

Accession 4223
John Brooks collection

ITEM LISTING

1. "The Murray Harbour Starch factory", by Nelda Lund. The Murray Harbour starch factory was formed in 1884 in Murray Harbour, Prince Edward Island, by Samuel Prowse and Sons to process potatoes for the purpose of obtaining starch. While owned by the Prowse family the factory ran 24 hours a day and employed 16 men who boarded through the week in a bunkhouse within the factory. Operations usually began during the potato harvesting season and remained open for about 2-3 months. Although closed in the 1920's due to bankruptcy, the building was repaired and returned to operation in 1928 under the management of Fred LeLacheur and Colonel George Full. A flour mill was added to grind the starch and the bulk of the potato flour so produced was shipped to textile mills in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Due to the reduced demand for potato starch and growing concern about pollution in the river, the factory closed its doors in 1952. The building was destroyed by fire in 1958.
2. Photograph: Starch factory and home of David Brooks, Murray Harbour
3. Photograph: Fred Prowse house, Murray Harbour
4. Photograph: Cheese factory on Sam Machon's brook, Toronto, PEI