



The Historic Churches of Prince Edward Island by H.M. Scott Smith.

## Book Review

### Still Standing, Cape Breton Buildings From Days Gone By

Text and drawings by Terry Sunderland, College of Cape Breton Press, Sydney, Nova Scotia, 1980, \$7.95

A soft cover book that is a prophecy, a forerunner, a request for a major treatment of a rich legacy—the built-environment of Cape Breton.

With so much promotion given to the Cabot Trail and Scottish Culture on the Island of Cape Breton, the man-built legacy of buildings has been much undervalued both by residents and by tourist promoters alike. Sunderland's book is a tease—both for the serious architectural historian and the hobby building-gazer. For Sunderland, primarily an artist, has sketched in his thirty-one buildings a peep-box view of the richness of Cape Breton Architecture. Indeed of his thirty-one buildings presented (out of dozens of potential subjects), three are already gone from the scene and two are in serious danger.

Sunderland travelled the highways and the by-roads of Cape Breton, mostly on his bicycle. The book, modest in its appearance, carries with it the languor of a summer bicycle ride through the Island—but the sketches while beguiling suggest that much more careful annotating of the built-environment needs to be done—and soon. The text, sufficient for the style of the book, encourages the serious building enthusiast to travel, to ask questions and to look more closely at the context in which the buildings are placed.

Almost with the naivete of youth, Sutherland presents a careful documentary of the variety of style on the little island including: the eccentric Queen Anne extravaganza of the railroad stations, dating from the late 1800's, the modest simple-line combined farm and barn of the Acadian community, the stone Garrison Church in Sydney, dating from the late 1780's, the wooden adapted Gothic country church of Glencoe Mills, built in 1873 with its bell tower that is both astonishing and looking-astonished, the determined Georgian sandstone townhouse of Irish Immigrant Peter Smyth and finally the more casual field stone house of a Scottish immigrant to the restored Lenoir forge in Arichat. The use of local materials and local adaptation of building styles are both hidden agendas in the book.

Clearly visible in the well reproduced line drawings are public buildings such as train stations, post offices and churches; private residences of merchants, miners and farmers; and places of work such as barns, sheds and stores. The notes concerning these are accurate in their references to style and casually suggest the multi-ethnic composition of Cape Breton with Acadians, Loyalists, Channel-Islanders and Scots all mentioned.

With the possible omission of Micmac Shelters, large commercial buildings and the reconstructed fortress at Louisbourg, the book is inclusive—at least as much as it could be, given the wide variety of building materials and styles so tantalizingly noted. For a person who uses the book often, as does this reviewer, it would have been helped by a table of contents or an index with the pages numbered. The book is useful as a preliminary, teasing text of Cape Breton Architecture and thus far the only book available.

Sunderland has contributed greatly to the awareness of the built-heritage of Cape Breton. The book, modest in price and appearance, is not modest in its importance to the encouragement of further study, more documentation and greater presentation of the architectural treasures still standing on this tiny Island of Cape Breton. □

By Jim St. Clair

## Books

Robert Hill, editor of *The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950*, has submitted the following list of publications.

*Edward & W.S. Maxwell - Guide to the Archive*, General Editor Irena Murray, published by McGill University, Montreal 1986, 494 pages, approximate cost \$15.00, paper, with bilingual text and reproductions of several drawings. The guide provides an index of work by name of client, name of place and project title. Also included is a full list of all published articles on the Maxwells' work which appeared in early Canadian architectural periodicals such as, the "Canadian Architect & Builder," "Construction" and the "RAIC Journal."

## Letter to the Editor

### Nobbs & Maxwell Guides

I was very pleased to see the announcement in the Publications Section of Vol. 11, No. 3 of the *Bulletin* and to hear of your interest in reviewing *Percy Erskine Nobbs and his Associates* together with the future volume(s) in the series. Well, the future is now! It gives me much pleasure to enclose a copy of *Edward & W.S. Maxwell: a guide to the archive*. As you can see, the Maxwells were prolific architects and the tome is quite heavy, but I hope it will make it to the N.W.T. in one piece.

I think it would be very useful to have the two volumes reviewed together. Robert Hill, of the *Biog. Dict. of Architects in Canada*, remarked in his recent letter to me, that our guides might "become a model for other Canadian archives and institutions to follow as they prepare inventories of their own architectural collections."

It is also my hope that our work will encourage others to "take the plunge" and that much new information will become available as a result to architectural historians across the country.

We have added some new features to the Maxwell guide, including an index of consultants and prior architects involved in the Maxwell projects. Our next endeavor will be the guide to the measured drawings of old Québec buildings by Ramsey Traquair. By the virtue of its contents this guide will be different from the two previous titles, which dealt with the respective professional practice of P.E. Nobbs and E. and W.S. Maxwell.

I think that the introductory matter to both guides provides sufficient background, but should you need any additional information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Irena Murray, Head  
Blackader-Lauterman Library  
3459 McTavish Street  
Montreal, H3A 1Y1

### Editor's Note:

These two volumes are available for review. Please forward \$5.00 to cover postage to D. Lovell, 407-4402 School Draw Ave., Yellowknife, N.W.T., X1A 2R9.

*Historic Churches of Prince Edward Island*, by H. Scott Smith, Architect, Halifax, N.S. 120 pages, paperback, with high-quality colour plates, b&w illus, plans, index, glossary. Price \$14.95 From Boston Mills Press, 132 Main Street, Erin, Ont. NOB 1T0. This is the first of several books planned by Mr. Smith. The next in the series will include books on the Houses of P.E.I., the public buildings of P.E.I., and buildings associated with agriculture and the fishery in P.E.I.

*Vieux Quebec son Architecture Interieure*, by Christina Cameron and Monique Trepanier pub. 1986 by the History Div., National Museum of Man, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M8 (part of the Mercury Series, No. 40). 537 pages, profusely illustrated with b&w illus. of exteriors and interiors of houses, shops, factories, etc. in the Old City of Quebec. Bilingual, with a 14 pages essay on "The Analysis of Decorative Elements" and index to name of builder and architect, and index to street locations.

There is no price stated on this book, but presumably it is free by written request to the address noted in Ottawa.

*Canadian Architectural Periodicals Index 1940-1980*, by Claude Bergeron, 1986, 518 pages, pub. by University of Laval Press, Maison Omer-Gingras, Cit  Universitaire, Quebec City, P.Q. G1K 7P4 Price \$42.00 Hardcover. This is an essential reference work for any SSAC member who is conducting research on Canadian architecture from 1940 to 1980. The index covers nine (9) periodicals published in Canada during this period.

## Book Received

*Heritage Conservation - The Built Environment*, by E. Neville Ward, pub. April 1986, by Lards Directorate, Environment Canada, Working Paper No. 44, 156 pages.

## Competitions

### Du Pont Hypalon Excellence in Architecture Awards 1987

A distinguished panel of judges will review entries in two areas, new construction and reconstruction/restoration. The winner in each category will receive a \$10,000 award. Entries will be judged based on overall design.

Buildings completed within the last five years in the U.S. or Canada incorporating single-ply roofing membrane systems based on Du Pont Hypalon<sup>®</sup> synthetic rubber are eligible. Entries must be submitted by registered architects.

Entry forms available by 2 March 1987 from Du Pont Hypalon, Excellence in Architecture Awards, Suite 300, 150 Monument Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA, 19004-1777.

## Art for Toronto City Hall

The City of Toronto is sponsoring an \$80,000 open competition to commission works of art for public areas near the renovated offices of the Mayor and Members of Council, on the second floor of City Hall. Artists, designers and architects may submit proposals for one or all of the designated areas. Preliminary proposals due January 30, 1987 to Heather Hatch, Art Commission Department of the City Clerk, City Hall, Toronto, M5H 2N2.

## News Releases

### PRIDE

All older sections of Ontario municipalities are now eligible for assistance under the provincial Program for Renewal, Improvement, Development and Economic revitalization (PRIDE). PRIDE is a program of professional and financial assistance designed to promote the upgrading of older sections of Ontario municipalities.

Originally, PRIDE provided assistance for projects in older residential and commercial areas. These areas continue to be eligible, and the program has been expanded to include community renewal projects in all older sections of a municipality, including industrial and mixed use areas. The financial assistance is in the form of a grant covering 50 per cent of improvement and land acquisition costs for a comprehensive community improvement project.

### APT

The ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY has announced the start of a unique research program in Canada. With the assistance of the Cultural Initiatives Program, Department of Communications, Government of Canada, APT is initiating a research program to create a national databank of craftsmen, technologists, contractors, architects, engineers, and consultants who have demonstrated experience or skills related to the conservation of historic or significant elements of the built environment. The project will commence with a request to all provincial heritage and cultural organizations for their initial information input. Historic societies, Business Improvement Associations, heritage foundations, and various building associations and unions will also be contacted for references to experienced, skilled personnel in the preservation field. For further information contact: The National Preservation Register, c/o Association for Preservation Technology, Box 2437, Station D, Ottawa, K1P 5W6 (613) 238-1973.

## Canadian Wood Council Architectural Design Awards

The Canadian Wood Council has recently completed its second biennial awards for architectural design excellence in projects with a significant use of wood. This year's jury was chaired by Helga Plumb, FRAIC, of Toronto, and included Geoffrey Massey, FRAIC, of Vancouver, Ronald Thom, FRAIC, of Toronto, Paul Faucher of Montr al, and Don Forsyth of Halifax.

This year's winners announced by the just are:

|                    | Architect(s)                                  | Project  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| <b>First Award</b> | Dan S. Hanganu, Architect                     | Appart-hotel: Station Touristique, Mont-Tremblant                      |
|                    | Gilles Fortin & Pierre Par , Architects       | Centre d'accueil et d'interpr tation du Havre de Cap-des-Rosiers       |
| <b>Merit</b>       | Tad Young & Peter Reese Spaceworks Architects | Kitsilano Infill Housing   |
|                    | Gino Pin Architect                            | Rae-Edzo Senior Citizen's Housing                                      |
|                    | Simon Architects & Planners                   | P.L.U.S. Demonstration Planned Living Units for Seniors (Granny Flats) |
| <b>Category B</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Winner</b>      | Bing Thom Architects                          | Northwest Territories Pavilion (Expo '86)                              |
| <b>Merit</b>       | Keith L. Graham & John DeWolf                 | Hamilton Residence   |
| <b>Category C</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Winner</b>      | James E. Fryett                               | Moss Residence   |
| <b>Merit</b>       | David Weiser Architect                        | The Weiser Residence   |
|                    | Les architectes Gilles Chabot, Emile Gilbert  | Villa Bagatelle  |
|                    | Howard/Yano Architects                        | Emily Carr College of Art & Design                                     |