

THE LACAC OF BROCKVILLE

1 MAY 1979

Designation Report

Designation Recommendation and
Description for

John H. Fulford ^{older} - brother of Senator Fulford Memorial Fountain

Court House Avenue
Brockville, Ontario

A. REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1974

The Fulford Memorial Fountain is being recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. It is an important addition to the streetscape of the main centre of the City of Brockville. Designed by a competent architect and artist in memory of a former mayor of the city, constructed of glazed terra cotta in the style of Italian Renaissance architecture, it was presented to the city on June 11th, 1917.

B. Historical Background:

When making the presentation to the city on behalf of the Family of John Harris Fulford, the Hon. George P. Graham remarked that many times during his terms of office as an alderman and as Mayor that John Fulford said that he hoped to see Court House Square put in a position of permanence so that a fountain could be placed there. Following his death in 1915, his family took up the thought and with the cooperation of the city, a boulevard was developed down the centre of the Square and the site for the fountain developed.

Arrangements were made by the Family for the fountain to be designed by Herbert Raine A.R.C.A., executed by the Atlantic Terra Cotta Co. of New York, erected under the supervision of J. A. Mackenzie with the plumbing work done by H. S. Brown, both of Brockville.

c. Architectural Description:

The style of architecture adopted is Italian Renaissance. Although rich in detail, a general simplicity of outline has been retained. The aim was to bring out the best qualities of the glazed terra cotta material used in the construction.

It stands on a 'Stanstead' granite base with a grass slope surrounding it. The first or lowest basin is circular in form and 20 feet in diameter. The next basin rising out of the first is octagonal in shape. It carries an upturned turtle on each of its eight sides. Each turtle has a twin spray of water from its mouth, the water falling into the first basin.

Above the second or 'turtle' basin is a third circular basin, six feet in diameter supported by six upturned dolphins. Each of the dolphins spray flat jets of water into the 'turtle' basin. The underside of the third basin is adorned with acanthus leaves.

Rising from the third 'dolphin' basin is a pedestal surmounted by acanthus leaves and lions heads which in turn support a basin two feet in diameter. This basin has a small eighteen inch column enclosing a jet of water. Spilling over the sides of this top basin, it becomes the main source of water for the whole fountain structure.

Restoration:

Over the years since its erection, the fountain suffered from the ravages of time, of weather, of use and unfortunately of vandalism. In 1976-7, the Brockville Foundation with the approval of the City, undertook to restore the fountain and return it to its former working condition. This has been done. The galvanized iron pipe plumbing has been replaced by copper pipe. The fountain has been cleaned, cracks repaired and turtle heads replaced.

The fountain structure has settled, resulting in the tilting of the upper basins. New rims have been added to the inside of these to restore an even flow of water around each bowl. As a further embellishment and to enhance the appearance of the city centre at night, the Foundation had lights installed underwater in each of the first three basins.

General:

A review of the fountain and the project for its restoration led the Ontario Heritage Foundation to assist in the cost of the restoration and to say 'We are delighted to have been able to be of assistance in saving such a tangible reminder of this city's past'.

D. Recommendation:

The local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee recommends that the John. H. Fulford Memorial Fountain on Court House Avenue be designated under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act 1974.