Shifting Identities, Changing Spaces: Outport Settlement Patterns at Ferryland, Newfoundland 1760-1830

This research will examine settlement dynamics and population relations at the outport community of Ferryland on the southern Avalon Peninsula, focussing on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This is an important period in Ferryland's history and is currently somewhat poorly understood relative to earlier periods. Following broader themes in Newfoundland history, it is a period which witnessed significant changes in economic systems (growth of a resident fishery), demographic structure (permanent population growth and Irish immigration), and political organization (development of local government). Through a combination of archaeological fieldwork and historical research, the project will examine shifting settlement patterns at Ferryland as they relate to the above themes. The development of hybrid identities and the use of earlier extant architecture and landscape features during this period is of particular interest.