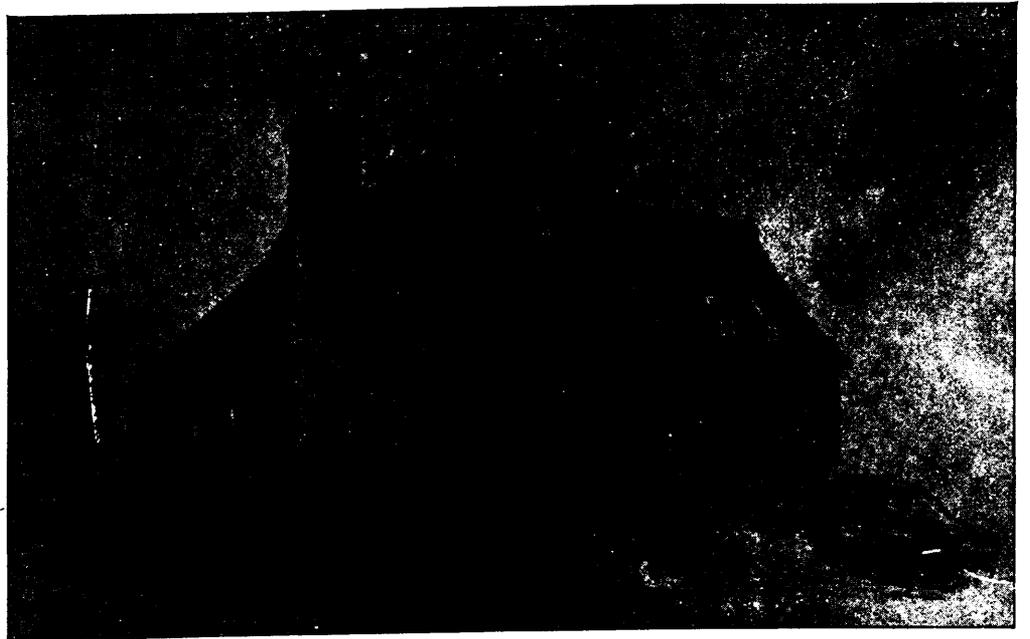


N.B. The heavy Lines indicate the old Buildings

GENERAL PLAN.



FORT ST. GABRIEL.—Building marked No. 1 on plan.

contained a huge fire-place, suggestive not only of cold winters, but also of plentiful fuel and large logs. The most noticeable feature of the house was the arch which supported the roof-tree and rafters; half way between the ends of the large hall two piers, not large, only two feet square, but wonderfully strong and well built, ran up inside the front and rear walls like inner buttresses, till they met the roof, then inclined inwards till they met in the centre, forming a sort of an arch something of the shape of a chicken's "wish-bone." As far as I know there is no other example of this peculiarity of construction in the country. I have not been able to determine the exact size of the fort, but it probably occupied the block of land situated between Montmorency and Condé streets, and St. Patrick street and the Canal bank, as well as about half as much more on the south east side of St. Patrick street, still remembered by some as "The Priest's Garden." The same may remember the arched main gateway, resembling that of Cartier's ancestral home at St. Malo. The wall on Montmorency street averages 10 or 11 feet in height, and is about 30 inches thick at the ground, tapering up to about 24 inches at the top.

This, of course, is quiet insignificant compared with Fort Ponchartrain, but approaches the dimensions of Boisbriant.

The storehouse on the canal front is about 90 feet long with a depth of about 40 feet.

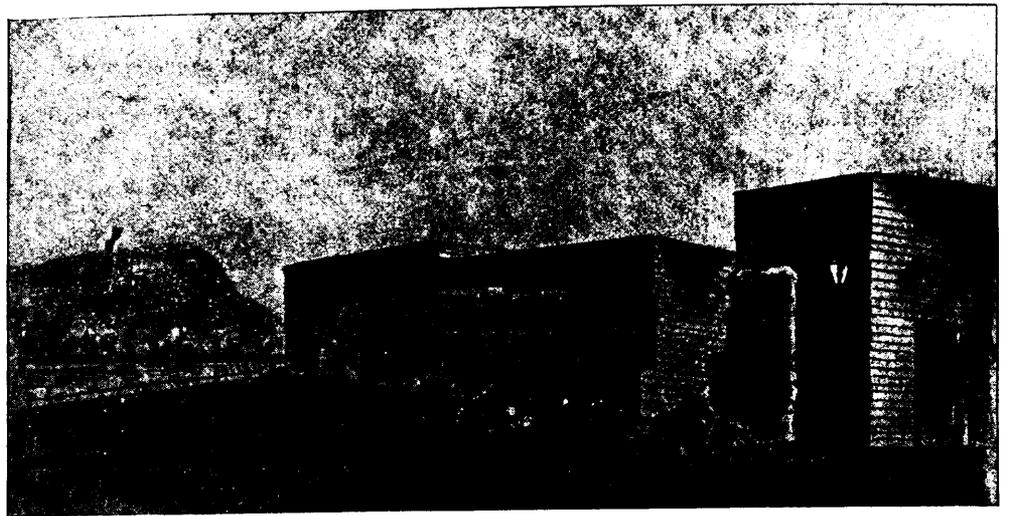
The walls are still about 12 feet in height, but were considerably higher, especially at the gables; but after a fire, which occurred there 25 or 30 years ago, they were reduced to their present condition.

The most noticeable features of this building are the heavy stone gateway buttresses, played outwards, projecting seven feet from the walls, which measure five feet at the thickest part and slope to the height of the gate. At one corner is what looks like a loophole, though of primitive construction, and there is a similar one a few feet from it and another one near the south gate, but filled in at the outer end. If there were more originally they have since been filled in.

Besides the above is the long, low building, already referred to, the walls of which are not as thick as those already mentioned, measuring only 27 inches at the ground. The length is about 137 feet, the breadth 25 feet. Considerable parts of the north wall have been removed, but the other side is tolerably intact, showing a number of windows and doors, splayed inwards, with cut-stone jambs. (No. 6.)

There are certain resemblances between the remains of Fort St. Gabriel and some others of our well known "antiques"; for instance, the north-west wall has the same rich reddish tinge so noticeable at Chateau Bigot, and on the old mills of Varennes and Boisbriant, and which is in such pleasing contrast to the cold grey of our ordinary lime-stone; then the mortar is of that hard flinty kind, dense as cement and slightly crystalline in appearance, which remains firm and hard even after the stones are picked out. But, after all, it may be asked *cui bono?* what's the use? What is the use of wasting time describing the battered remains of an insignificant outpost that was never the scene of any very exciting or heroic event?

Well, there are several answers which may be given. In the first place all things are comparative, and when the martial abbé founded Fort St. Gabriel, it was by no means insignificant to the infant city of Ville Marie, with its population of 472 souls all told. When we remember that it was not until 67 years later that the city walls were built, and remember the stormy times the colonists saw in that period, the idea is suggested that if it had not been for these outlying defences, the present "commercial metro-



No. 5.—Bit of wall on Montmorency-street, looking towards canal and mountain.



No. 3.—Strong stone building used as a storehouse.—South-east side.



No. 3.—Strong stone building used as a storehouse.—Side facing canal.



No. 6.—Small doorway or sally-port.

polis" of Canada might have been "snuffed out" like a penny dip. Moreover, properly considered, all historical remains are souvenirs, not only of the people directly connected with them, and their times and conditions of life, but of all the succeeding events and changes of their environment.

It is a remarkable fact and one that will be very much regretted, especially by future generations, that so little has been done in the way of depicting by brush or pencil the events, the men and women and the buildings and natural scenery of the early days of our country, though volumes upon volumes have been written. There is one thing of

which we may be sure, and that is, that the fertile and blooming old Domaine, lying there between the little lake and the river—with its mills, with its fort on the banks of the little stream, with its arched and buttressed gateways, its houses and barns, with their high pitched roofs—was far more picturesque than any of its present dingy surroundings. But there were other buildings which were certainly not insignificant, either in their proportions or their history, and if this modest description and brief record should have the effect of stimulating abler pencils than mine to rescue them from oblivion, the "*cui bono?*" question will be most satisfactorily answered.

ROSWELL C. LYMAN.