

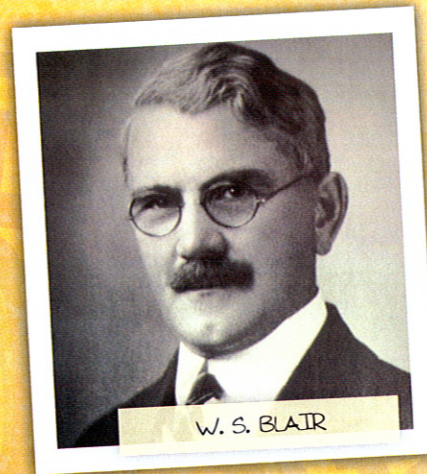
# THE *Blair House* — MUSEUM —



**An historical look at the  
Nova Scotia Apple Industry and  
the Kentville Research Station  
presented by NSFGA**

## *Blair House*

The museum was named after Dr. William Saxby Blair, the first superintendent of the Federal Government's Kentville Experimental Station. The station was established in 1911 and is currently known as the Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Centre (AFHRC.) Construction of the 4,300 square foot house began in 1912 and continued until 1913, at a total cost of \$8,500. Dr. Blair lived in the house for 26 years; it served as both a home and office to the superintendent.



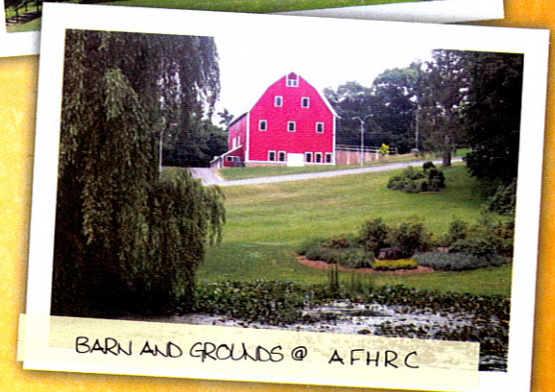
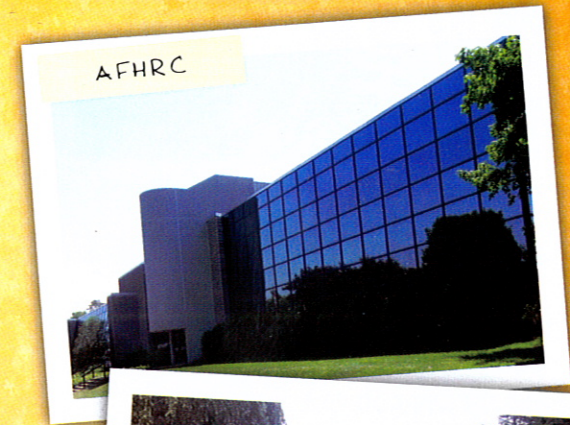
Blair House was occupied by various superintendents until 1979. It was opened to the public as a museum in 1982 by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA.)

One of the museum rooms highlights the current and past tree fruit research projects.

An educational "children's corner" is also found within the museum.

The museum contains an exhibit of research instruments formerly used at the AFHRC, displayed with photographs that revisit the rich history of the station.

The museum also houses tools that were used in the apple industry, along with photographs that depict the typical life of an apple grower years ago.



Parking, picnic tables and washrooms are available. Tours of the AFHRC may be arranged by appointment. The museum is wheelchair accessible.

Blair House welcomes everyone. Class trips, day camps and seniors' group tours can be made by appointment.

The landscape surrounding Blair House has remained a main attraction for visitors from near and far, with many historical and modern ornamental plantings. The AFHRC grounds also contain various walking trails available for visitors to explore.

The museum emphasizes the NSFGA, which was established by Dr. Charles Hamilton and Lt. Col. Robert Grant in 1863. Their objective was to promote NS apples and become more knowledgeable about new varieties, diseases and insects. The information gained was passed to growers within the valley.

The local industry now produces approximately 2.5 million bushels of apples annually, which is about 10% of Canada's total apple production. Popular apple varieties found in NS include Ambrosia, SweeTango, Honeycrisp and Jonagold. Older apple varieties such as McIntosh, Cortland, Spartan and Gravenstein remain popular.

## NS APPLE INDUSTRY MILESTONES

- 1604:** French Settlers planted the first apple tree at Port Royal
- 1698:** 1,548 apple trees in Annapolis Valley
- 1800s:** 85% of the apple crop was shipped to Britain
- 1835:** Charles R. Prescott introduced the Gravenstein variety to Nova Scotia
- 1930s:** Over 25,000 acres grown  
9,000,000 bushels produced
- 1980:** 9,000 acres grown  
2,500,000 bushels produced  
\$10-11 million farm gate value  
60% of apples were processed  
40% of apples were sold fresh
- Today:** 5,000 acres grown  
2,500,000 bushels produced  
\$14 million farm gate value  
60% of apples are sold fresh  
40% are processed into apple pies and apple juice

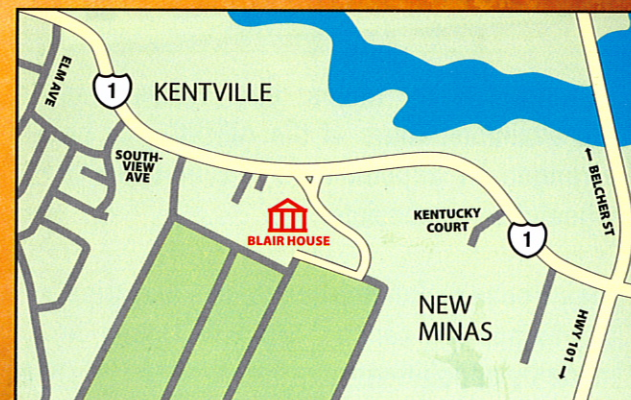


## Blair House

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*Open 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday  
from early June to mid August  
Closed on Friday from late August to late October*

[www.nsapples.com](http://www.nsapples.com)



**Nova Scotia  
Fruit Growers'  
Association**