

Statement of Significance



50 Bonaventure Avenue (Raheen)

Formal Recognition Type

City of St. John's Heritage Building, Structure, Land or Area

Description of Historic Place

50 Bonaventure Avenue is a two-storey and a half storey, wooden dwelling located at the intersection of Bonaventure Avenue and Fleming Street in St. John's, NL. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

50 Bonaventure Avenue has been designated because of its aesthetic and historic values.

50 Bonaventure Avenue achieves aesthetic value because it is a good surviving example of an early 20th century Second Empire single-detached dwelling. Features of this style include: two and a half storey construction, mansard roof, size, shape and placement of windows, peaked dormers, wide trims, and enclosed porch. The structure has been renovated over the years but the character of the building remains generally unchanged.

50 Bonaventure Avenue has historic value because of its association with Charles O'Neill Conroy, K.C., O.B.E, and his family. Mr. Conroy built the dwelling around 1905 when this area was the northern fringe of St. John's. He was Solicitor, and Director and General Counsel for Reid Newfoundland Company Limited. Charles was born in Dublin, Ireland Jan 24, 1871 to Judge James G. and Elizabeth (O'Neill) Conroy who relocated to Newfoundland when he was about 18 months old. He later studied in Manchester and London but returned to Newfoundland where he was called to the bar in 1900. He

married Mary Agnes Weathers in 1899 and had five sons and three daughters. He was involved in the Bally Haly Golf Club and the Knights of Columbus. Various documents note that his residence was called "Raheen" which is an Irish word meaning "A People's Place".

Charles' children have also made contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador.

- James O'Neill Conroy (March 29, 1900) was also a Barrister to Law and a Solicitor to the City of St. John's. He went on to open a law office in Corner Brook, which was the only law office in Newfoundland outside of St. John's at the time. James married Elizabeth Anne McGrath and after James passed away in 1931, Elizabeth became Newfoundland's second female lawyer and took over James' law practice.
- Louis O'N Conroy, M.D. (September 24, 1902) was a physician and surgeon. Many St. John's Directories also note Dr. Conroy as living at 50 Bonaventure Avenue. His doctor's office was located in the Reid Building on Duckworth Street.
- Charles Henry Conroy (October 23, 1905) was an electrical engineer who studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and worked with the Department of Public Works from 1934-1970 retiring as Chief Engineer. He was also the President of the Benevolent Irish Society from 1956-1972.

Charles O'N Conroy lived on Bonaventure Avenue until his death in 1946. He willed the building to the Presentation Sisters, however the Presentation Sisters did not acquire the building until 1976.

Other occupiers of the building include David Rudolph Thistle, M.B.E, a printer and publisher. He received commission as King's Printer and founded the Newfoundland Gazette in 1924.

When the Presentation Sisters moved into the building, it was used not only as their residence but as a place of worship, a meeting space for community leaders and a refuge for families needing help and children needing respite. The Presentation Sisters later sold the property to Georgestown Inn Inc. who opened the building as a Bed and Breakfast.

Source: Designated at a regular meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council held.....

Character Defining Elements

All elements that define the building's Second Empire design including:

- two and a half storey structure
- mansard roof
- size, style and location of windows
- peaked dormers
- wide trims
- enclosed porch

Location and History

Community	St. John's
Municipality	City of St. John's
Civic Address	50 Bonaventure Avenue
Construction	Approximately 1905
Builder	Unknown
Style	Second Empire
Building Plan	Square

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161

CONTINUED FROM BELOW

SEE SHEET NO. 35

CARDASIAN ROAD

CIRCULAR ROAD

160

WHITELAW'S AVE

SEE SHEET NO. 23

110

RENNIES MILL ROAD

BANNERMAN PARK

168^c

BONAVENTURE AVE.

168^a

NEWSPAPER AND BUSINESS COLLEGE

BELVIDERE

162

CIRCULAR ROAD

163

FLEMING

166

SEE SHEET NO. 22

HAYWARD AVE

BONAVENTURE AVE.

168^b

164

FLEMING

SEE SHEET NO. 23

SCALE 50 FT = 1 INCH

SEE SHEET NO. 22

CONTINUED ABOVE



indicate the presence of 147,000,000 tons of bituminous coal. Managing Director since the Company's inception. Travelled in interest of the organization, to Great Britain, the United States and Canada, where he conferred with leading financial and mining groups with a view to the development of the Company's property. Active in development of Bay D'Espoir timber property. Is unmarried. Societies: B. I. S., Star of the Sea and Overseas Club, London. Religion: Roman Catholic. Independent in politics. Residence: 382 Water St., St. John's.

PAYNE, Frank Winston—Insurance representative and broker. Vice-Pres. and Secretary Young, Hayes & Payne Co., Real Estate, Insurance Brokers and Agents. Born April 15th, 1899, Twillingate, Nfld., son of Samuel and Olivia Payne. Educated at Twillingate and Campbellton Public Schools, Nfld., and Boston, Mass. Went to U. S. A. 1913. Served with American Army during world war in the aviation and signal corps. Received officers' training at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, and Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh, Pa. Honorably discharged June 7th, 1919. Married 1925 to Miss Edna MacScriven. Has one daughter, Betty Marilyn Payne. Clubs: Men's Republican and Ward Seven Republican at Somerville, Mass; Clarendon Club of Somerville, Mass. Recreations: Swimming, fishing, riding, golf. Religion: Methodist. Politics: Republican. Residence: 47 Teele Avenue, West Somerville, U.S.A. Summer residence: Fortune's Rock, Maine, U. S.A.



C. O'NEILL CONROY, K.C., O.B.E.

CONROY, Charles O'Neill, K.C., O.B.E.—Director and General Counsel Reid Newfoundland Company, Ltd. St. John's. Born Dublin, Ireland Jan. 24, 1871, son Judge James G. and Elizabeth (O'Neill) Conroy. Educated St. Bede's College, Manchester; University College and School, London, England; Wren and Gurney, London, England. Read Law with the late Mr. Justice Emerson. Admitted as Solicitor 1899. Called to the Bar of Newfoundland 1900. Created K. C. 1913. Master Supreme Court 1914. Brown- ing and Conroy 1899. Horwood and Conroy 1901-1902. Furlong, Conroy and Higgins 1907-1916. Conroy and Higgins 1916-1918. Conroy, Higgins and Hunt 1918-1919. Lieut.-Col. com-

manding Catholic Cadet Corps. Married Mary Agnes Weathers, daughter of Geo. Weathers, L.R.C.P., London, England, July 18, 1899. Has five sons and three daughters. Club: Bally Haly Golf. Society: Knights of Columbus. Recreations: Motoring, fishing, photography, golf. Religion: Catholic. Residence: "Raheen," Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's.

SQUIRES, Beaton H.—A.B., Harvard, 1906; L.L.B., Harvard, 1909 Counsellor-in-Law of the Massachusetts Bar, Solicitor and Barrister of the Saskatchewan Bar, Canada. Born Dec. 16th, 1880. at Trinity Bay, Nfld., son of Rev. John Squires and Amelia Davis (Hippisley) Squires. Educated at Methodist College, St. John's, Harvard College and Harvard Law School. As an undergraduate played football on the Harvard Varsity for four years, and in 1905 was named All-American tackle. Coached football from 1906-1913. Was called to the Massachusetts Bar in February, 1909, and practiced law in Boston for several years. In 1913 went to Saskatchewan, Canada, on legal business, and in 1914 was called to the Saskatchewan Bar, remaining in that province until 1922. Returned to Massachusetts in the latter year and now has legal offices at 18 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. Married in 1913 to Miss Edith Louise Gaffield, of Brookline, Mass. Societies: Masonic and L. O. A. Recreations: Football, swimming and tennis. Religion: Congregational. A Republican in politics. Residence: 29 Lakeview Road, Winchester, Mass. Summer residence: West Rindgo, New Hampshire, U.S.A.



HON. FRANCIS J. MORRIS

MORRIS, Hon. Francis J.—Judge, Central District Court. Born St. John's Dec. 5th, 1862, son of the late Edward Morris and Catherine (Fitzgerald) Morris. Educated St. Bonaventure's College. Read law with the late Sir Joseph Little and R. J. Kent, K.C. Admitted as Solicitor November, 1886. Called to Bar of Newfoundland 1887. Created K. C. 1902. Appointed Judge of Central District Court 1917. Appointed Honourable for life by the King. Solicitor for Municipal Council for 24 years. Elected to House of Assembly for Hr. Main for twenty years and represented the District of Placentia and St. Mary's as supporter of Sir Edward Morris' Government. Speaker of House during Premiership of Sir Robert Bond's

Legion Post No. 19, Somerville Lodge of Moose. Recreations: Baseball, football, hunting, fishing. Religion: Methodist. Politics: Republican. Residence: 9 Knaff St., Somerville, Mass. Summer residence: Bar Haven, Maine.

AYLWARD, Michael F.—Inspector of Newfoundland Post Offices. Born at St. John's Sept. 17th, 1869, son of the late William P. Aylward, and Ellen Aylward. Educated at St. Bonaventure's College. Entered the General Post Office as letter carrier 1887, promoted to assistant Clerk 1889. Made Assistant Despatching Clerk 1890, and Despatching Clerk 1891. In 1892 promoted to Mail Clerk, succeeding the late John W. Kinsella as mail clerk on the S. S. Curlew on the South West Coast. Mail clerk on Reid's boats up to the arrival of the Portia and Prospero to Bowring Bros. Promoted to Delivery Clerk 1909. Inspector of Nfld. Post Offices 1923. Installed pillar boxes on railway route, Placentia Junction to Gambo when railway was being completed to Port aux Basques in 1897. Unmarried. Societies: B. I. S. and K. of C. and Curling Association. Politics: Non-partisan. Residence: "Tintern Place," Robinson's Hill, Portugal Cove Road.

WHITE, Francis Herbert—Sales-manager the National Picture Frame and Art Co., Ltd., of New York. Born June 13th, 1887 at St. John's, Newfoundland, son of William and Annie C. White. Educated at Methodist College, St. John's, Nfld. Worked in Government Engineer's office, St. John's, Nfld. Left St. John's in 1912 and entered employ of The Map Co.,

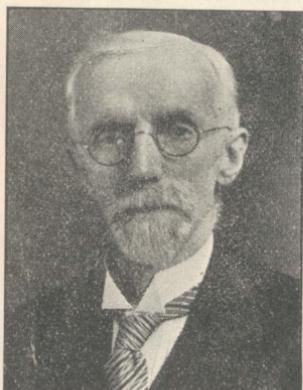
Ltd. In 1919 accepted a position with the National Picture Frame and Art Co., Ltd. At present holds position of salesmanager with above company and handles all sales from Halifax to Vancouver, travelling from coast to coast once a year. Married Sept. 7th, 1918, to Miss Ruth Hitchcon. Children: Three sons. Recreations: Fishing and shooting. Religion: United Church. Politics: Conservative. Residence: 26 Belhaven Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



JAMES O'NEILL CONROY

CONROY, James O'Neill—Barrister at Law, Solicitor, Notary Public, Law Chambers, St. John's. Born March 29, 1900, St. John's, Nfld., son of Charles O'Neill Conroy, K.C., and Mary A. (Weathers) Conroy. Educated at St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's, and St. Edmund's Old Hall, Herts England. Married July 18, 1926, to Betty, only surviving daughter of Mrs. and the late James F. McGrath, M.H.A. Was active in organization of Self-Determination League in 1920-21 and frequent contributor of articles on Irish and Imperial politics in local and Canadian press. Enrolled as

Solicitor in October, 1921, called to the Bar 1922. Member of firm of Fenelon & Conroy 1921-22. Since practiced alone. Advocate of Terra Nova Council, K. of C.. Societies: B. I. S., K. of C., Star. Clubs: Bally Haly Golf, Curling, Chess. Recreations: Reading, walking, golf. Independent in politics. Residence: Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's, Nfld



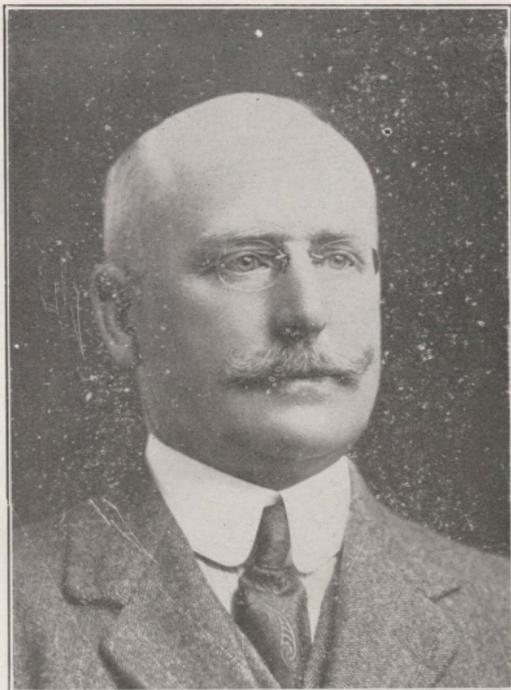
JAMES A. CARMICHAEL

CARMICHAEL, James Adamson—Salesman, The Direct Agencies, Ltd "Father of the travelling salesmen in Newfoundland. Born in 1860 at Glasgow, Scotland, the son of Thos. Carmichael and Annie (Adamson) Carmichael. Educated at Shettleston Parish School and self taught. Apprenticed to drapery and clothing business in Glasgow. Came to Newfoundland in 1881. Salesman Bowring Bros. till 1887. Took charge of S. O. Steele's business, being buyer British American markets, till 1892. Manager G. C. Fearn's business at Harbour Buffett for three years.

Travelled for various other firms selling merchandise. In 1915 joined present house and retired from active road work in 1925. Married in 1888 to Miss Mary E. Colton, St. John's. Has one son and three daughters. Societies: Masonic, Oddfellows, St. Andrew's, Commercial Travellers' Association (Secretary-Treas.). Recreations: Trout fishing and formerly association football and hockey. Religion: Congregationalist. Independent in politics. Residence: 97 King's Road, St. John's Nfld.

PERLIN, Israel—Managing Director of I. F. Perlin & Co., wholesale dry goods and manufacturers of men's clothing, Water Street, St. John's. Born Feb. 10th, 1871, Russia. Came to Newfoundland from the United States in 1891 and established a business on Water Street. Later joined by his brother (now deceased), and firm name changed to I. F. Perlin & Co. In 1905 started a clothing factory in conjunction with dry goods business. Married 1900, to Miss Adele Adams. Children: three sons and three daughters. Societies: Masonic (Tasker Lodge), Newfoundland Board of Trade. Residence: Queen's Road, St. John's.

ASHBOURNE, Thomas Gordon William, B.A., M.H.A.—Member for the District of Twillingate. Director and Secretary-Treasurer of Ashbourne's, Ltd., fish merchants and general dealers, Twillingate, N.D.B. Born December 4, 1894, at Twillingate, the son of William Ashbourne and Lucy Goodison (Linfield) Ashbourne. Educated at Methodist College, St.



HON. SIR E. R. BOWRING.

BOWRING, Hon. Sir Edgar Rennie, Kt., cr. 1915. First High Commissioner for Newfoundland, 1918-22. President and Managing Director Bowring Bros., Ltd., steamship owners and agents, since 1891. Born St. John's, August 17th, 1858, son of John Bowring and Mary Rennie Bowring. Married 1888, Flora Munn, daughter of Hon. James Clift. Educated at Bishop Feild College, St. John's; Liverpool and Scarborough, England. Member of Newfoundland Legislative Council 1897; member Dominion Royal Commission 1912. Director C. T. Bowring, Ltd., London, Liverpool and Cardiff, and of Bowring & Co, New York. Recreations: Motoring, golf,

riding. Address: Hyde Park Hotel, London. Clubs: City of London, Royal Automobile, Bath, Ranelagh.

CONROY, Louis, O'N., M.D.—Physician and Surgeon. Born September 24th, 1902 at St. John's, Nfld., the son of Charles O'N. Conroy and Mary A. Conroy. Educated at St. Bonaventure's College, St. Francis Xavier, McGill University. 1926-1928 House Surgeon, General Hospital, Montreal. Began practice September 1928. Societies: B.I.S. Clubs: City Club, Bally Haly Golf and Curling Clubs. Religion: Roman Catholic. Residence: 50 Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's, Nfld.

to rank of District Inspector; 1971, Attended Executive Development Course, Canadian Police College, Ottawa; 1972, Promoted to rank of Deputy Assistant Chief of Police. Commanding Officer, Patrol and Traffic Division and Training Officer. Clubs and Associations: Director Canadian Mental Health Association; Member National Police Project Planning Committee; Law Enforcement and Community Relations Program; Memorial University. Hobbies: Outdoor activity, (hiking, camping, etc.) Reading, Naval history. Religion: Roman Catholic. Address: 2 Fort Townshend, St. John's, Newfoundland.



JOHN R. BROWNE

CONROY, C. Henry. Born St. John's, Newfoundland, October 23, 1905. Son of Chas O'Neil Conroy K.C. and Mary Agnes (Weathers). Educated St. Bonaventure's College, St. Francis Xavier University' Antigonish, M.S. (Pre-Engineering), Mass Inst. Technology. Graduated from Mass. Institute of Technology; Cambridge, Mass., B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, 1928. International Pulp and Paper Co. Limited, Corner Brook and Deer Lake, 1928-33; Department of Public Works (Nfld.), 1934-70 retiring as Chief Engineer; Part time appointment as Engineering Consultant, Department of Physical Planning and Development, Memorial University, 1970 — to date. Clubs and Associations: Benevolent Irish Society (President 1956 to 1972); Bally Haly Golf and Country Club. Hobbies: Golf. Religion: Roman Catholic. Address: 2 Allandale Apartments, St. John's, Newfoundland.



COL. JACK T. ALLSTON

ALLSTON, Col. Jack T., C.D. Director of Urban and Rural Planning, Province of Newfoundland 1954. Born Colchester, England, September 17, 1923. Son of Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Allston. Wife's name Patricia Mary. Children: John, David, Mark and Peter. Educated in the Country of Essex, England. President Town Planning Institute, of Canada 1968; President Atlantic Planners Institute 1967; Member Community Planning Association of Canada; Served with Royal Engineers, World War II, Royal Hampshire Regiment, T.A. Commanding Newfoundland Militia District 1968 to 1972; Appointed Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor General, 1967; President Newfoundland and Labrador Army Cadet League and Member of Board of Governors of the Army Cadet League of Canada. Member: Infantry Association of Canada; Royal Canadian Legion; Association of Canadian Television and Radio Actors; Former Member of the Roman Catholic School Board of St. John's and the Roman Catholic Denominational Education Committee. Religion: Roman Catholic. Address: 45 Smithville Crescent, St. John's, Newfoundland.

BEMIS, John Edwin. Born Nashauk, Minnesota, April 21, 1924. Son of Edwin Lorin Bemis and Pauline Hall Bemis. Wife's name Alice E. Larson. Children: John, Jane and Terry. Educated Nashauk High School, Nashauk, Minn; Graduated 1942. Graduated from Michigan College of Mining and Metallurgy, 1948, B. Sc. in Mining Engineering. Four years in the U.S. Army, Euro-



STRONG, CYRIL WELLINGTON—Labour union organizer, St. John's. Born at St. John's, on August 2, 1912, the son of Ralph Frederick William and Molly Rolenda Strong. Educated at Harbour Grace schools; and at Methodist College, St. John's. Married. Children: Sandra Rolinda, Neville Douglas, Geoffrey Stuart, Cyril Bruce. Formerly an employee of the Newfoundland Hotel, St. John's. Now representative of the American Federation of Labour. Is a member of Local 779, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union; member of the executive council of the Newfoundland Federation of Labour since 1945. Societies: A.F. & A.M. Religion: United Church of Canada. Politics: Not given. Hobbies: Stamp collecting, gardening. Residence: 35 New Cove Road, St. John's.

THISTLE, DAVID RUDOLPH, M.B.E.

—Printer and publisher, St. John's. Born at Boot Harbour, June 15, 1891, son of David and Elizabeth Thistle. Educated at Methodist College, St. John's. Married Beatrice S. Stone (deceased). Twelve children. Began as school teacher; accountant with Fishermen's Union Trading Co. Ltd., 1910-14; an incorporator of *St. John's Daily Star* Publishing Co., and business manager, 1914-19; editor and manager of *Trade Review*, 1919-22, then incorporated Trade Printers & Publishers and managing director since. Received commission as King's Printer, which still holds; founded *Newfoundland Gazette*, 1924, and remains proprietor, editor. Organized annual Radio Auction which supports Rotary Sunshine Camp, organized Community Centre for Unemployed, etc. Honored with M.B.E. 1946. Clubs: City, Flying, etc. Soc.: Rotary, Y.M.C.A., etc. Church of England. Liberal. Hobbies: Fishing, hunting. Res.: 50 Bonaventure Ave., St. John's.



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J. GORDON MUIR.

REID BLDG., DUCKWORTH ST.

Connors Thomas expressman American Aerated Water Works h 180 Pleasant

Connors Timothy cooper h 57 Harvey Rd

Connors Timothy mach Parker & Monroe Ltd shoe fcty h Pearce Ave

Connors Capt T J master mariner h 16 Cathedral

Connors William lab Imperial Oil Ltd h 33 Waldegrave

Connors William lab bds 367 Water Conran Mrs Annie wid h 101 Freshwater Rd

Conran John tchr HM Penitentiary h 28 Mayor Ave

Constantine Harry confy 47 Merr meeting Rd h 47 do

Constantine Harry mach Parker Monroe Ltd shoe fcty h Freshwater Valley

Constantine James ships carp h 1 Central

Constantine Leo loco eng Nfld Rly Freshwater Valley

Constantine Peter lab Crosbie & C Ltd h 24 Brazil Sq

Constantine Philip J tlr Royal Store Ltd clothing fcty h 60 Mullock

Constantine Stephen baker Mammy Bakery h Freshwater Valley

Cashin & Company, Ltd.,

.. AUTOMOBILE ..
INSURANCE AGENTS

BUY ACADIA DIESEL ENGINES

CONROY & MUIR barristers & solicitors law offices Reid Bldg Duckworth (see advt)

Conroy Chas O'N KC OBE barr and solic of Conroy & Muir h 50 Bonaventure Ave

Conroy C H BSc asst to chief eng Dept Public Utilities h 50 Bonaventure Ave

Conroy Edward P 2nd asst Govt Analyst h 50 Bonaventure Ave

Conroy Miss Elfrida M stenog Conroy & Muir h 50 Bonaventure Ave

Conroy Mrs Elizabeth BA barr and solic office Reid Bldg Duckworth h 46 Bonaventure Ave

Conroy Louis O'N MD CM health officer Public Health Clinic h 50 Bonaventure Ave

Constantine Miss Gertrude tlrs Royal Stores Ltd clothing fcty h 60 Mullock

Constantine Stephen tlr Nfld Clothing Co Ltd h 52 Charlton

CONSULS

HM Trade Commissioner for Nfld i London D J Davies CBE BS FGS 58 Victoria St London SW

HM Trade Commissioner to Nfld F F Gurney 1111 Beaver Hall Hill Montreal Quebec

Imperial Trade Correspondent H V Hutchings secty for Customs of fice HM Custom House Duckworth Street St John's Nfld

American Consulate General consu general H B Quarton office Commercial Chambers Water

Belgian Consulate consul Hon R I Job office Job Bros & Co Ltd Job's Cove Water

Brazilian Vice Consulate vice consu Geo R Williams office Williams Bldg 144 Water

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PHOTOGRAPHY
AT ITS
FINEST

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Bonaventure Avenue



#48

Occupant: Robert & Francis Furlong
Date Built: 1950-1960
Style: Split level bungalow
Architect:
Renovations:



#50

Occupant: Presentation
Mother House
Date Built: 1900's
Style: Second Empire
Architect:
Renovations:



#52

Occupant: Nfld. Brewery Ltd.
Date Built: 1892
Style: Queen Anne
Architect:
Renovations:



#54

Occupant: Nfld. Brewery Ltd.
Date Built: 1892-1914
Style: Queen Anne
Architect:
Renovations:



Find YOUR Adventure from Bonaventure

History

Describe the history of structure, past, present and Proposed Use

Section 3

- Estimated date of build: 1905
- Built for family home for the Charles O'Neill Conroy family (Please see supporting documentation following). The home was named 'Raheen' an Irish word meaning 'A Peoples Place'.
- 1946: Willed/left to (?) The Order of the Presentation Sisters upon death of Charles O'Neill Conroy
- 1960-1968 Sisters of Assumption Convent (Presentation Sisters) (Please see supporting documentation following) (Baby House to the Mother House located beside Basilica)
- 1968 Acquired by Margaret Dunn, of Margaret Dunn Cosmetics, in which the Canadian band April Wine got their start from the basement Please see supporting documentation following)
- 1974 (?) Reacquired by The Presentations Sisters of NL
- 2019 February 22 - Purchased from The Order of the Presentation Sisters by Georgetown Inn Inc. (Cynthia & John Purtill)

At some point in time during the life of this building, three additions were added to the original footprint of the structure. A front entry vestibule; the extension of the back dining & original kitchen area, and then addition of a back boardroom, 2 piece bath and second side entrance. An exterior set of stairs was added at some point (Please see supporting documentation following), which has been removed. A fire escape from both the third and second floors was also added to the rear of the property at some time.

Prior to the purchase by the Purtill's, an extensive renovation, interior and exterior was done by the sisters to upgrade the property to code, for selling purposes. Since the Purtill's acquirement, 3 bathrooms; 2 shower stalls in existing bathrooms; laundry room and basement hallway have been added to a modified existing space. (Please see supporting documentation following.)

The Presentation Sisters not only lived in this house: it was used as a place of worship; a meeting place of community leaders; a gathering place; a refuge for families needing help and children needing respite.

Cont...



Find YOUR Adventure from Bonaventure.

History

Section 3

Describe the history of structure, past, present and Proposed Use Continued:

0 Bonaventure Avenue now serves as The Georgestown Inn, a bed & breakfast Inn, and home to the Purtil's. The Inn provides an opportunity for the heritage and original features to be preserved and maintained, and for others to share in the history and culture of the home. A custom stained glass window was commissioned by the Sisters, and installed just prior to the selling of the property, and is a featured item of the home. The name of the Inn was chosen to pay homage to the heritage area in which it resides.

The Georgestown Inn is fully compliant with licensing with the City of St. John's; SJFD; the Province of NL & Canada Select as a 6 bed Inn.

A City of St. John's award for preserving, or restoring the original character of a building in Heritage Area 2 was granted jointly to The Presentation Sisters & Purtil's in February of 2020.

It has always been a People's Place, and the intention is that the property continues in this vein. The proposed use we would like to add to the current use as a bed & breakfast Inn is to open a Tea Room. We would like to use the open area of the kitchen and back Parlour as the dining room to host High Tea, and can potentially host 24 persons or 6 tables of 4. We would like to offer one scheduled sitting at 3pm, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday's, from October 1 to June 1, only – total of 33 weekends. Sittings will be by prior reservation only. We do not want to be a restaurant, rather a Tea Room that is opened off season from the on season of the Inn. It's to complement our downtown, and keep us busy by using our resources - the house, Cindy's baking & hospitality skills, wisely.

Charles O'Neill Conroy

Charles O'Neill Conroy was a twentieth century Newfoundland solicitor born in Dublin.

Early life

He was born in Dublin in 1871 to James Gervé Conroy, a lineal male-line descendant of Fearfeasa O'Maolchonaire of the Four Masters, and Elizabeth O'Neill, who was the only daughter of Charles Henry (Cáthal Ainrí) Ó Néill, The O'Neill of Clannaboy. He was brought to St. John's, Newfoundland by his parents at 18 months, where his father became a teacher, lawyer, judge, founder of the Irish Catholic newspaper the "St. John's Advertiser", two term MHA for Ferryland and the Avalon Peninsula, and advocate of formal political ties between Ireland and Newfoundland.



O'Neill Conroy family photo

He was educated in St. John's and in London, where he rented a room from Mary, the widow of Dr. Weathers, who was the brother of William Weathers, Bishop of Amyclaw. After returning to Newfoundland, he proposed to Mary's daughter, also Mary, and she and her mother moved to St. John's. He educated William J. Higgins, who would later be his law partner, Speaker of the Newfoundland House of Assembly and a judge.

Career

Conroy worked as a solicitor for the City of Saint John's, and while in that role he launched a writ against the government of Newfoundland to secure funding for the city during the Great Depression. He was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and launched a successful but non-punitive libel lawsuit against a citizen who had been misled by the "orange" element, and was circulating lies regarding the nature of the organisation and a supposed oath, so that future repetitions of the malicious rumours could be prosecuted. He was also Lieutenant-Colonel and commanding officer of the Newfoundland Catholic Cadet Corps. Several pictures survive of him in the Newfoundland archives. He was an avid photographer and salmon fisherman himself, and many of his photographs survive in the Newfoundland Quarterly Journal, particularly of the salmon rivers of Newfoundland. There is a pool named Chas. O'Neill Conroy's Pool after him in the Salmonier River.

Personal life

An only son, he lived at Raheen at 50 Bonaventure Avenue, and left a large family, with several sons and grandsons serving the executive of the Benevolent Irish Society of St. John's.

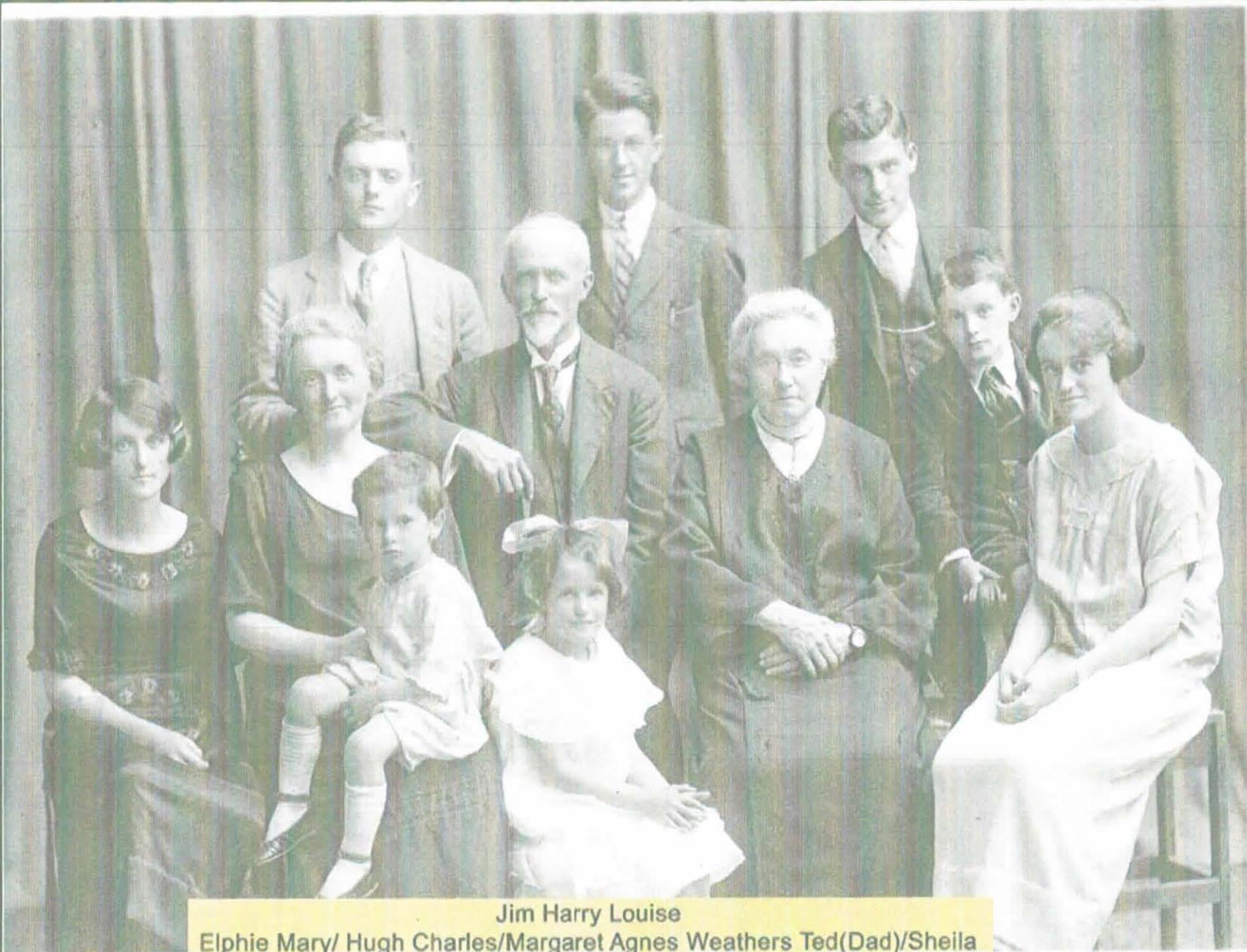
The eldest, James O'Neill Conroy, married Elizabeth Anne McGrath, daughter of James Francis McGrath, whose sons included James M. McGrath and John William McGrath, Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary who was with him at the assassination attempt on him. Jim and Betty had a boy Padre Carlos O'Neill Conroy, who was a Priest in Monsefú and for a time made mayor before he died tragically in 1966 in an auto accident, and a girl Sister Margaret O'Neill Conroy who still teaches in Uganda



Family tree of the O'Neill Conroys of Newfoundland and Canada, descended

[More details](#)

👤 Sir Bernard Burke - Arms Authorised by the Laws of Heraldry



Jim Harry Louise
Elphie Mary/ Hugh Charles/Margaret Agnes Weathers Ted(Dad)/Sheila

Charles O'Neill Conroy, wife Mary Agnes (née Weathers) and the O'Neill Conroys.

[More details](#)

Rían Ó Maolchonaire - Own work

A House named "Tearmann"

96 years at 46 Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's, NL

The Neighbourhood

Georgetown, St. John's first suburb, began to be developed in the early 1800s, starting in the Hayward Avenue/Fleming Street area, followed by subdivisions in the Hayward/Mullock Ave and Catherine/William St. areas. The suburb eventually extended the "Old Town" of St. John's from Military Road north to Empire Avenue, including Bonaventure Avenue.

46 Bonaventure

Mary (Minnie) Aylward McGrath, prominent Water Street business woman, had the house built (for \$5,000.00!) in 1917. Her businesses included the Tremont Hotel, one of the City's fashionable hotels in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and the nearby Osborne House.

At the time of its construction, 46 Bonaventure was on the northern fringe of the city. Belvedere Orphanage, convent and farm lay across the field to the west and development was proceeding to the east, but land to the north was largely rural and agricultural.

Mary was the third wife of James Francis McGrath (1859 – 1902), politician and Governor of the Newfoundland Penitentiary. They were married in 1896 and had three children; Margaret, born in 1897, who died of polio at the age of nine, Elizabeth Anne (Betty), born in 1900, who married Lawyer James O'Neil Conroy and later became Newfoundland's second female lawyer, and James Michael Francis (1902-1975), medical doctor and politician, who raised his family, first in the town of St. Mary's, then at 44 Bonaventure Avenue.



26 - Mary McGrath
Jim's mother

Mary finished rearing her children at 46 Bonaventure and remained there until her death in 1942 (in her late years, the dining room became her bedroom). Her daughter Betty lived for a time next door with her in-laws at 50 Bonaventure Avenue (now home of the



Evening Telegram, July 24, 1935

Presentation Sisters). Following the death of her husband James in 1931, Betty, at the early age of 33, passed her law exams and took over his law office. She then lived for a short time at 46 Bonaventure with her two children, Charlie and Margie.

Both Charlie and Margie would distinguish themselves as missionaries abroad (and Margie continues to do so). Charlie became a Franciscan Reverend and served in South America for six years. He was Mayor of Monsefú in northern Peru before his untimely death at age 38 in a motor vehicle accident, in 1966. Margie has served the under-

privileged as a Religious of the Sacred Heart Sisters in Uganda and Kenya, remarkably, since 1971 through very trying times that have seen repressive regimes and civil wars. At age 82, she has vivid memories of 46 Bonaventure Avenue, despite having lived there for only a few of her early years.

Margie's first cousin Margaret (Conroy) Henley lived at 46 Bonaventure during WWII with her three small children while her husband Ted was serving overseas. Their youngest child, Peter, died of tuberculosis during this time. After living in Gander for a period, they returned to St. John's, bought 44 Bonaventure from the McGraths and finished rearing their family there.

46 Bonaventure was sold to Robert and Douglas Templeton in 1947, and they lived there for the next 28 years, rearing their 4 daughters. During this time, Robert was co-owner of R.A. Templeton's Ltd, the long established Water Street business. He was also an avid gardener and collector of rare books on Newfoundland and Labrador, some of which were unfortunately burnt in a fire at the Water Street premises.

The Templetons sold the property to Rosalie Fowler and Ian MacDonald, Memorial University Professor, in the mid-1970s. Ian died on Christmas Day, 1978 and Rosalie subsequently moved to Corner Brook. In 1979, she sold the property to Dennis and Susan Knight.

Seventeen years earlier, in September, 1962, Susan (Dyer) Knight was preparing to move to Montreal to attend the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing. The evening before her departure, her friend Kathryn Templeton hosted a surprise going away party for her at 46 Bonaventure. In 1979, Susan returned to the house as the owner.

Over the next 34 years, Susan and Dennis raised their family in the house. They named it *Tearmann*, Irish for Refuge. Dennis operated a consulting business there and Susan went back to school, starting at Memorial University, then St. Paul's University in Minnesota and finishing with her doctorate at the University of London. She was a music teacher, founded Shallaway and Festival 500 and, in 2012, was appointed the Chancellor of Memorial University.

Ninety-six years after its construction, Mary McGrath's creation stands proud within an extended neighbourhood which includes The Rooms, Memorial University and the historic downtown. It has been a refuge for six families and stands ready for the next chapter.

D. Knight
26 May, 2013

April Wine

April Wine is a Canadian rock band formed in 1969 and based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The band enjoyed international success in the 1970s and 1980s, releasing more than 20 albums since 1971.^{[1][2]}

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History

Early years

Although April Wine officially began in late 1969 in Waverley, Nova Scotia, their roots can be traced back to St. John's Newfoundland in 1967/68. David and Ritchie Henman moved there when their father took a job at a local furrier company, Mitchell Furs. They would be heard jamming in a house on the corner of Bonaventure Avenue and Fleming Street in St. John's before relocating to Nova Scotia.^{[3][4]} The original members were brothers David Henman on guitar and Ritchie Henman on drums. Their cousin Jim Henman joined in on bass and Myles Goodwyn completed the sound on lead vocals and guitar. The band quickly realized that Halifax did not provide immediate opportunities to play and record, so the band sent a demo tape to Aquarius Records. Company managers Terry Flood and Donald K. Tarlton returned a rejection letter but the members mistook it

April Wine



April Wine in concert in 2008

Background information

Origin	Waverley, Nova Scotia, Canada
Genres	Hard rock
Years active	1969–1986, 1992–present
Labels	Aquarius, MCA, Capitol
Website	www.aprilwine.ca (http://www.aprilwine.ca)

Members	Myles Goodwyn Brian Greenway Richard Lanthier Roy Nichol
Past members	Jim Henman David Henman Ritchie

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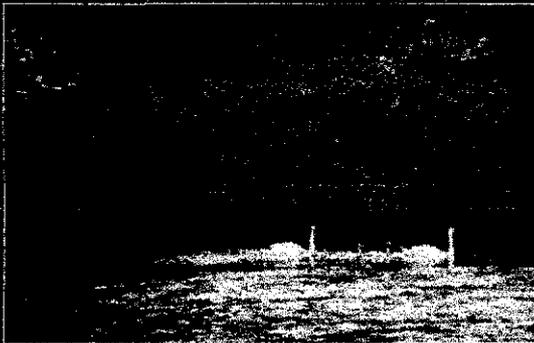
Presentation Sisters



Newfoundland and Labrador
Canada

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*Blackwater Valley, Ballygriffin, Ireland,
Nano's birth place*

from Ireland to
Newfoundland
with an ocean
in between



*The Narrows,
entrance to St. John's harbour*

In the early 18th century new seeds of God's creative dream were planted in the heart of a young Irish woman named Nano Nagle who went on to become the Foundress of the Presentation Sisters in Ireland in 1776.



"She was a woman who, in her simplicity, dared greatly...
 dared to let herself be guided by the Spirit of God.
 And when he, like some will o' the wisp on the mountains,
 led her from the warmth of what was safe and comfortable,
 out past the four walls of what was "enough" and "reasonable",
 away from the security of the familiar, tried and proven,
 she followed with laughter in her heart.
 For she had caught a glimpse of the Divine delight
 in reversing human logic, in drawing power from weakness,
 wisdom from folly, life from death.
 In this lay her strength.

This is Nano Nagle."

— Raphael Consedine PVBVM

Four pioneering Sisters among Nano's followers, Sisters Bernard Kirwin, Magdalen O'Shaughnessy, Xavier Maloney and Xaverius Lynch, carried her vision and spirit to the shores of Newfoundland in 1833. They came at the invitation of Bishop Michael Fleming to establish a school that would offer improved educational opportunity for girls and young women in St. John's. Nano's vision had birthed a response

that was both broad and penetrating. For the next 175 years our sisters continued to respond to this call. Academic learning, spiritual development/religious education and a deep appreciation for the arts and music were central to our education ministry among students, teachers and parents.



Mother Bernard Kirwan, Sister Magdalene O'Shaughnessy, Sister Xavier Maloney and Sister Xaverius Lynch

Nano's spirit, the spirit of these first four women and those who followed them, continue to guide us as we endeavour in new ways to meet today's emerging needs.

Presentation Sisters, P.O. Box 2100, St. John's, NL A1C 5R6, CANADA

Telephone (709) 753-8340

Email Sister Lois Greene



Find YOUR Adventure from Bonaventure

Structural Changes Section 4

The original footprint of the property is still here. At some point, the addition of a front entrance vestibule; an extension of the back dining room & kitchen, and addition of a board room, half bath and side entrance were added to the original footprint.

The ceiling in the dining room shows where the extension of the back of the house was added, and the rooms on each floor above were included in this extension. Continuance of the plaster work to maintain the original ceiling look in the dining room, and the concrete basement wall extension is what allows the knowledge of this. We anticipate this was prior to the Convent days, due to the lathe and plasterwork of the walls. (Please see attached supporting documentation).

Georgetown Inn
50 Bonaventure Ave.
Heritage Designation App.

Current
Front
door

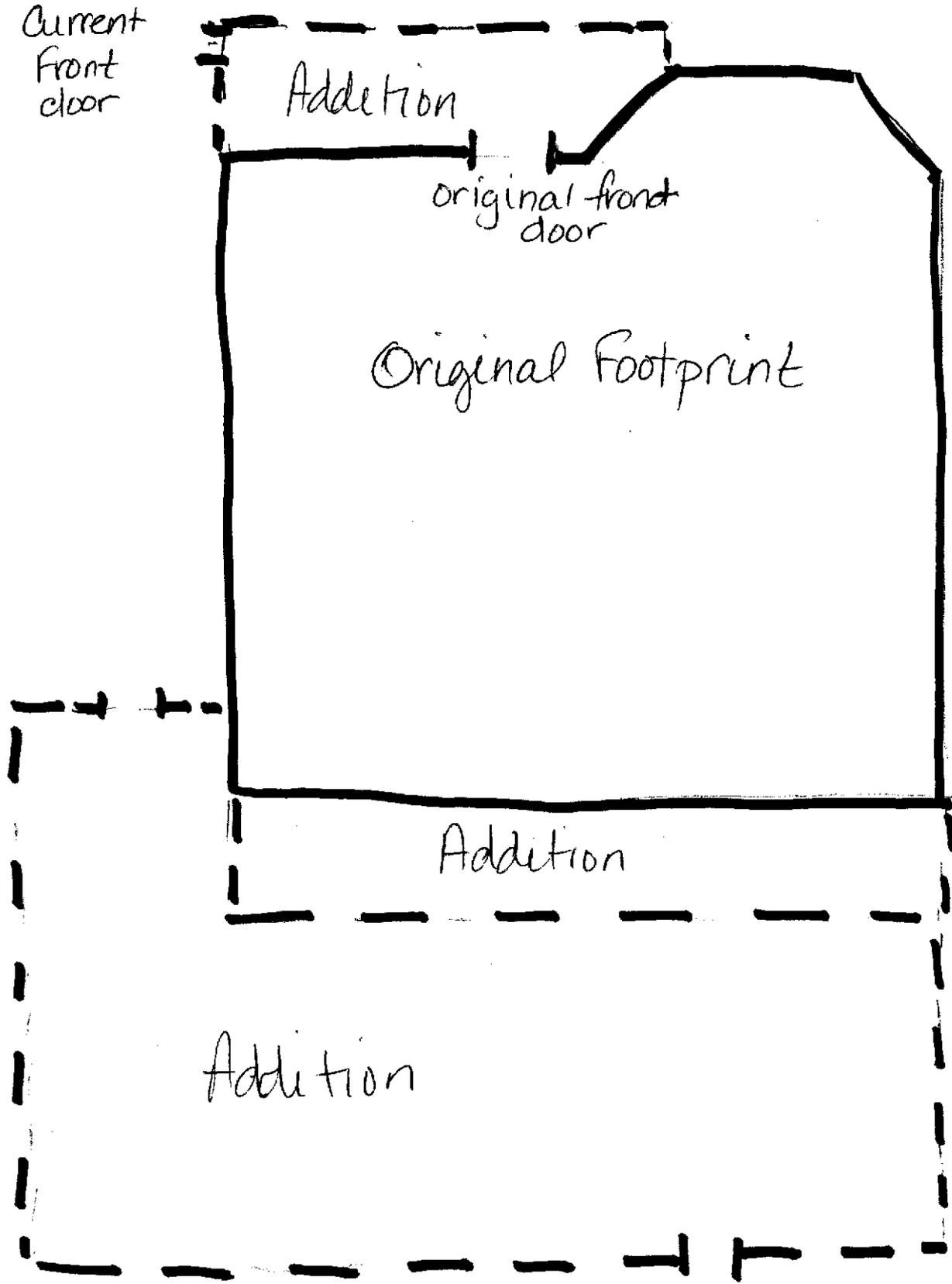
Addition

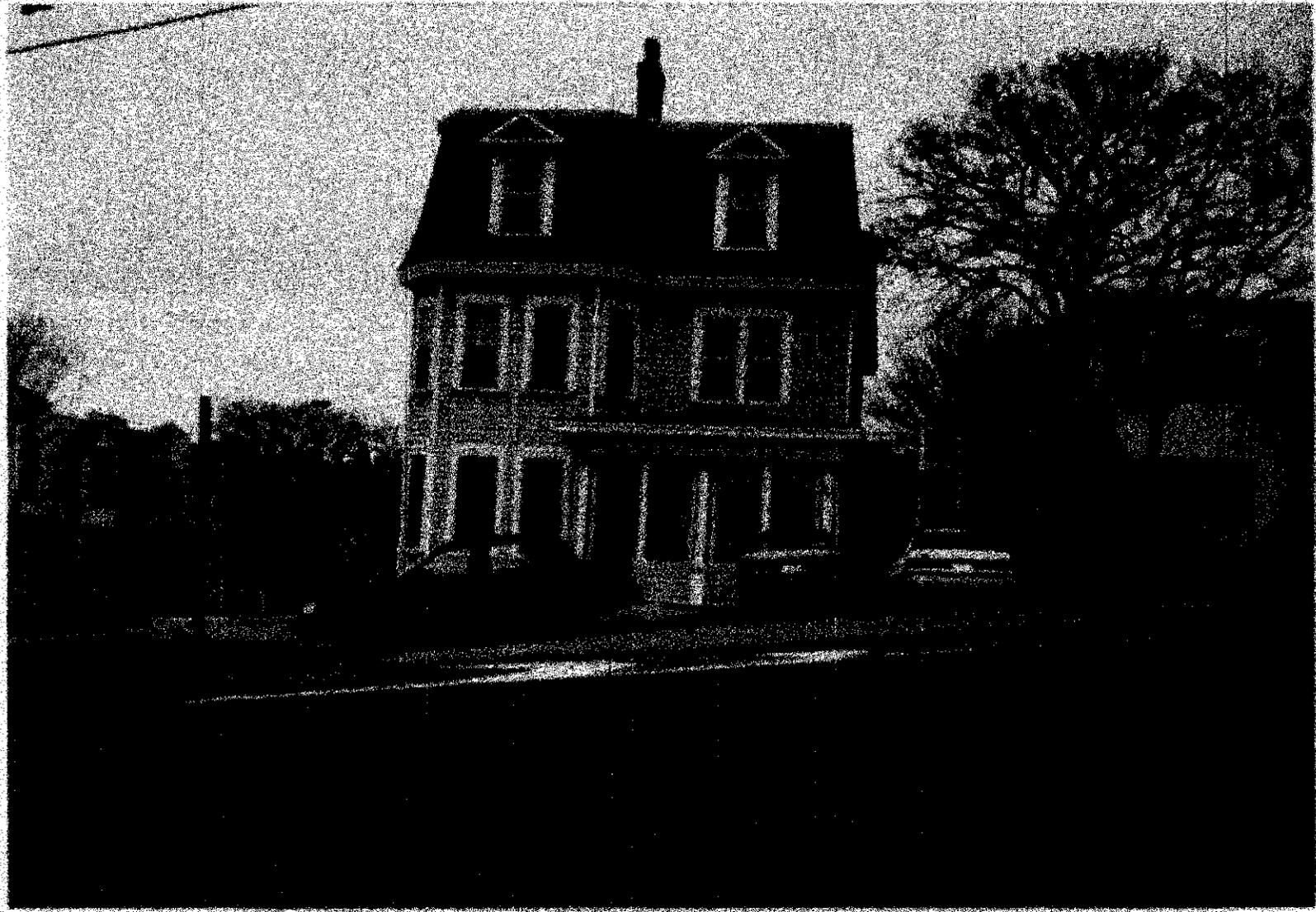
original front
door

Original Footprint

Addition

Addition







Find YOUR Adventure from Bonaventure

Architectural Details & Setting

Section 5

Describe noteworthy features and details about the property. Is this considered a landmark; why?

Located in Heritage area 2, in historic Georgetown, 50 Bonaventure Avenue is a mansard roofed house, which has maintained its original window profile. A three story Edwardian, built circa 1905, the house may include an interior Southcott staircase. 4 original marble fireplaces – one embossed with the original family crest - remain including the original clay chimney pots; have been Wett Certified, and are working.

Once considered the Baby House to the Mother House or Convent of the Presentation Sisters, the property is located steps from the Basilica, Holy Heart of Mary High School; Brother Rice Intermediate School; St. Bonaventure's College, among others.

Positioned right on the corner of Fleming Street, 50 Bonaventure Avenue is a well-known landmark that looms into view as the gateway property to the first settled area – Georgetown, named after George Winter - of historic St. John's.