



Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage

June 2023 Volume 50, No. 2

2023
WALKING
TOURS

www.heritageottawa.org

Our Tour Season Begins June 11!

We are kicking off the 2023 season with three great tours in June beginning with "Hintonburg: An Early Streetcar Suburb".

Eleven more tours will follow.
See page 7 for a listing.

Visit our website for more details
and to register online. Space is
limited, so don't delay.

**Note: Online registration and
payment in advance of each tour is
required.** We encourage anyone who
is more comfortable wearing a mask to
feel free to do so.

Walking Tours are \$10
for members and \$25
for non-members.

Visit our website for tour information
and how to register online:
heritageottawa.org/heritage-ottawa-walking-tours

ANDREX find your place
in history



The Gates at Rideau Hall: Heritage in Iron and Stone

By David Clendenning



H. E. Earl Grey on cutter outside Rideau Hall Gates, c. 1904-11.

Post card photo source: David Clendenning

The Rideau Hall Gates are an integral part of Ottawa's Confederation-era built environment and their impact has been far-reaching. Ironwork is more than just structural detail, it is the legacy of a time when architectural effort demanded the highest standards to satisfy the discerning property owner.

The Rideau Gates are located at the entrance to Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor General of Canada. Construction began in 1867, when the new

Dominion of Canada purchased the property as an official residence for the Governor General. Public Works architect Frederick P. Rubidge (1806-1897) designed the stone and iron structure at the entrance to mark the estate as a place of significance. Over the next 70 years, the enclosure was gradually extended around the entire property.

The ornamental cast and wrought iron main entrance gates and the first section of the fence were constructed in 1867-68 to signal that this estate,

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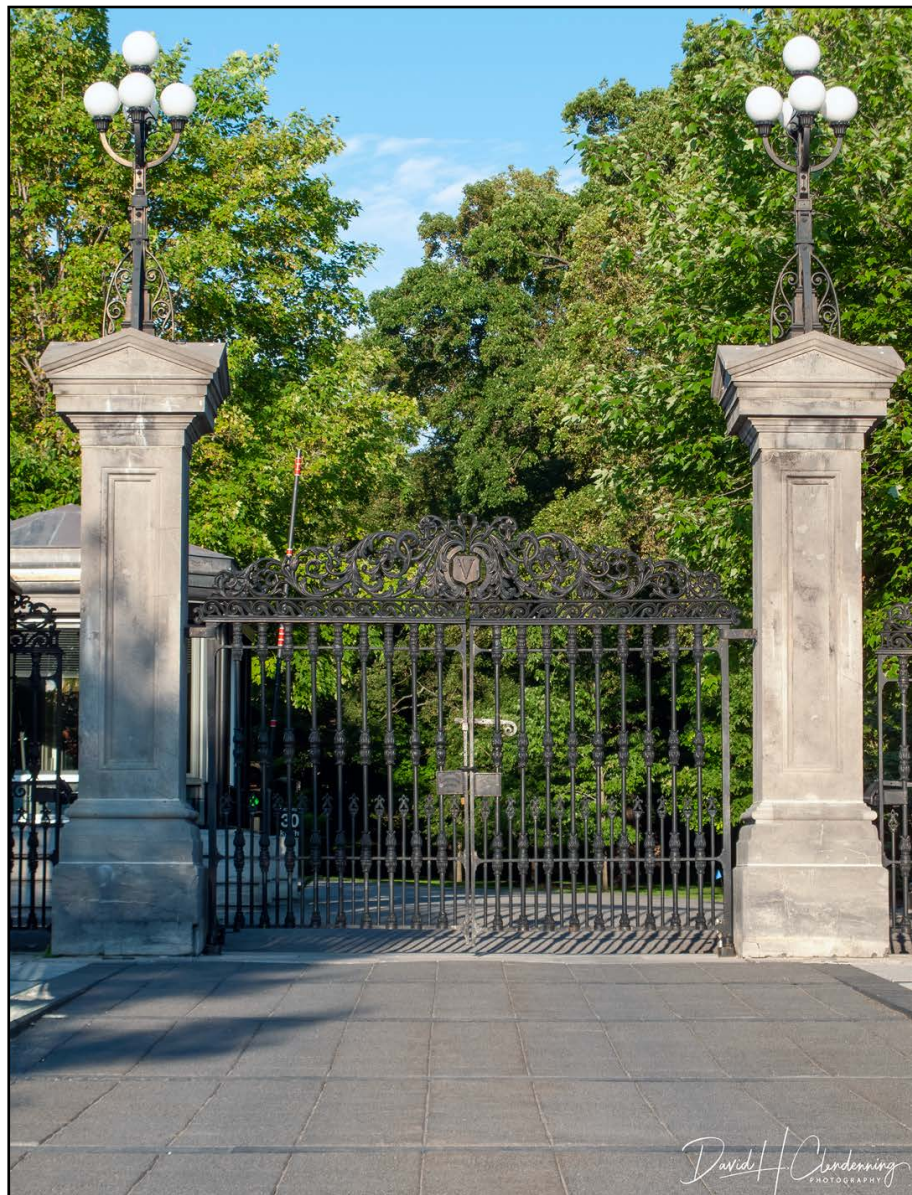
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The Gates at Rideau Hall Continued...



Rideau Gates, centre section with Clendinneng plaque on left side, 2011

once a private home, was now the residence of the Governor General.

The firm of Wm. Clendinneng of Montreal manufactured the gates and fence for the sum of four hundred dollars. They were shipped by barge, along with the original limestone piers, up the Ottawa River from Montreal.

Rideau Hall Gates – Description

The Rideau Hall Gates, as described in the Rideau Hall Perimeter Fence

Restoration Investigation Report, NCC, June 1995, consist of a central pair of gates flanking the driveway and the two single outer smaller gates to regulate foot traffic. The main panels of the iron gates consist of thin bars, knobbed at the centre and the ends, each of which is broken by a finial that combines a trefoil and fleur-de-lys motif. Scroll-work decorates the top of the gates and the initial V for Queen Victoria sits in the centre. The bars allow for viewing into the grounds. Small gas lanterns that once capped the tall central



Rideau Gates, front view. Sentry boxes in front of side gates. 2011.

piers have been replaced by larger and more elaborate decorative iron sconces bearing globes for electric light. The simple stone piers are well finished and balance the elaborate decorative iron gates. A founder plaque erected on the Gates states “Wm. Clendinneng, Manufacturer, Montreal, 1868.”

The gates are a designated federal heritage site because of its “good proportions, scale, detail and functional design; and because it survives with its integrity unchanged. The gates are a physical symbol of Canada’s historical ties with the Crown.” They are set in context with the adjacent two-story, off-white octagon gate lodge.

The Rideau Gates establish the heritage character of this important site and is the public terminus for the official ceremonial route between Rideau Hall and Parliament Hill.

The main gates, piers and fence served as a model for the secondary perimeter fence that now surrounds the 25-hectare landscaped estate. Construction of the entire iron and stone fence was such a large project

that it was carried out in phases in the 1920s and the early 1930s, primarily as a relief project during the Depression. The quality of the materials used was not as high as that of the original, likely due to economic conditions of the era.

Connection to Montreal

William Clendinneng was a Quebec manufacturer, merchant, philanthropist and political figure. Born in Cavan,



View of Government Guest House, 7 Rideau Gate, from Rideau Gates, 2016.

Ireland, June 22, 1833, Clendinneng arrived in Montreal in 1847 at the age of 14 at the height of the Great Irish Famine. After working a variety of professional jobs, Clendinneng began his rise in Montreal society when he joined Wm. Rodden’s foundry, located at Griffintown in St. Ann’s Ward, near the Lachine Canal. He started as a book-keeper clerk in June, 1852 and within six years he was a managing partner; by 1868, he was the owner of the foundry whose origins date back to a forge started in 1810. Under Clendinneng the business became the largest foundry in Canada.

By 1884, the foundry took the name Wm. Clendinneng & Son Company. Its 450 workers made casting of all types, including: architectural and ornamental ironwork; agricultural and railway castings; drain and gas pipes; stoves and hollow ware; and household goods – the tools of homestead farms and Canada’s urbanization. The foundry participated in the Great Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 in Britain and the Paris 1855 Exposition. Canada’s first industrial design was a Clendinneng double stove, registered in 1861. The foundry’s reputation made it the natural choice to manufacture the Rideau Gates.

The foundry ceased operations in 1904; however, the legacy of William Clendinneng, Sr., and his son William Clendenning, Jr., will forever be associated with iron manufacturing. William Clendinneg Sr. died in 1907 and is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal.

David Clendenning is a former diplomat and Trade Commissioner. Since retirement, he is engaged in fine art architectural photography based in Ottawa. He is the great grandson of the original Clendinneng foundry owner. The legal spelling of the family name was changed in 1909.

The Pressure is On: Provincial Bill 23 and the Rush to Designate

By Carolyn Quinn

As we know, Bill 23 is hitting heritage hard in the city. Resulting amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* will reduce the value of the Heritage Register by limiting the over 4,000 listed properties to a maximum of two years. And delisted properties cannot be reconsidered for the Registry for a period of five years. These provisions will inevitably result in the loss of many of our city's heritage resources (see more about the impact of *Bill 23* in "*Heritage Preservation and Protection Setback 20 Years!*" in Vol. 50, No. 1, 2023)

The clock is ticking and the City's Heritage Planning team is working hard to prioritize those properties on the Registry that qualify for protection under Part IV of the OHA before the end of 2024. City Council recently approved the staff recommendations to designate three such properties. Here is a brief snapshot of them.

École St-Pierre



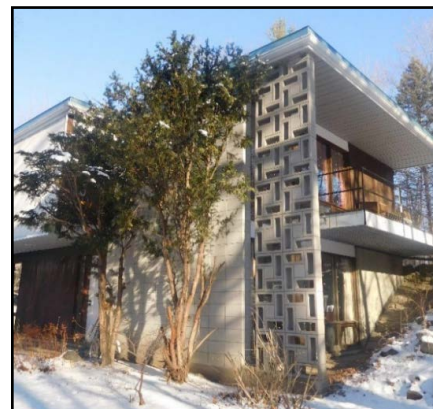
École St-Pierre at 353 Friel Street was designed in the Edwardian Classical style in 1906 by local architect Felix Maral Hamel and was Sandy Hill's first French-language school. The construction of the former school, and its changing uses over time, contributes to the history and understanding of the evolution of Sandy Hill from a 19th century suburb into an urban neighbourhood.

Iona Mansions



Iona Mansions at 1123-1131 Wellington Street West was constructed in 1912 to the design of renown Ottawa architect Werner E. Noffke. The three-storey, mixed-use building features elements of the Tudor Revival style popular in the early 20th century. It is a neighbourhood landmark that is directly associated with the growth of Wellington Street West and the expansion of Hintonburg into a thriving village.

Crabtree House



Crabtree House at 559 Lang's Road is an International style house featuring a rectangular form, multiple cladding materials, large windows, and overhanging eaves. It was designed by Ottawa architect Matthew Stankiewicz in 1962. The property was part of the Fairhaven Cooperative, created by a small group of employees from the nearby National Research Council in 1947. The Cooperative was the first of its kind in Canada and established a set of regulations to shape the modernist architecture and surrounding landscape of the neighbourhood that can still be seen today.

Carolyn Quinn is a member of Ottawa's Built Heritage Committee and a Heritage Ottawa board member.

Photo: City of Ottawa

Photo: Linda Hoad

Photo: City of Ottawa

Preserving Richmond's Built Heritage – Or Not

By Barbara Bottriell

One could say that history is found not only in the stories of the people who inhabited a place, and the events that happened there, but also in the buildings whose architecture tell a story of their own.

Richmond, Ontario, is such a place, because it has so many buildings whose architecture expresses a particular period of time through the style in which they were built. There are not very many places outside the core of the City of Ottawa that hold such a group of historic buildings. So Richmond is a special place. But how do you protect what still exists there?

In 2010 something called the Village of Richmond Community Design Plan was published. It was the result of two years of many consultations with the citizens of Richmond (whose population at that time was about 4500) and was based on the desire of the City of Ottawa to involve its own citizens in the kind of community they wanted to live in. Because of its special historic aspects, a certain portion of Richmond was designated as a Cultural Heritage Character Area.

You might think that this would protect the historic built heritage of Richmond. But the City of Ottawa was careful to say at the time that the Richmond Cultural Heritage Character Area was not intended to be a Heritage Conservation District under the *Heritage Act*. In other words, the City recognized that this was a special area but did not want to go as far as offering it legal protection under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. And that's how things have remained ever since.

So what we have in Richmond is a plan that outlines how growth should happen, how water resources should be developed, where green spaces and parks should be provided, how new buildings should fit in with existing architecture, how heritage buildings should be respected and protected, and where residents wanted to see improvements made at important points in the village. But there does not appear to be any way to ensure that this will happen. Since municipal amalgamation in 2000, there is no Town Council to oversee such arrangements, only a single Councillor whose Ward extends far beyond Richmond. And the Community Design Plan states that it is the City of Ottawa's Planning

Department that will oversee implementation.

It is hard to imagine that a Planning Department in charge of a large city like Ottawa, with all the requests and difficulties of dealing with developers and planning for the whole city, could effectively oversee the implementation of one community's design plan, far from the centre of the action at City Hall.

The built heritage of Richmond however is worth noting and cherishing. The Community design Plan showed 69 buildings of Tier One and Tier Two designation of historic interest. These were researched and written up by a sub-committee of Richmond residents



McElroy House, built before 1893.

Photo: Barbara Bottriell



Richmond Smokehouse, built around 1819, now demolished.

of whom two, Marion Scott and Joan Darby, did much of the work. Yet none of these is protected by an official heritage designation.

All of these buildings were placed on Ottawa's Built Heritage Register. But with the advent of Bill 23, brought in recently by the Ontario government, buildings which are not designated under the Ontario Heritage Act within two years, will be removed from the list and can only be reinstated after five years. Ottawa's Heritage Planning Department is currently working hard to arrange designation for listed but unprotected heritage buildings throughout the whole city, but how many will

actually be protected by the deadline is unknown.

So Richmond's heritage buildings are vulnerable in so many ways. In the last few years, the stone "smokehouse", an outbuilding of the long-gone Masonic Arms Hotel in Richmond, where the Duke of Richmond stayed just before he died in 1819, was demolished on private property with no seeming consequences or fuss made. It had been listed as a Tier one building on the City's Heritage Register.

How can we as a city change this? Are we just going to let our heritage buildings disappear from lack of

interest? Or can we capitalize on them, protect them, and make them into the asset they are. Heritage buildings add character to towns and villages and to neighbourhoods in the city. People are attracted to places with character and history. If such neighbourhoods are protected, presented and marketed properly, they attract not only tourists, but become desirable places for people to live. We must not fail to protect the special built heritage we currently have in Richmond.

Barbara Bottriell is a resident of Stittsville, and is a member of the Heritage Ottawa board.

HERITAGE OTTAWA WALKING TOURS CALENDAR 2023

Sunday, June 11, 2pm

Hintonburg: An Early Streetcar Suburb

Sunday, June 18, 2pm

Lowertown East

Thursday, June 22, 7pm

Parliamentary Precinct

Sunday, July 9, 2pm

Basse-Ville Ouest

Thursday, July 13, 7pm

À la decouverte de la promenade du Portage : la belle d'autrefois

Thursday, July 20, 7pm

The Garden Suburb of Lindenlea

Sunday, July 23, 2pm

Ruskin Place: "Homes for people of good taste and modest means"

Sunday, August 13, 2pm

Centretown West: An Urban Neighbourhood in Flux

Sunday, August 20, 2pm

The Parliamentary Precinct

More tours will be taking place in September and October. Check our website for details at www.heritageottawa.org/heritage-ottawa-walking-tours.

Going once, going twice, sold!

Do you enjoy the excitement of the auction process? Do you want to find a unique gift for yourself a family member or friend? Are you downsizing and needing to divest yourself of some interesting items?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes", then you could be helping Heritage Ottawa's continuing efforts to speak out for heritage properties at risk, provide sought-after expert advice, maintain our track record of delivering quality educational programs and activities like walking tours and public lectures, and to offer a range of publications that reach thousands.

Heritage Ottawa is considering holding its first ever online auction in February 2024. All items would be donated and might include heritage and other books, silver, art, jewellery, gift certificates, in person coffee or discussion sessions with experts on diverse subjects, theatre and movie tickets, gift certificates and popular consumer goods. The possibilities are endless. Anyone (Heritage Ottawa member or not) with a credit card and computer or cell phone will be able to participate.

But to undertake this exciting project, we need your help:

- Would you be able to store donated items in a secure, dry, heated and conveniently local home, warehouse, or place of business prior to the online auction?
- Can you spare some time to help with tasks such as soliciting and cataloguing auction donations, responding to enquiries, website styling, and bookkeeping?

Please let the Auction Working Group know at info@heritageottawa.org.

The New Built Heritage Committee of City Council

For the first time Ottawa City Council has created a standing committee to consider built heritage issues. Under previous Councils, built heritage issues were dealt with by a sub-committee of the Planning Committee. To get a sense of what we might expect from this new committee, Heritage Ottawa met with its chair, Councillor Rawlson King, who also served as chair of the Built Heritage sub-Committee under the previous Council. The following remarks are a condensed version of a longer conversation on April 6, 2023.

In response to a question on his expectations or objectives for the Built Heritage Committee (BHC) during this term of Council, Councillor King noted that the main driver for the upgrading of the Committee's status was the passage by the provincial government of Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, and the obstacles that it posed for designated heritage buildings and heritage conservation districts, and for the hundreds of properties listed on the Heritage Registry. He believed in – and had persuaded Council to support – a strong Ottawa voice when it came to heritage designations. He was hoping also for a streamlining of procedure for all participants. In terms of committee goals, as chair he wanted to work with all committee members to develop a work plan and set objectives.

When asked about particular districts of the city where development pressures were especially acute in terms of heritage conservation, Councillor King referred to the challenge posed by densification and the consequences posed by Bill 23 in terms of tighter time frames for designations. Obviously

Centretown, Westboro, and areas adjacent to Rockcliffe Park were areas where pressures were strongest. He wondered if there could not be more attention given to adaptive re-use to support built heritage conservation.

As for strengthening the understanding of and support for built heritage conservation, noting that the greenest building is the one already built, Councillor King agreed that there needed to be more dialogue in the city, at the Council level. He felt that there was scope for education and outreach from more wide-ranging discussion at the Built Heritage Committee, and more publicity from the City's heritage conservation awards and grants. When asked about the reinstatement of the Mayor's Task Force on Heritage Matters and a link to the BHC, the Councillor deferred to the Mayor.

In terms of relations with the National Capital Commission, the major custodian of federally-owned built heritage in Ottawa, Councillor King said his intention was to strengthen cooperation between the City heritage staff and elected officials and the NCC to pursue the City's mission to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate and restore local heritage resources.

Footnote:

On April 26, at City Council, Councillor King opposed the motion of his own committee, passed by a vote of 5-3, to designate the former Canadian Pacific Railway Rideau River bridge as a heritage structure under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. To Heritage Ottawa's surprise, rather than presenting the BHC's recommendation to Council

Membership of the 2023-2026 Built Heritage Committee

Chair: Rawlson King, Councillor

Vice-chair: Stéphanie Plante, Councillor

Clarke Kelly, Councillor

Jeff Leiper, Councillor

Ariel Troster, Councillor

Vaibhavi Dhote, public member

Christine Legault, public member

James Maddigan, public member

Carolyn Quinn, public member

for discussion, approval or rejection, he presented a new motion to override the decision of the BHC. In doing so, he prevented the presentation and discussion of the BHC's original recommendation at Council. It is hard to imagine Council ignoring a motion from Planning Committee or the Finance Committee in a similar manner. Heritage Ottawa hopes this slight to all the citizen members of the BHC who voted in favour of the original motion (as well as two of the councillors) is not setting a dangerous precedent that will undermine the value of the committee in the future. (Visit www.heritageottawa.org/news for more information).

Hunter McGill, guest editor of the newsletter, is a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board