

APT *Communique*



Winnipeg Clinic

Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Winnipeg Clinic was designed and constructed in 1942 by Bill Lount, who received training in both architecture and engineering at the University of Manitoba. The research by the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation has revealed that Lount, one of the city's leading developers, was responsible for the introduction of the lift-slab method of construction in Canada.

Recent Initiatives Involving Canada's Modern Heritage

by Susan D. Bronson

As we enter the twenty-first century, there is increasing awareness of the built heritage of the modern era. Nevertheless, many Canadians, including heritage professionals and decision-makers, are still reluctant to consider buildings, ensembles, and sites dating from about 1930 to the mid-1970s as "heritage". To complicate matters, much of the built production of the post-war age of progress was not designed to last in perpetuity, and now presents new conservation challenges. Furthermore, Canada's modern resources represent an overwhelming portion of our built inventory, and it is clear that not everything from this period can be saved. Finally, appropriate methods for identifying and evaluating representative testimonies of the social, political, and economic concerns, the technological advances, and the formal and functional preoccupations of the modern era are not obvious.

In 1997, Parks Canada prepared a study on the commemoration of Canada's built heritage of the modern era for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC). Over 100 Canadians—including municipal and provincial heritage authorities, scholars, practitioners, and members of interest groups—were contacted regarding the status of research, inventory, commemoration, awareness, and protection of modern heritage across the country. At that time, a number of interesting initiatives were underway, and a report on these was disseminated to all who were interested.

In December 1999, these same individuals and others working on this theme were contacted. This article summarizes a series of more recent initiatives involving Canada's modern heritage.

Canada-wide and North American initiatives

Federal government initiatives

The 1997 HSMBC study provided an overview of current local, national, and international approaches to analyzing and evaluating Canada's built heritage of the modern era. In addition, it proposed an approach to analysis that involved thematic studies based on broad categories of use, and a pilot study on housing was carried out. Finally, it recommended preliminary criteria for evaluating resources with potential national significance, and a timely request to commemorate the innovative 1941 West Vancouver residence designed by artist B.C. Binning provided an opportunity to test these. In November 1997, the HSMBC recommended that other thematic studies be undertaken, that the preliminary criteria be adopted, and that the Binning Residence be commemorated as a National Historic Site.

Although the HSMBC has received few requests to commemorate modern resources since, Canada's Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO), which is responsible for evaluating federally-owned buildings

See Modern, page 8

Volume 29 Number 2
2000

In this Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Member News
- 14 Preservation Review

The Association for
Preservation Technology
International

Online Resources at NCPTT

One of the primary aims of the Training Component of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) is to expand access to all types of preservation and conservation training by serving as a national clearinghouse of information about training opportunities. To this end the NCPTT compiles and maintains a database of preservation related degree and certificate programs, workshops, internships, fellowships, and field schools. The Training and Education Opportunities database is available online at www.ncptt.nps.gov/prog_teo_fs.stm. Additions and revisions to the database can be submitted online. NCPTT maintains other databases that are also accessible online: preservation Internet resources can be found at www.ncptt.nps.gov/prog_pir_fs.stm; job openings are listed on www.ncptt.nps.gov/prog_jobs_fs.stm; and an up-to-date list of conferences may be browsed at www.ncptt.nps.gov/prog_conf_fs.stm. For more information on the NCPTT's online initiatives contact Andy Ferrell, Training Associate, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, NSU Box 5682, Natchitoches, LA 71497 (318) 357-6464, FAX (318) 357-6421, or email andy_ferrell@ncptt.nps.gov. The NCPTT home page is www.ncptt.nps.gov.

Toto! This isn't Kansas.

Or, is it. A new website portrays a century of development and persistence in a small Kansas town.

Drawing upon a series of oral history interviews, digitized family and community photos and many primary and secondary sources, the website "Brainerd, Kansas: Time, Place and Memory on the Prairie Plains," paints a portrait of a tiny southeastern Kansas community (current population about 50) which survived being passed over by the railroad in 1889 and continues to endure to this day. Kevin Roe, a former graduate student in American Studies at the University of Kansas, created the site for a joint American Studies/Architecture course. The class, "Built Forms and Landscapes of the Great Plains," was team-taught by Kansas University professors Mike Swann and Dennis Domer.

In an effort to understand the forces that enabled Brainerd to survive in the face of onrushing change, the site investigates the complex, often individual relationships between memory and place, while telling the many stories of Brainerd unearthed in interviews, letters, local records, and maps. Visitors to the site also can browse the Gallery of digitized maps, photos, and newspaper features. The site also contains links to related sites and several interactive features. Of particular interest is the Email Discussion Group, which is designed to foster ongoing dialog about Brainerd, Great Plains communities, or the role of memory and place in local history. (Subscriptions are available by return email from brainerd@egroups.com.) All of the site's content is available in PDF format for those who do not have time or fast enough Internet connections to scroll through the site and read it online. For additional information, please contact Kevin Roe (419) 531-7390, FAX (877) 233-2950, or email kevrave@rootinaround.com. The site is located at <http://www.rootinaround.com/brainerd>.

D'oh! History?

No DoHistory, a new website for historians and teachers debuted in February

DoHistory is an ambitious new website for historians, teachers, and lay people interested in history and America's past was launched by the Harvard Film Study Center in February. The site is an experimental, interactive case study that allows its users to experience the process of piecing together the life and world of an "ordinary" person in the past. At the site, users get to try to piece together the world of eighteenth century midwife and healer Martha Ballard, whose remarkable diary was the basis for the Pulitzer Prize winning book and the PBS film *A Midwife's Tale*. The DoHistory website takes its users into the process of doing history, and also provides them with a practical set of printable guides to help them launch history projects of their own.

There are thousands of downloadable pages from original documents at the site, presented in both their original format and in transcription: diaries, letters, maps, court records, town records, account books, medical texts, and more. Whereas most history websites give some limited guidance accompanying a mass of documents on a particular subject, DoHistory guides its users through the research process,