

THE CONSULATE

This Scottish townhouse was built by George Smith in 1810 to serve as his residence and warehouse. However, Smith's mercantile business fell on hard times during the depression of the 1830's, and the house was relinquished to his brother, Edward, of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Later, Smith became more indebted, this to Samuel Cunard (of the famous Cunard Line of Shipping) for 5800 pounds. Cunard had owned property in Pictou since 1832, including his shipping office which still stands at the corner of Coleraine Street and Caladh Avenue. Unable to clear his debt with Cunard, Smith died penniless.

In 1841, it housed the Bank of North America but was repurposed in 1865 to become the American Consulate from whence comes its current name. Remnants of a private wharf could be seen at the harbour's edge. The house features five "Scottish", or five-sided, dormers and is built on an irregular shaped lot. Because of this, the large reception room on the second floor has the back wall a full foot narrower than the front wall.

A special piece is the radiator in the first floor study that features a door and oven shelf which plates were warmed.