

Local Properties Designated As Registered Heritage Structures

St. John's, NL Nov 13, 2007 – The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) has designated two properties on the Bonavista Peninsula as Registered Heritage Structures.

Dale Jarvis, Heritage Preservation Officer says that “The William Pardy Property in Bonavista and Billy Wheeler House in Keels were approved in the final round of considerations by the Foundation for 2007. HFNL approved 13 structures for designation, and granted \$178,000 to 16 Registered Heritage Structures in 2007.”

The William Pardy Property is located on a hill overlooking Bonavista and the ocean. Enclosed by a fence the property includes 3 original outbuildings: a barn, a workshop and a root cellar. A traditional vegetable garden is located on the site, and all are overlooked by a two-storey Mansard-roofed house. “The house displays features typically found in the Bonavista area, including gable roundels, brackets and rounded-dormer windows. The house and its outbuildings were constructed by William Pardy circa 1887 and the property has remained in the family since it was built”, says Jarvis.

Billy Wheeler house was build by Joseph Wheeler in the late 19th century. His son Billy Wheeler (1891-1964), inherited the house in 1917 . Wheeler is known as one of the premier vernacular furniture makers in Newfoundland. He was also known as an innovative fishing-boat maker. When Billy inherited the house he began to make improvements and craft furniture for the house, including a built-in cupboard that is now being restored. Billy was the one who added the diamond and lozenge designs to the outside of the house (now restored). The pass-through opening between the kitchen and back kitchen also has the diamond motif. The staircase is exceptional, with a curving banister and keyhole design. When Billy Wheeler died in 1964, the house passed to his son, Jack, who lived alone and with very little resources to keep up the house. Most of the furniture that Billy Wheeler made was collected by the Newfoundland Museum following the death of Jack.

“We designate provincially significant buildings twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. The deadline for applications to have a building designated as a Registered Heritage Structure is March 01, 2008.. Additional information and/or applications can also be downloaded from HFNL’s website at www.heritagefoundation.ca

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