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DIRECTION DES LIEUX ET DES
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REPORTS ON SELECTED BUILDINGS
IN MAHONE BAY, NOVA SCOTIA

by

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PARKS CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN
AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

PARCS CANADA
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES
INDIENNES ET DU NORD



Historian: Ron McDonald

Date: February 1977

Geocode: 02108001000011

City: Mahone Bay

Address: 11 Edgewater St.

Building Name: "Lantz House"
(if important)

Source of Title Photo:
C.I.H.B.

Building Information

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Architect:

Builder:

Craftsmen (List Type)

Name and occupation of original owner: Rupert G. Zwicker, merchant

Notable subsequent owners and reason identified:

Notable type of occupants:

Notable occupants and reason identified:

Building use: Residential, single dwelling

Major building material: wood

Alterations:

General Nature

Date

Architect

Builder

Front porch
removed

post-1971

Comments:

16 Edgewater St.Mahone Bay, N.S.

The residence located at 11 Edgewater St., commonly called "Lantz House", was originally part of the Maugher Mill Grant.¹ In actual fact the original grant was the property of both Josuah Mauger and Sebastian Zouerbuhler, two of Nova Scotia's most prominent residents in the latter part of the 18th century. When Sebastian Zouerbuhler died in 1773 his estate, real and personal, passed to his daughter. Dying within a few months of her inheritance, Catherine Zouerbuhler left her possessions to Michael Franklin, the lieutenant-governor, and Joseph Pernette, a local attorney.² Within a few years the trio decided to sell their interests in the Mauger Mill Grant.

The man who purchased the property in 1777 was a local farmer and miller by the name of George Zwicker.³ While he paid L304 for the land, Zwicker recovered part of his investment by selling a section of the grant to a number of local farmers.⁴ The tract upon which the "Lantz House" was to be built remained in Zwicker's possession. When George Zwicker died (around 1815) his estate was divided among his six sons.⁵ Henry Zwicker inherited the piece of property upon which the "Lantz House" is located. In 1837 Henry sold the property to a prominent local blacksmith and farmer by the name of John Mader.⁶ Mader eventually con-

trolled most of the property between the Main Street Bridge and the Kedy holdings in the Cleared Land Lots.⁷

When John Mader died in 1860 his estate was divided among his heirs.⁸ Fawson Mader, his son, who was still a minor, inherited the lot (No. 8) upon which 11 Edgewater is located. The plan showing the division of the estate clearly indicates that there was no building constructed on the site.⁹ Fawson and his mother, Maria, who was his guardian, eventually sold the property in 1868 to Rupert G. Zwicker for L67.¹⁰ Zwicker, who was a local merchant, had a residence constructed on the lot. This is the building which presently occupies the site.

Zwicker lived in the house for about fifteen years before moving to Cape Breton. He sold his home in Mahone Bay to another merchant by the name of John W. Mills.¹¹ The purchase price of \$1,200.00 clearly shows the appreciation of the property and the existence of a fairly substantial residence. Mills lived in the house for six years before selling to a local spinster named Anne Zwicker for \$1,600.00.¹² She was the sister of the original owner of the house. When Anne Zwicker died her estate was inherited by her brothers, Edward John and Rupert George Zwicker.¹³ Being merchants in Cape Breton, they sold the property in 1920 to a Mahone Bay carpenter by the name of George Albert Lantz for \$2,500.00.¹⁴ The Lantz family occupied the

home for about twenty years. Eventually it was willed to Mary Ann Burgoyne who in turn passed it on to Marion Helena Burgoyne.¹⁵ In 1968 Marion sold the property to a prominent local businesswoman, by the name of Vida A. Merchant.¹⁶ Vida Merchant only occupied the premises for two years, selling the house in 1970 to Captain Ronald James Dunham.¹⁷ The Dunhams at present live in the house.

The house itself is well preserved, combining several characteristics of both Gothic Revival and Picturesque.¹⁸ It is relatively small, blocky in mass and characterized by strong eave lines, steeply pitched gables and pointed arch windows. Since 1971 the front porch has been removed, exposing the front door.