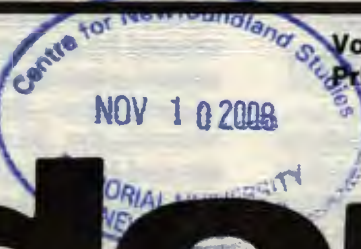
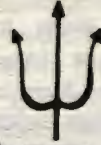


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the

Past Present Future



Volume 11, No. 1, April 1986
Price 75 cents

trident

THE WHITE PROPERTY Portugal Cove, C. 1800

This once picturesque house in Portugal Cove has an uncertain future. The house was owned and occupied by Mike Hayes up to the time of his sudden death at 68 years of age on January 21, 1981. The house has been vacant for most of the past five years, and is now in a state of disrepair.

The existing facade of the house with its gambrel style roofline and front door canopy would lead one to believe that the house could have been built in this century. In actual fact the facade conceals a much earlier structure that could have been built very early in the 19th century. The hipped roof house illustra-

ted in the second photograph is actually the same structure. The facade renovations were done in the 1920's however the interior of the house remained intact.

The house is built around a massive central chimney. In the kitchen there is a large open fireplace with benches built in on both sides.

Mike Hayes, the most recent occupant was a decendent of Michael White who was thought to have built the house in the early 1800's.

Mr. White was known in Portugal cove as a very accomplished woodworker. Michael's son, Tom, inherited

his fathers talent and was known as a maker of the "Tom White chair". The chair he made was actually a Newfoundland carver chair, popular at the time (1840's) in many Newfoundland communities. It is assumed that he sold them to supplement his income from farming.

Like many early Nfld. houses, this vestige of our past, probably the earliest house in Portugal Cove, has an uncertain future, and the writer is not optimistic that the future holds promise.

Chris O'Dea



The White - Hayes House in Portugal Cove as it appears today.



The White House as it was prior to the 1920's renovations.

The Queen's Road Congregational Church

The history of the Congregational Church in Newfoundland goes back to 1775 when John Jones (who had been previously stationed in St. John's with the Royal Artillery) returned from England having joined the Independent Church. (The Independent Church and the Congregational Church were essentially the same in that both believed in the independence of individual congregations and rejected control by priests or bishops.) Jones preached for a time in his own rooms or in the Court House but this last facility was forbidden him when Governor Montague arrived in 1776. This drove the congregation to build their own meeting house in the spring of 1777. Under the supervision of the carpenter, Wallis Lang, the frame was cut in the woods near town and erected on the barrens in a month. But this too met with opposition. The Anglican cleric, Langham - a "lover of the bottle" and "notoriously immoral man" according to one of his contemporaries - set out to have the structure removed but was unsuccessful.

This first meeting house was soon determined to be inadequate, for it had unglazed windows, no chimney and, because it was up on the barrens, was too far from town. As a consequence, attempts were made to get funds and land on which to build anew and build better. In 1787 property was acquired on Victoria Street (the present site of the LSPU Hall) and work on the Meeting House began that November. By the spring of 1789 it was in use. This building was a substantial two and a half storey frame structure on a stone foundation containing the meeting house, school and accommodation for the schoolmaster.

Some measure of the growing strength and status of this particular brand of Protestantism can be seen in a roll call of Congregationalists in the first half of the nineteenth century. They include two of our earliest surveyors, Eaststaff and Noad; our first postmaster, Simon Solomon; the founder of the Native Society, Richard Barnes; the three principals of the very important merchant firm of Parker, Bulley and Job; and the irrepressible pursuer of his own sense of the right, Henry Winton, editor of the **Public Ledger**, a victim of

sectarian violence when he had his ears cropped for accusing Bishop Fleming of political interference.

This status then, lead them to remodel the Meeting House (now elevated to Chapel) in Gothick form in 1844 and to build an even better building in 1851-53. When they left their earlier structure in 1852 it was sold to the Temperance Association and the congregationalists began construction on the site of their cemetery at the Junction of Chapel Hill and Queen's Road. But why the move after the extensive revisions to the old building? One had only to look around: the 1846 Fire had produced a lot of new construction in the city but of greatest concern to the Congregationalists were the new churches: the massive Roman Cathedral above them, to the west the stylish Anglican Cathedral, beside it the new Methodist Chapel, on the hill above the Kirk with its spire, on Duckworth Street below Free St. Andrews with its fine Gothic tower. They wanted one presumes, to assert themselves. This meant moving out of the more cramped (for which read, less visually effective) section of the lower town, meant building in a more fashionable style and building in stone. The architect was W.R. Best who had come here to profit from the fire and who is best known as the artist of the finest set of engravings of the city and its buildings. But anglican arrogance was still around. Rev. Wm. Grey, in an article in *The Ecclesiologist* (the leading journal

on new church architecture) dismissed the new Congregational Church as a "sort of parody of Gothic, with bits cribbed from the Cathedral stuck in here and there".

This structure survived until the 1892 fire after which the congregation was again driven to raise funds. By July of 1893 they were underway with a tender call. The architect was E.A. Whitehead, who appears to have been active in Toronto in the 1890's and who came down here for work after the fire. He was the architect for Victoria Hall and for the Sons of Temperance Hall. Because of cost and desperate state of the colony's economy, wood had to be used instead of stone. Again Gothic was the style but this time it was a bolder, more robust Gothic. It originally had a tall broach spire but, because of problems with wind-loading, this had to be taken down sometime in the 1920's. The Church opened in 1895 and was converted to a Presbyterian Church in 1938 when the two denominations merged. In 1959, with the building of St. David's on Elizabeth Avenue, the building was sold to the Seventh Day Adventist Church who occupied it until 1979. And now after several years of wandering in the wilderness of uncertainty, it has been given new life by Craig Dobbin.

Shane O'Dea (with assistance from The Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's.



The Congregational Church, Queen's Road, St. John's, in March 1986.



Incoming President's Musings

1986 is the twentieth foundation of the establishment of the Newfoundland Historic Trust. The Trust has during that time maintained and brought to new focus the heritage movement in Newfoundland. Initially the Trust looked to St. John's and environs. During its second decade it looked outward and encouraged heritage and conservation awareness throughout the island - in

Harbour Grace, Trinity, and Wesleyville. The Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Foundation was set up by the Provincial Government due in large part to the efforts of the Trust.

It is imperative that the work of the Trust continue. There is too much that is transience. We must continue to commend, through our awards program, those individuals who restore their properties for the improvement of the physical environment in which all of us live. We must continue to encourage people by free advice to renovate and maintain the public part of their houses so that we can all benefit.

We are thankful for those who are responsible for the success of the Trust in the past. Their efforts in public education and awareness in heritage conservation have given us much today. Our visual heritage is better because of their commitment and interest. We will do what is necessary to ensure the continuation of their efforts.

Tom Burke

Newfoundland Historic Trust Pleased With Hibernia Panel Report

The Newfoundland Historic Trust today responded to the Report of the Hibernia Assessment Panel saying that it was pleased that the importance and value of preservation had been recognized. The Panel, seeing that "included demands for office space" could threaten the architecture of St. John's, recommended that there be adequate controls on development and that incentives be provided from the Offshore Development Fund to encourage preservation. The Panel also encouraged the oil industry to take the lead in this matter — a position strongly endorsed by the Trust which has always maintained that there is superior redevelopable space in older buildings which should be used. This point has been demonstrated by John MacNeil in his restoration of Victoria Hall on Gower St. and by Craig Dobbin in his conversion of the Queen's Road Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Shane O'Dea, the Trust's Preservation Chairperson, said, "There has always been a presumption of conflict between oil and heritage but that conflict only arises when companies feel they have to tear down rather than re-

use and redevelop. Responsible companies should not attempt to impose their corporate images on Newfoundland; they should make use of what we have to give them and use our buildings as their advertisement." Mr. O'Dea hopes that his Report may see the beginning of a new period of cooperation between development and preservation.

Shane O'Dea

What Time Is This Place They Call St. John's

It has been some time now since I began to grapple with the meaning behind this time and place called St. John's. My sentimental interpretations have become even more complex with the advent of offshore oil, and the influx of money which that will bring. In my short time here, I've found myself becoming greatly attached to this place and its people, while watching the new St. John's take hold within our midst.

Without justifying or condemning this new wave of influence, I've increasingly begun to ponder the implication of change. Caught in transition between tradition and high tech, I wonder what impact these presumed constructive additions, will have on the quality of life downtown.

At the outset, our quest for change in whatever form, will hopefully lead to more desirable states, but will yet impart certain costs. We now enter a cyclical stage of combined preservation, renewal and blatant growth, adding to the integral dimensions of time and place. Arguably, one can condon or reject the validity of either approach, however the preservationist mode is most recognizable in this context. Having viewed many revitalized areas across the country, I've often questioned the glaring, economic marketability, inherent in modern preservation schemes. The superimposition of artificial heritage on contemporary "theme towns" has taken this notion to extremes, offering short term benefits while sacrificing valuable social ideals. Fortunately, St. John's has no obvious threat in this regard, however, I am concerned over the more subtle points that are all too common in other cities. It seems that even the revitalization movement, so fashionable today, has reached a degree of sterile standardization throughout North America. When was the last time you visited such an area to find a different design approach to the beckoning challenges at hand? The essential point being, that we as a community must consciously ensure that our downtown does not become glossed over in the cosmetic melting pot of brick pavers and pretty park benches. Our culture here in St. John's reaches 400 years deep, and is equally deserving for future environmental changes.

Social behavioral response is controlled through our spatial successes and failures. The maintenance of social continuity depends largely on one's linkages to a familiar past, which in turn nurtures our emotional security and strengthens our sense of identity. Fragmentary reminders of time in place can further stimulate our sensory perceptions, and create a complexity of experiences vital to downtown.

Finally, we must repeatedly ask ourselves what makes this place, St.

John's, the intangible qualities and its natural rhythms; its compositional make up. A deliberate and sensitive search will unlock those answers only here, and solutions not found in Halifax, Saint John or Old Montreal. This pursuit to preserve such a unique and elusive richness must derive from within and not be determined erroneously from external sources.

*Tom Horrocks
Main Street Canada
Project Coordinator*

Newfoundland Historic Trust Submission

To The Hibernia Environmental Assessment Panel (23 October 1985)

The Trust has been somewhat puzzled by and not a little alarmed at the exclusion of the built environment and architectural heritage from the current Environmental Impact Statement. Such matters were considered in a background paper for the statement prepared in 1980-1981 and were, the Trust presumes, considered important. Nothing has happened in the last four years to suggest that such matters have declined in importance or should be considered unworthy of treatment.

The impact of oil on the built environment has been considerable since the advent of Hibernia in 1979. And it should be made clear here what is meant by "impact" — the effects direct or indirect on the built environment as a consequence of the real or perceived needs (in terms of road, housing or office construction) of the oil industry and the spinoff activity it generates. Because St. John's is likely to be and, in fact, has been the principal area to suffer impact to the built environment this submission will deal solely with it. And, from what will be said, it should be clear that speculation in advance of oil is the principal cause of impact, not necessarily direct activity by oil companies or by agencies dealing directly with the Hibernia project. This does not, however, mean that government can shirk its responsibilities, can say that it cannot deal with speculators or other parties. The government has undertaken — at least it has been the declared policy of the Newfoundland

government — to ensure the orderly development of oil, to minimize the damage that would occur to all sectors of Newfoundland society and to ensure that oil worked to the general benefit of all Newfoundlanders.

The Trust regrets that in the matter of the built environment and the architectural heritage of St. John's only lip service has been paid to this policy and that great damage has occurred. In this presentation the Trust wishes to show what has been lost as a result of oil-related development, what more is in danger and, to speak in a more positive sense, to show what can be done to reinforce the built environment. It is not necessary that conservation and oil development should conflict. They should be able to work together.

After a decade of conservation activity, which saw the development of the Newfoundland Historic Trust and several battles over major urban development issues, the St. John's Heritage Conservation Area was established in 1977. It was seen as an eminently workable solution to the problems of a decaying downtown: it would reinforce the residential sector and provide a new image for the commercial sector. The improved image of both would encourage people to both live and shop downtown providing the impetus for new types of retailing and helping to reinvigorate some of the old. For two years the St. John's Heritage Foundation (the organization which was to oversee the development of the area) was able to do an excellent job in recycling older residential properties otherwise considered beyond salvage. In so doing they provided a new life for the downtown by means of complementary colour schemes and careful attention to detail. Activity in the commercial area was limited to two buildings on Water Street but it was with the backing of the Trust and the Foundation that the Murray Premises got underway to create what is now the retail magnet in the downtown. All this activity was supported by an apparently interested provincial government and city council and backed by a Heritage By-law. Citizens who invested in the area believed that this by-law (which required all construction to be of a scale and character compatible with the environment and the other buildings in the area) would protect them and their properties.

The speculation about the potential of the Hibernia field and the other developments it would generate began in September of 1979 and initiated a series of battles between citizens and city hall and the developers. The initial battle was over the proposal to construct an office tower on the Royal Stores site. This meant not only the demolition of a potentially recyclable group of structures but also serious damage to views from the residential area above — an area which had only just been revitalized as the show section of the Conservation Area. The proposed building was also considered to have a great potential for blighting the area because of problems which would be caused by traffic, parking and loss of amenities.

This building, now TD Place, was constructed and the impact on the built environment has been very serious not only in the immediate surroundings of the building but also in a more general sense throughout the downtown. As expected it does block views in the Gower Street/Willicott's Lane area. It is also completely out of scale with general character of buildings in the Conservation Area. Its specific affect on its neighbourhood can be seen in the demolition of buildings on the north side of Duckworth from Victoria to Holloway Street including the loss of one significant heritage structure: the Crosbie Hotel. This was one of the last surviving Victorian hotels in the city and one which had been designed by William Whiteway, a Newfoundland who had a large practice in Victoria, B.C. The general impact of TD Place was on the viability of the Heritage Area and the Heritage Foundation. The fact that city hall was willing to ignore its own by-laws and the fact that the provincial government would not act to protect the area was a signal to the developers that a free-for-all was possible. This discouraged — or alarmed — many of the business people on the Foundation who began to wonder about their involvement in something that many of their cohorts felt was unfashionable. It was a signal to those committed to conservation that their interests were not protected.

The extent of this impact must be judged by the defections from the board of the Heritage Foundation including the founding chairman who was also a governor of Heritage Canada, and a reform councillor concerned with

conservation who had been Chairman of the City's first Heritage Advisory Committee. They were proposing the redevelopment of the site of the architecturally-significant Pitts Building to make way for a Scotiabank tower. In their submissions to the city on revisions to the Heritage By-law they specifically mentioned what later became the TD development as one of the reasons for a change of perception on downtown development. They then proceeded to ask for a substantial change in the light lines recommended by the review committee, a change which would allow them to build a larger building which would have a greater impact on the streetscape. The Pitts Building was finally torn down this summer, although at one point there had been an undertaking from Scotiabank to preserve the facade. The Mayor's architectural wisdom notwithstanding, this building and the adjoining block were not valueless. Designed by William Howe Greene, they were part of the most important retail sector of Water Street after the 1892 Fire and their architecture reflected this importance.

These, as well as Holloway School, are the specific losses in the Conservation Area. But there are also other threats to the built environment of the city. Developments at the east end of the harbour (including the East End Arterial) could affect the survival of the Garrett Houses on Temperance Street as well as Devon Row. Certainly the arterial will affect buildings and neighbourhoods in the Kingsbridge/Forest Roads area. The road is oil-related in the sense that it is expected to carry traffic from the Torbay Road industrial parks to the harbour. And it is possible, despite the provision of cleared sites on the west of Water Street, that further buildings in the core could be threatened with demolition. Among these would be the London. Other projects such as large apartment blocks threaten both environment and architecture. To take a specific example, the Reynolds House, a mid-nineteenth century structure of some character on Kingsbridge Road, is threatened by the various versions of the Clarendon proposal. The proposal for an exhibition centre on the stadium lot threatens housing on the Boulevard as well as the environment of Quidi Vidi Lake.

But it is possible, as the activities of the Heritage Foundation have shown, the Heritage Foundation have shown, for such conflicts to be avoided by positive action. The recycling work of the Heritage Foundation has had some of the spinoff effect it was intended to have. It is certainly true that for every building the Foundation recycled at least one other has been preserved by individuals. But the pace of private residential conservation has slowed and some who did preserve have left the downtown because they saw that the city had no commitment to improve the environment. A number of club and restaurant owners in the commercial area have taken the lead in doing work on their own buildings. A Main Street Program has started with the assistance of the Downtown Development Corporation and Heritage Canada. But if in other areas of Water Street or in the residential downtown incompatible uses or point loading are allowed then the work of conservation elsewhere will be threatened or made ineffective.

What is necessary is that the federal and provincial governments take more firm action to ensure that conservation is not only encouraged, but that it is practised. This can be done by having government reuse older buildings when they need extra office space, to embark on a specific and visible conservation program of their own. To do this would encourage developers in the private sector to think more positively of the benefits of recycling. So too should the operating principles (Mobil, Gulf, Petro-Canada) act to set an example for their associates by taking space in structures that provide them with a heritage visibility. The leasing by Mobil of units in Sutherland Place is one instance of this sort of action and it has made possible the survival of this important building. This action is an important gesture but more than are needed if conflict between oil and environment are to be minimized. It is possible, it is economical, it is socially desirable for the public and private sector to use heritage buildings and if they wish to show the reality of their good intentions towards the social and cultural environment of Newfoundland they should do so.

Shane O'Dea
Preservation Chairperson



THE NEWFOUNDLAND MUSEUM

The Newfoundland Museum

Newfoundland Museum, St. John's, NF,
A1C 1G9 Tel: (709) 576-2460

Two locations: 285 Duckworth Street
The Murray Premises

Museum Hours

Monday - Friday	9 am-5 pm
Thursday (285 Duckworth St.)	9 am-9 pm
Thursday (The Murray Premises)	9 am-5 pm
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays	10 am-6 pm

ADMISSION IS FREE

Group Visits

Groups should notify the Museums at least 48 hours in advance of their arrival by phoning 576-2329 (Duckworth St.) or 576-5044 (The Murray Premises). Guided tours are available upon request.

Exhibitors and Activities

A schedule of Museum exhibitions and other related information is available by calling each Museum during open hours. Exhibitions and activities are subject to change without notice.

To register for workshops, films or activities, please phone: 285 Duckworth St., The Murray Premises, 576-2329 or 576-5044.



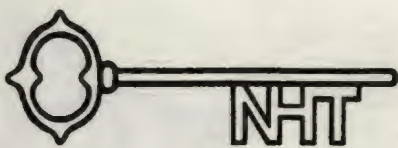
THE SALT BOX

The Salt Box, a traditional Newfoundland house style, derives its name from the lean-to addition at the rear of the structure. This early example of our architectural heritage has now been reproduced by the MUSEUM GIFT SHOP as a ceramic cookie jar.

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HERITAGE AWARDS

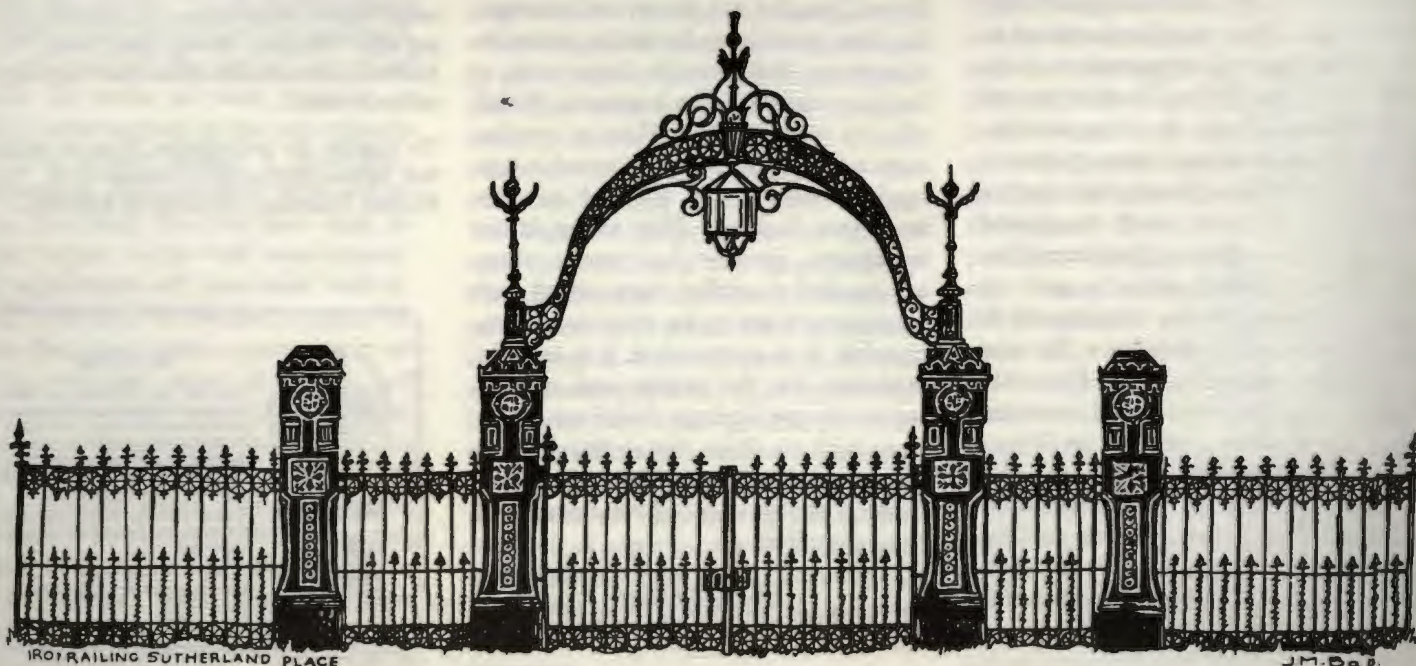
The Newfoundland Historic Trust is now accepting nominations from the general public for excellence in Traditionally Restored Properties and New Construction completed over the last two years in the St. John's area for the following categories:

- (A) *Residential Property*
- (B) *Non-Residential Property*
- (C) *Designer Award*

Nominations accepted on or before Friday, May 9, 1986.

Application forms available from N.H.T. Museum Gift Shop, Nfld. Museum Bldg., Duckworth Street or by writing:

Newfoundland Historic Trust
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5W4



NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORIC TRUST TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

RENOVATING AN OLDER HOME: PROBLEMS AND BENEFITS

A panel discussion with: Garnett Kindervater - Contractor
 Judy Butt - Interior Designer
 Strat Canning - Owner and Renovator
 Ted Rowe - Moderator

Where: Foran Room, City Hall
When: Tuesday, April 22, 1986 at 8:00 p.m.

An excellent opportunity to hear some of the ins and outs of renovation and to question the experts.



HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Please be our guest for Dr. Leslie Harris, President of Memorial University and Chairman of the Heritage Foundation.

Celebrate our Twentieth Anniversary by strengthening our outport ties.

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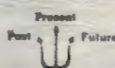
OUTPORT FOOD!

OUTPORT ARTIFACTS!

Plan to attend on Tuesday, May 20, 1986 at 8:00 p.m. in the Foran Room, City Hall, St. John's.

the

Present
Past Future



trident

The **TRIDENT** is the quarterly production of the Newfoundland Historic Trust; P.O. Box 5542, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5W4.

EDITOR: PAUL THORBURN

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