

## Statement of Significance



### **172 Campbell Avenue**

#### **Formal Recognition Type**

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

#### **Description of Historic Place**

172 Campbell Avenue is a two-storey wooden dwelling located near the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Ropewalk Lane in St. John's, NL. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

#### **Heritage Value**

172 Campbell Avenue has been designated because of its aesthetic and historic values.

172 Campbell Avenue achieves aesthetic value because it is an excellent surviving example of an early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century single-detached structure, built in the Colonial Revival style of architecture. The structure is one of the last remaining original dwellings in this area that was developed at a time when the City was expanding away from the downtown.

Features of this style include: a square footprint with a hipped roof, prominent front portico with pediment and columns, a porch which spans the entire front façade, symmetrical placement of windows, a centered front door with sidelights and transom,

narrow clapboard, and single-hung windows. Typical of Colonial Revival, there is limited ornamentation, but the house does include small modillions beneath the eaves, stained-glass windows on the side porch, and some decorative woodwork on the corner boards and window trims. The structure has been renovated over the years but remains generally unchanged. Recent upgrades to the windows and cladding replicate the original home, and all concrete and masonry were repaired using original moulds.

172 Campbell Avenue has historic value because of its association with William Duff, the original builder and owner, and his daughter, Elizabeth Duff. William Duff ran a well-known commercial garage next to 172 Campbell Avenue, then called Mundy Pond Road. Mr. Duff and family lived above the garage from 1932 to 1937 while he built their home during his free time. The home was completed in 1938 - as written in the concrete along the property boundary. Their family included Mr. Duff, his wife Catherine Duff and their three children, William Jr., Mary Catherine, and Elizabeth.

Mr. Duff's daughter Elizabeth (or Bettie) made significant impacts in the province and was a pioneer for the woman's movement in Newfoundland and Labrador. Ms. Duff served a long career as a civil servant, starting as private secretary to Premier Joseph Smallwood for 23 years, then taking on executive assistant roles. In 1977, she was appointed the Clerk of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly, a position which she held until retiring in 1991. She was the first female Clerk of the House of Assembly and the first female clerk of any legislative body in Canada. Ms. Duff lived at 172 Campbell Avenue from the age of a young girl until her death in 2016 at age 90, when she passed away on her birthday. Following her death, Ms. Duff was honoured by tributes in the NL House of Assembly and the Senate of Canada.

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

### **Character Defining Elements**

All elements that define the building's Colonial Revival design including:

- square footprint with a hipped roof
- prominent front portico with pediment and columns
- porch which spans the entire front façade
- symmetrical placement of windows
- centered front door with sidelights and transom
- narrow clapboard
- single-hung windows
- small modillions beneath the eaves
- stained-glass windows on the side porch
- decorative woodwork on the corner boards and window trims

## Location and History

<b>Community</b>	St. John's
<b>Municipality</b>	City of St. John's
<b>Civic Address</b>	172 Campbell Avenue
<b>Construction</b>	1938
<b>Builder</b>	William Diff
<b>Style</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Building Plan</b>	Square

## Additional Photos:





Heritage Building Designation

PROPERTY LOCATION

Civic Address:

Applicant Name:

Phone (h)

(c)

Mailing Address:

Email:

ARCHITECTURE (maximum 35)

SECTION A

	E	VG	G	F/P
1. Style:	20	10	5	0
2. Construction:	15	8	4	0
3. Age:	10	8	5	0
4. Architect:	8	4	2	0
5. Design:	8	4	2	0
6. Interior:	4	2	1	0
<b>Sub Total</b>				

HISTORY (maximum 35)

SECTION B

7. Person:	25	10	5	0
8. Event:	15	8	4	0
9. Context:	10	5	2	0
<b>Sub Total</b>				

ENVIRONMENT (maximum 15)

SECTION C

10. Continuity:	5	3	1	0
11. Setting:	5	3	1	0
12. Landmark:	5	3	1	0
<b>Sub Total</b>				

INTEGRITY (maximum 15)

SECTION D

13. Site:	5	3	1	0
14. Alterations:	5	3	2	0
15. Condition:	5	3	2	0
<b>Sub Total</b>				

**TOTAL SCORE**

SIGNATURE

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

E - Excellent

VG - Very Good

G - Good

F/P - Fair/Poor

1938

















JUN • 65 •



Page 3, 172 Campbell Avenue:

History of the house from Page 1 of Application:

Built over the span of 1932 to 1937, the history of the house is that of the Duff family - William and Catherine Duff. They had 3 children, William Jr., Mary Catherine and Elizabeth.

The family owned most of the land in the Ropewalk Lane area, which was mostly farm and industrial land.

William ran a machine shop on the adjoining property, where they lived upstairs above the machine shop, while in his off time he built the house over a span of 5 years.

He honoured the history of ships and shipping in Newfoundland by fashioning fixtures and designs to replicate a ship, even including starboard light in the kitchen.

Elizabeth moved into the house with her family, as a young girl, and spent the rest of her life there, watching her neighbourhood, her city and the world change over the years, until her death in 2016 at the age of 90, when she passed away on her birthday.

Elizabeth was part of the change happening around her. Unknowingly, she was a pioneer for the women's movement, a woman ahead of her time. She was the first female Clerk of the House of Assembly in Newfoundland Labrador; and indeed the first female clerk of any legislative body in all of Canada.



NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR  
**HISTORIC TRUST**  
— est 1966 —

July 15, 2020

Mayor Danny Breen  
Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O’Leary  
Councillors Burton, Collins, Froude, Hanlon, Hickman, Jamieson, Korab, Lane, and Stapleton  
City of St. John’s  
P.O. Box 908  
St. John’s, NL A1C 5M2

Re: 172 Campbell Avenue Heritage Designation

Dear Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O’Leary, and Councillors Burton, Collins, Froude, Hanlon, Hickman, Jamieson, Korab, Lane, and Stapleton:

We write to express our support for the Heritage Designation of 172 Campbell Avenue.

The house possesses architectural merit, as a fine example of early twentieth century residential architecture. It is one of the last remaining such examples in this part of St. John’s.

Additionally, 172 Campbell Avenue warrants designation for its historic value, as the lifelong residence of Elizabeth Duff, daughter of original owner William Duff. Ms. Duff was the first female Clerk of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly, a position she held from 1977 until her retirement in 1991. Notably, she was the first female Clerk of any legislature or parliament in all of Canada.

For its architectural significance and its connection to an important figure in provincial and national women’s history, we strongly encourage the Heritage Designation of 172 Campbell Avenue.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust

*The Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust is dedicated to the preservation of the province’s buildings and landscapes and their importance to communities.*

**PO Box 2403, St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1C 6E7**  
**coordinator@historictrust.ca**  
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To Whom It May Concern,

The St. John's Status of Women's Council supports the designation of 172 Campbell Avenue as a Heritage site. We recognize the contribution of this home to the architectural heritage of the area, and understand the importance of preserving its future through a Heritage Designation. The unique interior and exterior of this home have been maintained for decades, all the while honouring the history of the home. Particularly in recent years, the home has been refurbished by Brace Holdings Inc.

We acknowledge the service of Elizabeth Duff, who was born and raised in this home. She remained there until her passing in 2016, when she was 90 years old. Elizabeth was the first female Clerk of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador, making her the first female clerk of any legislative assembly in Canada.

We support the application for Heritage Designation and acknowledge that this is an important step toward protecting a piece of the city's history, both with regards to the architectural heritage as well as heritage of the women's community.

Thank you for considering this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Winters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Winters

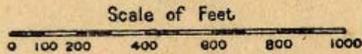
Executive Director,

St. John's Status of Women Council

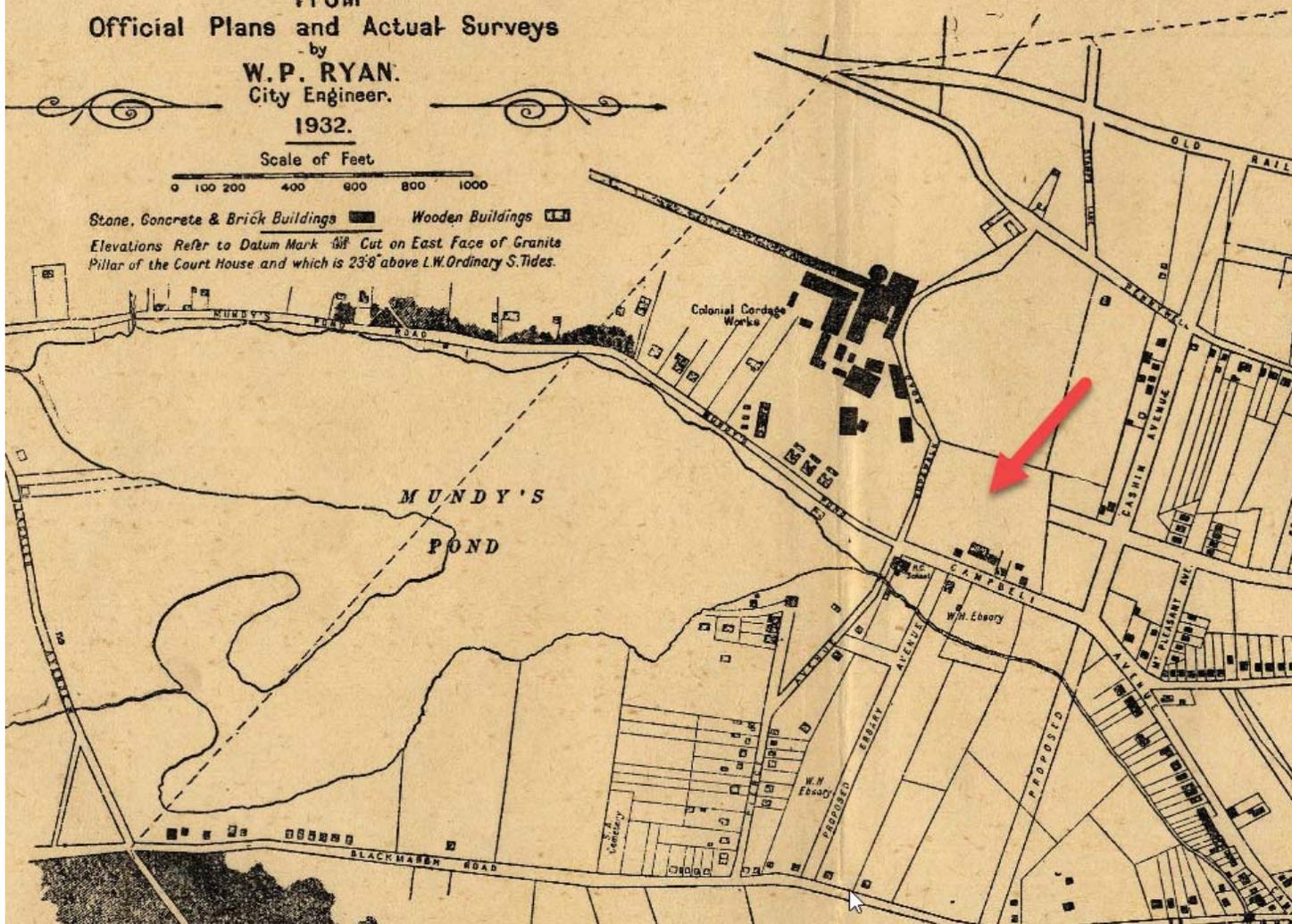
[laura@sjwomenscentre.ca](mailto:laura@sjwomenscentre.ca)

# NEWFOUNDLAND.

From  
Official Plans and Actual Surveys  
by  
**W.P. RYAN.**  
City Engineer.  
1932.



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**D**

- 709—Duff, D. P., Residence, LeMarchant Road.  
2646—Duff, Edward, Cooper, Brine Street.  
2860W—Duff, Edward, Residence, 70 Monroe St., City.  
3057M—Duff, Edward P., Residence, Kenmount Road.  
1721—Duff, J. J., Res., "Thornlea", Waterford Bridge Road.  
1996R—Duff, John, Residence, Freshwater Road.  
2394—DUFF, MICHAEL J., GARAGE, LeMarchant Road W.  
2773W—Duff, Michael, Res, Mundy Pond Road.  
1814—Duff, Peter M., Res., Military Road.,  
2112—DUFF, WM., GARAGE, Mundy Pond Road.  
3008J—Duffett, Mrs. Alex., Residence, 37 Spencer St.  
2006—Duffett, Mrs. E., Store, Spencer Street.  
2476—Duffett, J., Res., Quidi Vidi Road.  
937—Duffy, A. M., Office, Muir Building, Water St.  
3255R—Duffy, Mrs. M., Res., LeMarchant Road.  
852—Duffy, A. V., Grocer, Corner Patrick and Pleasant Sts.  
2097J—Duffy, J. P., Mrs., Res., Bell St.  
2738W—Duggan, Miss Mary, York Street.  
483—Duley, T. J., & Co., Jewellers, Water Street.  
505—Duley, Mrs. T. J., Residence, Rennie's Mill Road.  
577—DUN, R. G. & CO., Office, Bank of Montreal Building.  
1188—DUN, R. G. & CO., Office, Bank of Montreal Building.  
260—Dunfield, Brian, Res., Waterford Bridge Road.  
2514J—Dunn, Mr. Frank D., Residence, 1 Leslie St.  
1776R—Dunn, Henry, Res., Hayward Avenue.  
2273—Dunn, James, Res., Hayward Avenue.

THE ROYAL STORES, LTD.—For everything in House Furnishings.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**MR. SPEAKER (Osborne):** Order, please!

Admit strangers.

I welcome to the Speaker's gallery Mr. Joseph Janson and Mrs. Margaret Janson – and I'll explain a little later why they're in our public gallery, but I will say that they were here once before in the 1970s. So welcome back.

We have two new Pages in the House of Assembly today. Mr. Mohammed Ali Bakshi, he's a native of Kabul, Afghanistan, who is pursuing a master's in educational leadership at Memorial University.

Welcome.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** And Ms. Tresha Moorhouse, a native of Walkers Wood, Jamaica, who is also pursuing a master's of educational leadership at Memorial University.

Welcome.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** And welcome back as well to Crystal Snelgrove, who is now our senior Page.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Elizabeth Duff, former Clerk of this House of Assembly, who recently passed away.

Ms. Duff, known to most as Bettie, had a long career with our civil service. She was private secretary to Premier Joseph Smallwood for 23 years, following which she served as executive assistant within the government, and then within the House of Assembly and Speaker Gerald Ottenheimer.

In 1977, she was appointed as Clerk of this House, a position which she held until her retirement in 1991. Ms. Duff was well-respected by all parties.

It is notable, that Ms. Duff was the first female Clerk of any legislature or parliament in all of Canada. During her tenure as Clerk she became well-known throughout the British Commonwealth parliamentary circles and is fondly remembered for her achievement as Clerk and for her graciousness and mentorship at all times.

Bettie passed peacefully away on August 28 of this year, her 90th birthday, having spent the day celebrating with her family.

In particular, she leaves behind her nephew, Joseph Jansen, his wife, Margie, who works in the Office of the Legislative Counsel, and their three children, Joseph, Meghan and Maria, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family in the United States who all miss her greatly.

We pay tribute to Bettie.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

# The Late Bettie Duff

**Hon. Fabian Manning:** Honourable senators, after a short absence in order to conduct some necessary research, today I'm pleased to present chapter 23 of "Telling Our Story." I also would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate Ms. Nicole Proulx on her appointment as the first female clerk of the Senate of Canada.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the last province to enter Confederation, but it holds the title to a very important Canadian first.

Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly has the honour and distinction of having the first female clerk of any legislature or Parliament in Canada. Ms. Elizabeth Duff, fondly referred to as "Bettie," became the Clerk of the House of Assembly in 1977 and held that position until her retirement in 1991. During her long years of service, Bettie worked for four premiers, including our first, Joseph R. Smallwood, five different Speakers and experienced four general elections.

In her role as the Clerk of the House of Assembly, Bettie had the total respect of all parties and was much-admired for her graciousness and wonderful sense of humour.

(1410)

She had the ability to foster an atmosphere of healthy and respectful debate on the important issues in our province. Many former members of the House of Assembly have commented on the valued guidance and support Bettie provided during her time as Clerk.

When a reporter from the *Daily News* asked her about her work in November of 1981, she replied, "The job as Clerk was challenging and different from anything that I ever did before. I'm really enjoying it."

Her career previous to becoming Clerk of the House of Assembly was equally interesting. She was private secretary to Premier Joey Smallwood for 23 years and then held executive assistant positions within the government as well as in the House of Assembly with Speaker Gerald Ottenheimer before becoming Clerk.

When asked about Duff, Smallwood stated that he had only the utmost respect for her "after 23 years of absolutely magnificent work and dependability," and that "she was privy to more government secrets than almost anyone else." Ottenheimer also spoke highly of her, stating that she was "extremely intelligent and loyal, with a good sense of responsibility and a good sense of humour."

Upon her retirement in 1991, Premier Clyde Wells paid tribute, noting that Bettie "has served the entire House, both sides and the middle, quite well," as he acknowledged her tremendous record of service.

In her personal life, Duff had a lifelong interest in photography and travel, and she was a dedicated member of her local Catholic Church, St. Theresa's Parish, in St. John's.

Bettie Duff passed away on August 28, 2016, on her ninetieth birthday.

I ask all colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to a real Canadian trailblazer, a wonderful lady who is fondly remembered and indeed an important part of our history — Ms. Bettie Duff.

[*Translation*]