

BOOKS

RECENT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

by Michele Laing

Government publications are some of the most valuable yet most under utilized or overlooked sources of information. Here is a sampling of some recent documents in the field of architecture.

Environment Canada. Parks Canada. National Historic Parks and Sites Branch.

***A Preliminary Bibliography for Garden History in Canada* Edwina von Baeyer, 1983 (free). ISBN 0-662-51437-3**

The recent shift in preservation from a preoccupation with individual historic buildings to an expanded view of a building in context — as part of a streetscape, a property or a larger landscape — has encouraged interest in the history and nature of gardens in Canada. Von Baeyer has chosen to focus her study of this topic on the designed versus the natural landscape and garden.

The emphasis of the bibliography is on the literature that evolved from early economic and scientific requirements of Canadian gardening, ie. which plant materials would best be able to withstand this country's severe climate and short growing season. Materials peripherally related to the main theme have also been included, such as regional gardens of historical interest, botanical gardens and parks, railway and school gardening, garden ornament and home landscaping. Perhaps the most fascinating information comes from sources which the author believes reflects the frontier quality of our early gardens and the diverse cultural heritage from which they grew.

There exists a wealth of information on the history of gardens in Canada, but long hours and perseverance are often required to uncover it. Von Baeyer has produced a valuable contribution to this field of study which will be of tremendous aid to other researchers.

The National Trust of Australia (NSW).

***The Conservation Plan: A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance* / J. S. Kerr, 1982. ISBN 909723-94-X**

The Conservation Plan is the work of the former Assistant Director of both The National Trust of Australia and the Australian Heritage Commission. Evolving from the problems he has encountered in these positions, Dr. Kerr presents a conservation methodology plan through which practitioner and client alike may steer a clear path in conservation and development projects.

The Conservation Plan is composed of two parts. During Stage I (Analysis) a thorough assessment of the cultural significance of a place must be made through documentary and physical evidence, leading to a precise

statement of significance. Stage II (Policy) involves the consideration of constraints arising from the statement of significance; the physical condition of the place; the client's needs and resources and external requirements such as health, fire and legal regulations. The resulting Conservation Policy outlines the use proposed for the place and the appropriate conservation approach to be taken. The publication concludes with tips on preparing a good conservation plan and suggests ways of avoiding pitfalls.

While Kerr has based this document on the Australian heritage conservation experience, the ideas expressed regarding the assessment of places of cultural significance and the formulation of a policy and plans are fundamental and may be adopted universally.

Manitoba. Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources. Historic Resources Branch.

Architectural Heritage: The Eastern Interlake Planning District.

***Architectural Heritage: The Brandon and Area Planning District.* / both by David Butterfield and Edward Ledohowski, 1983 (free). ISBN 0-7711-0006-X and 0-7711-0005-1 respectively.**

These two studies are part of an ongoing series of architectural heritage reports sponsored by the government of Manitoba. Faced with the gradual disappearance of many old buildings, the acknowledged lack of documentation about their history and the necessity for district boards to make future planning decisions, researchers at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources launched an extensive investigation into the province's architectural heritage.

The study methodology took the form of a survey and included a preliminary photographic inventory, along with some measured drawings, of buildings within planning district. From these materials an analysis and assessment of the areas architectural resources was made. Vernacular styles, historical trends, building types, and construction methods and materials were then identified.

This information is examined in the first section of each publication. Photographs and descriptions of particular buildings, selected because they are either superior or typical examples of specific building or construction types or because they exemplify a certain architectural style are contained in the second section. Arranged in chronological order, they are grouped according to ethnic origin and building type.

The books document early settlement patterns and styles, while also providing important information on the social and economic climate of the province. The text is enhanced by the liberal use of photographs and technical drawings, each of which is accompanied by a detailed caption. They are a welcome addition to the library of

those concerned with Canada's architectural heritage. In fact, they are long overdue.

Percy Erskine Nobbs

Architecte, Artiste, Artisan / Architect, Artist, Artisan
Susan Wayg, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1982
xii, 99, illus., \$12.95

This collection of essays is the first major study of the remarkable career of Percy Nobbs. The seven chapters follow specific themes — his early life as an architect and training in St. Petersburg and Scotland, the McGill commission, residential work, design theory, urban planning, his interest outside of architecture and a summary. The edition contains 4 colour illustrations, notes in biography and design chronology.

The monograph marketed by the University of Toronto Press and is also available by mail order from Ballenford Books, 98 Scollard St., Toronto, Ontario M5R 1G2.

MISSISSAUGA'S HERITAGE: THE FORMATIVE YEARS, 1798-1879

A new book on Mississauga's Heritage has just been published by the City of Mississauga, Recreation and Parks Department, as part of the City's 10th Anniversary celebration. Entitled *Mississauga's Heritage: The Formative Years, 1798-1879*, the book includes a brief history of the City, descriptions of 26 heritage structures from the formative years of development and the Heritage Inventory of structures and sites for the City. A City effort, the book contains maps and photographs pertaining to Mississauga's early period of settlement. A limited edition has been published. *Mississauga's Heritage: The Formative Years, 1798-1879*, is now on sale for \$7.50 per copy at City Hall, 1 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 1M2 or telephone (416) 279-7600.

The *Bulletin* from time to time receives books from publishers for review. At present two such books are available from the Book Review Editor.

- UNESCO Joint Study — **Protection and Cultural Animation of Monuments, Sites and Historic Towns in Europe**, 394 p.
- Buggay, Aline — **Montreal — The Mountain and The River**, Quebec / Les Livres Trillium Books, 1981, 212 p. (Bilingual)

Should you wish to write a review for the *Bulletin* for either of these books contact:

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REGIONAL NEWS

British Columbia

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Heritage Society of B.C. will take place 25-27 May, 1984 in Nanaimo. Further information may be obtained from Heritage Society of B.C., Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2N3.

Alberta

The Heritage Canada Foundation will hold their 11th Annual Meeting in Edmonton this October. Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 102 - 8th Avenue S.E., Calgary, T2G 0K6 or The Heritage Canada Foundation, P.O. Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5R4 will provide further details on request.

Ontario

Toronto—September 19-23, 1984. Annual Conference of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) titled *Principles in Practice: Philosophical Challenges/Technological Responses* in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For details, please contact Ms. Sheila Larmer, Conference Chairperson, c/o Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, 77 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2R9 or telephone (416) 965-4021.

Market Gallery

The official exhibition centre of Toronto, Market Gallery, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the City by staging a number of major shows. Of significant interest to members will be the exhibits concerning photography and architecture.

- 19 May to 5 August — An exhibition of over 100 original prints from the 1800's providing a visual history of Toronto.
- 18 August to 28 October — *Dreams of Development* will focus on development proposals of the past 30 years which were ill-fated or never went beyond the drawing board stage.

The gallery is open, free of charge, Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday and all civic holidays.

For further information or to arrange group tours, please call (416) 947-7604.

The City of Toronto Archives
Market Gallery
Second Floor
South St. Lawrence Market
95 Front Street East at Jarvis
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1C2

Architecture Exhibit on loan

The City of Toronto Archives in celebration of Toronto's sesquicentennial is offering the loan of a portable free-standing exhibit on the history of the city's architecture. "Reflections: Two Centuries of Architecture in To-