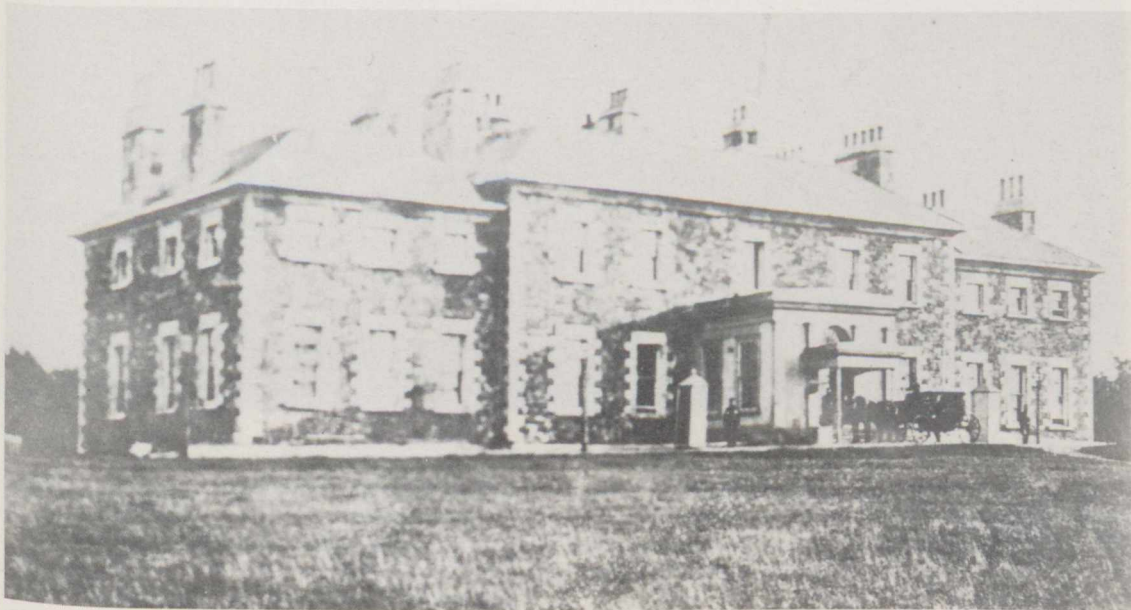


Signal Hill

Across from Pancake Rock—at the other end of the submarine net—is Signal Hill, a national park. It is historic, unique and often breezy, and it overlooks Cape Spear, the most easterly point in North America. (When the Prince and Princess of Wales visited last June the Cape was shrouded in fog.)

The park is rich in the remains of ancient forts and batteries. The ruins of the old hospital building where radio and television were born is nearby. In 1901 Guglielmo Marconi received the first wireless message transmitted across the Atlantic. The hospital, built as a barracks in 1792, caught fire and burned to the foundations in 1920.



Government House

In 1825 Governor Sir Thomas Cochrane decided to build himself a modest residence for £ 8,700. By the time it was completed it had cost the British government £ 40,000 (the equivalent of about \$1.5 million today). It was the most expensive private dwelling in North America, and it has a moat, believed to be the only one around a private dwelling on the continent. The architect in England supposedly confused Newfoundland with the West Indies and put it there to protect the governor from snakes. There are, however, no snakes in Newfoundland. Government House has been the home of the governors and lieutenant governors of Newfoundland for over 150 years.

The Colonial Building

The white limestone Colonial Building on Colonial Street was the seat of government in Newfoundland for over 100 years and the site of at least four major riots.

The legislature first met there in January 1850, and Newfoundland's first bank robbery came nine months later when £ 413 was taken from the savings bank in the basement.

On April 5, 1932, a throng of 3,500 filled the square in front of the building, bands playing and leaders shouting. They demanded that the legislature investigate the behaviour of the Prime Minister, Sir Richard Squires.

Police were dragged from their horses, windows smashed and the front door battered down. Everything except the galleries and chandeliers was destroyed in the upper and lower Houses, and a piano was dragged outside and splintered.

The Prime Minister hid in the basement until 7:30 p.m. when he slipped out to a waiting car. As he drove off he was spotted and the car was stopped by the front gates. Sir Richard leaped from the car, ran into a house across the street and out the back and over a fence into Bannerman Street and thence to Cochrane Street, where he got into another car which carried him to a refuge on Waterford Ridge Road.

An election was called and Sir Richard was, not surprisingly, defeated. He then went into voluntary exile.

As the size of the legislature increased after Confederation, the old building became too small and work was begun on Confederation Building. The last legislative session in the Colonial Building was held in July 1959.