

files probably parallels similar rambling taped interviews. If in fact the interviews were systematically structured the authors simply did not sift and weigh the evidence sufficiently to produce a smooth synthesis.

In spite of the authors' acknowledged dismissal of scientific methodology an evaluation of the taped interviews would have been beneficial. A bibliographic paragraph or two could have included a description of the questioning strategy employed plus an analysis of the manner in which the transcriptions were sorted and appraised (assuming transcriptions were produced). Probably many readers would also appreciate an indication of the present location of the tapes.

The flaw inherent in the profiles section is most unfortunate since the fresh approach adopted held such promise. The book will stand however as a much needed account of Ontario farm life which, although romantic at times, does not degenerate into sentimentality. The repercussions of encroaching suburban neighbourhoods and the inordinate capital outlay required by farmers today just to survive are clearly exposed. The identification of the countryside with bacon and beer commercials is also rendered an unwritten but unmistakable blast.

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Geneviève Guimont Bastien, Line Chabot et Doris Drolet Dubé. Ottawa: Direction des Lieux et des parcs historiques nationaux, Parcs Canada, 1980. 392 p. ISBN 0-660-90397-0. Prix Canada \$20.00, Prix autres pays \$24.00.

One of the most frustrating impediments to research in architectural history is the lack of information about sources. To date, no "union list" of Canadian architectural collections has been compiled to alleviate this difficulty. Archives and other repositories wrestle to balance on the one hand, restraints on budgets and personnel and on the other, increasing acquisitions and researcher demands for their archival holdings. In the course of conducting historical research, scholars often encounter archival collections which are unorganized and for which no descriptions exist. Researchers may chafe at finding resource materials virtually inaccessible or they may approach the problem in a manner mutually beneficial to themselves and the custodians of those materials.

In choosing the latter option, Parks Canada has made available at a modest price an inventory of the architectural drawings from the Archives de l'université Laval. It has also exploited fully the resources it has invested in architectural research. The philosophy behind this unpretentious publication seems to be that to inform the researching public of resources available to them is as valuable a service as to publish the results of research in those documents. Christina Cameron, Head of Architectural Analysis at the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Parks Canada, further emphasizes this attitude in a preface punctuated by a sensitive statement about the importance of preserving architectural records.

This is a large volume, unadorned by architectural plan or drawing, and containing 353 pages of listings. The first part consists of 224 pages of itemized projects which make up the *fonds* Chênevert, followed by a very workable alphabetical index of proper names, of clients, buildings and other architects. A second alphabetical index makes access to the inventory description possible by geographic location. The second part, or-

ganized in the same fashion, is an 111-page inventory of the architectural collections of Jos. Pierre Ouellet, E. Georges Rousseau, Gérard Venne and the modest *fonds* of the Parish of Saint-Sauveur.

Each project has been assigned an inventory number. The entry for each project consists of the Laval Archives' reference designation of *fonds*, file and dossier number. A brief portion which follows includes the name of the project, that of the owner or client, the project location, date, name of the architect, a technical description of the contents of the plans, their support media and a summary of supporting documentation such as photographs, notebooks and correspondence.

In short, this concise inventory permits its readers to appreciate the richness of these architectural collections. Raoul Chênevert worked primarily in the Quebec City area, associating at various times with other architects whose drawings are now found in the *fonds* Chênevert. The collection numbers more than 1200 originals and spans the years 1860 to 1965. The four small collections listed in the second part of the volume are twentieth-century architectural records. They are of particular interest in that they contain drawings, photographs and other documents relating to churches and other buildings of religious communities.

What archives are often hard-pressed to accomplish, a research team has. This volume is a fine and practical publication which is an asset not only to the Archives de l'université Laval but to all scholars of Quebec's architectural history. That users will undertake such a task is clear evidence of the increasing researcher demand for architectural archives.

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Buildings for Canadians. A History of the Department of Public Works, 1840-1960. DOUGLAS OWRAM. Ottawa: Public Works Canada, 1979. 381 p., ill.

The Archives Branch of the Public Archives of Canada is at present analysing the lack of planning in its own publishing programme, so it is interesting to note that other government agencies embark on publishing programmes without determining adequately what their goals should be. Douglas Ooram was hired in 1971 by the Department of Public Works to prepare background information for a departmental history. Several additional contracts followed until 1973, when Ooram finished the research and prepared the manuscript. Very smooth sailing thus far for the Department, but how was it to publish this fine manuscript? The Department of Supply and Services would not touch it because projected costs were too high. Neither would any co-publishing firms, because they felt there was no viable market, especially for a version in French. After years of dithering, the Department decided to publish internally in the most economical fashion — more specifically without an index. In 1979, 1500 copies were printed in English and French hard and soft cover versions. Distribution has been very limited, to retiring departmental employees or at the discretion of the Minister or Deputy Minister. The only copies distributed outside the Department have been to the National Library, Library of Parliament and the Public Archives Library.

Ooram's research for *Building For Canadians* was impeccable. The Public Archives of Canada holdings of Public Works records were combed, although at the time of this research the Department of Public Works still retained the bulk of their records post-dating 1910. The results of this research produced a departmental history that is far from dry and stuffy, for when Ooram writes of departmental officials like Killally, Langevin or Hunter he imparts an understanding of their characters and eccentricities.