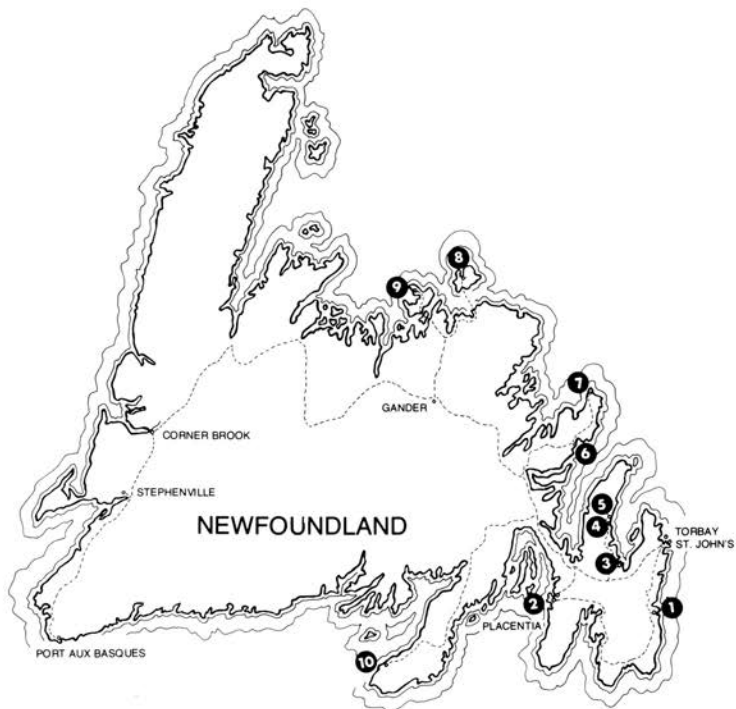
The Temperance Movement clearly had some standing in the Grand Bank of 1860 when this structure was built. A simple gable-roofed building, with its entry in the gable, it is typical of dissenting meeting-houses of the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries. The use of the Gothic bargeboard, while unusual in the meeting houses, should not be considered unusual in a building built in Newfoundland in 1860 when such details had become common to both public and institutional buildings.

The Temperance Society granted the buildings to the Salvation Army Boy Scouts in 1971 and, in 1976, the Scouts sold the building to the Orange Lodge. The apparent intention of the Lodge was to demolish the building for a parking lot — not a fitting end for a temperance hall, nor for one of the town's oldest buildings.





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## LOCATION OF TOWNS

- 1 FERRYLAND
- 2 PLACENTIA
- 3 BRIGUS
- 4 HARBOUR GRACE
- 5 CARBONEAR
- 6 TRINITY
- 7 BONA VISTA
- 8 FOGO
- 9 TWILLINGATE
- 10 GRAND BANK

