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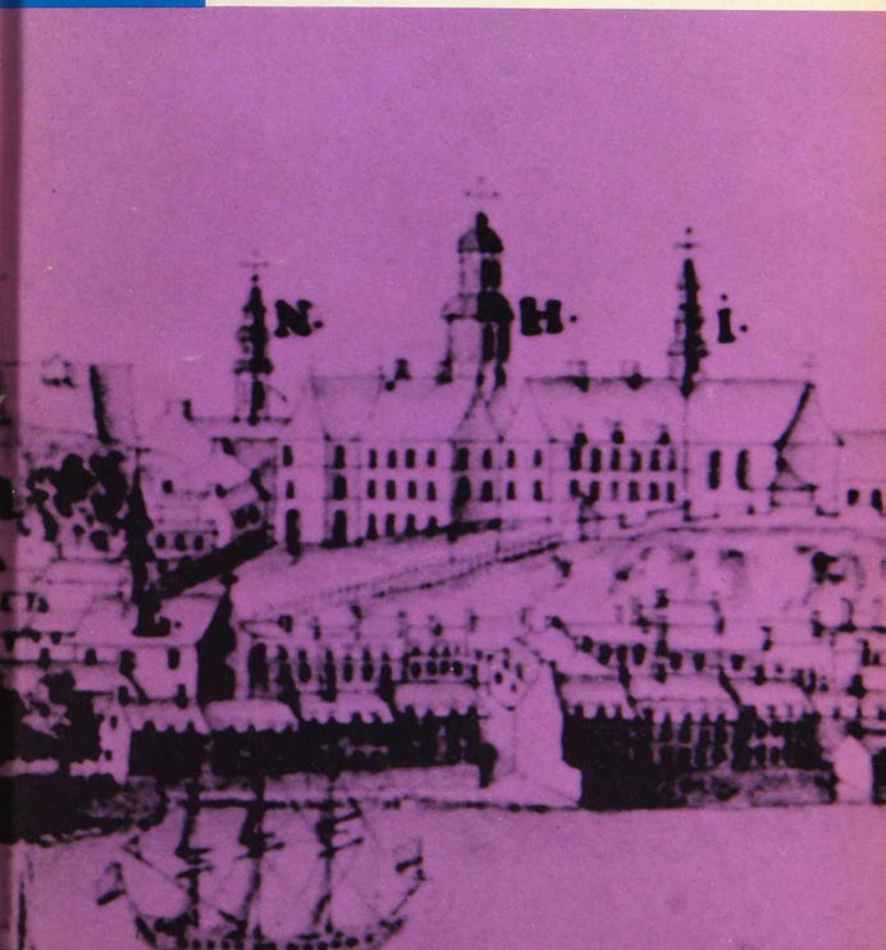


civilisation
du québec

PLACE ROYALE

ITS HOUSES AND THEIR OCCUPANTS

MICHEL GAUMOND



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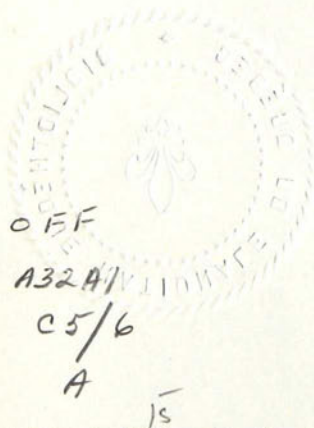


TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
BY RONALD SHEEN

SÉRIE PLACE ROYALE

D7030885

"... So that monuments snatched from the past may tell their whole story..." (Paul Gouin, former President of the Quebec Historic Monuments Commission)



NOTE

This brochure is not intended to be a complete and exhaustive history of Place Royale, in the Lower Town of Quebec City, but a guide and quick reference to the houses and inhabitants, the merchants or well-to-do middle class, that gave it its mediaeval character.

The Department of Cultural Affairs began during 1970 the restoration of fifteen (15) Place Royale houses and foresees the completion of the restoration of sixty (60) other buildings in the coming years. This guide includes, therefore, historical notes on properties already being restored and those not yet begun.

The numbers in parentheses indicate houses on the central map with the name of their owners or those of their builders.

The author would like to offer his grateful thanks to Mme. Marie-Thérèse Thibault, Mr. Fernand Caron and Mr. Jacques Rouillard without whose help this work would not have been completed, likewise to Miss Isabelle Caron who undertook the transcription of old documents.

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HISTORY

Place Royale may justifiably be considered as the cradle of French civilization in America, for it is on this precise spot (see No. 45) that Samuel de Champlain in 1608 constructed his fortified 'Habitation' (*fig. 1*). It is the oldest French establishment that has remained in the same place in America and which gave birth to a great capital.

Already in 1604 Champlain had noticed the low, rocky point jutting out into the straits at the bottom of an imposing promontory, and in the spring of 1608 he had the trees covering it cut down and ordered the construction of his command post comprising two main buildings, a store, a pigeon house, a stockade, ditches and gardens.

To the north of this Habitation, between the river and the headland, there was an unoccupied area where he subsequently erected a forge, a dwelling for one Mr. Duchesneau and a hut for the carpenters. In the middle of these buildings he planted a garden about one hundred feet by thirty feet. (*fig. 2*)

The buildings erected at the time of Champlain were doubtless constructed without any predetermined planning, but about 1650 it became necessary to plan out the available space below the headland and in 1660, the surveyor, Jean Bourdon drew up a map showing the lots granted to the first inhabitants, owners of Place Royale.

Between 1650 and 1662, more than thirty-five lots were granted to the inhabitants by the Governors Lauson, Davaugour and d'Ailleboust: the urban structure of the lower town was taking form and three centuries have changed neither the lay-out nor the size, no

more than the shape of the public square, then called 'Place du Marché'.

Thanks to the register of landed property of the West India Company, we know the exact dimensions of these properties: the lots were approximately twenty-six (26) feet by thirty-two (32) feet. However, it should be made clear that their rather small size was due to the fact that the upper town of Quebec was then occupied by the large religious communities or was state property. In 1673, Governor Frontenac wrote to Colbert "there is not a square inch of land to give to several people requesting it in order to build new houses, the larger part belonging to religious communities who seem little concerned and who would be unhappy to see the town grow any more."

The first houses of the lower town seem to have had only one floor

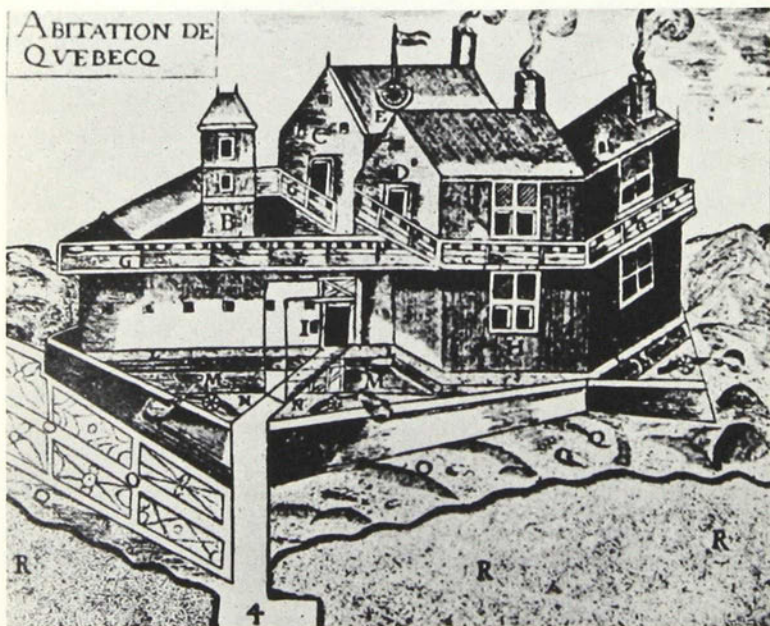


Fig. 1 Champlain's "Habitation" in 1613.

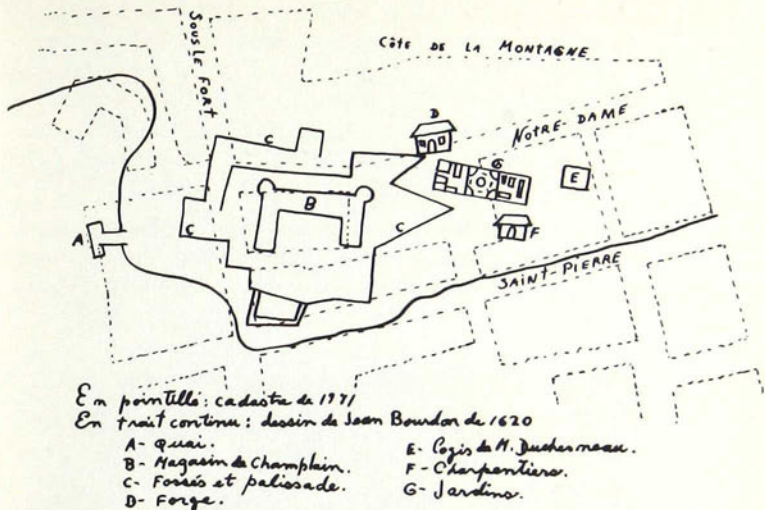


Fig. 2 Buildings erected by Champlain, superimposed on a present-day map of Place Royale.

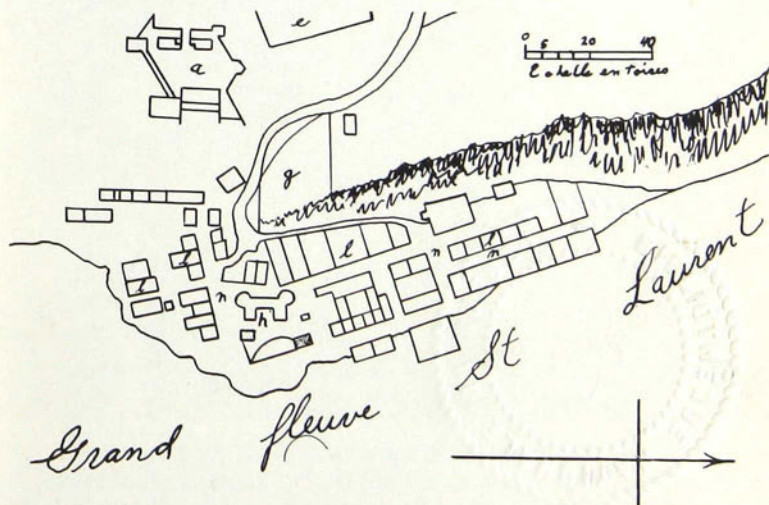


Fig. 3 The lower town in 1660. "h" — Champlain's warehouse.

comprising one or two rooms, a kitchen, a cellar and an attic, heated by means of stone fireplaces. These houses were constructed out of wood and the police regulation of 1673 obliged lower town owners to build them with two stone gables as a fire prevention measure. The difficulty of heating large buildings explains the small size of the houses. Marie de l'Incarnation said: "The extreme cold forbids the building of large places."

There remains no trace of these modest and primitive houses other than the remains of sections of walls found during the course of excavations in the basements of houses of the present day (*fig. 4*).

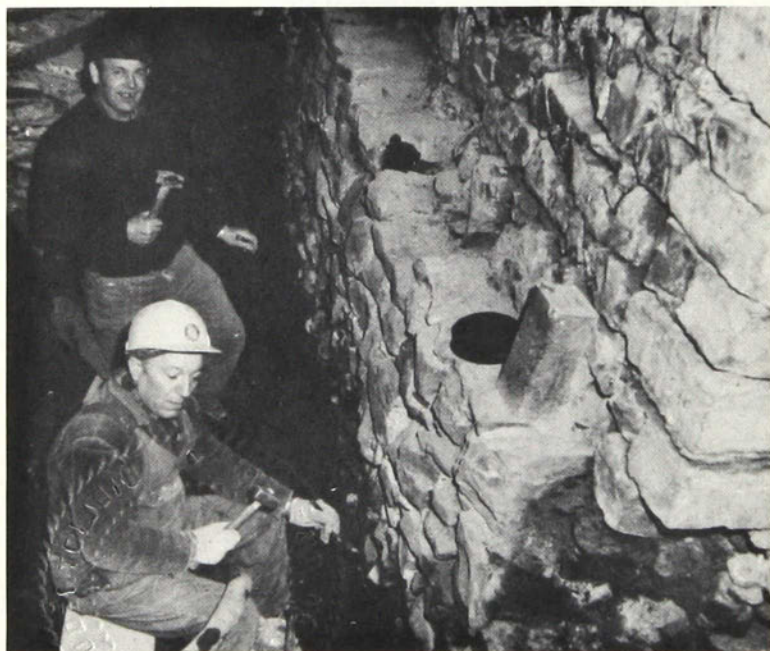


Fig. 4 Old walls of the warehouse of the "Compagnie des Habitants (built in 1647), brought to light during archeological research in November, 1970. These walls support the vaults of the Dumont house (No. 59).

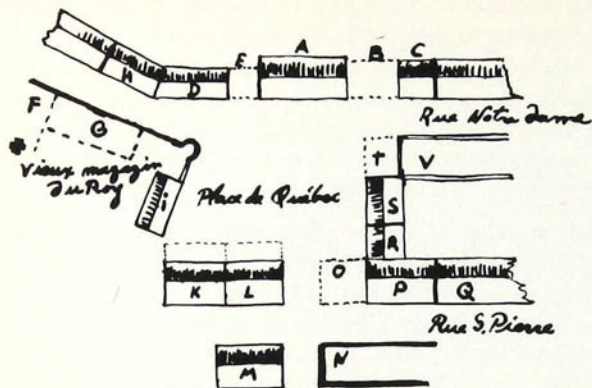
According to the minutes of the "Grands Voyers" (Public Works Office), on the night of August 4, 1682, a violent fire completely razed the lower town. " — the fire was so big and so wild that two thirds of the lower town was destroyed without any possibility of preventing it . . . the fire was extinguished at the Cul de Sac after Jean Soulard's house had burnt . . . the fire destroyed fifty-five homes and burned for seven hours."

For her part, the annalist of L'Hôtel-Dieu relates the event with great emotion: "The year 1682 was memorable for a misfortune that Quebec will long remember. A house in lower town caught fire and as all the houses were very inflammable, being built only of wood and the season being very dry, the fire spread so quickly that in a short time the whole town was reduced to ashes; it was August 5, the festival of Notre Dame des Neiges, at ten o'clock in the evening. We awoke to terrible cries coming from the neighbourhood and we were very alarmed to see that it was as light as day outside. The flames were so fierce and high that they caused great fear. Nothing could be saved of fine and beautiful merchandise which was stocked in the shops and more was lost that sad night than the whole of Canada possesses at present."

"The fire caused general consternation. The only house saved in the whole of the lower town was that of Mr. Aubert de la Chenaye and God doubtless only saved his wealth so that he might help the citizens of Quebec to rebuild, for he was a very rich merchant of noble and generous mind who used up all his funds to lend money to everyone, to such an extent that no family in lower town is not indebted to him, for he generously supplied these poor distressed people with whatever they needed to repair their damaged property."

The tradespeople, then, applied themselves to the task of rebuilding their houses but at the same time improving them from the point of quality. It should be emphasized that the experience acquired by the carpenters and masons during the previous seventy-five years enabled them to apply new techniques to traditional architecture.

The slope of the roofs remained at 50°, gable walls reached a thick-



Fleuve ou Rivière S^t Laurents

- A Est la maison de m^e agur.
- B. Est une place a bastin a m^e pierre Souvandre.
- C. Est une maison au S^d de la Noat.
- D aux S^{ns} pinquet Et des horneau.
- E place & bastin aux heritiers de M^e Vallon.
- F place ou l'on propose de une Chapelle dans l'année 1686
- G Est la place pour la prestitione.
- H Est la maison de m^e robert paré.
- I maison de m^e le marquis, Marchand de vin.
- K maison de m^e de Villaray.
- L maison de m^{lle} de la tascorie.
- M maison de m^e guyon.
- N maison de m^e Lebert.
- O maison de m. rajot qui a esté brulé et n'est pas resté.
- P Est une onaison aud. rajot qui a esté rebastit.
- Q maison de m. noland quil a fait rebastin.
- R Est une autre maison aud. noland quil a fait rebastin.
- S maison de m. picart.
- T Est une place a bastin appartenant à m^e talon.
- V Est une maison brulée à m^e talon qui n'est pas resté.

10 novembre 1685 *Villeneuve*

Fig. 5 Villeneuve's map (1685).

ness of three and a half feet, vaulted cellars and balconies were built and bread ovens were installed in the kitchens.

Between 1683 and 1691, on the one side of Place du Marché, some twenty houses were rebuilt, one of which, that of François Hazeur built between 1684 and 1685, was the object of admiration of foreign visitors, even as late as 1720.

A map of the lower town square, prepared by the engineer Robert de Villeneuve in November 1685 (*fig. 5*) shows thirteen rebuilt houses and six others still in ruins in addition to the old Royal Warehouse, Champlain's own original warehouse.

The site of this building was destined for the erection of the lower town church dedicated to the Child Jesus, which was, in fact, built in 1688.

On May 1st, 1688, the corner stone was laid in the presence of the Governor, Jacques René de Brizay, Marquis de Denonville. On that same day the corner stone of the Sainte Geneviève Chapel was also laid.

The construction of the church gave Place Royale its final shape, filling the space on the south side. It has kept its original dimensions up to the present day.

In 1690, following the retreat of the Boston Admiral, William Phipps, after his unsuccessful siege of the town, the name of the church was changed to Notre Dame de la Victoire. A commemorative medal was struck, "Kebeka Liberata MDCXC."

Twenty-one years later, disaster befell Admiral Walker's fleet, come to besiege the town, giving birth to a new name "Notre Dame des Victoires."

In 1686, at the centre of "Place du Marché", the Intendant, Champigny, had a plinth erected bearing a bronze bust of Louis XIV "which on Wednesday, November 6th, was placed in our lower town square with the greatest honour and ceremony possible: he bore all of the cost." (*fig. 6*)

From this date, the lower town square assumed the name of Place Royale, in spite of complaints from the tradespeople, who found the bust and its enclosure a nuisance. It was proposed to move



Fig. 6 Bust of Louis XIV in the lower town, from a 1688 engraving by J. B. Louis Franquelin.

it to the front of the Hazeur house (No. 27) and subsequently into a recess above the door of the house. However, the famous bust was moved to, and remained in a room of the Intendant's palace where it was destroyed in a fire that struck the house in 1713.

The present bust is a gift to the Government of Quebec donated by the Minister of Transport and Telecommunications of France, M. Bokanowski, in 1928. In 1931, it replaced a public fountain which adorned the square. Cast in bronze, it is signed Alexis Rudier, founder at Paris, and appears to be a copy of a bust by Bernini at Versailles.

During the whole of the 18th century, Place Royale was a market square and, when the occasion warranted, it was used for the execution of criminals.

Until 1828, the lower town square was used by inhabitants for the sale of their produce.

Around the square stood the houses of the merchants: "Quebec is divided into upper and lower towns. The tradespeople live in the latter because of the convenience of the port along which they have built fine three-storey houses of stone as hard as marble" wrote Baron de la Hontan in 1684.

For his part, Bacqueville de la Potherie, said in 1689: "It is situated at the river side at the foot of a cliff twenty-eight fathoms (168 feet) in height. The houses are well-built and made of stone; the tradespeople live there for business convenience. It is so restricted on this side, that it cannot expand. It is defended by a central gun emplacement which is at water level."

In 1759, a Swedish traveller, Peter Kalm¹, wrote:

"... There is only one easy way of getting to the upper city, and that is where a part of the mountain has been blown away. This road is very steep, although it is serpentine... Most of the merchants live in the lower city, where the houses are built very close together. The streets in it are narrow, very rough, and almost always wet. There is likewise a church and a small marketplace.

(1) PETER KALM'S TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA. The English Version of 1770. Revised from the original Swedish and edited by ADOLPH B. BENSON. Late Professor of German and Scandinavian in Yale University.

... The private houses have roofs of boards which are laid parallel to the spars, and sometimes to the eaves, or sometimes obliquely. The corners of houses are made of a gray small-grained limestone. The outsides of the houses are generally whitewashed. The windows are placed on the inner side of the walls; for they sometimes have double windows in winter. The rooms are warmed in winter by small iron stoves, which are removed in summer."

These few observations by travellers give an accurate idea of the appearance of the City of Quebec and the detailed descriptions found in old building contracts confirm them in every way.

An important event had a marked effect on the lower town in 1759: the siege and bombardment by the English Army. More than 40,000 cannonballs and 10,000 bombs fell on the town between July 12 and September 13, 1759.

A diary kept during the siege by the parish priest, Father Récher, related the events in this way:

"July 16 — First fire caused by the English. At noon, a bomb falling on Widow Morand's house set it on fire and destroyed it as it did

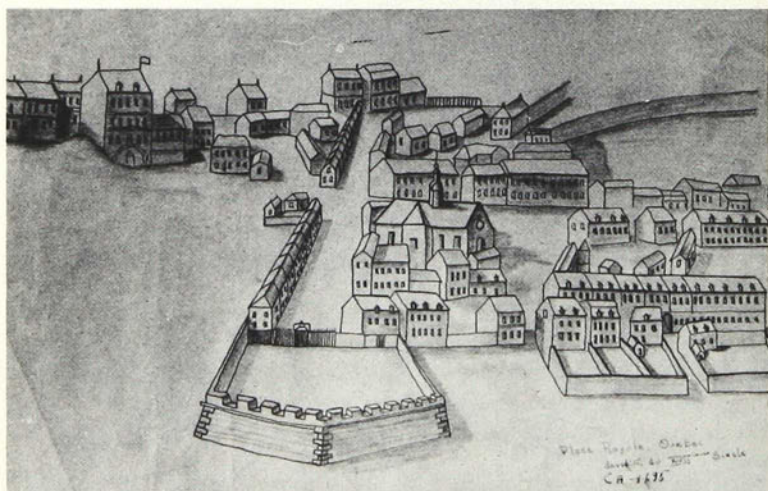


Fig. 7 The lower town in 1695. In the foreground, the Royal Battery.

those of Widow Chéneverd, M. Cardenas, M. Dassier and Mme. Boishébert. The English, seeing that the fire had started, fired many bombs and cannonballs onto the fire to prevent our citizens from trying to put it out.

August 9 — At one or two o'clock a.m., enemy fireballs started fires in three places in the lower city, namely the Cul-de-Sac, Sault-au-Matelot Street and in Du Domaine or Des Soeurs Street, which caused a general fire involving the church and about thirty-five houses of the lower town."

Quebec was bombarded for two months: 180 houses were burnt by fireballs and all the others were riddled by cannon and bombs.

Major Richard Short left twelve pen drawings of these events, one of which depicts Place Royale with its gutted houses and the church of Notre Dame des Victoires with only its burnt-out shell remaining. (*fig. 8*)

Between 1759 and 1763, several lower town properties changed hands. Some of the merchants, ruined by the war which had disrupted their business, did not have the heart to rebuild their houses.



Fig. 8 Place Royale and Notre-Dame des Victoires church after the fire of August 9, 1759.

Several sales contracts mention “a house ruined by revolution and war”. Other owners let their homes to English merchants on condition that they bore the cost of repairing the damaged framework and windows.

By about 1800, Place Royale had already regained its former business pace and on the Duberger scale-model of that date it can be seen that all the houses had been set up again. All the slate-covered mansard roofs had disappeared and people were trying to gain space by adding one or two storeys to their buildings. The business population left Place Royale and moved to the upper town about 1832. This well-to-do class at first established their residences along the Ramparts and in the new steets and, later, on the west side, outside of the walls where the still unoccupied land facilitated the establishment of quite extensive properties.



Fig. 8-A Place Royale in 1831. Notre-Dame des Victoires church with, on the left, the Marie-Anne Barbel house, built in 1754.

A little after 1800, the architecture of Place Royale houses was embellished by columned door-frames and wooden capitals, and woodworked panelling, according to the taste of the period. On St. Pierre and Sous-le-Fort Streets examples still remain of such woodwork, foreign to the traditional architectural style.

Place Royale itself was paved with pine blocks about 1845, whilst St. Pierre Street was already paved with sandstone in 1799. This street's paving was on a foundation of sand and cobble-stones, each eight to ten inches long by three to ten inches thick, and laid point down, so that the final effect was a convex surface with a gutter on either side. The sidewalk was three and a half feet wide including a six-inch edge with a slope of three inches to the street, paved with Ange-Gardien sandstone.

At this period the high tide water reached the third or fourth steps of the Cul-de-Sac houses. It should be pointed out that at present a great amount of land has been reclaimed from the river, particularly at Finlay's market and at the Anse-des-Barques (Boat Cove), that is to say, the channel where the Canadian National buildings now stand.

In 1820 the Cul-de-Sac was paved; in 1821 Des Soeurs Street; in 1824, Mountain Hill. (*fig. 9*)

There was such thriving business in Place Royale in 1831 that a petition was presented to Parliament aiming at expanding it by buying the land occupied by Notre Dame des Victoires church and two adjacent houses. Fortunately, the request was put aside.

The construction of new markets in the Saint-Roch district caused business to slacken in Place Royale and about 1880, a fountain was erected in front of the church: it was replaced in 1931 by a bust of Louis XIV in memory of the first one placed there in 1686.

In 1875, no ground floors of Place Royale were lived in: they were used exclusively for trade by wholesalers, cobblers, bootmakers, jewellers, grocers and finally, by five innkeepers.

In the twentieth century, the square lost all character and became a parking lot crowded with cars and trucks. Several houses fell prey to fires; telephone wires and poles partly hid the frontages and spoiled the views.

In 1960, the Québec Historic Monuments Commission proposed

the restoration of the buildings of Place Royale and, in fact, four houses were restored in the succeeding years, namely the Hôtel Chevalier, two neighbouring houses and the Fornel house.

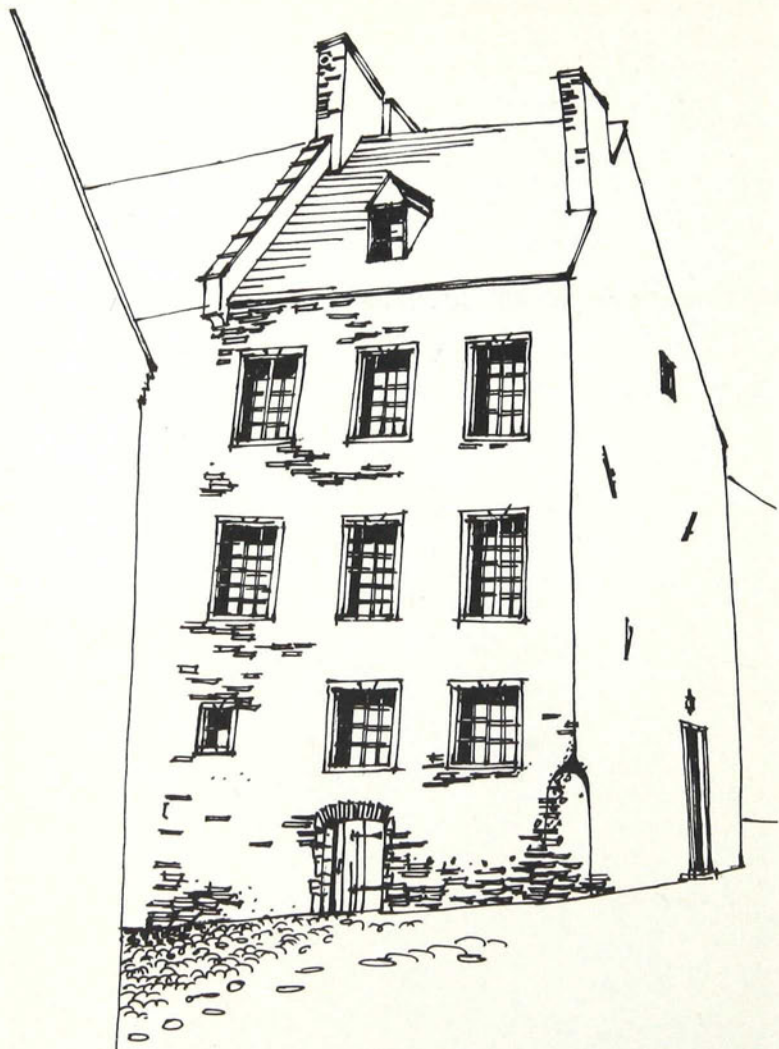
In 1967, the Quebec Parliament passed a law which provided for the restoration of the Lower Town and established the boundaries of the area we now call Place Royale. The Department of Cultural Affairs then began to acquire the houses of the area. Up to 1970, \$2,400,000 had been devoted to this project.

It was in that year that an agreement between the Governments of Quebec and Ottawa gave fresh impetus to a restoration project covering a period of five years. This restoration is being carried out with due respect for the findings of history, of traditional architecture and of archeology.



Fig. 9 The foot of Mountain Hill, at the corner of Notre Dame St., in 1831.

ITS HOUSES AND THEIR OCCUPANTS



This drawing of the Leduc house, like those that follow, represents an architect's projection, and is not intended to show these buildings as they will actually appear after restoration.

No. 13 **The Leduc House**

The house presently standing at the intersection of Notre-Dame, Sous-le-Fort and Cul-de-Sac Streets, dates back to 1725. Its owner, Guillaume Leduc, "had had it built out of stone with two storeys."

All the door and window frames are of freestone, even the little skylight lighting the stairwell on the Cul-de-Sac side.

The ceilings of the two main floors, that is, those above the two basements, are of the type called "godrooned beams" and have been preserved until the present day. (*fig. 10*)

The land for this house was first granted in 1650 to a man known by the name of Raymond Pagé, who built a small house thirty feet by eighteen feet, containing only one room, a kitchen, a basement and an attic. The house did not occupy the whole of the site and a small yard limited the property on the Cul-de-Sac Street side.



Fig. 10

The frame of the house is slightly out of line owing to its trapezoidal form which gives it a quite singular appearance.

Guillaume Leduc was born in 1669 and his marriage to Elizabeth Drouin produced sixteen children. Before living in his house on Sous-le-Fort Street, he practised the butcher's trade on Lauzon Hill, on the South Bank of the river. He died in 1749.

No. 14 **The Chevalier House**

This large group actually includes three separate houses joined to-day for the convenience of the occupants. The house at the corner of Cul-de-Sac and Notre-Dame Streets is one that was completely rebuilt in 1959. The one next to it is much older and dates from the seventeenth century when the three main buildings, one section of which forms a curve, together constituted the Chevalier house, built in 1752 for the merchant Jean-Baptiste Chevalier.

On this site stood the house of Jean Soulard, the armourer, built by him in 1675 and raised from its ruins in 1684. In 1733, François-Etienne Auguet, adviser to the Conseil Supérieur and a prudent businessman, acquired the house and used it as a fur-trading post with the Saguenay Indians.

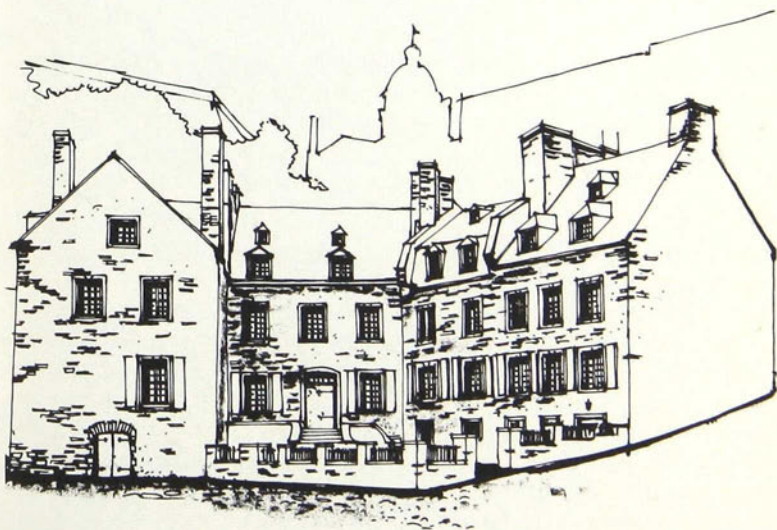
On January 22, 1752, Jean-Baptiste Chevalier, merchant, and Pierre Renaud, known by the name of Canard, a master mason, contracted to construct a "stone house of two storeys — with stone arches . . . openings in cut limestone from Pointe-aux-Trembles (Cap-Santé), except for the arches which will be in Beauport stone. The walls will be in sandstone, the house to be completely plastered inside and out."

During the restoration of the building in 1959, a cannon ball was found lodged in the wall on the second floor: it had been fired during the siege of Quebec two centuries previously. The walls had lasted well. In addition, in 1761, Jean-Baptiste Chevalier had the house repaired and he asked the carpenters to replace only those parts of the framework which were missing, which indicates that the house had remained almost intact since its construction. Magnificent ceilings, both French and beamed, adorn the rooms of this mansion and the basket-handle vaults of the cellars are admired by all who see them.

Jean-Baptiste Chevalier, born in Moulins, France, about 1715, came to Canada about 1740 and married Marie-Angélique Pelletier. He lived successively at Cap Saint-Ignace, at Baie Saint Paul, at Beaumont and in Montreal. He was in La Rochelle at the time of the siege of Quebec in 1759 and probably died in France about 1763, leaving two young children in Canada.

On October 31st, 1763, the almost completely restored house was bought by auction by Jean-Louis Frémont, merchant, for the sum of 24,500 pounds (Halifax currency). He owned the house until 1789.

Besides being a merchant, Jean-Louis Frémont was also a ship-owner. Born at St-Germain-en-Laye, he had initially served with Montcalm's army. Having requested and obtained a discharge, he became a merchant. He was a widower when he bought the Chevalier house, his wife, Marie Collet from Guadeloupe, having died. He had just settled in when he remarried to Catherine Boucher of Boucherville. Of the seven children of this marriage, the fourth, Louis-René, first of all worked with his father and then went to



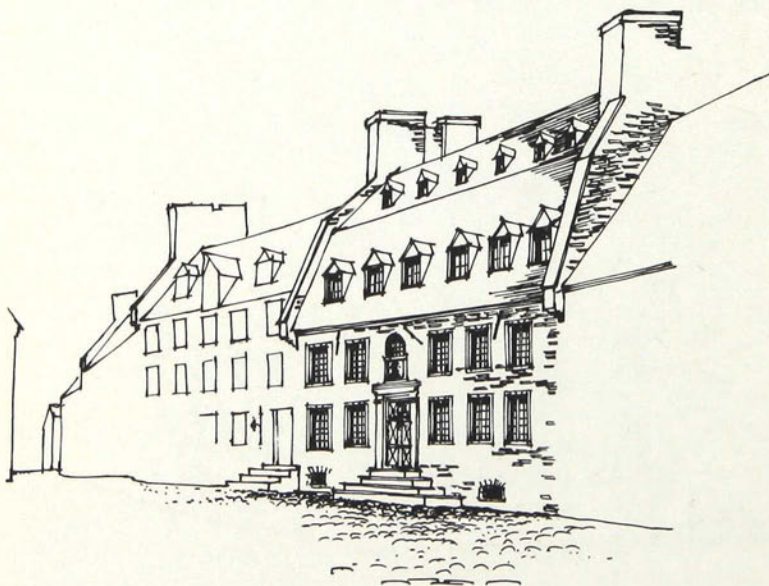
Virginia and raised a family there. It was one of his sons, John Charles, who became a famous general, conquering California and twice running for President of the Republic.

No. 27 **The Hazeur House**

This, the most impressive house of Place Royale, has not yet been touched by the restoration project, but the architectural remains in evidence today indicate that its restoration will be of great value.

It was built in 1684 and 1685 for François Hazeur. The mason, Jean Le Rouge, built its vaulted cellars and the carpenter, Jacques Bédard, its mansard roof. Its roof was of slate, laid by the slater, Robert Pepin.

Besides being the oldest house, it was also the finest, according to the Intendant, Champigny. (*fig. 11*)



In order to gain space, the staircase leading to the three floors was situated at the back, in the yard on Mountain Hill and was covered with an imperial (or double open-S) roof.

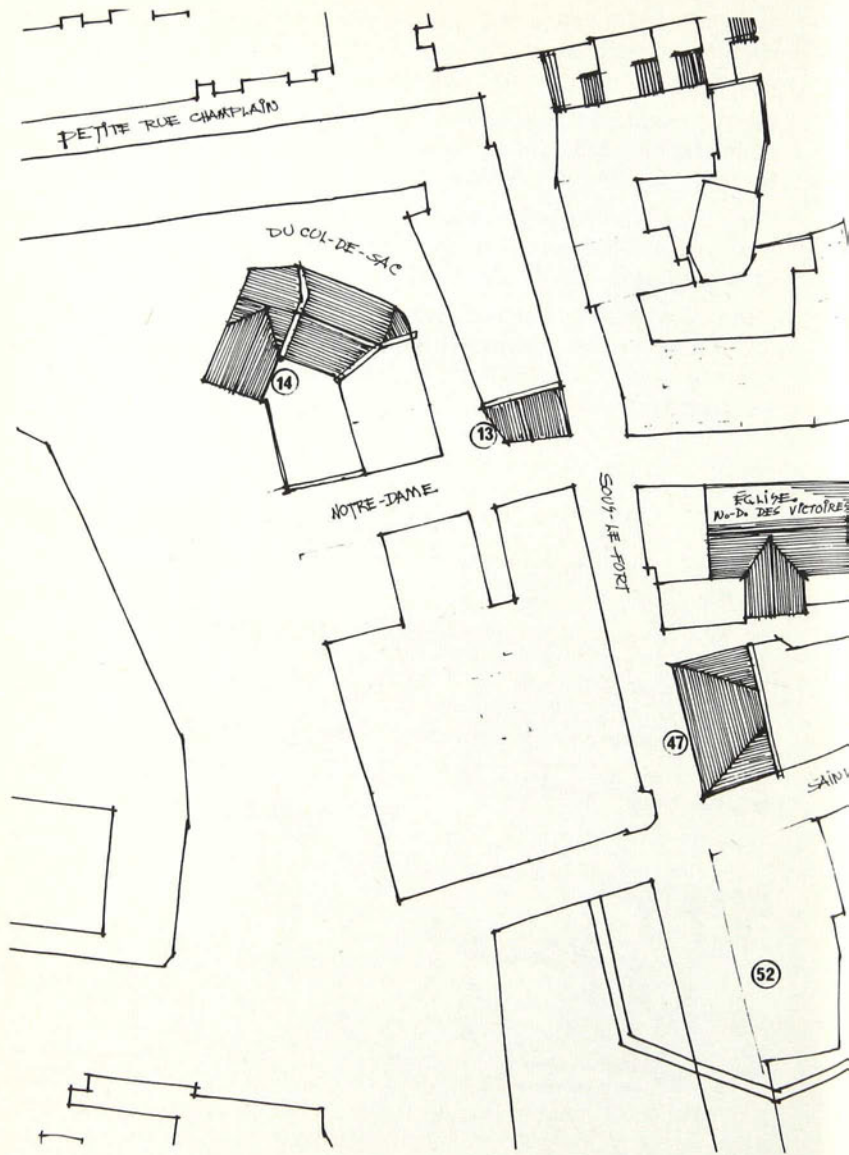
On this exact spot had stood the forge built at the time of Champlain, about 1620, and used in 1658 by two blacksmiths, Jamet Bourguignon and Pierre Soumandre.

The house opened onto Place Royale by way of an ornamented free-stone doorway above a huge stone flight of steps similar to that of Notre-Dame des Victoires.

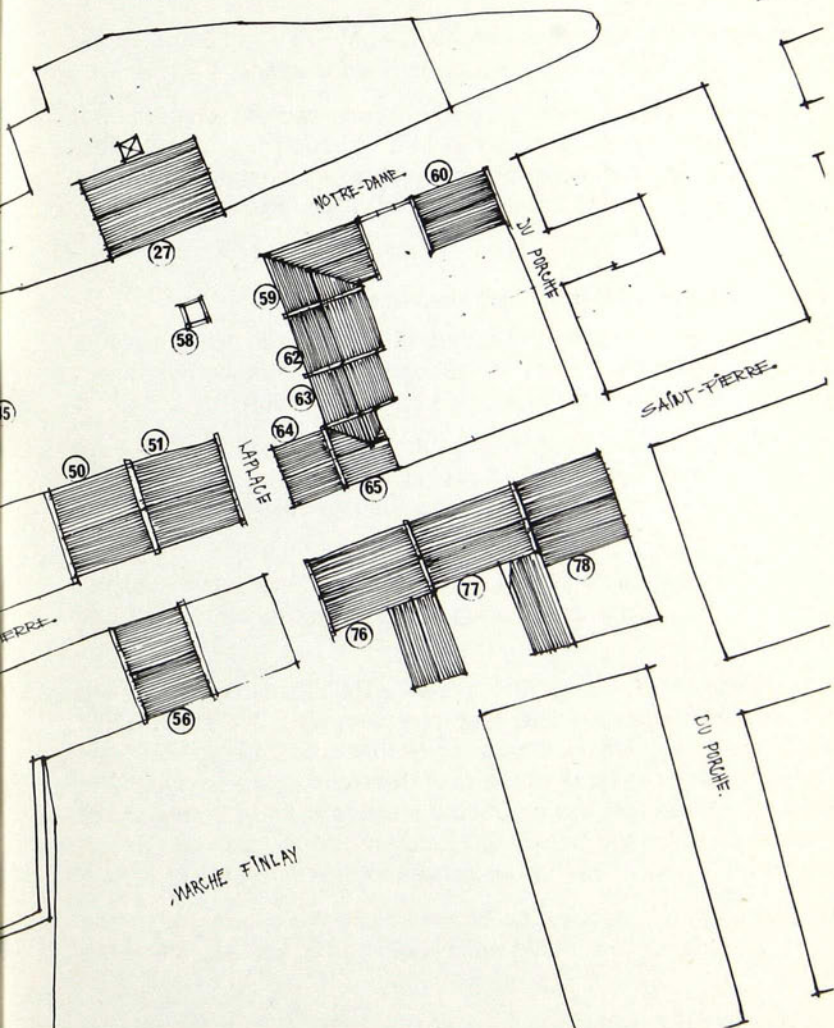
The house was repaired in 1760, and more recently in 1882, when it was topped with a terraced roof. The vaults have, however, been cleaned and now welcome *connaisseurs* and visitors wishing to capture a little of the past.



Fig. 11 The François Hazeur house, after an original drawing by Jean-Baptiste-Louis Franquelin, dated 1668.



CÔTE DE LA MONTAGNE.



François Hazeur was one of the most important merchants of Quebec, a member of the Compagnie du Nord and adviser to the Conseil Supérieur. He arrived in Quebec about 1670 and married Anne Soumande two years later.

He acquired the Seigneuries of Malbaie, of Anse de l'Etang, in the lower St. Lawrence and Portachois in Newfoundland.

The sawmill industry and porpoise oil trade had attracted him but he met with no great success in that direction. For about thirty years François Hazeur was one of the most eminent and enterprising merchants in New France. He died in Quebec on June 28th, 1708, almost insolvent.

No. 45 **Church of Notre-Dame des Victoires**

The oldest stone church in Quebec (it was built in 1688) has had a long architectural history, punctuated by repairs, bombardment and restorations, the last of which as recent as 1969.

In 1680, a report was put before Louis XIV "concerning a lot in the lower town of Quebec for the building of a chapel." The place was Champlain's old store which was completely destroyed in the fire of August 4th, 1682.

May 10th of the same year, the King ordered the transfer of the land to Bishop Laval and on August 12th, the transfer was made to Bishop St-Valier.

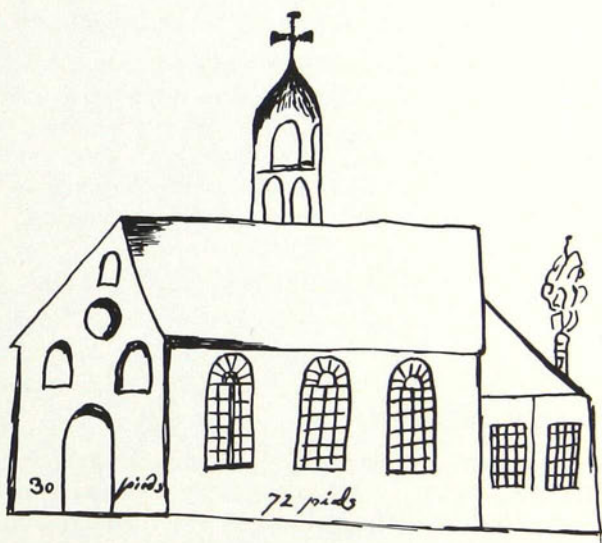
In December 1687, the architect Claude Baillif was commissioned to construct the chapel "fifty feet long, with walls three and a half feet at the foundations and between twenty to twenty-two feet high. Each side will have three windows of freestone, four and a half feet by ten to eleven feet having double fillisters with an embankment outside . . . as for the back wall there will be at least two doors, one for the vestry, the other for access to the roof of the church.

"The stone to be used will be Beauport and the contractor will be able to use the remains of old walls to build what he has undertaken to do."

The roof was put in place November 18th 1688 "sixty feet by thirty-

five — the bottom beams will be cambered above in basket handles and then covered in planks: on the roof a small steeple eight feet square having two small domes, one over the other, with a small belfry inside.”

The bell-tower was fixed to the centre of the church as the pre-bombardment engravings indicate. (fig. 12)



Eglise de Notre Dame des Victoires de la basse ville de Quebec

Fig. 12 Naive XVIIIth century sketch showing Notre-Dame des Victoires church, with bell-turret in the centre of the roof, three niches on the façade, and windows lighting the nave. Today, the bell-tower tops the façade and windows have replaced the niches.

The roof was of shingle-board on a double row of planks.

The church was named Notre-Dame de la Victoire in 1690 following the siege of Quebec by Phipps in the same year. In 1711 the name was changed to Notre-Dame des Victoires after the disaster of Walker's fleet at the Ile aux Oeufs.

A collection was then made and the proceeds paid for the construction of the portal.

In 1759, bombs and fire badly damaged the framework and the bell-tower but repairs allowed services to be held again in 1765.

In 1812, the interior decoration was begun and in 1888, the painter Tardivel with the help of M. Masselotte devoted two months to it.

Changes in the church since 1688 are numerous and its mediaeval appearance has been altered. Noteworthy are the bell-tower in the front, the concealed side windows of the chapel of Saint Geneviève, another added on the Notre-Dame Street side, the windows replacing the recesses at the front, the choir-loft, added in the 19th century, and the vestry doors which have become purely ornamental.

This building is nonetheless interesting architecturally speaking and gives to Place Royale a most agreeably old and distinctive character.

No. 47 The Parent House

Built at the junction of Saint-Pierre and Sous-le-Fort Streets and Sainte-Geneviève Lane, the house is a combination of two others originally built in 1684, transformed in 1741 and 1745 and finally rebuilt in 1761 by Louis Parent.

The land was originally granted to Charles Sevestre by Governor Lauzon in 1659.

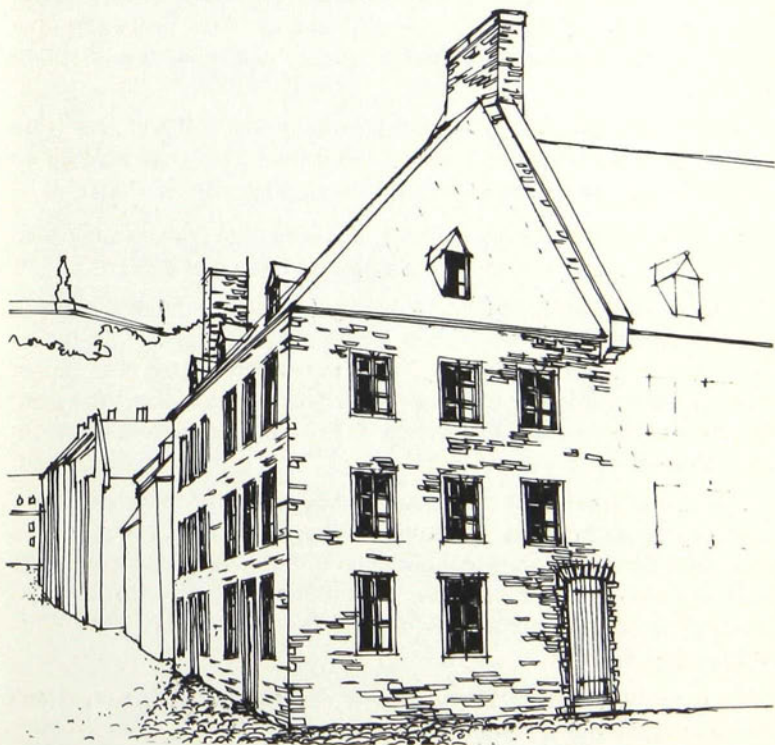
The house was greatly reconstructed in the nineteenth century. The cross-wall and one or two fireplaces were removed and it was raised by three brick storeys. During the recuperation process, a cannonball from the siege of 1759 was discovered in the south wall of the second floor. This proves without any shadow of a doubt

that this part of the wall dates from either 1722 or 1730, when a part of the house on the lane side was built.

In 1761, a joiner by the name of Nicholas Marin, was employed to construct eighteen windows with panes seven inches by eight inches and nine panelled interior doors. There used to be vaulted cellars which disappeared at an undetermined period.

This house will be restored along the lines of old engravings and architectural remains discovered during the recuperation work carried out on the frontage and the interior.

Louis Parent, seventh of the nineteen children of Jacques Parent, was baptized on March 29th, 1695, at Beauport. Subsequently he became a merchant and ship owner at Quebec. In 1729 he was



accused of attempting to murder Jean Louineau, boatswain's mate, on his schooner "La Suzanne" and ordered by the Conseil Supérieur to pay damages after serving one month in prison. As churchwarden in charge of the Vestry of Notre-Dame, he acquired, in 1755, the lease on the Petit-Pré mill in the Beaupré Seigneurie. The date of his death is not known but he was last heard of in connection with court proceedings against the Quebec Seminary concerning the mill.

No. 50 **The Fornel House**

This house, entirely rebuilt in 1964 by the Department of Cultural Affairs, was the first of the Place Royale restoration project.

In 1656, the land upon which the house stands was granted to Louis Rouer de Villeroy by Governor d'Ailleboust. The former built a small house on it. Burnt in 1682, it was rebuilt and then enlarged in 1724.

In 1735, two stone vaults were built under Place Royale itself. In 1759, the house was partly destroyed. It then had three storeys on Place Royale, as did the two next to it, and four on St. Pierre St.

At the end of the nineteenth century the old Louis Fornel house was replaced by one of brick which was burned down in 1962.

During the reconstruction, those responsible decided that the house should have two storeys, according to the Duberger scale model and certain documents dating from the conquest. At the end of the eighteenth century there were, in fact, two storeys. However, documents discovered since show that it had three storeys before the bombardment.

Jean-Louis Fornel, nicknamed the Discoverer, ran very extensive commercial enterprises. He was concerned with Labrador fishing and, with Charles Bazire, received as a concession the seigneurie of Bourg Louis, behind Neuville, and attempted to discover the east coast of Quebec Labrador. He died in Quebec on May 30th, 1745, at the age of 47.

His widow, Marie-Anne Barbel, continued her husband's business and even added real estate to it.

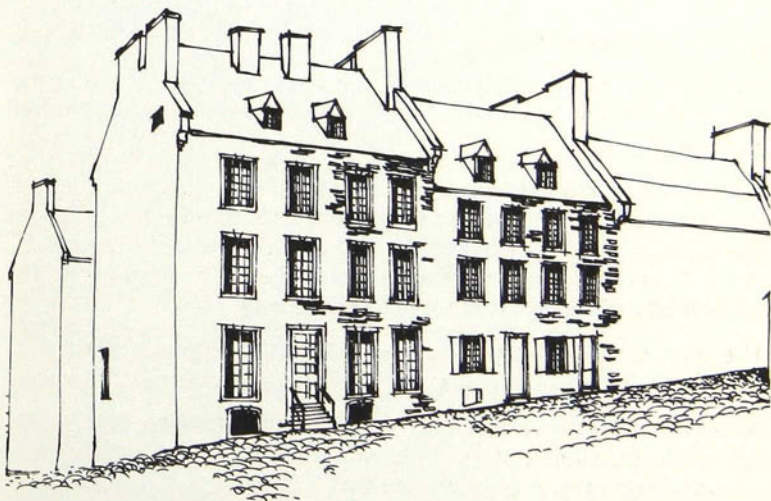
No. 51 **Maison Marie-Anne Barbel**

This three-storey stone house at the angles of Saint-Pierre and Place Streets and Place Royale, was built in 1754-1755 by Marie-Anne Barbel, widow of Louis Fornel.

The land was granted in 1662 to Jacques Gourdeau de Beaulieu and included the right to build a balcony above the little Laplace Street. No advantage was taken of this right.

The lower town fire of 1682 destroyed the original house which was replaced in the same year by a half-timbered house. In 1741, it was described as "an old, half-timbered house of one storey which constituted the ground floor."

Between 1741 and 1745, Louis Fornel acquired six lots on the property from Charles Maccard. Louis Fornel died in 1745 and ten years later, his widow, who had kept her husband's business going, had a large stone house built.



The Barbel and Fornel houses

“Joseph Routier, master mason, agrees to build for the Widow Fornel a house of approximately thirty-five feet by thirty-two to thirty-three — the house will be fully vaulted, have three storeys and will be built of sandstone and freestone from Pointe-aux-Trembles.” The house also had angle stones of cut limestone at the corner on the Laplace Street side.

The restoration of the exterior of the house at least has closely followed the description in the original contract: the whole interior has undergone major modifications.

Marie-Anne Barbel, daughter of the notary Jacques Barbel, was known in the Quebec area as a shrewd business-woman; she owned five houses in the lower town, a pottery works on the Saint Charles River and held a lease on the Tadoussac trading post.

About 1740, she was involved in a famous court case against the Jesuit Fathers concerning the granting of land on the Saint Charles River: the latter were obliged to bear the costs.

On her death, she left a large fortune and five lower town houses, among them this one and its neighbour.

No. 52 **The Royal Battery**

This battery, which jutted out into the river, was built at the end of Sous-le-Fort Street, in 1691, at the request of the Intendant, Bochart de Champigny.

The architect and master mason, Claude Baillif, was charged with the construction consisting “of a good, solid platform wall at the place called Pointe-aux-Roches in the port area of this town . . . the wall will be six feet thick at the foundations . . . sloping up. The walls made of Beauport stone and sandstone.”

The plan of the battery was the work of the engineer Jean-Baptiste-Louis Franquelin, under the direction of Governor Frontenac.

According to engravings and old maps, the battery had eleven cannon with calibres of 24, 18, and 6 pounds (*fig. 13*) and a stake palisade enclosed it on the town side.

In 1702, the corners of the battery were damaged and some stones

fell away. They were replaced and at the same time the repointing was done with mortar. The architect, Jean Maillou, was put in charge of the whole operation.

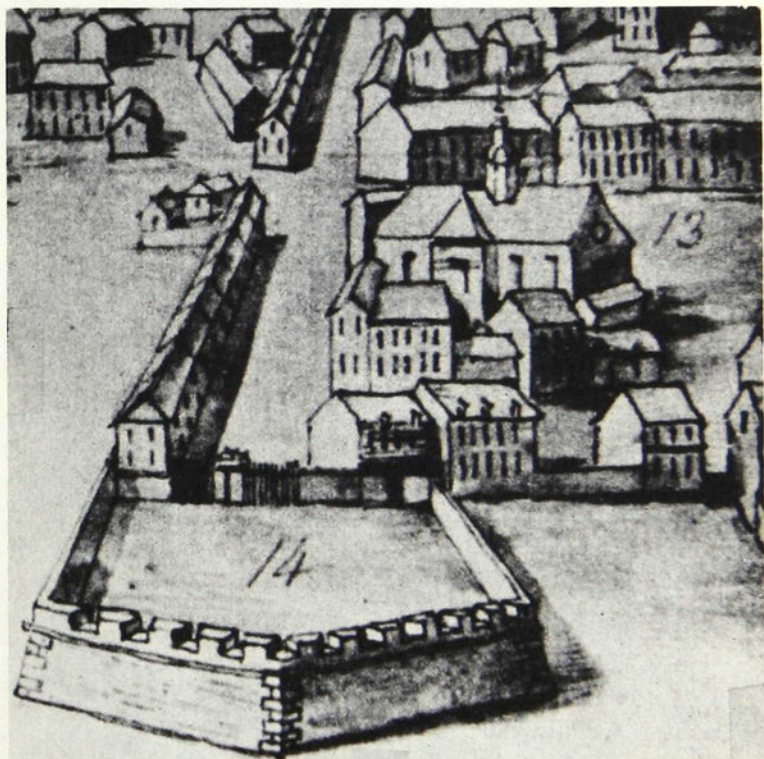


Fig. 13 The Royal Battery circa 1695, after an anonymous drawing.

The Battery, called the Royal Battery or the Great Platform, was used during the siege of Quebec in 1759, but a few years later, in 1763, Governor James Murray granted the land to Thomas Mills, who subsequently passed it on to William Grant. The latter had two houses built on the east side of Saint-Pierre Street and a warehouse on the Battery itself.

It is proposed to uncover the remains of the Royal Battery and to completely reconstruct it. It would thus occupy an area equal to that of Place Royale itself, and would serve as a rest area for visitors and local people.

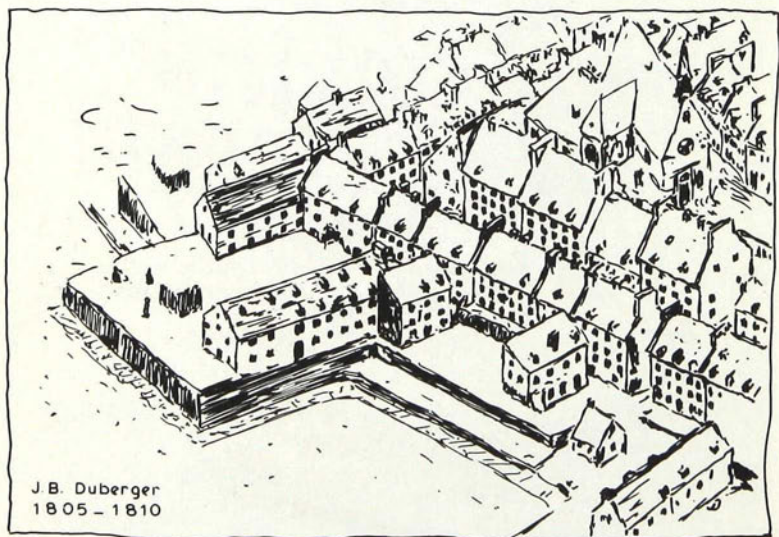


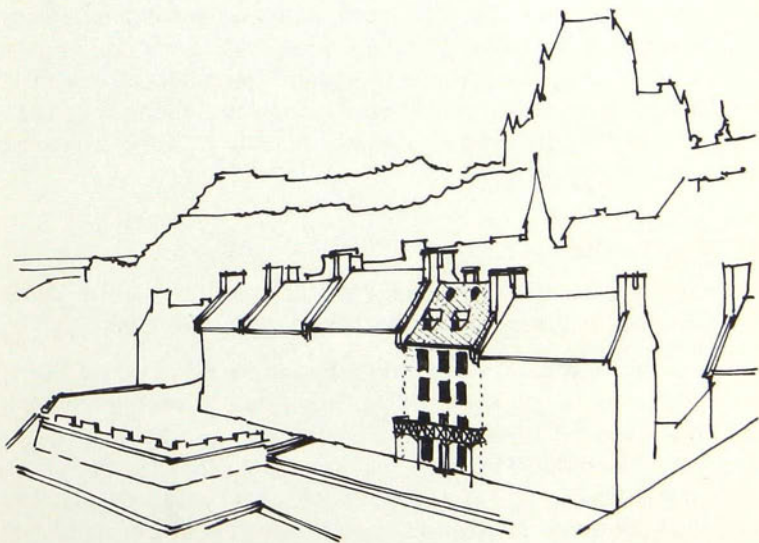
Fig. 14 The Royal Battery around 1805, replaced by a wharf and warehouses.

No. 56 The Louis Beaudouin House

The present house appears to have been rebuilt between 1764 and 1766 by Peter Stuart and Louis Lizot, on the old walls of a house built in 1710 by Louis Beaudouin. Two others had been built previously in 1667 and 1710. The latter was only twenty-five feet from front to back, thus leaving on the river side a ten foot wide balcony.

The house built by Lizot about 1764 had three storeys on the Saint-Pierre Street side and four on the river side. The extra storey was due to the incline in the land and contained two vaulted cellars.

The reconstruction brought to light two magnificent beam ceilings on the ground and first floors, window- and door-frames in cut limestone, a framework of double beams, tie-beam, rafters, binder, crown post and purlin and a sheet-metal covering which appears to be the original of "Canadian sheet-metal". It consists of sheets



of metal about four feet long folded over and over at their junction to a width of five or six inches: it was then nailed with hand-forged nails at an angle of 30°.

These architectural remains dating from the middle of the 18th century raised a tricky restoration problem.

From 1685 to 1689, the house belonged by succession to Antoine de Lamotte Cadillac. Born March 5th, 1658, in Gascony, he arrived in Port Royal about 1683. By self-promotion and perhaps also deservedly, he became 'Seigneur' in Acadie, Captain of Marines, boat ensign commanding Fort Michillimakinac, founder of Detroit, Governor of Louisiana and Knight of Saint Louis.

Boastful, clever, quarelsome, he managed to make himself rich, thanks to fur smuggling, but lost his patron, Pontchartrain, in 1716. He died in France in 1720. For some, he was a hero of New France but for most others he deserved the title of 'unmitigated scoundrel' given to him by Eccles.

Louis Beaudouin, eleventh child of the surgeon Gervais Beaudouin, was born on October 1st, 1694. He acquired a decent competency in business and his fellow citizens elected him to honorary posts. Governor Beauharnois and the Intendant, Hocquart, proposed to the Minister to offer him a seat on the Conseil Supérieur in 1739, but unfortunately, he died a year later on July 23rd, 1740, leaving no issue.

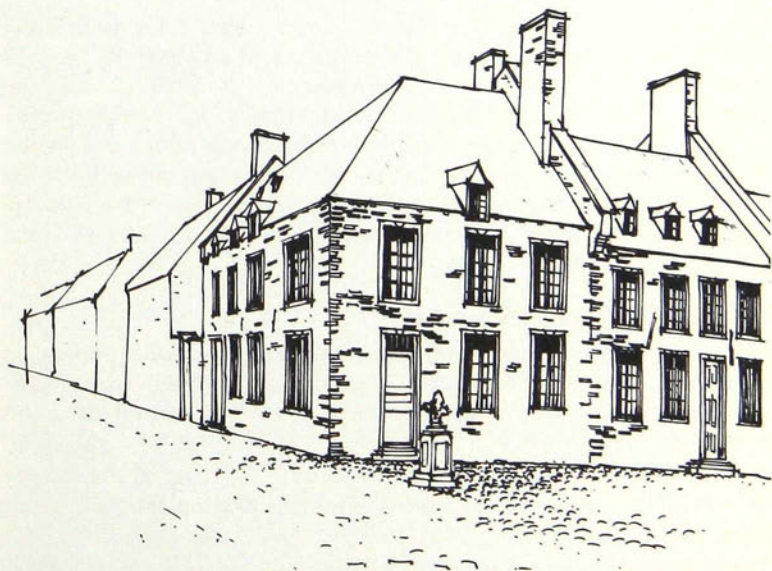
No. 59 **The Dumont House**

His house was built in 1689, a year after the church of Notre-Dame des Victoires, by the merchant Eustache Lambert Dumont.

The architect Claude Bailiff built "a Beauport stone house thirty-seven feet long along Notre-Dame Street and of twenty-four foot frontage on Place Royale, with two storeys and an attic, and cellars from the ground floor: the roof was in double planking: the inside was fully painted . . . a shop and kitchen above and two attics on top . . . all the floors made of pine and in good condition, supported

by ash beams . . . in the alley there is a staircase with a single newel in cherry-wood, the stringer of which is in pine. Everything new and in good condition. Then the yard formed at one end by a gable of the house and the other by a gable of M. Poisset's house (No. 60), on the Notre-Dame Street side by a new wall in good Beauport stone two feet thick like the rest of the house: painted with joins unconcealed, in the middle of which there is a solid double door . . . this wall being ten feet in height from the ground floor up to the cordon of its coping and at the back by the old wall."

This vivid description of the Dumont house taken from the inventory of Dumont's possessions after his death will suffice to explain the present restoration of the house. It should be added that the foundation walls were part of the ruins of the People's Company, built in 1647.



The Dumont and Le Picard houses

The bombardment of 1759 damaged the house and the framework was replaced in the eighteenth century by a pine-beamed ceiling on the ground floor.

The house rests on two magnificent stone vaults, the fineness of which says much for their builders. At the beginning of the twentieth century the house was converted into an hotel, the Blanchard Hotel. Mr. Howard Taft, President of USA, stayed there with his wife when they passed through Quebec on their way to spend their holidays in Malbaie.

Eustache Lambert Dumont, born in 1658, was the son of a merchant of the same name. He first settled at Contrecoeur and then in Quebec in 1685. He was given two land grants: one on the Lauzon coast, the other on the Chaudière river.

On his way to France in the summer of 1691, his ship, the Saint-François-Xavier, was shipwrecked and he was lost.

Another owner of the house, Pierre de Sales Laterrière, falsified his civil status: he called himself Pierre Fabre and was probably baptised in September 1743 in Albi, in Languedoc.

He arrived in Canada in 1766 and a few years later was made inspector and then manager of the Forges Saint-Maurice. He was accused of supplying arms to the Americans in 1775. He was imprisoned from 1779 to 1782. Qualified in medicine at Cambridge in 1789, he practised at Baie Fevre, Nicolet and finally in Quebec where he settled in 1800 after marrying his companion, with whom he had lived for twenty years. Although Seigneur of the Eboulements, he often lived in Quebec where, in fact, he died on June 14th, 1815.

No. 60 The Jean Millot House

Up to 1687, the history of this house is confused with that of its neighbour, the Dumont house. The Intendant, Jean Talon, after buying the old store of the People's Company, owned the land from 1667 until 1687.

In 1691, Millot, a well-to-do merchant, built a house at the corner of Notre-Dame and Porch Streets after purchasing the land from Lambert Dumont.

The two-storey house was thirty-two feet four inches long by twenty-four feet wide and built in Beauport stone. The craftsmen Jean

Dubois and Antoine Renaud were contracted to do the stonework and Robert Voyer covered the plank roof with walnut shingles.

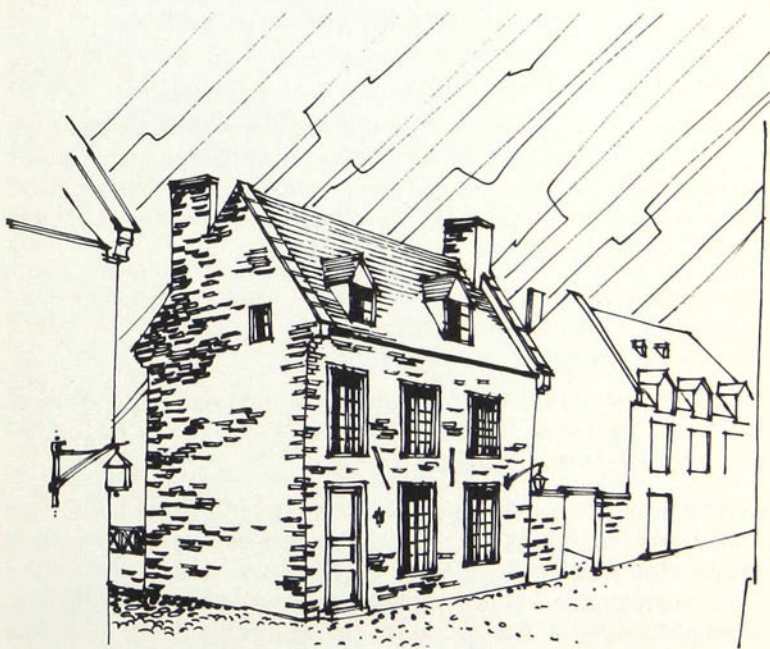
The house remained in the hands of Montreal merchants until 1718 when the Quebec merchants, Greysac, Nouchet and Besançon, took it over.

It has a solid stone, vaulted cellar of fine workmanship which has withstood well the passage of time.

The gable on the side of the Dumont house yard was without windows, illustrating the characteristic of the old Canadians in forbidding windows and the like in private yards.

Pierre de Sales Laterrière, surgeon, owned the house between 1802 and 1823.

Its restoration affords a typical example of a Quebec town house at the end of the eighteenth century.



Jean Millot, known as Le Bourguignon, was born in 1631 at Vermention in the Yonne. He came to Canada about 1653 and married a "King's daughter", Marthe Pinson. In 1661 he was captured by the Iroquois, but quickly returned to his trade of smith and merchant in Montreal.

Besides a minor seigneurie at Lachine and Bellevue, he owned different estates which he leased out one after the other.

He died in Montreal on August 16th, 1699.

No. 62 **The Le Picard House**

The house at present opposite Notre-Dame des Victoires church on Place Royale appears to have been built in 1765 by Jean Mayer, known as Gros Jean.

However, two other houses had preceded it. One was built by Jean Juchereau de la Ferté about 1660. Jean Le Picard acquired it in 1675 and it was burnt down in 1682. It was rebuilt partly in stone and partly half-timbered and comprised two storeys; at the bottom of the yard there was an old shed.

The house was destroyed in 1759 and the site was described thus: "a site with debris on it fit for use as building material." It was rebuilt in stone with two storeys comprising a living room, a ground floor kitchen, a first floor vestibule, a habitable mansard garret and a balcony on the yard side.

During the restoration, the beamed ceiling typical of the eighteenth century, the old limestone fireplaces and cellar floors of sandstone flags were discovered.

Elsewhere, the archeological search uncovered numerous ceramic fragments, plaster pipes and earthenware pottery used by the former occupants of the houses.

Jean Le Picard, born in November 1635 in the parish of La Villette, France, must have come to this country very early, since his father received his baptismal certificate in 1645. He was first of all a merchant on the Beaupré shore where he had two concessions: he then came and settled in Quebec lower town after the fire of 1682. His

paternal affection had to be divided among the ten children of his three marriages. At his death on November 29th, 1700, he had become one of the most important merchants of Quebec.

Jean Mayer, another owner, was baptized in 1713. According to the Tanguay Register he was the son of Thomas Mayer and Catherine Menardy, of Pade, Alsace. He was first heard of in Quebec when he married Marie-Charlotte Drouin in 1760. Three years later he moved his business from Saint-Jean Street to lower town. In 1766, in association with a German, Joseph-Antoine Obry, he bought a concession from the Seminary of Quebec situated at the Châtellenie of Coulonge. Although lawyers always spelled his name in French, he signed himself John Mayer. He was buried in Quebec, on December 2nd, 1778.

No. 63 **The Nicolas Jérémie House**

At least three houses were built on the same site, the last of which in 1763, on the ruins of the previous ones.

In 1673, there was already a small house on the site, built by Nicolas Juchereau de Saint-Denis. Burnt down in 1682, it was rebuilt in 1686 by Pierre Nolan. The ground floor consisted of one room with fireplace, two smaller ones, a cellar and an attic.

Until 1723, the house remained unchanged, but its new owner altered it completely.

In 1732, on the death of Nicolas Jérémie, an inventory of his possessions was drawn up. The kitchen was furnished with firedogs, tripods, roasting jack, cooking pots, yellow copper saucepans, warming pan, saucepan with handle, pewter and pottery plates, etc.

The room next to it contained turned cherry-wood chairs with stools, walnut armchairs, cherry-wood tables, gilded mirrors, cherry-wood beds, a tapestry from Hungary, pictures and chandeliers of silvered copper.

The linen of the master of the house consisted of a damask dressing gown, a scarlet cloak with embroidered gold buttons, a jacket and breeches in black cloth, another in Moroccan cloth, another in violet taffeta, a Cadiz jacket, a Calamanco dressing gown, one bag-

wig, one bob-wig, etc. Two paintings of himself and his wife adorned the room.

Nicolas Jérémie was born at Sillery in 1669, and raised at Batiscan. In 1693, he married a Montagnais girl at Lake Saint-Jean. At the request of her father the marriage was annulled.

He became an interpreter and clerk at the trading post of the King's Domaine and of the Hudson Bay. His work was quite lucrative and he wrote an account of his travels, "Description of Hudson Bay and the Straits." He launched himself into business and did a roaring trade at his shop in Place Royale, selling goods from La Rochelle, where he married in 1708.

It is probably on this site that the house lent to the Ursulines in 1639, by Nicolas Juchereau des Chatelets was situated.

No. 64 The Rivet House

This site measuring about twenty-four feet by twenty-four was first granted to Pierre Miville on May 24th, 1656. He built a small one-storey house on it. In 1680 he sold it to the notary Gilles Rageot; it was one of the houses mentioned in the official account of the fire of 1682.

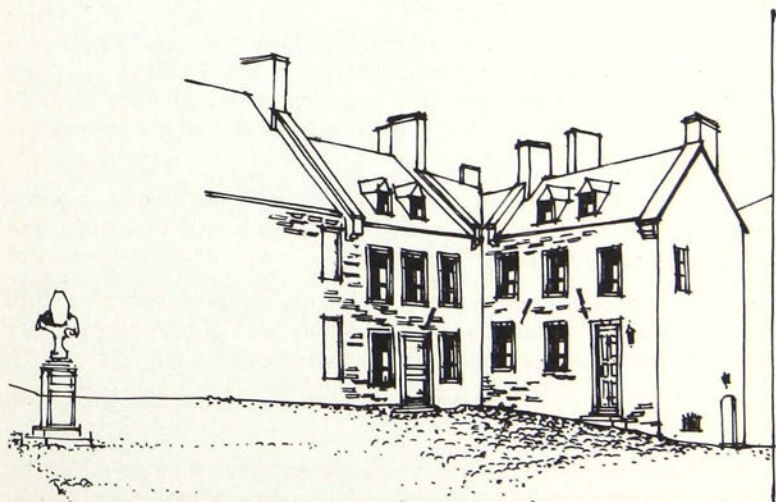
The site remained vacant until 1714. At that time, Pierre Rivet, son-in-law of Gilles Rageot, built a stone house with one storey on the Square side and two storeys on Saint-Pierre Street. The house had a mansard roof.

Until the conquest, the house retained its exterior appearance but bombs and fire reduced it to ashes in 1759. At this period the taste for mansard roofs has passed and furthermore, in 1727 the Intendant Dupuy forbade them by a very explicit order.

The framework of the mansard was replaced by a stone wall and rebuilt with an ordinary roof. The converted shape of the house has remained until the present day.

It will be noted that the walls are partly made of large rounded stones and boulders from the former river bank where Saint Pierre Street stands to-day.

Pierre Rivet Cavalier was born in Lachine in 1684. How or why he assumed the name of Rivet is unknown. Initially clerk of the court and King's public prosecutor in Montreal, he settled in Quebec in 1704 where he occupied various positions: clerk's assistant, then Clerk of the Prévôté, a notary like his father-in-law, Gilles Rageot, and, finally, manager of the farm of the Domaine d'Occident. He died in Quebec on February 8, 1721.



The Jérémie and Rivet houses

No. 65 **The Rageot House**

About 1684, Gilles Rageot, the notary, built this house on this site, part stone and part half-timbering after losing the previous one in the 1682 fire.

At the Conquest it was destroyed and not rebuilt until 1785. At that time it was a stone three-storey house measuring about twenty-five feet square.

Little of the original house remains except for the stone walls. The framework and the bays have disappeared in the course of numerous remodellings during the last two centuries.

Gilles Rageot was born in 1642 in the diocese of Evreux, France, and arrived in Quebec a little before 1663. He was first a clerk at the Conseil Supérieur and then became clerk of the Seigneurial Court of Quebec and notary at the same place.

He obtained confirmation of his letters patent from Louis XIV in 1675. Three of his sons became clerks of court and notaries: Charles, Nicolas and François. He died in Quebec in 1692.

No. 76 **The Leber-Amiot House**

In December 1685, Jacques Leber, Montreal merchant, thanks to the help of his bursars, Father Raffeix, s.j., and Philippe Gauthier de Comporté, was able to undertake the construction of a large house in lower town Quebec, between Saint-Pierre Street and the beach.

The house was "about forty-three and a half feet long by twenty-three feet wide". The walls were three and a half feet thick and there were two chimneys on each gable.

The floors were supported by four beams on each floor; the roof had two sides, the staircase was complete with banisters and there was a five foot wide balcony on the river side.

The roofer, Robert Pépin, was employed to shingle the roof, attic windows and balcony.

In 1714, the house was let to the Crown and used as an office for the beaver trade. In 1725, it was occupied by a merchant named Jean Li quart.

In 1737, the house passed into the hands of Guillaume Estèbe, a Royal councillor, who in turn passed it on to Jean-Baptiste Amiot in 1750. The latter built a summer house at the back and added an extra floor to the house. The vaulted cellar dates from this period.

After the 1759 bombardment, it was repaired and served as a store for various tradespeople.

Jacques Leber was born in Rouen in 1633 and came to Montreal in 1657. In 1658, he married Jeanne Le Moyne, sister of Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil. In 1664, he acquired a third of Saint Paul Island, in Montreal. He emulated his brother-in-law by making his fortune in the fur trade. Raised to noble rank in 1696, he was one of the influential shareholders in the Northern Company, founded in 1682. His business spread as far as the West Indies. In 1681, he employed twelve servants for himself alone. He died in Montreal in 1706.

His daughter, Jeanne, born in 1662, was famous for the life of a recluse which she led with Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, in Montreal.

Jean-Baptiste Amiot was born in Quebec on November 26th, 1717, and soon became one of the most important of the town's businessmen. At Place Royale he also owned the Jérémie house (No. 63) where he had a store. He died suddenly in 1769.

Guillaume Estèbe came from Notre-Dame de Niort, in Poitou and arrived in New France a little before 1729. He set up business in Quebec as a travelling tradesman. In 1736, he was appointed to the Conseil Supérieur and in 1741, he became Storekeeper to the King.

He returned to France in 1758, after having acquired a fortune in fraudulent deals and was imprisoned in the Bastille in 1761. He was fined such a minimal amount that he was subsequently able to enjoy his fortune without the least inconvenience.

No. 77 **The Joseph Charest House**

Imposing in size, this is the typical house of a rich merchant in the middle of the eighteenth century.

It was built for Joseph Charest in 1757-58 by the master masons

Pierre Delestre, known as Beaujour, and Nicolas Dasilva, known as Portugais.

It was modelled on its neighbour, the Leber-Amiot house (No. 76) which was built in 1685. There is here definite proof of the architectural tradition of Quebec lower town.

The construction contract specified "an ornamentally moulded fireplace" in the main room which is still there to-day on the ground floor.

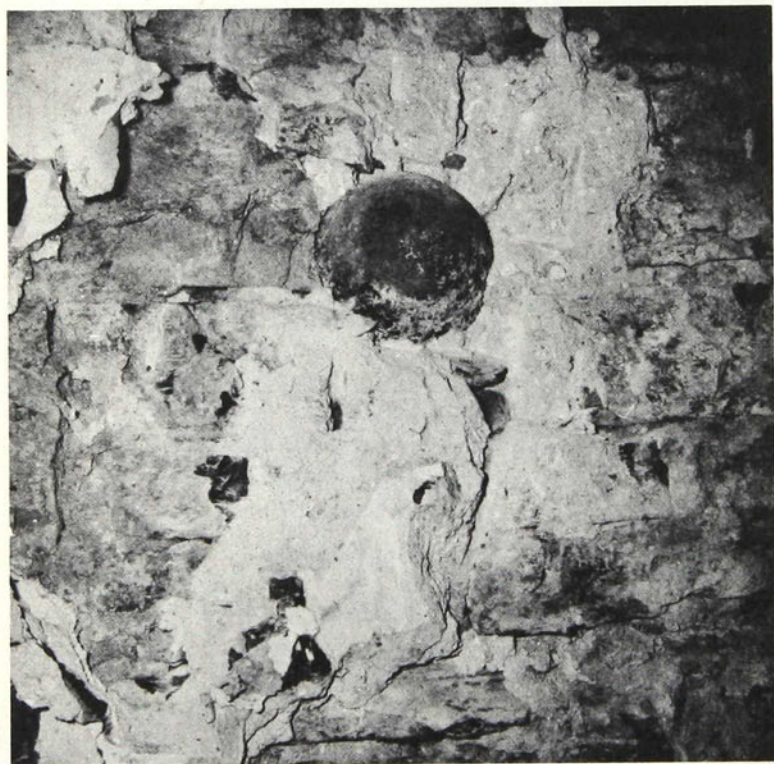


Fig. 15 Cannonball found lodged in the stonework of the Charest house, and dating back to the 1759 bombardment.

The master craftsman Barthelemy was employed to build a sufficiently strong framework to support a slate roof. The floors were made of small "well-polished joists, six inches by eight inches."

The carpentry was the work of Louis Langlois and consisted of a double roof, the first in groove and tongue planks, and the second overlapping, with three dormer windows on Saint-Pierre Street and two smaller ones above.

In March 1758, the vaulted cellars of the house were completed, as was the cellared annex on the river side.

The work of the two masons Dasilva and Delestre withstood the cannonballs of 1759: during the reconstruction a thirty-six pound cannonball was found embedded in the wall of the second floor. (Fig. 15)

The vaults have massive buttresses that are unique in Canada.

Joseph Dupuy Charest was born at Pointe-de-Lévis on April 4th, 1719. He started in business quite early. He distinguished himself as a sailor in 1759, by sailing supply ships for the colony at war.

After the Conquest he went to France where he died at La Rochelle on March 16, 1763. The Saint-Pierre Street house fell into the possession of his brother who already had the Seigneurie of Lauzon. His marriage with Marguerite Trottier Desaulniers produced ten children, six of whom outlived him.

No. 78 **The St. Amand House**

Neither the date of Pierre Pellerin de Saint-Amand's birth nor that of his arrival in New France is known. However, it is an established fact that in 1655 in Trois-Rivières he married one of the "King's daughters" who had arrived the previous year at Quebec. Ten years later he purchased the house on Saint-Pierre Street.

While a soldier at the Trois-Rivières garrison, he was killed by the Iroquois at the mission at Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville) in 1688.

Built in 1665 and 1667, the house was burned down in 1682 and rebuilt in 1684. One part, the ground floor, had stone walls but the other floors were half-timbered. At the back there was a balcony on the second floor.

In 1754, the house was in danger of collapsing; it seems it was entirely destroyed in 1759. The place was thus described in 1761: "a site upon which there was a house which was entirely destroyed in the revolution and war."

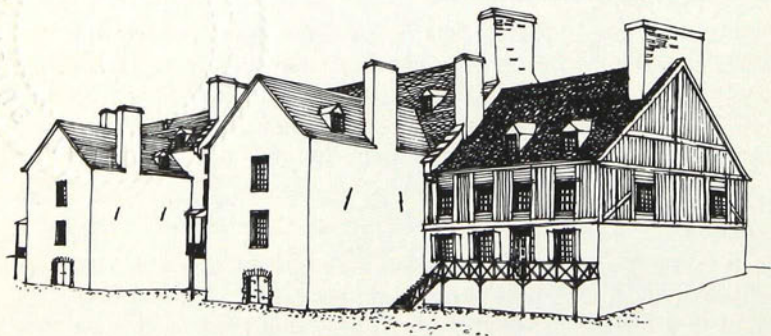
Between 1761 and 1769 another house was built of stone with three storeys. It was replaced about 1861 by a warehouse which was in turn burned down in 1967.

The house will be entirely rebuilt during the restoration programme taking into account historical documents and remains found during archeological searches.

The owner of the house from 1718 to 1735, Joseph Cadet, was born in Quebec on December 24th, 1719. On September 10th, 1742, he married Angèle Fortin, who bore him eight children.

Of modest background, he began working as a butcher's apprentice at his uncle's store. He later became a retail butcher then moved to the wholesale trade. He managed to gain the favour of the Intendants, Hocquart and Bigot, so that in 1748 he was appointed general supplier to the King.

From somewhat shady dealings during the Seven Years War, he went on to become one of the richest men in New France. He was imprisoned in the Bastille in 1761 and then reinstated by the French Government and declared insolvent. He died in Paris on January 21, 1781.



The Leber-Amiot, Charest and St. Amand houses

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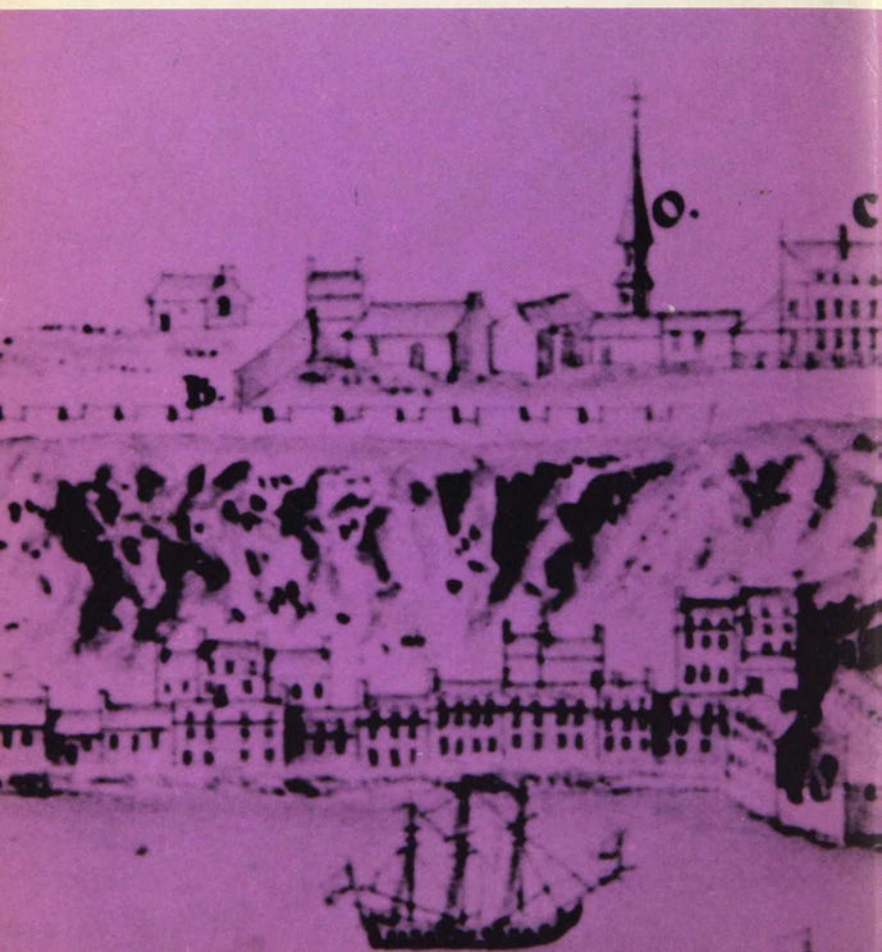
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