

David Robertson House

10 Broad Street, Brockville, Ont.

The David Robertson House is being recommended for preservation for historical, architectural and environmental reasons.

The building is typical of many stone houses built in Brockville in the mid-19th century. It exemplifies elements of Georgian-Loyalist ideas of symmetry and balance of a two-storey home.

The house stands on ground bought from William Buell in 1825 by lawyer George Malloch. In 1852 the lot at the corner of Broad and Flint Streets was transferred to Judge Malloch's daughter, Ruth, wife of the merchant David Robertson. The house could have been built following this transfer. There is evidence of a house on this site as early as the 1830's. The present house is shown on the 1853 map of Brockville. It continued to be the Robertson property until 1872. It was rented by Robert Bowie and his family from about 1871 and was purchased from the Robertson family in 1872. Bowie owned this home until 1884. In that year Martha and James Moore became the owners for the next 36 years. Since 1920 it has passed through a number of hands until 1966 when it became the residence of Marjorie and Kenelm Winslow, the present owners. Through the years some changes have been made both internally and externally but it still remains an attractive old stone home.

PRESERVATION REPORT

TRAIL OF BROCKVILLE

Standing as it does at the foot of Broad Street, it is part of the frame work of the striking picture which that avenue creates leading up to Court House Avenue, Court House Green and the Court House. In the other direction Tunnel Bay and Blockhouse Island complete the picture. Together with the other old homes on Broad Street, it is part of the link that ties Brockville today with its historic past. The open roadway to the river, the sweep of the view to the east and up the busy throughfare to the Court House are worth preserving. To place this and other houses in a cul-de-sac as the service entrance for a commercial development and to surround them with parking areas shows little or no empathy for Brockville's past and no imagination for the future. These buildings and the vacant areas in Broad Street could be developed into an attractive residential area as has been done in many other cities. Broad Street would have to be retained leading to the waterfront with no brick, glass and concrete impediment closing off the river.

It is, therefore, recommended that the David Robertson House at 10 Broad Street be preserved.