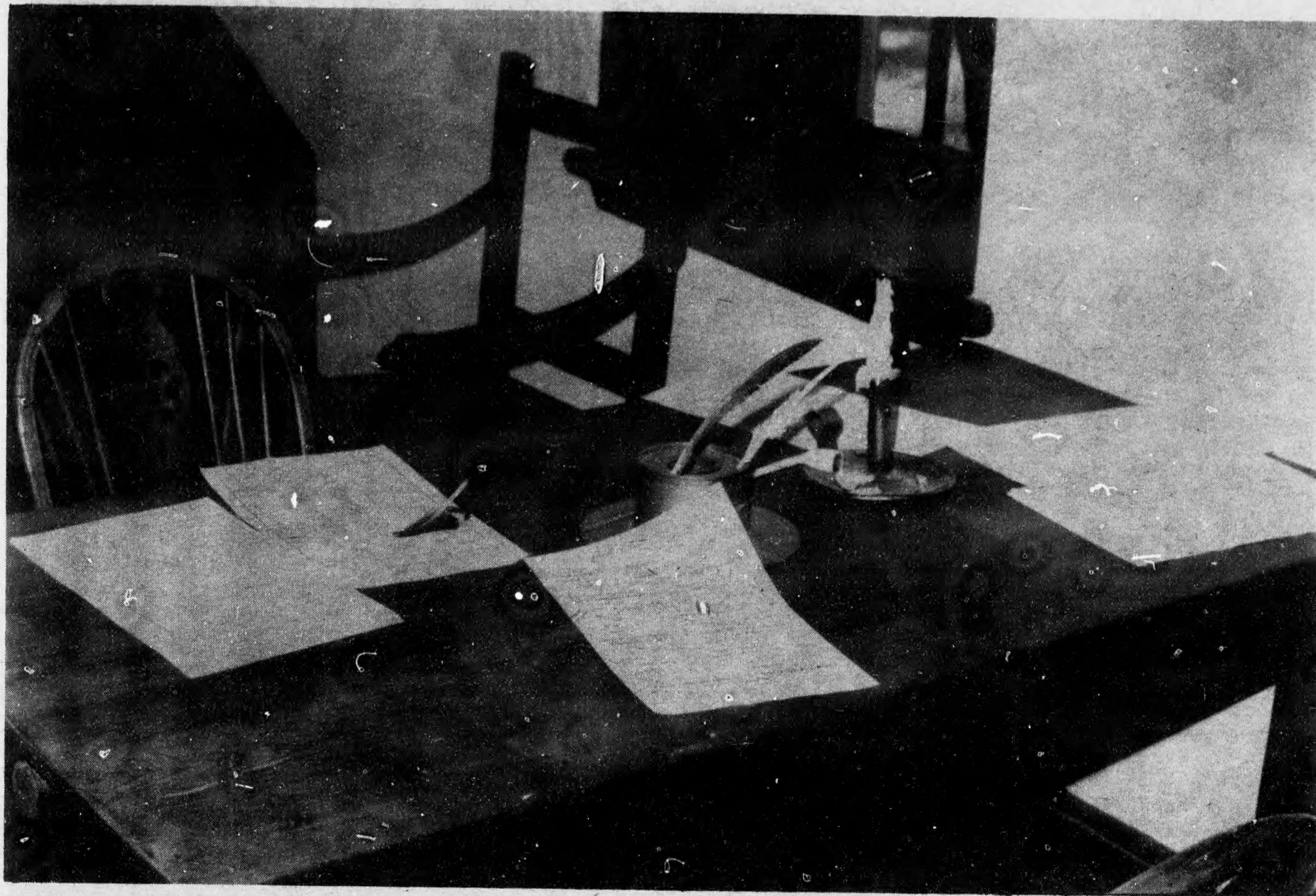


## Fredericton Guard House opens Saturday



*This is an example of the care that has been taken in refurbishing the Fredericton Guard House. The Guard House, situated on Carleton Street just behind the Bank of Montreal, opens at a ceremony tomorrow at 3 p.m.*

by Sheelagh Russell

On Saturday, September 25, 1971, the newly restored and furnished Guard House in Fredericton will open to the public. The official opening is set for 3 p.m. on that day, with the Honourable Jean Chretien officiating. Also present will be the Honourable Lorne McGuigan, Dr. George MacBeth, the deputy minister of the historical resources association, and other dignitaries. A guard and band from the royal Canadian regiment will take part in the ceremonies. Following the opening a reception in the armoury will be held. The public is invited to attend.

The restoration of the guard house, which is found on Carleton Street just back of the Bank of Montreal, culminates about two years of actual physical restoration, and much time also in researching. Researching began in 1969, mostly with the use of the public records offices in London, England and Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Ottawa archives and the New Brunswick Museum. The actual restoration took place between May and November, 1960 and from May of this year. The work is under the directorship of Mr. David Webber of the Historical Resources Administration, under the joint auspices of the Historical Resources Administration, the National Historic Service, and the Military Compound Board.

The building was completed in 1828, to replace a building built in 1825. There were two previous buildings before the current one. It was the first masonry guard house to be built in Fredericton, although masonry had

been used in the hospital built where the Queen Street High School now stands. The building was designed by a W. Graydon, a captain in the Royal Engineers. It consists of three sections, the orderly room, the yard room and the cell block, restored to three different dates. The orderly room has been restored to 1828, the yard room to 1866, and, because of a major alteration at that time which made it impossible to restore previous to that date, the cell block to 1847.

The guard house was used for its intended purpose by the British Army until 1869. In 1873 or 1874, the Canadian Government leased it to the town of Fredericton for ten years. At this time, the orderly room was used for a magistrate's office, the yard room as a police room, and the cell block as the town lockup.

Until the end of World War I, it was used as a guard house for the Canadian School of Infantry, then lay dormant until 1927. In this year it became a liquor warehouse. From 1939 to 1945, it was used again by the Canadian Army, then again for liquor storage until about 1965.

The restoration of the building was relatively easy, because it is a military building for which quite complete records are available. The furnishings are for the most part antiques except for such reproductions as fireplace fenders and lanterns. During the restoration the staff received much help from local residents who were willing to offer any assistance.

To make the restoration more authentic, roof slate was brought in from England, since it is unavailable here, and the glass was imported from France. It is a glass which is noured and polished rather than rolled. The iron beds found in the guard house are the original Wellington beds. In the cell block, there were originally seven cells, but this number was changed to five after a severe fire in 1847. The cracks in the wall due to this fire can ben seen, as can the words H. Hollins 1848 inscribed in the plaster. The restorer found it necessary to install a furnace in one of the cells, but this is the only major alteration made in the building. The cells have been completely furnished, spartan and harsh, as they were in 1847.

It is the hope of those involved that commencing next year, the Fredericton Guard House will be open to the public on a year-round basis. As this is the first fully restored building in Fredericton, it is well worth seeing. The furnishings are spare and severe, the atmosphere is one of the cold winters spent by the British soldiers in New Brunswick, and, for students of history and those with a respect for the past, it is a great contribution to the Knowledge of Canada's story.

The opening commences at 3 p.m. on September 25th, with the unveiling of a plaque on Carleton Street, from the National Historic Sites and Military Compound Board. Admission is free, so come see this historic building before it closes for the winter.