

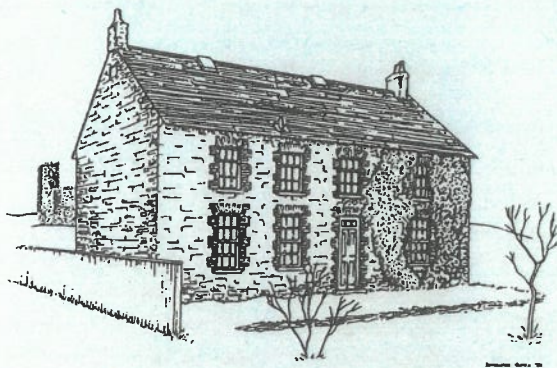
7 - The Maples, c.1900

The Maples is also known locally as the Simmons House. The building was constructed sometime after the turn of the century, and was built by one William Carson for Willis Davis. The house is a good example of the style of house built for the prosperous merchant families of this time period. The care that went into its design and construction is evident in details like the decorative shingle-work, double two-storey bow windows, eaves brackets and original window sashes.

8 - Ridley Hall, 1833

Although now derelict the still impressive Ridley Hall was another of Harbour Grace's landmarks and was often saluted by merchant ships as they sailed into the harbour. The Ridley's were a successful merchant family who played an important role in the social life of Harbour Grace and St. John's. Sometime after its initial construction a ballroom, the doors of which led to a series of formal English gardens, was added to the Hall. A ball given by the Ridley's in 1855 was reported to have been "in every respect the most brilliant entertainment that has ever taken place in Newfoundland."

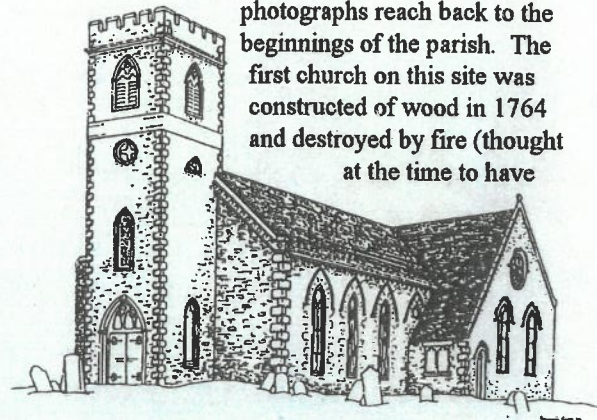
9 - Ridley Offices, c. 1838



Built by merchant Thomas Ridley, Ridley Office was home to Thomas Ridley & Sons and is the last of the 19th century commercial buildings built on the Point. Although considered the largest shipper in Harbour Grace in 1866, by 1873 the company was declared insolvent.

10 - St. Paul's Church, 1835-37

The Harbour Grace walking tour concludes at St. Paul's Anglican Church. This is the oldest existing stone church in Newfoundland and many of its documents, artifacts and



photographs reach back to the beginnings of the parish. The first church on this site was constructed of wood in 1764 and destroyed by fire (thought at the time to have

been deliberate) in 1816. The current structure was built in 1835 and its first bell acquired from Liverpool in 1838 by the local merchants Ridley & Sons. Rev. John Clinch, a past rector of the church, was the first to use the smallpox vaccine in North America.

The Community of Harbour Grace

Harbour Grace is located on the western shore of Conception Bay near Point of Beach. The community is thought to have been named by 17th century Channel Islanders after a coastal fishing community in France, Havre de Grace (now known as Le Havre). The small fishing station became an important offshoot of John Guy's 17th century colony of Cupids and by the early 19th century Harbour Grace was home to shipbuilders and merchants as well as serving as the base for large-scale sealing operations. Although the business community was almost destroyed by fire in 1832, by 1860 the community had reached new heights in wealth and prosperity. The community today has a keen awareness of the rich history of Harbour Grace. Through the development of its museum and heritage district the community ensures that the heritage and history of Harbour Grace is passed on down to the next generation of community members and visitors alike.

Born in Harbour Grace Trivia

- George Hippiusley, writer of several well-known works, was born in Harbour Grace in 1865. His work, House of Rothschild, was made into a movie and nominated for Best Picture in 1934.

- Credited with introducing impressionism to Canada, the world famous artist Maurice Cullen was born in Harbour Grace on June 6, 1866.

Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and



Labrador was established in 1984 to stimulate an understanding of and an appreciation for the architectural heritage of the province, and to support and contribute to the preservation and restoration of buildings of architectural or

historical significance in the province. The Foundation has the power to designate buildings and other structures as Registered Heritage Structures and may make grants for the purpose of the preservation or restoration of the Registered Heritage Structures.

For more information on the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, contact us at:

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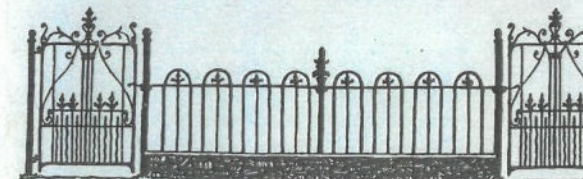
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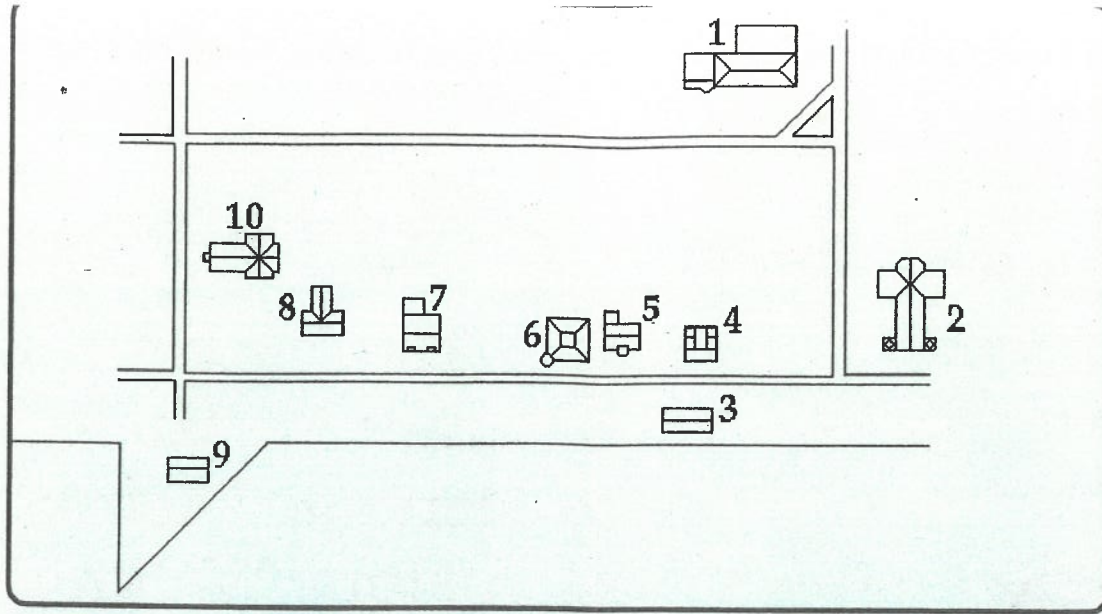
Dr. Helen Creighton Foundation.

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador presents:

The Harbour Grace Registered Heritage District Historic Walking Tour

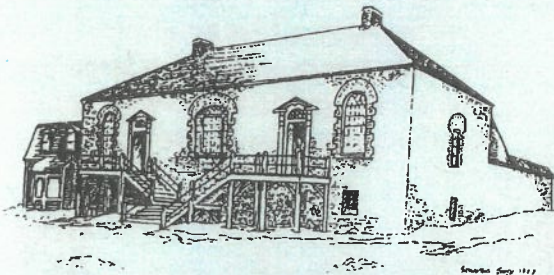
In 1992 the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Town of Harbour Grace, established the Harbour Grace Heritage District at the eastern end of Water Street, chosen due to its historical importance and attractiveness. The neighbourhood invites a pleasant walk, with large front gardens and ornate fence-work which runs along the front of the properties.





Legend:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 - Courthouse | 2 - Cathedral of Immaculate Conception |
| 3 - Custom's House | 4 - Hampshire Cottage |
| 5 - Tapp House | 6 - Rothesay House |
| 7 - The Maples | 8 - Ridley Hall |
| 9 - Ridley Offices | 10 - St. Paul's Anglican Church |



1 - The Courthouse, 1830

Your tour begins at the Harbour Grace Courthouse. The original Courthouse was a wooden structure built

in 1807 on a site not far from the present building. In front were stocks, pillory and one of three whipping posts in the community. The present Courthouse is one of the oldest institutional buildings in Newfoundland, its cornerstone having been laid on July 26, 1830 with great ceremony and celebration. In 1850 a coat of arms was drawn and painted above the magistrate's desk by the mysterious James Clancy a highly educated gentleman who, it was rumoured, had fled some "trouble" in Ireland.

2 - Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, 1890-99

Although against British law at the time, the first Catholic mass in Newfoundland was conducted in Harbour Grace in 1755. Years later, the "Cathedral" would become such an important local landmark that

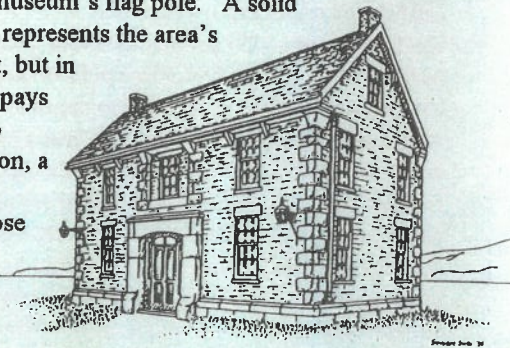


and more modest structure was built. For over a century Harbour Grace was the seat of the Roman Catholic diocese in Newfoundland and entombed under the main altar of the Church lies the body of its first bishop, Bishop Dalton.

3 - The Custom's House, 1870

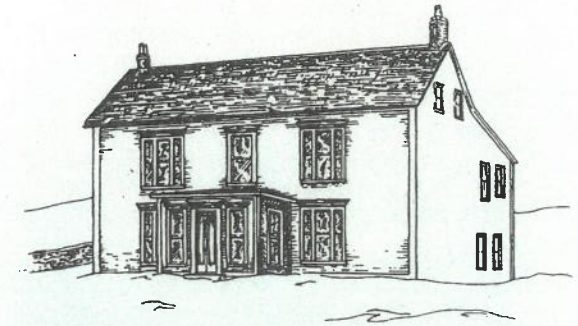
Now home to the Conception Bay Museum, the current Custom House is thought to have been built by George Tapp to replace the earlier wooden structure (c. 1800) which had fallen into a bad state of repair. During the summer months the flags of 19th century Harbour Grace merchants can be seen flying from the museum's flag pole. A solid black flag represents the area's pirate past, but in particular pays homage to Peter Easton, a legendary pirate whose fort is believed to have been built

on this same site in the year 1610.



it often appeared on fishermen's charts. Taking 40 years to construct, the original Cathedral included a 40-foot dome supported by eight marble pillars reaching 180 feet from the main floor. After its destruction by fire in 1889 the current

4 - Hampshire Cottage, c. 1824



Hampshire Cottage, sometimes referred to as the Garrison House, is first noted on Joseph Noad's map of 1845. However, local folk history dates the house to the second decade of the 19th century when it is said to have been occupied by British officers stationed in Harbour Grace. It is the last survivor of a series of similar 19th century Newfoundland salt-box style houses which once lined Water Street.

5 - Tapp House

Although originally at the northern end of the lot, in the early years of this century Art Tapp moved the house to its present location and added the central bay. Tapp was the blacksmith responsible for many of the iron gates and fences in the district.

6 - Rothesay House, 1910

The next stop on the walking tour is Rothesay House. Designed and constructed in a Queen Anne style unique to the area, Rothesay House was built for the Munn Family, and is now a bed and breakfast. Although built for Arthur Munn the house was named after the birthplace of John Munn who left Rothesay, Scotland for Newfoundland in 1826 and who founded Munn & Co., another of the successful merchant firms in 19th century Harbour Grace. In 1875 the firm chartered the ship "Devil", which went on to earn itself an evil reputation. The public grew so suspicious of the "Devil Ship", with its black hull and full-sized devil figure at the bow that the British Court of Admiralty ordered the owners to change the ship's name.