



CANADA'S THEN GOVERNOR GENERAL ROMEO LE BLANC WHO CAME FOR the funeral of the late President Cheddie Jagan in 1997 signing the visitor's book.

the Mercy Superior expressing his pleasure that an agreement of sale had been reached. The agreed-upon price was G\$540,000. Thus, in January 1978, the former Sisters of Mercy Convent and Stella Maris Preparatory School passed into the hands of the Canadian Government. Had the property in Kingston not been acquired by the Canadian Government, town planners might have forged ahead with their plan to locate all diplomatic missions together, outside central Georgetown.

Despite the fact that Canada actively solicited the property on High and Young Streets, it was by a stroke of luck that the historical buildings themselves came to be renovated and preserved, rather than demolished. There had been plans to replace the buildings with a pre-fabricated structure from Britain. However, a dock strike in London as well as financial cuts in Ottawa precluded the shipping and erection of the new building before the Canadian High Commission's lease at the Bank of Guyana building expired. The new High Commissioner, Mr. John Graham, helped by Mr. George Henry, a Guyanese architect who has renovated many of Guyana's historical buildings, carefully reviewed the state of the building and managed to come up with a budget in line with what Ottawa was ready to spend and with a design, simple enough to allow the main works to be completed before the end of the lease at the Bank of Guyana. Thus came the decision to renovate the existing structures.

But it was not before 1980 that all the renovations could be completed by Mr. Henry and Mr. Doug McDonald, who came from Canada. It was with great fanfare that the Canadian High Commission