

Calpin/Myers Property Municipal Heritage Site, Bay Roberts

Description of Historic Place

The Calpin/Myers Property consists of a two-storey wooden house and a one-storey wooden shop. Located in Bay Roberts, NL, the house was constructed in the mid to late 1800s and the shop was built in 1932. The designation is confined to the footprint of the buildings.

Heritage Value

The Calpin/Myers Property is a good surviving example of a mid to late 19th century home and a mid 20th century mercantile premises. The house has a steep gable roof pierced by a low pitch roof, two-storey bay windows, a central stoop porch, narrow wooden clapboard, wide corner boards and wooden eavestroughs. The original house may have had a steep gable roof, with later modifications resulting in its present form. The shop was built in 1932 and served as a general store until the 1960s. It is a representative example of the boomtown style of commercial building. The shop is clad in narrow wooden clapboard, has a central double door topped with a transom window, two large display windows and mock columns on the front corners.

The house is said to have been built in the 1850s by John Hurd. In the late 1800s the house was moved to

its present site and bought by Thomas Calpin. Thomas and his wife Caroline lived at this property until 1916, when they moved in with their daughter Helena Calpin Myers. Thomas and Caroline passed away that same year and Helena later purchased the family home, living there until her death in 1988 at the age of 98. The house is still owned by descendants of Thomas Calpin. The shop was owned and operated by Helena and Roy Myers from 1932 until the early 1940s, and was then operated by Susie Windsor until the early 1960s.

One time resident Thomas Calpin was a local blacksmith and inventor of the Calpin Patent Anchor. In the 1880s, Thomas started to promote his anchor, first by copying it on the back of invoices sent out by his business, and later through promotional tours. The anchor was patented in Canada in 1884 and in 1886 he travelled to the United States and Canada to further promote the anchor. Advertisements for the anchor describe it as "Compact and useful for fishing craft from the largest ship to the smallest dory. Just the thing for trap or trawl anchors and, when on the bottom, cannot be swept or tripped by chains or cables of other crafts, having no stock or top flukes to hitch." Reportedly, the anchor was well received and copies were sent to England, but little else is known of the success of Calpin's invention.



Municipal Heritage Designation by
Town of Bay Roberts
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Debbie O'Rielly
Provincial Registrar
Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador



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