

## HISTORY-JOHN STANFIELD HOUSE

In 1902 the John Stanfield House was commissioned by Mr. John Stanfield (son of Charles Stanfield, founder of Truro Knitting Mills--currently Stanfield's) and was built about a block from its current location (where Atlantic Superstore now sits). The house served as John Stanfield's residence until his death in 1934. The house was then willed to his wife Sarah and has changed hands many times. Over the years it has served as a rooming house, apartment building and professional offices.

In July 1997 the house was spared the wrecking ball as Mr. Donald Keddy bought it for \$1 and incurred the expense to move it to its current location (behind the Holiday Inn). It is speculated that Mr. Keddy invested \$2.2 million dollars to move and renovate the dwelling. The project took 18 months to complete. The Holiday Inn's previous Maintenance Manager worked on the original project and can confirm that the renovations included adding on an old garage which was converted into a commercial kitchen, the addition of 16 bathrooms and upgrades on both electrical and plumbing. These upgrades & renovations eliminated any chance of the John Stanfield Inn becoming a protected heritage property.

Despite Mr. Keddy's intention to restore the home in its Queen Anne Revival style, the timeline of 6 months turned into 18 months and the project ran hundreds of thousands of dollars over budget. Due to these budget overages many items were compromised; the two great verandas were never replaced and most of the furniture pieces were reproductions purchased from a furniture store that was going out of business. Nevertheless, in September 1998 the John Stanfield Inn was opened with limited guestrooms and evening dining.

In 1998 the John Stanfield Inn was nominated and won the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Award. After operating for approximately 10 years the inn was closed in 2008 due to declining revenues and rising costs.



Paul Blenkhorn has been busy working on the former John Stanfield Inn. He bought the building this fall and plans to live in it, as well as offer rooms and apartments for rent, once restoration is complete.