



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

January 2015 Volume 42, No. 1

Heritage News Now

St-François d'Assise Parish Celebrates 125 Years



Founded on January 23, 1891 under the care of Père Moïse, a member of the Capucin order, the first church and a monastery were constructed between 1891 and 1894. The present church was built in 1914-1915 to plans by Charles Brodeur.

The parish has planned many events to celebrate this anniversary, and set up a museum inside the church which can be viewed during regular Mass times.

For further information visit the website: www.stfrancoisdassise.on.ca

St-Charles Church Sold

Designated in 2013, the former church was sold in December 2014 for a mixed-use residential and commercial development which promises to preserve the views of the tower as well as maintain public access to the grounds and interior of the building.

(see *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter*, vol. 40 no. 4, October 2013)

See page 10 for more News Now.

Photo: Penn Lewis

Recent Designations Under Part IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act

(based on reports prepared by City of Ottawa Heritage Planning Staff)

By Shari Rutherford

Bethany Hope Centre, 1140 Wellington Street West



Hintonburg's landmark Bethany Hope Centre stands as a testament to the social services that have supported the community since its incorporation in 1893. Constructed in 1924 as an orphanage and later becoming a maternity home for unwed mothers, the Centre is a visual reminder of one of the original service providers in the historic local social services "hub". It is specifically and significantly associated with the charitable work of the Salvation Army. Notably, like many Salvation Army maternity homes, the Centre was located near a Salvation Army Grace Hospital (now the Grace Manor.)

As a good example of early 20th century institutional buildings, the two storey structure has a high basement, a stone foundation, red brick cladding, modest decoration, and a large setback from the street. Classically inspired, the Centre also boasts a flat roofed porch with round columns, central pediment, wide cornice with brick parapet, and symmetrical front façade with nine bays and simple geometric stone insets.

Rutherford House, 4515 9th Line Road



Rutherford House, constructed circa 1855 in the former Township of Osgoode, is an L-shaped, one-and-a-half storey residence built from

Photos: City of Ottawa

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Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage.

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Recent Designations cont'd.

locally quarried stone. Serving as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century Ottawa area stone farmhouse, its defining architectural elements include: large rectangular windows with stone sills and lintels, dressed limestone laid in courses, a gable with pointed arch window opening, a covered porch with an embossed tin roof in a maple leaf motif, and four stone chimneys. Beyond that design value, the house is associated with a prominent pioneer family, the Rutherfords, and was the childhood home of Alexander Cameron Rutherford, the first premier of Alberta. Alexander Cameron Rutherford was also instrumental in the creation of the University of Alberta, and served as its chancellor for over 30 years.

Briarcliffe Heritage Conservation District



11 Kindle Court

The Briarcliffe neighbourhood was first conceived in 1959 by four acquaintances: Walter Schreier, David Yuille, Ellen Douglas Webber, and Thaddeus Duncan. The homes were constructed primarily between 1961 and 1969, and feature the experimental designs of several major Ottawa architects, such as Strutt and Barkham. This history as a building cooperative is notable, as is Briarcliffe's association with – and reflection of – Ottawa's expansion following the Second World War.

Briarcliffe is a significant example of the architecture and planning of the Modern Movement. Located on an escarpment on the Ottawa River, the neighbourhood was designed to exist in harmony with the natural environment while exhibiting architecturally interesting Modern houses. The results of these guiding principles remain very much intact today, including a minimalist aesthetic, large lots with generous setbacks, and the houses' natural materials, modest footprints, low, horizontal forms, attached or integrated garages, and flat or sloped gable roofs.

Old St. Mary's Church and Ruins, Pinhey Point Road

Hamnett Kirkes Pinhey, a leading Ottawa area settler, established Old St. Mary's Church and its associated cemetery adjacent to his Pinhey's Point estate in 1825. Although the rubble stone church collapsed in the early twentieth century and was left as a ruin, it maintains its design value as a rare example of a Gothic Revival Ecclesiastical structure in the English parish style. Its symmetrical and neoclassical form is still evident, as are Gothic details such as its pointed arch windows and towers. The original plan and layout of the cemetery remains, too, as do its key features: the iron railings around the Rolston family plot, for instance, and the Pinhey family plot and its associated monuments. Notably, the variety and range of the grave markers' style, size, and sophistication reflects the changing tastes from pre-Victorian era to the present, as well as the socioeconomic make up of the surrounding community over time.

(see Heritage Ottawa Newsletter, vol. 41, no. 1)



Charles Billings House, 187 Billings Avenue

Charles Billings House is a one-and-a-half storey vernacular building that typifies the Ontario Cottage style of architecture. Its key architectural elements are its timber frame construction, stone foundation, gabled roof with central gable over the entrance, wooden siding, rectangular window openings with wooden trim, and red brick chimneys. As the building was principally built for shelter rather than aesthetic value, a diamond window in its vestibule is its only decoration. The precise date of the house's construction is unknown,

but it may be placed prior to 1857 and possibly as early as the 1820s. Speaking to its age, Billings House is oriented away from the street – an effect of its predating the area's development. The prominent Billings family to whom the property belonged would play an important role in the settlement of the Billings Bridge community.



478 Albert Street

Constructed circa 1874, this house survives as an excellent example of a Second Empire style residence. The three storey building's notable architectural elements consist of its dichromatic brickwork, rectangular plan, ornate entrance, distinctive

triangular bay windows, four-sided mansard roof with bracketed eaves, decorative dormers, chimneys, and simple cornice, and prominent second-storey semi-elliptical porch supported by columns. All display a high degree of craftsmanship and are largely unchanged from their original construction. As one of four remaining nineteenth century buildings on the south side of Albert Street, the house is a landmark that is significant in its contribution to maintaining the neighbourhood's historic residential character. The residence was designed for, and likely by, Thomas Seaton Scott, the first Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works. It later served as a home to many other notable residents, including Canadian writer and freelance journalist William Dawson LeSueur and the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Shari Rutherford is long-time history enthusiast, and a recent graduate of the Carleton University School of Canadian Studies' Heritage Conservation Program.

Help Heritage Ottawa 'Go Green' by Reading the *Newsletter* Online!

The recent development of our new website provides Heritage Ottawa members with two new service options: to opt-out of receiving print mailings of the *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* and read it online, and to manage their membership information.

For the *Newsletter* option, simply visit heritageottawa.org, go to "Publications" on the main menu and choose "Heritage Ottawa Newsletter". Then follow the member log-in instructions to read the latest and the previous year's *Newsletters*, available on the website only to Heritage Ottawa members. The entire *Newsletter* archive dating back to 1975 is also on the website and will soon be searchable by keyword.

To opt-out of receiving the print *Newsletter* before your next renewal, please send us an email at webmaster@heritageottawa.org with the words ONLINE NEWSLETTER in the subject line. Please include your full name in the message. We'll notify you by email as soon as the next *Heritage Ottawa Newsletter* is available on the website.

Renewing your membership on the new website also saves costs! If you recently received a renewal notice by email and haven't already done so, please take a moment to visit our website and renew your membership now. The process is quick, easy and secure, and records

your preference of print or online *Newsletter* access.

To date, nearly three-quarters of Heritage Ottawa members who've renewed their memberships on our new website have chosen to read the *Newsletter* online. The savings on printing and mailing costs allow funds to be applied to other heritage programs and initiatives while also helping the environment, a win-win situation!

Visit us at heritageottawa.org for up-to-the-minute heritage news, lecture and walking tour listings, membership renewals and more. Thanks for helping Heritage Ottawa to "go green" in 2015!

Heritage Ottawa Partners in Gothic Colloquium

By Bruce S. Elliott

Heritage Ottawa partnered with Carleton University, the Pinhey's Point Foundation (PPF), and the City of Ottawa in a two-day colloquium on the origins of Ottawa's domestic Gothic architecture on September 26-27, 2014. The colloquium and an accompanying exhibit by the Pinhey's Point Foundation drew attention to the role of the Pinhey family and their circle as patrons of the Confederation generation of English architects who came to Ottawa to compete for the Parliament Buildings contract in the late 1850s. At least thirteen villas, six still extant, were built in a Tudor Gothic style for members of the local establishment. They shared a revolutionary pinwheel floor plan that was not medieval at all but rather an innovation recently traced to the father of the English Gothic Revival, A.W.N. Pugin (1812-1852), by Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin, an architectural historian at the University of Kent School of Architecture. The pinwheel plan represented a completely new way of organizing domestic space in homes of modest size, in which wings of variable length revolve outwards from a central stair hall.

The colloquium was hosted by the Carleton University Department of History. Dr John Osborne, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton, as an art historian was immediately intrigued and readily agreed to finance the colloquium. This made it possible to bring Dr Brittain-Catlin from England, and to offer the entire program, including two lunches, free of charge for Carleton students and faculty, and bargain priced



Stiff Bros stereoview of Earnscliffe, the first of Ottawa's pinwheel villas, c.1872

at \$30 for those not part of the Carleton community. Production of the exhibit was made possible by a Heritage Project Fund grant from the City of Ottawa, with translation services facilitated by Culture and Heritage Services Branch.

The Exhibit

It was decided at the outset that while the colloquium would focus on the Gothic pinwheel house, the exhibit would feature ecclesiastical, civil, and Parliamentary gothic as well. All these came together to help create out of rough frontier Bytown a City of Ottawa worthy of being the capital of a new nation and, in the context of the time, a partner in the wider British Empire. The Pinhey family were a part of the story throughout. Gentleman immigrant Hamnett Pinhey (1784-1857) had erected on his rural estate in 1825-27 an early church that he considered Gothic, as a statement about the Britishness of the south shore

settlements in contrast to Philemon Wright's American colony on the north shore of the Ottawa. Old St Mary's was actually a Georgian box with pointed windows, similar to the Commissioners' Churches being built contemporaneously in England to increase Anglican services in the burgeoning industrial cities. Old St Mary's survives as a ruin and was recently designated a City of Ottawa heritage structure.

The polemical writings of Pugin beginning in the 1830s drew attention to the symbolic forms of true medieval English churches and condemned pagan Greek and Roman temples as models for places of Christian worship. Valley churches such as St John's South March were Gothicized by adding a wooden rood screen separating chancel from nave, though in the case of St John's the feature has since been removed. By the late 19th century new churches were being architect designed to accord with Ecclesiological principles,

with side porches and towers. The exhibit used New St Mary's as its example, designed in 1909 to replace Pinhey's Church by J.W.H. Watts, first director of the National Gallery. The exhibit explains how the rediscovery of medieval forms provoked a schism in the Anglican communion in the 1870s over fears that the Church was reverting to Roman Catholic practices. Some low church Anglicans organized a congregation of a Reformed Episcopal denomination from the United States. The exhibit contrasts the former Emmanuel R.E. Church with St Patrick's Basilica completed

"At least thirteen villas, six still extant, were built in a Tudor Gothic style for members of the local establishment."

in the same year, drawing upon the work of Dr Victoria Bennett to demonstrate how different Roman Catholic Gothic revival in fact was from the Anglican variety.

The exhibit quotes Pugin and Ruskin on the suitability of Gothic

for public buildings, presents local commentary on the revolution in taste these buildings represented, and presents new research on a previously unknown Ottawa architect, Walter Darwent, who designed one of our earliest Gothic civil buildings before going on to a colourful non-architectural career in the United States and Trinidad. The exhibit draws on the work of Carolyn Young, Janet Wright and others to explore the origins of the Parliamentary design, and to address a long-standing debate in Canadian architectural history as to whether Gothic ever became a Canadian national style, concluding instead that it was adopted locally in a stripped-down form early in the 20th century to establish continuity between new federal government buildings and the Gothic of the Parliamentary precinct.

Finally, the exhibit presents up-to-the minute research by David Jeanes suggesting for the first time an architect, Frederick Lawford of Montreal, who may have been the designer of Ottawa's earliest pinwheel house, Earnscliffe, later the residence of Prime Minister Macdonald, and also of the second such building in Ottawa, Hamnett Hill's Tudor Hall. Jeanes demonstrated that at least three of the pinwheel houses (C.H. Pinhey's Merton Cottage, James Dyke's The Elms – at the core of the Visitation Convent property now being redeveloped in Westboro – and the Christies' Moose Cottage on Bronson) were designed by another forgotten architect, Sidney Fripp, who took over the architectural business of Lawford's Ottawa partner in 1860. Display cases highlight the use of Earnscliffe by the Macdonalds, influences on the design of the Parliament Buildings, and the reception of the pinwheel plan into American pattern books.



Photo: Danielle Jones

L-R: David Jeanes, Bruce Elliott, Timothy Brittain-Catlin, and Peter Coffman at Earnscliffe.



Tour group at Cabotto's restaurant

Bruce Elliott developed the exhibit, in consultation with David Jeanes and Peter Coffman of Carleton's Art History Department. Three students in Dr Elliott's third-year Carleton history course on Ottawa neighbourhoods undertook research that supported elements of the exhibit. Jennifer Horvath merged all 49 sheets of Ottawa's first fire insurance atlas of 1878 into one mammoth data file and highlighted residential and non-residential buildings of stone; her map became the centerpiece for a panel on Ottawa's thirteen pinwheel houses. Arsalan Hosseini did some of the background research on Ottawa's Parliamentary Gothic, and Victoria Hawkins produced a paper on the gendering of Victorian domestic space in the Christie house that became the basis for the final panel.

The Colloquium

The colloquium began on Friday, September 26 with a tour of the

Pinheys' country estate Horaceville so that participants could view the Georgian vernacular residence of the first generation before learning about the Gothic pinwheel villas erected for the second. With the cooperation of the Anglican congregation of St Mary's and its cemetery committee, Old and New St Mary's were viewed with commentary by Dr Elliott. The ladies of New St Mary's, led by Christine Hickman who is also a member of the Foundation's board, served in the Church Hall a picnic lunch provided by the Pinhey's Point Foundation.

On the Friday afternoon, through the gracious permission of His Excellency Howard Drake, OBE, the British High Commissioner, a group restricted to 50 was admitted to the grounds and interior of Earnscliffe for a tour guided by



Tour group at New St Mary's Church, Parish of March

“...allowing us to view other surviving pinwheel houses: *Silver Spring at Bell’s Corners, The Elms, Stadacona Hall in Sandy Hill, now the Embassy of Brunei, and Abbotsford across from Lansdowne Park,*”

Drs Jeanes, Elliott, and Brittain-Catlin. In the evening 96 people attended the keynote address by Dr Brittain-Catlin on Pugin’s invention of the pinwheel plan, sponsored by Heritage Ottawa and doubling as the first of its annual public lecture series. Its High Gothic interior made St Alban’s Anglican Church a wonderfully appropriate venue. This lecture and the two Saturday lectures, which were free to all, were also publicized as contributions to Culture Days 2014.

On the Saturday morning the PPF Gothic exhibit was inaugurated in the lecture theatre at Carleton University’s River Building, where David Jeanes spoke about Ottawa’s pinwheel villas and Ian Badgley, the NCC archaeologist, about the place of the Pinhey family homes in the context of the history and redevelopment of LeBreton Flats.

The afternoon bus tour began with lunch at Cabotto’s Restaurant near Stittsville, another of the pinwheel houses, opened for us specially by owner Vincenzo Pucci. The coach tour proceeded downtown by way of Richmond Road, allowing us to view other surviving pinwheel houses: Silver Spring at Bell’s Corners, The Elms, Stadacona Hall in Sandy Hill, now the Embassy of Brunei, and Abbotsford across from Lansdowne Park, where we toured the ground floor with its original marble

fireplaces with Patricia Goyeche, Coordinator of Community Programs for Abbotsford/the Glebe Centre. We also drove past the onetime sites of Hill’s Tudor Hall and Charles Pinhey’s Merton Cottage on Wellington, Sandy Christie’s Moose Cottage on Bronson, and the Terraces, a brick pinwheel house built at 910 Bank for Alexander Mutchmor, beside his stone pinwheel Abbotsford. (Ken Elder recounted the later history of 910 Bank in the last issue of this newsletter.) The other lost pinwheel houses were Catherine Stewart’s Appin Place on the site of the Museum of Nature, Sir Henry Bate’s Trennick at 216 Chapel, and the Batson/Parent house at 142 Daly. Parts of the latter survive amongst Mackenzie King’s artificial ruins at Kingsmere.

All three tours were fully subscribed and the entire colloquium was blessed with two gloriously sunny days. The Carleton Centre for Public History contributed a research assistant, Jesse Robertson, who video-

recorded the three lectures and the bulk of the tour commentary for posting, once edited, to the internet. On the Wednesday preceding the colloquium, Tim Brittain-Catlin hosted the screening of a BBC Pugin documentary, *God’s Architect*, a late addition to the History Undergraduate Society (HUGS) fall movie series, thanks to Heritage Ottawa’s Laurie Brady and Nancy Duff, librarian at the Audio-Visual Resource Centre at St Patrick’s College.

The English language version of the Gothic exhibit has been installed in the Carleton University Department of History (fourth floor Paterson Hall) for the remainder of the 2014-15 academic year, and the full bilingual exhibit, including a segment deploying 19th-century stereographic 3D images of several of the pinwheel houses, will open at Pinhey’s Point Historic Site in May.

Bruce Elliott is a professor in the Carleton University Department of History.



Keynote speaker Timothy Brittain-Catlin at Hogs Back Falls

910 Bank Street Road – a new beginning and ending to the story

By David Jeanes

Editor – Heritage Ottawa Board member David Jeanes has shared his knowledge about the Bank Street house profiled by Ken Elder in the previous issue, and the editor of the Glebe Report alerted us to a new ending.

**A first class New Brick Residence known as
MUTCHMOR'S MANSION,**
Situated on the picturesque Bank Street Road, with from
ONE TO SEVEN ACRES OF GROUND
attached, part of which is beautifully laid out with Ornamental Trees and Shrubbery.
For further particulars apply to
THOS. DOWSLEY,
Cuzner's Brick Block, Rideau Street, up Stairs, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Ottawa, June 1. d9



Mutchmor's Mansion advertisement.

910 Bank Street, described by Ken Elder in the last issue, has an earlier history. Alexander Mutchmor, whose family owned the land on Bank Street north of the Canal, built it in 1866-7, as noted in

McLean residence 1882

family papers. He advertised it as “Mutchmor’s Brick Mansion” in May and June 1869. It was purchased by his dry goods business partner and nephew, John M. Garland, who moved there around October 1869.

910 Bank Street was an example of the Pugin-inspired “pinwheel” house plan, featured at the Gothic Colloquium (see page 4). Topley photographed the house in October 1873 with Garland’s wife and children, who also appear in Topley’s studio portraits. On Garland and Mutchmor’s bankruptcy in 1879, Garland sold the house to Alexander McLean and Mutchmor sold Abbotsford, next door, to Charles Mackintosh. Topley photographed McLean’s house in October 1882. The last use of the building was as Progressive Conservative committee rooms for the 1949 federal election.

The parking lot and Beer Store at 890 and 900 Bank Street are now the subject of an application for site plan control for the construction of a new larger two-storey commercial building with 8 commercial/retail units (one of which will be a new Beer Store).



Garland residence 1873

From the President

By *Leslie Maitland*



Welcome to 2015!

Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site

The most serious heritage issue confronting Ottawa at the moment is the proposal to remove 60 acres from the CEF for use as a campus for the Civic Hospital. No question the Civic needs a new installation, but given the number of unused and underused federal properties around town, other good options could be considered. The Central Experimental Farm is a national historic site, designated for its cultural landscape and scientific value. If sixty acres, which represents 10 percent of the cropland is removed, those values will be considerably diminished. Additionally, the CEF's ongoing scientific contribution to agricultural research addresses the economic, social and health value of Canada's agricultural sector. That an institution based upon scientific principles would be a party to the dismemberment of another scientific institution is disturbing. Heritage Ottawa is urging the Ottawa Hospital and the Minister Responsible for the

NCC to continue looking for suitable sites, while protecting the Central Experimental Farm.

"The Central Experimental Farm is a national historic site, designated for its cultural landscape and scientific value. If sixty acres, which represents 10 percent of the cropland is removed, those values will be considerably diminished."

New Term of Council

The new Built Heritage Subcommittee chair will be Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, of Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward, and Heritage Ottawa gives him a warm welcome. We are also pleased that the three citizen members have been reappointed: Barry Padolsky of Barry Padolsky Associates, Sandy Smallwood of Andrex Holdings, and Carolyn Quinn of the Heritage Canada National Trust, who all contributed significantly to the BHSC in the last term of Council. As well, the City has pledged to review the terms of the mandate of this sub-committee, which is promising. We'll let you know more as the situation unfolds.

Heritage Week is Coming Up

Heritage Day in the City of Ottawa will be Tuesday, February 17th. Many of Ottawa's heritage organizations, including Heritage Ottawa, will have displays and activities at Jean Piggott Hall at City Hall, starting at 11:30 in the morning. So come down and see

what's happening! This year's theme is Main Streets: just think of a Main Street near you, which is probably the beating heart of your neighbourhood, and how important it is to keep it lively and prosperous, and how the heritage buildings in that streetscape make it appealing.

Lecture Series

The Lecture series is doing well, and attendance is great! Don't forget to consult your lecture series brochure and our website for updates on our monthly lectures. Heritage Ottawa and the National Capital Commission are the co-hosts of an evening panel on heritage in the National Capital Region. The evening event will be held Thursday, February 19th, at the NCC offices at 40 Queen Street. Check the Heritage Ottawa and NCC websites closer to the date for more details.

Rural and Suburban Heritage

As you will see on our back page, rural heritage is vulnerable to urban development in our city. Plans for our Heritage Forum in the fall are under way. We are looking for speakers with successes and failures to share and resources both human and documentary which will address the issues of rural and suburban heritage.

Leslie Maitland
President, *Heritage Ottawa / Patrimoine Ottawa*

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 21

Postponed

Phillips Memorial Heritage Forum

Heritage Ottawa has postponed this event until fall 2015 in order to co-host a panel discussion on heritage in the National Capital Region with the National Capital Commission.

Thursday, February 19

Panel on Heritage in the National Capital Region

40 Queen Street, NCC Headquarters

Tuesday February 17
Heritage Day Celebrations at Ottawa City Hall

Heritage Ottawa display and presentation the Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grant

Wednesday March 18
Taking Care of Business: the Mausoleum Promoter and the Cemetery



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS: THE MAUSOLEUM PROMOTER AND THE CEMETERY
A LECTURE BY DOROTHY SMITH | MARCH 18, 2015

Beechwood Mausoleum

Speaker: Dorothy Smith
Ottawa Public Library
Auditorium 7:00 pm

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Des reçus pour fin d'impôt sur le revenu seront émis pour les dons de 10.00\$ et plus. Le numéro d'enregistrement en tant qu'organisme de bienfaisance de Patrimoine Ottawa est : 893096776RR0001.

News Now Cont'd.

Loss of another rural heritage building – the Davidson Hope farm house 5272 Old Richmond Road
(Formerly 1571 Old Richmond Road)



Davidson-Hope farm house before and after:



Ottawa's Planning Committee and Council approved a proposal in December 2013 to relocate and re-use this stone farm house as part of the approval of the surrounding subdivision. Although the house was constructed circa 1870 for Hugh Davidson and the land farmed by the Davidson family until 1924, then by the Hope family until 2011, it had not been designated or placed on the Heritage Reference List. Heritage staff were prepared to recommend designation once the move had taken place. However, the owner found the cost of the move prohibitive and opted to use the original stones to clad a replica building. Since the farm house was not protected under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, staff were unable prevent this outcome.