



HISTORY LIVES HERE

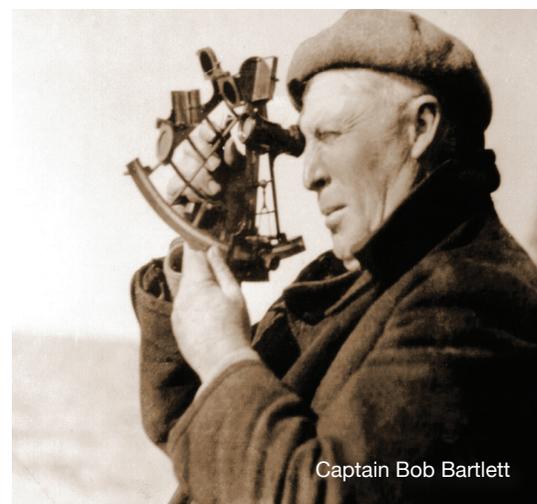


A Self-Guided Tour of Hawthorne Cottage

Welcome to the home of Captain Robert Abram Bartlett (1875-1946). Famous as the skipper who prepared the way for Commander Robert Edwin Peary's celebrated dash to the North Pole in 1909, Bob Bartlett is one of the great figures in Arctic exploration.

Hawthorne Cottage was built in 1830 in Cochranedale by John Leamon, Captain Bartlett's maternal great-grandfather. The original square building lacked the bay windows, rear addition, and verandah that are visible today. In the winter of 1833-34, the cottage was hauled ten kilometres overland on log rollers to its present location. It passed through the generations with various conditions of inheritance until Bartlett's mother inherited it with a stipulation that it be passed to her son.

After he had achieved fame with Peary, Bob Bartlett spent most of his summers in the Arctic and winters in New York. His parents, William and Mary Bartlett, and his sisters, Emma and Eleanor, became the permanent residents, although Bob made frequent visits on his way to and from the Arctic.



Captain Bob Bartlett

Hawthorne Cottage National Historic Site
709-528-4004
hawthornecottage@pc.gc.ca
Twitter: @ParcsCanadaTNL

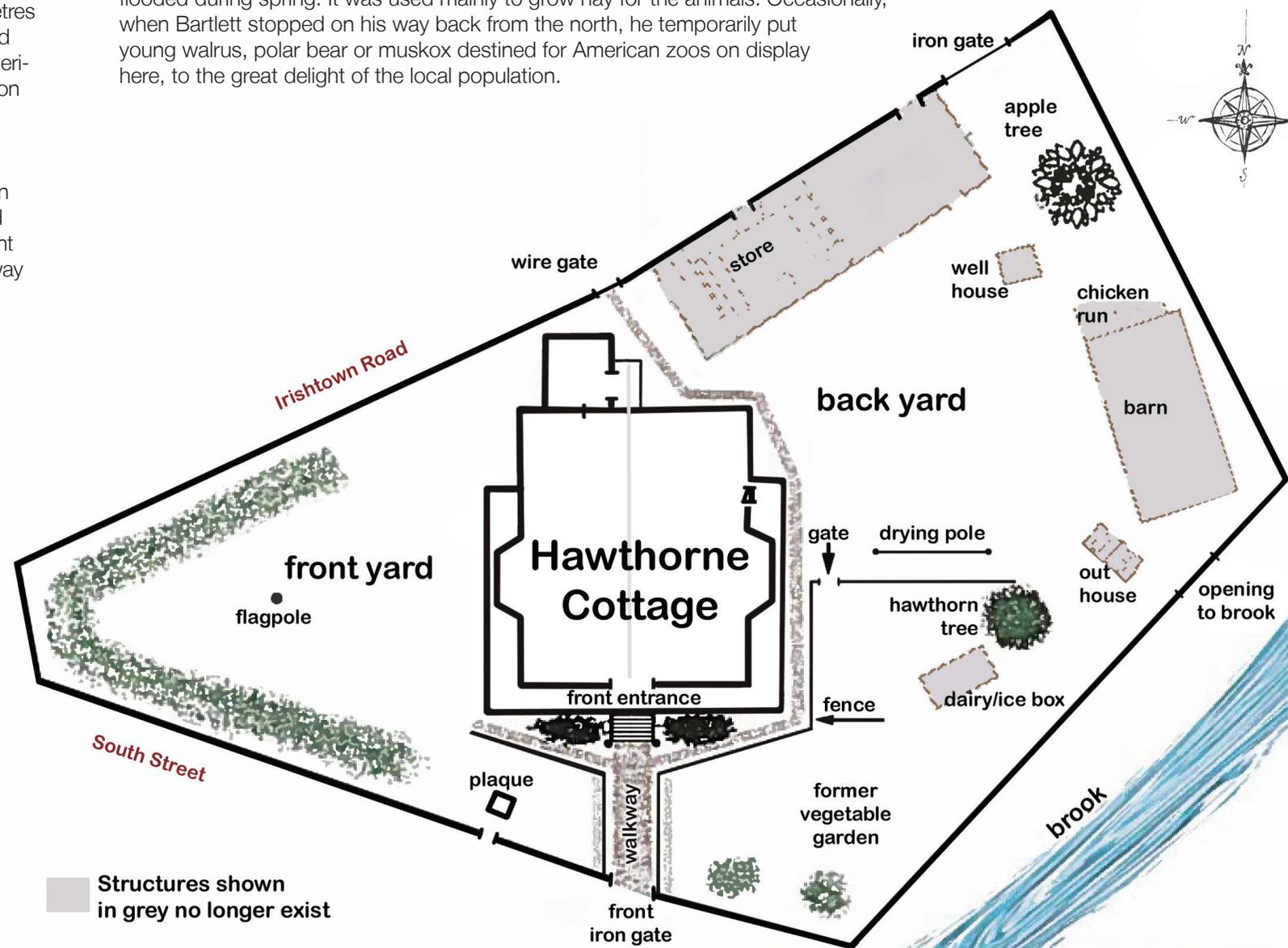
Hours of operation
June 1 to Labour Day Weekend
Daily, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Aussi disponible en français.

The Garden at Hawthorne

The people of Brigus were very interested in agriculture. They established many farms and gardens and planted a wide variety of trees in the tradition of their ancestors from the English West Country (southwestern England). The Bartlett family shared this enthusiasm and for generations maintained a farm, Willowon, outside of town. The grounds at Hawthorne Cottage were planted with a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit trees, and a vegetable garden. The family also maintained chickens, two dairy cows and a horse in the barn by the brook. The practical Bartlett women did not spend a great deal of time on the flower garden, preferring instead to concentrate on the vegetables. Receipts from June 1930 show that Mary Bartlett purchased the following seeds for the kitchen garden: turnip, carrot, beet, parsnip, lettuce, cabbage, sage, thyme, savory, and parsley.

The back yard contained the out-buildings indicated on the garden plan. These included a retail store, managed by William Bartlett, which faced Irishtown Road. The front yard occasionally flooded during spring. It was used mainly to grow hay for the animals. Occasionally, when Bartlett stopped on his way back from the north, he temporarily put young walrus, polar bear or muskox destined for American zoos on display here, to the great delight of the local population.



Explore Hawthorne Cottage

First Floor

1. Main Entrance – Hawthorne Cottage is a rare Newfoundland example of a building in the picturesque or cottage orné architectural tradition, but it also incorporates features of Newfoundland vernacular architecture. An outgrowth of nineteenth-century romanticism, the picturesque style emphasized harmony of landscape, design, and architecture.

2. Reception Room – Records indicate this room could have been grandmother Mary Leamon's bedroom. In later years it was used as a guestroom. The window was added sometime after 1913.

3. Front Hallway – This hall passes through an arched opening in the central chimney, a structural feature not found elsewhere in the province. An oil stove sat in the corner, with the stove pipe extending into the hall upstairs.

4. "Artic" Room / Parlour – The Bartlett women turned the front parlour, a room normally reserved for wakes and formal occasions, into a showcase for their brother's memorabilia. Photographs of famous acquaintances are prominently displayed. "Artic" is an old-fashioned spelling for Arctic.

5. Pantry – The dishes, cookware, and provisions used during meal preparation were stored here. Some of the cupboards had screen doors which provided a basic refrigeration for fresh produce.

6. Den – This cozy space across from the kitchen served as a games room for grandchildren. It was also a sewing room, dining room and occasionally an overflow bedroom.

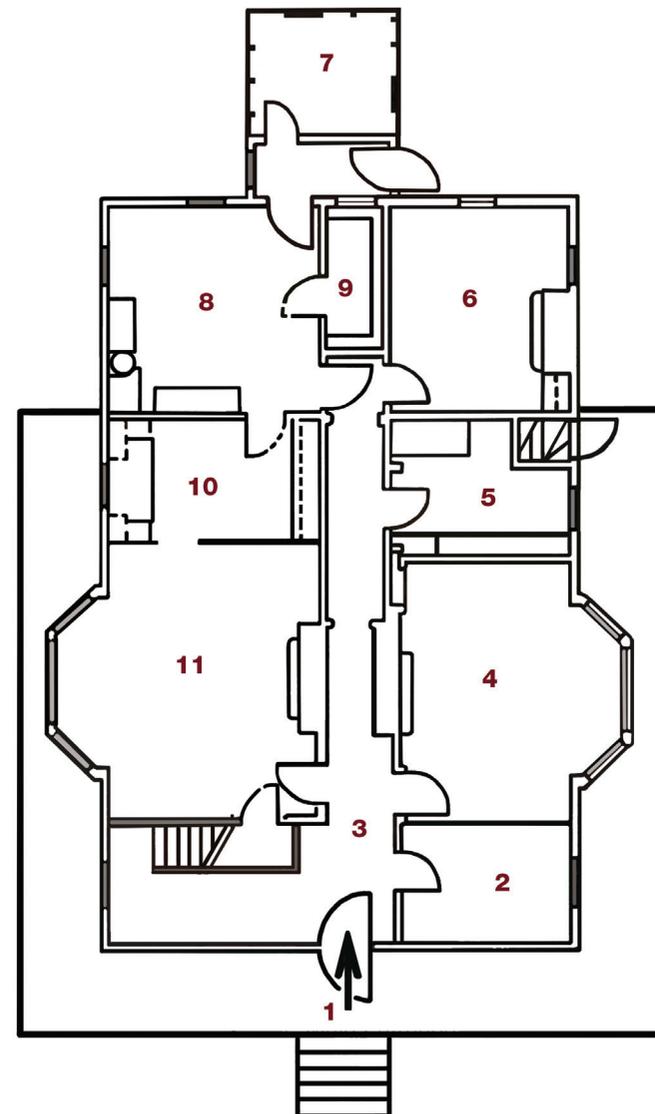
7. Porch – Now a modern washroom, this small room off the kitchen was a place for storing coal! It served as a heat buffer between the outside and the kitchen. As in most Newfoundland homes, Hawthorne's rear entrance was the most commonly used.

8. Kitchen – This centre of activity had three adjoining rooms: the scullery, china closet and back porch. An oil stove, hot water tank and a day bed were features. The sink and counter are still visible.

9. Scullery – This storage room was used for pots, pans, dishes, kitchen utensils and the slop bucket.

10. China Closet – Mary Bartlett, (known as Nana Barr) often enjoyed a cup of green Chinese tea while a grand-child, niece, or nephew snacked on milk and bread. This room held the household china, the more expensive baking materials and the marble pastry board.

11. Dining Room / Sitting Room – This sunny room was used by the family for many activities as well as meals. During the winter, a fire was kept going all day. The Bartlett women were accomplished musicians and entertained guests with songs and hymns around the piano. Bridge was a popular card game and fashionable pastime. The radio was an important source of news, and the family would gather around it when a broad-cast from Captain Bob was expected. The walk-in cupboard stored many valuables and treats.



Second Floor

12. Closet – This hall cupboard was divided into three locked compartments. Canned goods and some of the children's treats were kept here. Mary Bartlett closely guarded the keys, carrying them deep in her apron pockets. When Bartlett's ship, the Morrissey, arrived in Brigus on its way back to New York, any surplus food that he gave to his family was usually stored in this closet.

13. Master Bedroom – Captain Bob's parents shared the room until William Bartlett, Captain Bob's father, died in 1931. After Mary Bartlett passed away in 1943, Emma took possession. Hawthorne Cottage was blessed with large walk-in cupboards. A picture of Bob's brother Rupert, who died in the First World War, hangs on the wall. Note the chair with the unusual rail on the back. This is an example of a prayer chair.

14. Green Room – This was Emma's bedroom until the death of her mother, when it became a guest bedroom. The most unusual feature was a long narrow closet that opened into this room, but which was like a secret passage from the main hallway, down a steep stairway to an exterior door. Oral history claims that it was a doctor's entrance for visiting contagious patients. It is near the pantry, which suggests that it could have been for the servants, connecting the upstairs with the kitchen area.

15. Captain Bob's Room – This last bedroom was created as part of the two story addition in 1928-29. It was given over to Bob whenever he visited. During the summers, it was the nursery for visiting grandchildren and their nanny.

16. Bathroom – An ingenious system supplied the house with the first indoor plumbing in Brigus. Water was hand-pumped from a well to a high tower just outside. Another pump brought the water inside to a large storage tank located in the bathroom wall. The house was wired for electricity in 1914, and an electric pump was installed in the bathroom in 1919.

17. Maid's Room – Florence (Bartlett) Morgan was the maid from 1929 to 1941. Her memories, which were recorded as part of the oral history of the cottage, provided valuable descriptions of life at the cottage.

18. Eleanor's Room – Although this room is quite small, it is near the stairs. Eleanor kept it as her room, even after she was the last inhabitant. Her nursing certificate hangs on the wall, and her nurse's shoes are under the chair next to the bed. Every bedroom had a bookshelf, evidence of the love of reading that all the Bartletts shared.

