FHBRO Number 97-103
St. Andrews, New Brunswick
**Residence**, St. Andrews Biological Station
Brandy Cove Road

The Residence was constructed in 1908, the inaugural year of the St. Andrews Biological Station's operation. It was originally built to house the scientists working at the secluded station, and offer them a library with a reading/sitting room and personal study spaces in each bedroom. It also contained a dining room. The original architect is unknown. In 1923, a major addition was designed by Charles Bruce, Chief Engineer of the Department of Fisheries. By 1944, the Residence was converted to work space. The building is currently used as work and meeting space by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. See FHBRO Building Report 97-1 03.

## Reasons for Designation

The Residence has been designated Classified because of its historical associations, its architectural significance and also for environmental reasons.

The three-and-one-half storey Residence was built in 1908 to serve as the summer quarters for the staff and visiting distinguished scientists. Much of the scientists' work was done in the Residence's library and reading/sitting room, stimulating personal alliances and new ideas. As a result, the Residence is closely linked to the early work of Canada's fisheries research.

Many pioneering and distinguished scientists resided here, among them: Dr. J.J.R. MacLeod, who with Frederick Banting won the Nobel prize for the treatment of diabetes with insulin; Dr. V.A. Huard, who was widely published and was editor of le Naturaliste canadien; Dr. Archibald Knight, credited with inducing the government to establish the St. Andrews and Nanaimo biological stations; Dr. Archibald Macallum, who became the first chairman of the National Research Council, and later was the head of the Biochemistry Department at McGill University.

The Residence is a good example of the Shingle style, a style developed around 1880 and popular into the early decades of the 20th century.

The environmental importance of the building is due to its natural setting within the campus of the station, its location near the operative area of the station, and its significance as the oldest surviving building. The Residence sits at the base of the well-treed hillside, with views to Passamaquoddy Bay and of the operations of the laboratory and fish-holding facility.

## Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Residence resides in its well-executed Shingle style design and in its setting near the base of a treed hillside overlooking the water and the operational components of the station.

With its wide cross-gambrel roof and three-and-one-half storey form, the Residence has a striking presence with a human scale achieved through texture and detailing. The sensitive 1923 addition greatly enlarged the functional space, and the commodious two storey verandah added a gathering place for social and academic functions. Rustic features elaborate the building's simple L-shaped massing. The arrangement/grouping of windows on the 1923 addition contrasts with, yet complements the conservative arrangement of windows on the visible original front facade of what is now a slightly recessed rear wing. The two-storey 1923 verandah, no longer extant, was an important feature that enhanced the building's connection to the ground, eased the transition between interior and exterior spaces, and softened the link between the informal 1923 and formal 1908 front facades.

The Residence's wood framing and sheathing with cedar cladding complement the natural surroundings of its hillside location. The detail in the first and second floor windows, the arrangements of the window and door openings, the natural colour and texture of the materials contribute to the residential character of the building. These elements, characteristic of the Shingle style, should be protected and maintained. With reference to existing, and future, alterations and appendages, the precedents of colour, proportion and material should be respected. Man made materials such as PVC should be resisted, and traditional approaches to meeting requirements (example, wood storm windows to improve thermal performance) should be continued.

The interior spaces of the Residence have retained some of their original components such as wooden ceilings with boxed beams and panelling between; several panelled doors; the original fireplaces in the sitting room and the dining room; and the windows with their hardware. All of these should be maintained as important elements.

The site is heavily wooded, contributing to the residential character, which should be protected.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

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