

NEWSLETTER

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President: Jennifer Roddick
Editor: Judy Deegan (990-6003)

With this issue of NEWSLETTER we introduce a new feature: *FAVOURITE BUILDINGS*, and hope to bring to your attention buildings of note in the National Capital area. If you would like to see a particular building written up, write or call (990-6003) with the address, and we'll try to find out more about it. Ed.



"HOLLYWOOD PARADE"
103-113 James St.

Date of Construction: 1892-1893
Builder: James A. Corry

Importance of the Building

Hollywood Parade is one of four unusually attractive row houses in Ottawa. It joins 304-312 The Driveway and Sandy Hill's Martin and Philomène Terraces as the City's most interesting row dwellings to come to light so far. A sort of Islamic Richardsonian Romanesque, this exuberant building stands out against the most extravagant of Ottawa's Victorian delights. It was designated a heritage building by the City in 1978.

The name "Hollywood Parade" remains a mystery, although one resident speculates that the area itself may have been known as Hollywood in earlier days (there is a Hollywood Restaurant nearby on Bank). If any reader has information on this, we'd be grateful to hear from him or her.

Style

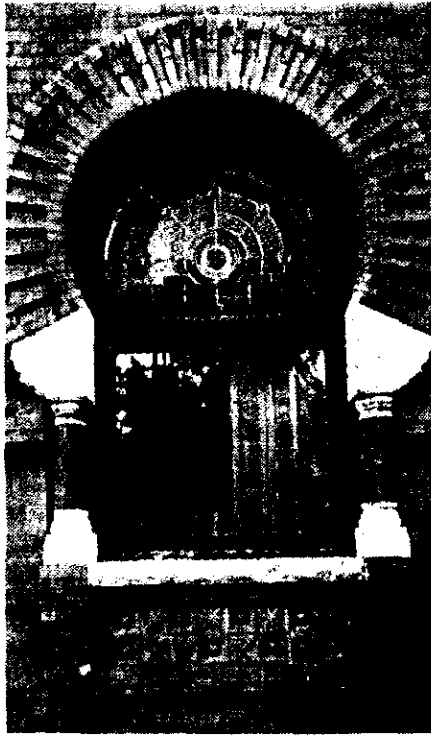
The most striking features of Hollywood Parade are its massive Romanesque entrance arches and its horseshoe-arched windows, which lend a Moorish flavour to the building. The exterior is elaborately detailed, with patterned brickwork, terra cotta panels, stained glass windows and marble colonettes. Three different window styles grace the front facade. The roofline is lively, with heavy brackets and Greek-inspired palmettes. It once boasted griffins atop its decorative metal edge.

In contrast to the exterior, the original interiors were quite subdued, with plain woodwork, the only item of opulence being marble fireplaces in each of the double-wing living rooms.

Each of the six units in this 2-storey red brick row was built to contain ten rooms, with a double living room, dining room and kitchen on the main floor, and five bedrooms upstairs. All units are very long and narrow.

Horseshoe-arched or "keyhole" window of Hollywood Parade. Note stained glass, decorative brick voussoirs, marble colonnettes, and terra cotta panel beneath window.

Photos on this page by Drew Gragg of The Citizen



The Site

The building is situated in part of the old (Colonel) By Estate, one of the most important parcels of land in the development of 19th-century Ottawa.

The By Estate comprised two separate tracts of land: Centretown from Laurier to Gladstone, and Sandy Hill south of Laurier East to the Rideau River. (The Canal Reserve cut a wide swath through the Colonel's lands.) By bought the land in 1832, shortly before being summoned back to England to answer Parliament for what it considered was an outrageous cost (£800,000) to build the Canal. He never returned to develop his property.

The Freehold Association of Ottawa

In 1876, the undeveloped lands in the By Estate were purchased by James MacLaren, Robert Blackburn and Charles Magee, who in 1883 formed the Freehold Association of Ottawa to buy and sell land in the area. The three incorporated just in time to meet the demand for housing of a burgeoning federal civil service. In the 1880s and '90s they acquired most of the land in what is now Centretown, had it surveyed for building lots, and then sold it to others who would do the actual building.

The Builder

James A. Corry, architect-builder of Hollywood Parade, was the most prominent builder in Centretown of the 1890s. An 1892 newspaper article states that "This spring Mr. Corry has sold residences on James and Florence Streets to the extent of \$28,000. He has the credit of having done more than any one individual towards building up that section of the City." Corry finished 103-113 James in 1893 and sold it in 1895. The units were assessed at \$1,575 each the following year.

The Tenants

From its completion until 1949 the building was owned by absentee landlords, with each unit being rented by a single family. In 1949 Ben B. Levin bought the building and subsequently sold the individual units. Over the years the tenants had tended to be white-collar families. After 1949, however, the ground floor of 103 James was turned into a kindergarten, two of the other units eventually became rooming houses, and the upper floor of 107 was remade into a single apartment.

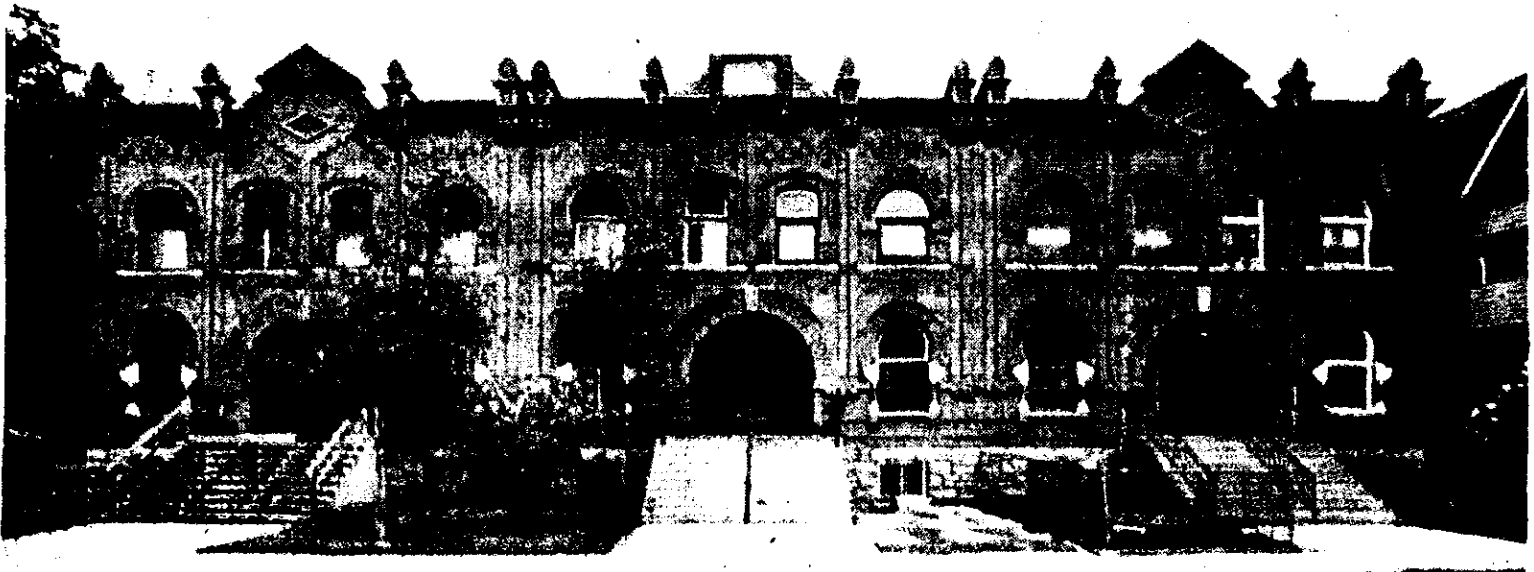
The Present

The 1950s and '60s saw the building--indeed the whole area--fall into a decline. Since the mid-'70s, however, the trend has been reversed. Rooming houses and rundown apartments still exist, but they are now outnumbered by newly renovated single and double houses. The City of Ottawa award for Best Infill Project in 1984 went to Jim Colizza's red brick row housing built around a late 19th-century Victorian charmer at James and Bay.

Hollywood Parade is an architectural delight, very much worth a special trip to James and Lyon to see it. And while you're on James, go one block farther west to see the Colizza project mentioned above.

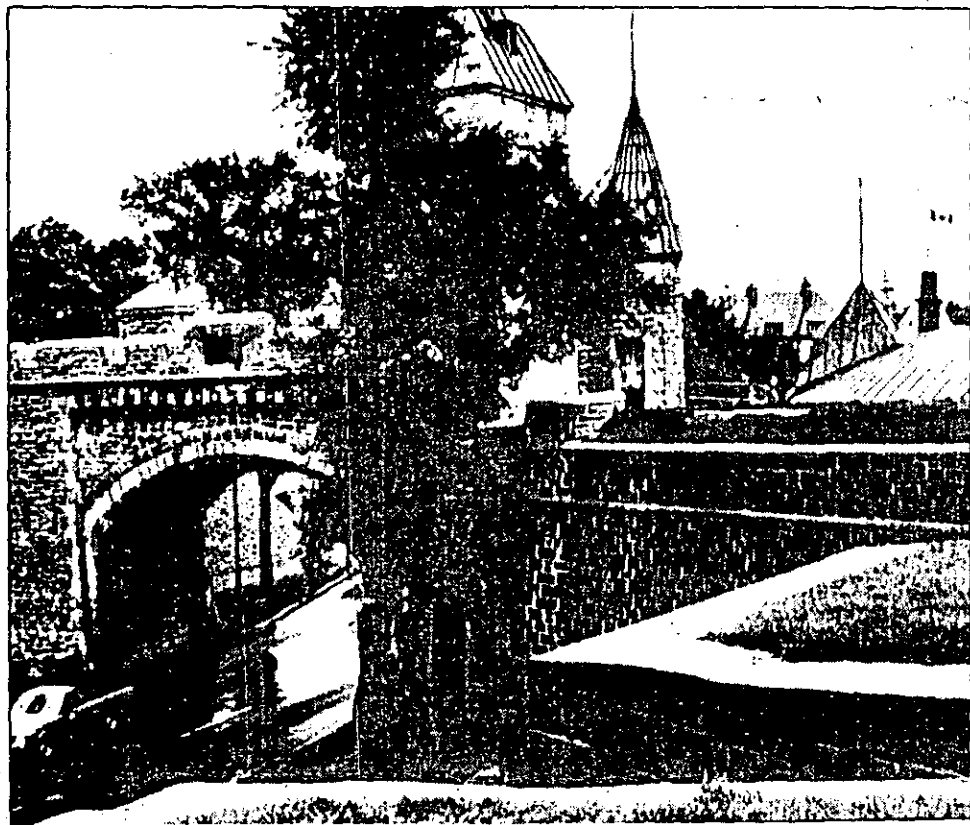
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Much of the information for this article was taken from Some Early Ottawa Buildings, by C. J. Taylor of the Historical Research Section, Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings (now with Parks Canada), and Exploring Ottawa, by Harold Kalman and John Roaf. Both are excellent sources of information on Ottawa's best buildings.



Sketch of Hollywood Parade on page 1 by Lyette Fortin, from OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY, by John Leaning and Lyette Fortin.

Heritage Ottawa's annual general meeting and election of officers will take place in May. Nominations are now being sought for directors of the organization. If any member wishes to nominate an individual, or to stand for election himself/herself, please call Stella Kirk, Executive Secretary, at 745-0551 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.



CP Photo

QUEBEC CITY DESIGNATED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

In December 1985, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO's International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) designated Quebec City's old town as a World Heritage Site, one of 200 now on the World Heritage List (which includes the Taj Mahal, the pyramids, and Borobudur in Java).

The designation recognizes the city as being of "outstanding universal value" and in addition makes it eligible for international assistance to carry out major preservation projects (although federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan said he felt Canada would provide on its own whatever financial support might be necessary for such projects).

The recognition of Quebec City as a site of world importance was based on the fact that

- (a) It is the only French colony remaining in North America still surrounded by fortification walls, and holding buildings and archeological remains which illustrate its evolution as a city from its founding in 1608 to the present. No other city in North America bears witness with the same intensity to the history of French colonization in America.

- (b) It is the cradle of French civilization on the American continent and played an important role in its development. Quebec City exerted great influence on the architecture, town planning, economy, culture and religion of this part of the world for several hundred years.

Half the countries of the world now adhere to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Every year their representatives meet to review nominations to the World Heritage List put forward by the countries themselves. Both ICOMOS Canada and Heritage Canada played important roles in encouraging municipal, provincial and federal governments to work together to see this nomination become a reality.

Quebec City joins eight other Canadian sites on the World Heritage List:

- Nahanni National Park (N.W.T.)
- L'Anse-aux-Meadows (Newfoundland)
- Dinosaur National Park (Alberta)
- Kluane National Park (Yukon)
- The Rocky Mountains (B. C.)
- Anthony Island (B. C.)
- Head-Smashed-in-Bison-Jump (Alberta)
- Wood Buffalo National Park (Alberta and N.W.T.)
- Quebec City (Quebec)

(Taken from *Ottawa Citizen* and ICOMOS Canada Newsletter articles)

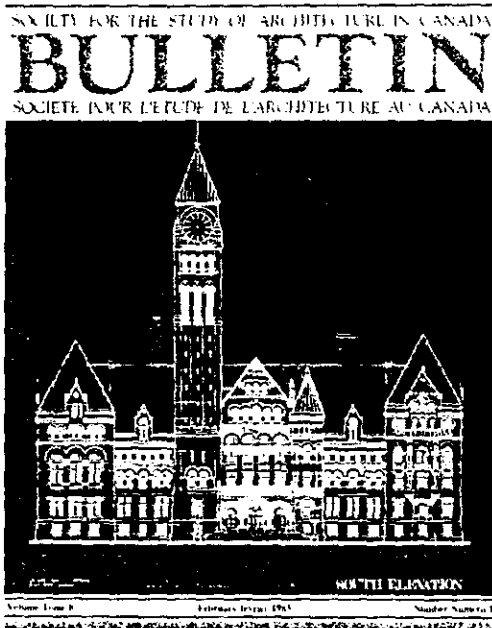
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA (SSAC)

Readers may be interested in joining the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC), a non-profit group devoted to the exchange and dissemination of information on Canadian architecture.

SSAC was founded in 1974 by a broadly-based group of people interested in

encouraging the study of architecture in Canada--a study which includes historical and cultural issues affecting the future of buildings, streetscapes, towns and countryside.

SSAC has stimulated and supported important scholarly publications, and through both its members and its quarterly BULLETIN (a benefit of membership) has been active in the preservation of the built environment.



SSAC's membership brings together people with professional, amateur and academic interests in the field, and includes architects and archivists, folklorists and geographers, architectural historians and heritage conservationists, planners and public servants. The types of membership available are:

Student	\$10.00
Individual/Family	\$20.00
Organization/Corporation	\$30.00

For further information, write to

SSAC
Box 2935 - Station D
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W9

or call Christina Cameron (president) or Doug Franklin (vice-president) c/o 237-1066.

* * * * *

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT EXEMPTS HERITAGE PROPERTIES FROM CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION REGULATIONS

On October 23, 1985 Regional Council voted to exempt designated heritage buildings from the requirements of its 9-year-old condominium conversion policy. Under the policy, no residential rental project can be converted to condominiums until the vacancy rate exceeds 3%, a situation which has not existed for several years. The policy is designed to preserve the region's stock of rental housing.

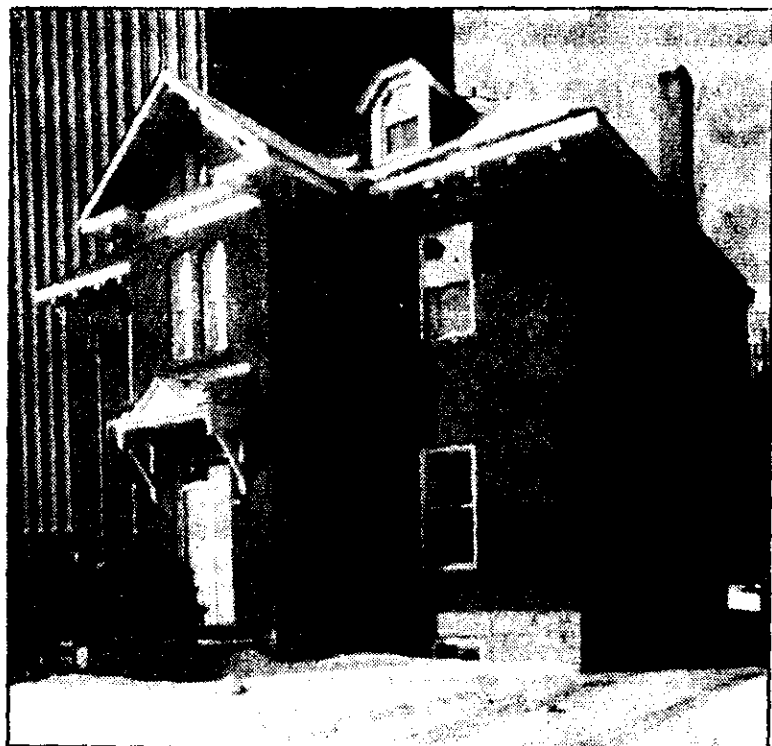
Before being granted an exemption, however, an owner will be required to prove that the building cannot continue to be used for

rental purposes and that no option is available other than conversion to condominiums. If given an exemption, the owner must guarantee tenure to existing tenants for a period of one year following the exemption.

This change to the Region's regulations, initiated by the City of Ottawa, recognizes that under Rent Control repair of heritage buildings may be uneconomic if the units must continue as rental housing, and that the owner may see demolition as the most attractive alternative. This turn-around in the City's own thinking was brought about by the difficulties connected with 503-507 King Edward in Sandy Hill (see September 1985 NEWSLETTER). The City is in the process of expropriating the building--a drastic step favoured by neither preservationists nor, obviously, developers.

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CENTRETOWN: HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS PROPOSED

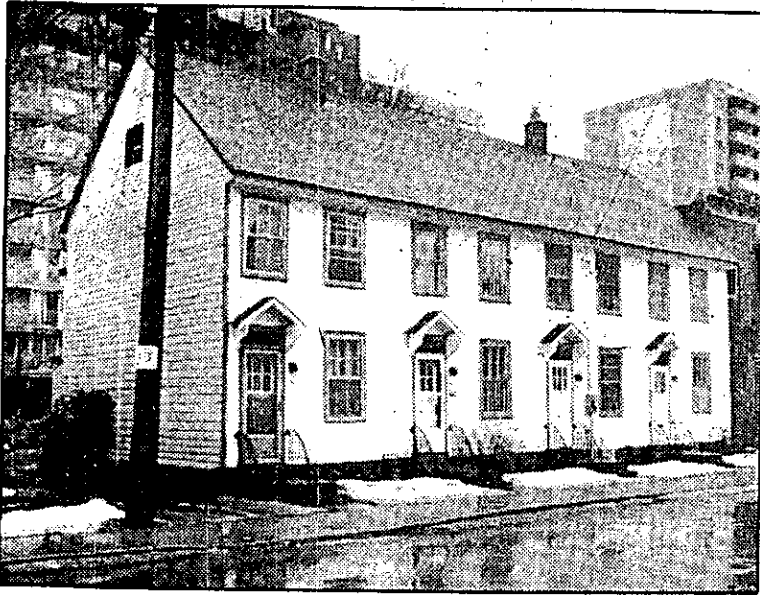


— Lynn Ball, Citizen

The Richard Nagle House - 77 Gloucester

The 114-year-old Italianate mansion built at 77 Gloucester Street for lumber dealer Richard Nagle has been proposed for heritage designation. Built in 1872, it is the oldest surviving residential structure identified in Centretown, and is of historic interest because of its association with Richard Nagle (1829-1896), who became one of the region's most successful dealers in squared timber. The Nagle House is currently being converted to a rooming house for St. George's Anglican Church.

City heritage planners describe the house as a "modest example" of the Italianate Style--a style considered appropriate for an individual of substance in the late 19th century. Characteristics of the style seen at 77 Gloucester are heavy wooden brackets under wide eaves, double round-headed windows, and a projecting central bay.



— Rod MacIvor, Citizen

Quinn's Row - 245-251 Nepean

Quinn's Row, built in the 1870s or '80s, is considered to be of architectural significance because it is the only wooden clapboard multiple dwelling remaining in Centretown. This 4-unit row is described as a "modest and unpretentious building with balanced asymmetrical door and window openings, and covered with unplanned and crudely milled clapboard".

The first record of a house on the site occurs in 1889-90. City heritage planners think Quinn's Row was built to match surrounding structures which were from the 1870s or earlier, or (more likely, given the materials and design) was moved to the site from a previous location.

The Centretown Citizens Community Association (CCCA) not only proposed the designation but did the research on the building themselves. By taking on this time-consuming task usually left to the City's chronically overworked heritage staff, the CCCA ensured quicker consideration of the building by Council.



— Drew Gragg, Citizen

The Army Officers' Mess - 149 Somerset St.

Built in 1891, the house at 149 Somerset is of both architectural and historic significance. Architecturally, it is an outstanding example of a large, late 19th-century city mansion--and only one of a handful of

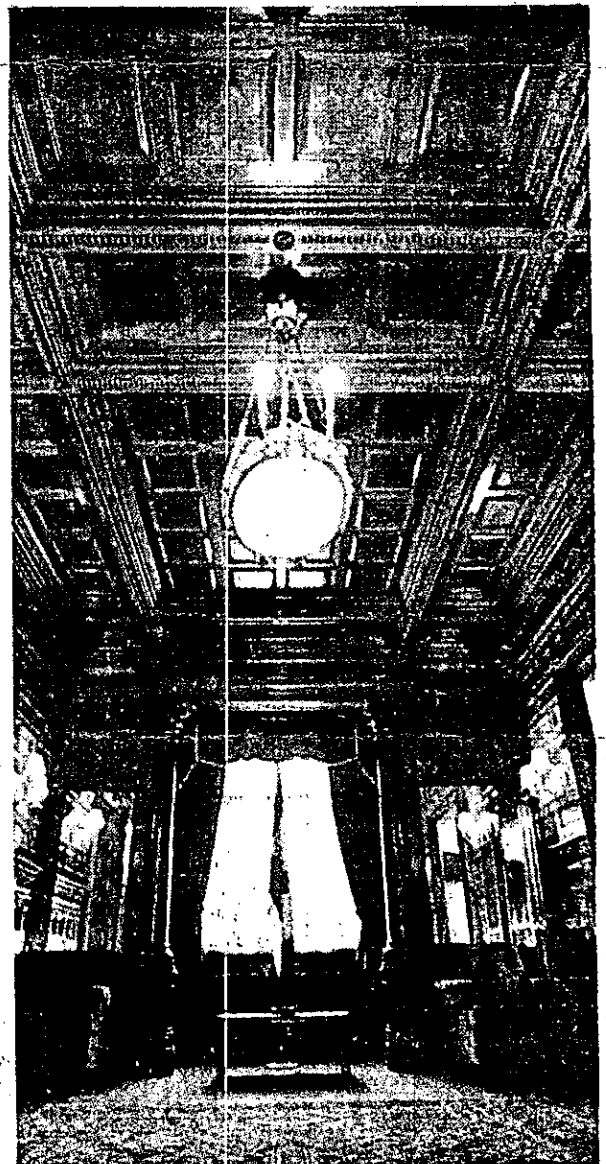
buildings of this type surviving from that era in Centretown. Its features include handsome terra cotta panels and ornamental brickwork, a well-preserved fishscale-pattern slate roof, and a large projecting circular conservatory.

One of four terra cotta masks set into the front of 149 Somerset.

Photos by Drew Gragg



The house is of historic significance because of its association with two prominent figures in the early business and commercial community of Ottawa. It was the home of Gordon B. Pattee (1822-1908) from shortly after its construction in 1891 until his death. Pattee was one of the most important developers in the timber industries at the Chaudière from his arrival in Ottawa in 1855 until 1890, when his interests were bought out by J. R. Booth. After 1913, the house was occupied by Archibald J. Freiman, founder of Freiman's, Ottawa's largest department store (taken over by The Bay in the mid-1970s), and an important leader in the city's Jewish community.



Interior shot showing coffered mahogany ceiling in living room of 149 Somerset.



Paul L. Brown, Ottawa

HINTONBURG: 166 Huron Street Designated

Ottawa City Council has bestowed a well-deserved heritage designation on the 2½-storey Prairie Style house at 166 Huron Street, built in 1915 by Ottawa architect Francis C. Sullivan for city tax assessor E. P. Connors.

The house was designated for its architectural value rather than any historical association with Connors. Its design is bold and forward-looking, with an emphasis on strong horizontal lines and a generally clean, rectilinear appearance. It differs markedly from the Gothic revivals still flourishing in the early 20th century, and must have appeared very avant-garde in their midst.

Francis C. Sullivan is an important Canadian architect in his own right, but he is invariably described in terms of his link with Frank Lloyd Wright (Sullivan and Wright collaborated on a park pavilion in Banff in 1913, now demolished). Perhaps The Citizen will devote a "Cityscape" article to Sullivan and his buildings.

* * * *

BYWARD MARKET/LOWERTOWN: Ralph Lauren comes to the Market

The 3-storey fieldstone building at 11 York Street, gutted by fire 10 years ago, is finally in use again. After standing empty for a decade, with only the facade and partial walls remaining, the building was rebuilt over the summer and is now home to American designer Ralph Lauren's first Ottawa boutique, offering upscale design, clothing and furniture items.

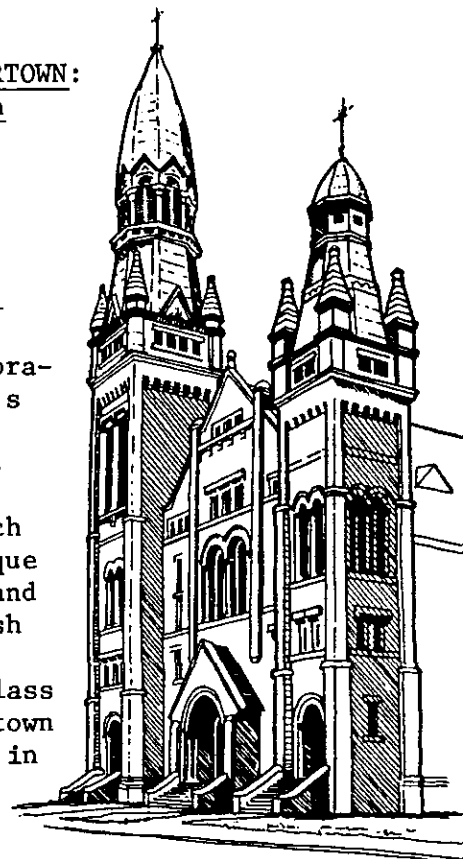
The architectural firm of Sankey Partnership leased the building from the NCC on a 30-year lease and began work on it last July. "It's purely a masonry shell," said David McRobie, a partner in the firm. "We are preserving the stone and redeveloping the whole building." McRobie estimated the cost of renovations and rebuilding the 8,500 sq. ft. of retail and office space would be approximately \$500,000. The Ralph Lauren Polo boutique, which opened in late October, takes up the first two floors. The top floor is available for rent as office space.

The NCC will finish the area behind the building to match neighbouring courtyards, thus providing the missing link between York and Clarence in the courtyard system parallel to Sussex Drive.

BYWARD MARKET/LOWERTOWN: St. Brigid's Church Receives Heritage Grant

In late January Ottawa City Council approved a \$25,000 grant for the restoration of St. Brigid's Catholic Church on St. Patrick Street.

The limestone church is Gothic and Baroque Revival in style, and has served as parish church for Irish Catholic working-class residents of Lowertown since it was built in 1889-1890.



The church requires about \$120,000 worth of exterior and interior restorations. Only the estimated \$64,000 worth of exterior repairs was eligible for the city's heritage grant. Exterior work includes repair and painting of the metal steeple roofs, and repair of stone masonry, the entrance door and broken stained glass windows. Planned interior work, which will go ahead without grant assistance, includes \$30,000 for repainting interior columns, ceiling arches and other wood; \$15,000 to renovate the organ; \$25,000 for new wiring in the upper part of the church, and \$9,000 to uncover and restore historic oak and ash panelling.



*Photo from Exploring Ottawa,
by Harold Kalman and John Roaf*

SANDY HILL: Heritage Grant recommended
for St. Paul's Eastern United Church

Ottawa Planning Committee has recommended Council approve a grant of \$4,679 to St. Paul's Eastern United Church on Daly Avenue in Sandy Hill to cover half the cost of minor exterior renovations (repairing the masonry and eaves, and scraping and repainting the eaves, windows and belfry).

Built in 1889 as a Presbyterian church, St. Paul's is one of the few Ottawa examples of the Romanesque Revival style. The rusticated stonework, corner turret, and rounded arches of the entrance and windows are characteristics of the style. Other important features include granite columns with decorated sandstone capitals and an impressive stained glass window fronting on Daly Avenue.

The church became St. Paul's Eastern United when the Methodist Church and a branch of the Presbyterian Church joined to form the United Church of Canada 60 years ago. The "Eastern" distinguishes the church from St. Paul's in nearby Carp.

SANDY HILL: Sweetland Ave. Homeowners
get Heritage Grants

On January 24 this year, the owners of a 6-unit rowhouse at 24-34 Sweetland Avenue received a \$6,000 Ottawa heritage grant and a \$12,000 Ontario government grant to restore the exterior of the houses. The building, in one of Sandy Hill's five designated heritage districts, is typical of Sandy Hill architecture of the 1890s.

Each owner will get a \$2,000 BRIC (Building Rehabilitation and Improvement Campaign) grant from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture; the \$6,000 grant from the City applies to the whole row.

Renovations estimated at \$25,250 will include restoration of six 2-storey porches, roofs and storm doors on second-floor balconies, and repairs to windows on both floors of the front facade.

STRATHCONA PARK (1904-2004)

I include (overleaf) for bedtime reading a "short story" sent by Barry Padolsky to, among others:

Jean Pigott, NCC Chairman
Jim Durrell, Mayor of Ottawa
Nancy Smith, Alderman for Sandy Hill
Richard Gervais, Chairman
Action Sandy Hill

Strathcona Park is, arguably, the most beautiful park in Ottawa. Its elegant fountain, terraced slopes and graceful trees give it a European flavour. The Rideau River is alternately glassy and rippling along its side.

In the 1970s the park was endangered by a proposal to link Centretown, Sandy Hill and Vanier by means of bridges and a major artery along Somerset Street. One of the reasons area residents could muster such strong support against the plan (which they defeated) was that it would have lopped off the southern third of this universally popular park.



From Exploring Ottawa

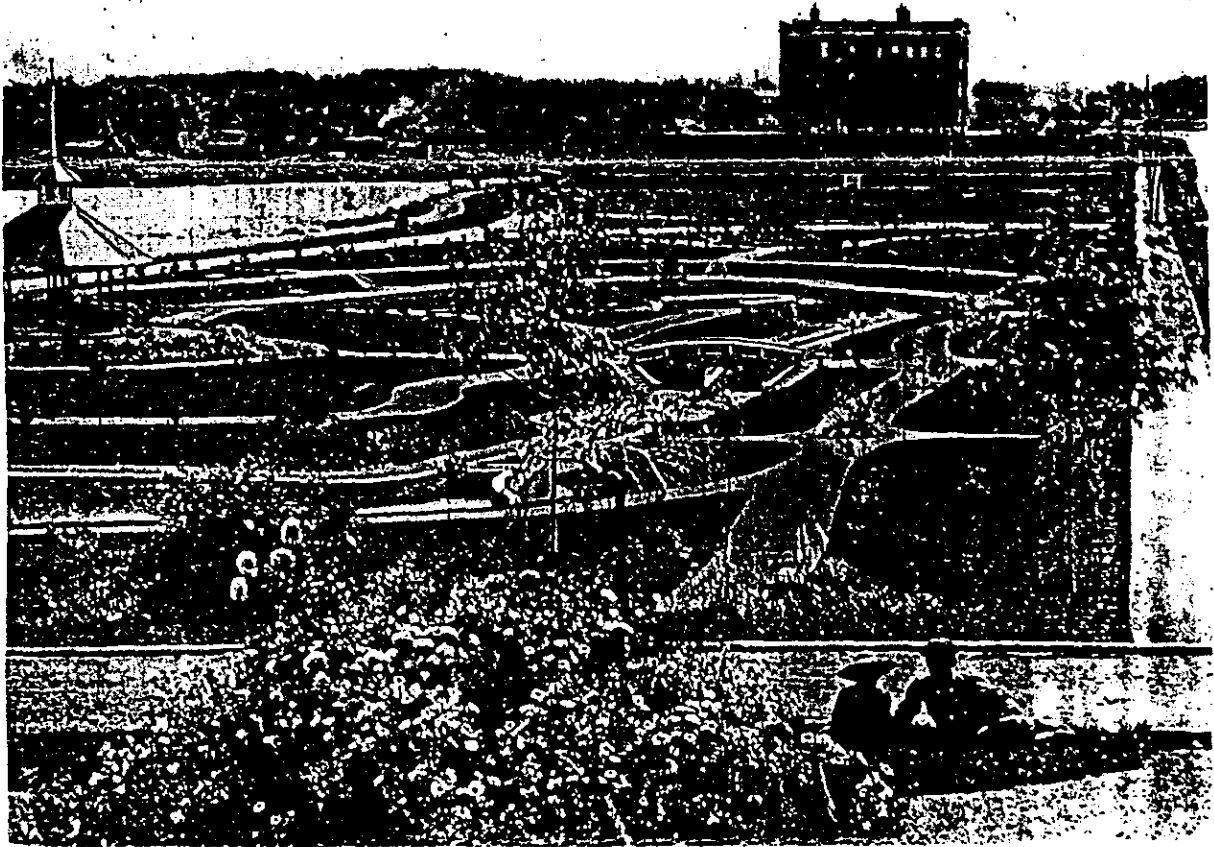
Now, residents are faced with a problem less acute but more difficult to fight. As the story points out, the City owns the park but the NCC is responsible for its maintenance. That maintenance has not, unfortunately, included replacing dead or damaged trees. Complaints to the City have been met with a shrug and the explanation that maintenance is the job of the NCC. The NCC has been similarly unresponsive, pointing a finger back to the City as owner. In the meantime, the park gradually takes on the appearance of a well-kept football field. Let's hope Barry's gentle reminder will encourage the NCC and the City to take badly needed action, or else the children of the year 2004 won't even be looking at saplings.

*Is your 1985-86 membership paid up?
If your name is not on the attached list
it's not--and it's due!*

STRATHCONA PARK 1904 - 2004

A short story for:

Jean Pigott, Chairman, N.C.C.; S. Estabrooks, Manager, Central District N.C.C.;
Ed Holubowich, Chief Landscape Architect N.C.C.; Jim Durrell, Mayor, Ottawa;
Nancy Smith, Alderman, Ottawa; John Guinan, Landscape Architect, Ottawa;
Richard Gervais, Chairman, Action Sandy Hill



Once upon a time the people of Ottawa created a park. They planted it with trees and shrubs. They named the park after Lord Strathcona, the man who nailed the last spike into the C.P.R. railroad.

Time passed. The trees grew up. People thought the park was beautiful. The City of Ottawa owned the Park. The National Capital Commission looked after it. For three generations everyone was happy. In the fourth generation people noticed that one by one, the trees began to die. Some were struck by lightning. Others were blown down in the wind. Still others reached the end of their natural lives. The custodians of the park hauled away the broken limbs and removed the stumps. The park was kept as neat as a pin! None of the trees were replaced but no one minded. The remaining trees seemed abundant and eternal.

Nevertheless, some people began to worry. It had been generations since even a sapling was planted in the Park. They realized that they had been taking their park for granted. Soon there would be a time when their park would be without trees.

So they wrote a letter to Jean Pigott, the head of the National Capital Commission. She instructed the park's gardeners to replace every tree that had fallen - the very next spring. Everyone was happy except the people who hoped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the park. They were saddened by the knowledge that the festivities would be held in a park without one mature tree. Their children would wonder how a park so old could look like it was just planted.

B.P. January 10, 1985

PAID UP MEMBERS OF HERITAGE OTTAWA

JANUARY 1986

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Mr. Barry Padolsky
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WOYCENKO, Olga
WRIGHT, Archdeacon W.



304-312 The Driveway (1907)
(line drawing by Lyette Fortin,
from OUR ARCHITECTURAL
ANCESTRY by John Leaning and
Lyette Fortin)