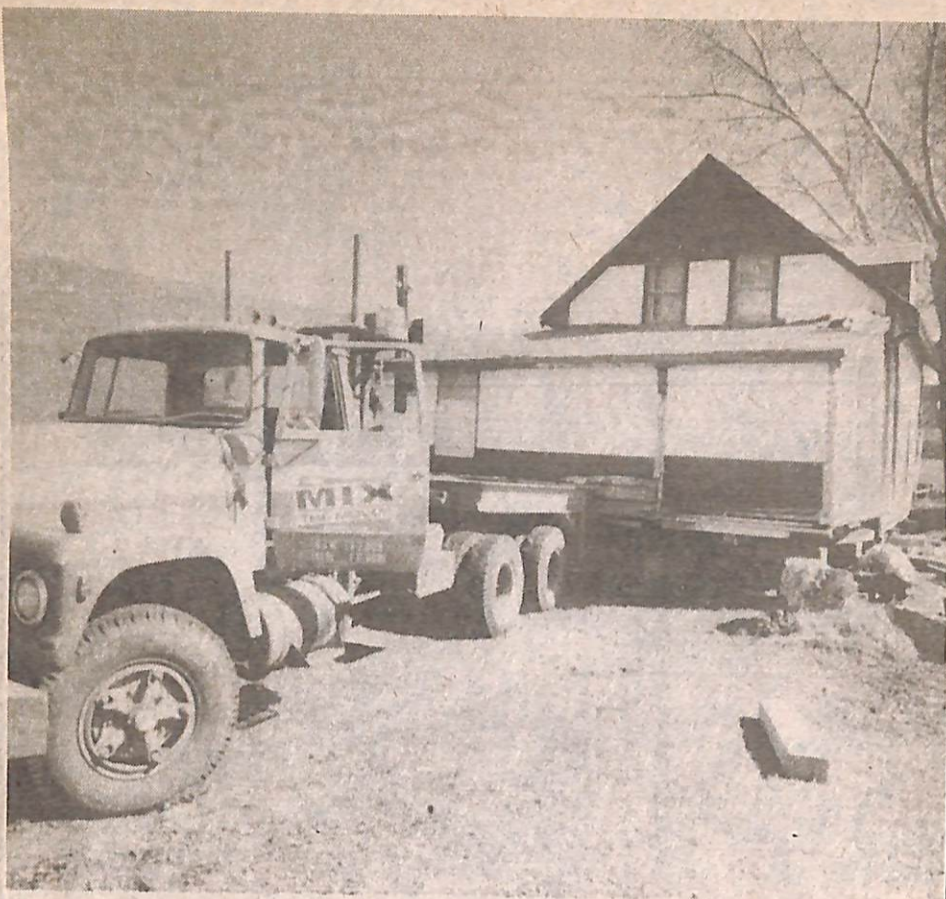


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Mover puts the old house on the road to restoration

# 100-year-old cabin soon to be restored

By **RON CHALMERS**

A log house more than 100 years old, possibly Edmonton's oldest building, has been bought by two antique collectors to be placed on an acreage.

The cabin was built in the 1870s by John Fraser, a boat builder and dog driver with Hudson's Bay Co.

The 1½-storey cabin, built with squared logs with dovetail corners, was later covered with wooden siding.

"It's probably the oldest house in Edmonton, and quite possibly the oldest building," city archivist Helen LaRose said.

Rose Anne Kulmala and Ken Hornsby bought the building last week for \$1 from Concordia College.

As a condition of purchase, they signed a legal covenant promising no changes will be made to the building except as approved by the Alberta Historical Resources Board.

The college acquired the cabin 50 years ago as part of the property at 7128 Ada Blvd.

College president Orville Walz said three years were spent discussing means of preserving the building with civic and provincial officials. He called the experience "a circus, unbelievable."

He said there were delays getting answers from the city on a request to rent city-owned land just north of the campus to put the building on.

Dennis Thompson, information officer for the city's Real Estate and Housing Department, said the college was offered a six-month interim lease while arrangements were made.

The college eventually sold the

building because it was sitting on blocks and deteriorating.

"Children had been seen running under it," Mr. Walz said. "And various individuals were breaking the glass and running around inside."

Ms. Kulmala said she and Mr. Hornsby will spend "everything we have and five years' labor" restoring the cabin.

"We've been antique buffs and collectors for years. When we came to Alberta (from Ontario, three years ago) we were amazed at what we found — old log homes that were rotting with new tin mobile homes beside them."

They could not afford an old home in the country because "it was just too much to buy a quarter-section of land to get the buildings."

The cabin was to be moved from the college today, and when road bans are lifted in about a month, it will be transported to a 4.6-acre site near Lindbrook, 50 km southeast of Edmonton.

"The ideal would be for it to be preserved in its original place," Ms. Kulmala said.

But, she adds, "that home was never intended to be in the city."

"It was built on a settler's claim in a wooded countryside. And that's where it's going now."

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation provided \$5,000 toward the move. Ms. Kulmala said the college also contributed and Mix The Mover will store the building at its yard without charge until it is taken to Lindbrook.